

Kootenai Stakeholder Coalition General Meeting (June 25, 2019)

Attendees:

Board Member

Robyn King, Yaak Valley Forest Council
Ed Levert
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group
Jerry Wandler, Troy Snowmobile Club
Paul McKenzie, Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.
Mike Petersen, The Lands Council
Mark Peck, Lincoln County Commissioner
Bill Martin, Cabinet Resource Group
Doug Ferrell, Friends of Scotchmans Peak

US Forest Service-

Cheryl Prober
Gary Kedish
Bryan Donner
Nate Gassman
Kirsten Kaiser
John Gubel
Janis Bouma
Matt(Forest Silviculturist)

DNRC-

Dave Marsh
Woody Hust sp?
Steve Kimball

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Wayne Kasworm

Visitor

Dan Strohl

Following a welcome and introductions, chair Robyn King opened the meeting and introduced the interim Forest Supervisor Cheryl Probert.

Opportunity Map- Cheryl explained the national direction which includes shared stewardship with stakeholders, coordinated projects across boundaries, implementing the national cohesive Wildland fire strategy and the Good Neighbor Authority.

Along with the forest silviculturist, Cheryl explained the opportunity map which is based on the 2014 forest plan and identified the highest priority areas for restoration. A scoring system was used to identify these areas. They are the warm/dry habitats where there is a preponderance of Douglas fir. This is basically a starting point for the forest as all of the other restraints and issues need to be addressed. District rangers added that there were many other issues to be considered including such items as access, distance from the ranger station, etc.

The planned acres for treatment appeared to be approximately twice the current levels. When asked if the current staff was adequate Cheryl said it was. They have added 11 new positions and have 2 more to fill.

Dan Strohl didn't feel that the map showed the restraints involved. That was true, it was but a starting point. Cheryl thought that perhaps they could address that issue better.

Wayne Kasworm wondered if there were unrealistic expectations based on all the obstacles to work through.

Ed Levert said that one issue that needed to be addressed in the sale program were product and community related. i.e. Continued flow of products from the Young Growth Project.

Robyn wanted to know if there was a way to focus in on WUI areas. Cheryl thought that was possible.

Nate asked the group, "what do you want"? Robyn said she would like the stakeholders to study the opportunity map and the five year sale map. Cheryl said that they would share the power point and maps.

New DNRC Liaison- Steve Kimball introduced himself and his new role of working as a liaison across the state working with the different agencies and the local community, particularly the county governments.

New NEPA Guidelines- Jan Bouma, NEPA coordinator for the forest discussed the proposed guideline that would allow much more flexibility to the agency. She discussed such things as condition based management or actions the forest does all the time so why have to restate that every time you do a similar project. Areas qualifying could be up to 7300 acres and harvests up to 4200 acres could be allowed. Changes in the lengths of temporary roads allowed is addressed. Collaboration is essential. The proposed rule is in the Federal Register and is open for comment until August 12.

CFLRP- Robyn asked Cheryl about the opportunity for the forest to have a project under this authority. Cheryl said that there was going to be an opportunity sometime in July. She needs up to give her suggestions. There are 2 per region allowed. There is a 2 page initial proposal required. We need to focus on identifying partners and projects. She thought the Kootenai was uniquely qualified for a project. She also went on to say that they expected more Joint Chiefs Initiative funding for joint projects between the NRCS and the FS although in smaller amounts.

Project Reports-

Three Rivers- Tim complemented the forest for getting out the 2nd Starry Goat Sale. Robyn discussed the challenge of the Black Ram Project. A consulting silviculturist was going to be visiting the project the second week of July and we were all invited.

Cabinet- Doug Ferrell said that the Helwick Sale had been affected by the 2017 fires and he was impressed with the efforts of Thompson River Lumber in the logging efforts. John Gubel discussed efforts to work with the motorized users and the opportunities of a project in Rock Creek, McKay-Engle.

Libby- Ed Levert gave a summary of the May field trip to the Ripley Project. The stakeholders were well represented. The project proposal of nearly 15,000 acres south of Libby was very impressive and fit nicely with our silvicultural guidelines. 65% of the area would be treated on a warm/ dry habitat, which is really a landscape approach. He wrote a letter of support , on behalf of the project team, to the district.

Eureka- Robyn apologized for a stakeholder team not happening in Eureka. She went on to say the ball was still in our court to get one organized. Brian Donner talked about the Sterling Salvage Project being in the objection period. Will begin scoping the Pink Meadows Project again because of changed purposes.

Brian talked about the meeting in Eureka on Jun 18 lead by Brian Resell of the NRCS . The NRCS is taking a targeted approach for projects instead of a shotgun approach used in the past. This opens opportunities for working in collaboration with their efforts.

Legislative Committee Report- Paul McKenzie said that not much had happened. There will be a meeting on the vegetative side next week. Doug Ferrell said that there was frustration over what has not happened with the wilderness efforts of the Blackfoot Clearwater. He expects something positive to happen soon.

Pacific Northwest Trail- Robyn explained the background of the stakeholder efforts to have an open discussion of the trail location. There was going to be a meeting with the trail coordinator on July 2.

Cadre- The stakeholder's board voted today to request the "Cadre" to come to the Kootenai and work with the stakeholders and Forest Service in an attempt to improve coordination and efforts between the two. Cheryl said that the costs of the effort would be paid by the FS. Robyn and Tim will be meeting with Megan and Cheryl on July 9th at the SO on this request and stakeholders were invited to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Ed Levert, Scribe

Next General Meeting- To be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Ed Levert, Secretary/Treasurer