

**Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Collaborative  
Board Meeting  
Thursday, March 12, 2026  
6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Venture Inn, Spruce Room, Libby, MT**



**Meeting Attendees:**

**Board Members**

Ed Levert  
Wayne Maahs  
Zach Angstead  
Tim Dougherty  
Tony Petrusha  
Brent Teske  
Jodi Turk  
John Gubel  
Nick Raines  
Doug Ferrell, online  
Juli Thurston, online  
Larry Miller, online  
Phil Hough, online  
Kayla Mosher, online

**Public Attendees**

Seth Carbonari, USFS Kootenai National Forest  
Lisa Ronald, American Rivers, online  
Anthony South, Yaak Valley Forest Council, online  
Billy Barquin, Kootenai Tribe, online  
Chris Bachman, Yaak Valley FC, online  
Jeff Whitlock, Stoltze Land and Lumber, online  
Bill Naegeli, online  
Kevin French, Daines staff, online  
Shelby Therrian, Kootenai Tribe, online  
Isabelle Manning, Friends of Scotchman Peaks  
Matt Arno, Montana DNRC, online  
Patrick Hagan, Unity Land Management  
Brett Slaughter, Sen. Daines, online  
Kevin French, Sen. Daines, online

<p><b>6:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome from Tim Dougherty, KFSC co-chair</li> </ul> <p>Introduction to Erin Clark as the new KFSC facilitator/coordinator</p>
<p><b>6:15 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Kootenai National Forest Update, provided by Seth Carbonari, USFS KNF Deputy Ranger</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiring 15 temporary staff primarily in recreation management</li> <li>- December blowdown event reaction has focused on areas where the KNF has already been doing work, adding blowdown to existing harvest, lost 6-7 bridges including one providing access to Hecla, Ross Creek Cedars flooding damage was significant and will likely be closed to public access this year</li> <li>- Adding some blowdown work in the Murphy Lake area, and some small NEPA projects (&lt;250 acres)</li> <li>- Program of work scale is similar to last year, 50-55MMBF. There will be ~20MMBF through the GNA program</li> <li>- Timber projects will go to bid primarily between April and June</li> <li>- Libby checkboard area designation, Blacktail, and Tally Lake area will be a Shared Stewardship Area co-managed with MT DNRC, Ripley and Swamp projects are within that landscape</li> <li>- Troy District Ranger retired and Juli Hopkinson is detailed into that position, came from the KNF minerals program</li> <li>- Road monitoring status: DOJ will decide whether to appeal the court decision, appreciative of KFSC's willingness to help with monitoring</li> <li>- Questions: 1) Based on the blowdown, has a discussion come up about use of CEs for treatment of some of this storm damage? It has been discussed, and it has to make sense, i.e. the work needs to financially pencil out. 2) Support Rural Schools Funding, will there be a resource advisory council (RAC) going for that? KNF hopes so. A whole new RAC will be established.</li> </ul> <p>Comment from Tim Dougherty: With revision of public comment periods for EAs and EISs, request that line and staff officers at the District level work with KFSC to allow for reasonable comments to be developed.</p>
<p><b>6:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Guest presentation and discussion: Hurricane Helene and applications to Lincoln County flood recovery, presented by Lisa Ronald, American Rivers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shared example photos from Hurricane Helene with equipment in riverbeds, woody debris in rivers, etc.</li> <li>- Encouraging balancing environmental protection with debris removal and recovery efforts</li> <li>- Questions posed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What's the status of road and bridge reconstruction?</li> <li>2) What rebuilding practices are you seeing on the ground that may benefit or impact rivers?</li> <li>3) Who are the key people to be talking with to learn more?</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USFS: Most work will be under programmatic NEPA processes, there will be permitting steps with MFWP for all. Working with hydrologists and fisheries biologists. Temporary bridges are being engineered now. Temp bridges would not be in place before June. Will be issuing contracts for this work. Not sure yet how they will address damage done to the road and bridge providing access to the Ross Creek Cedars.</li> <li>- GNA: GNA project timber receipts will be used to aid this restoration work. West Fisher Road work is a good example of where this funding will be applied this spring or early summer.</li> <li>- Lincoln County: Some of the approaches to the bridges and associated riprap need repair and not the bridges themselves. In the design, engineering, and permitting phase, no actual repairs underway yet. Awaiting a FEMA declaration, which will determine funding availability. Waiting to be heard what will be allowed in terms of debris in a lot of cases. Have a contractor and a debris removal monitor on hire, but it has been challenging to hire someone to do something before what they exactly know what needs to be done. Bull trout spawning will determine timing for work.</li> </ul> <p>Lesson learned from Helene: making sure contractors are aware of T&amp;E species issues, restoration standards, recreation needs, etc.</p> <p>Additional information can be shared with Lisa at 406-317-7757 or <a href="mailto:Ironald@americanrivers.org">Ironald@americanrivers.org</a></p>
<p><b>6:50 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Board Elections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Motion from Tim Dougherty to elect two new members (Isabelle Manning and Bill Naegeli): Motion seconded by Tony Petruscha, all board members approved.</li> <li>- All board members completed ballots.</li> <li>- Election outcome: All nominees for re-election, new election, Executive Committee, and officers were approved. See summary at bottom of these notes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:20 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Committee Updates</b></p> <p><i>Education and Outreach (Juli)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing a public outreach presentation</li> <li>- Request to board members to send along articles that should be included in the KFSC website</li> <li>- Forest Fair planning is underway, will be held on 9/26/26, Destination Tourism grant awarded notice arrived today and will cover all Forest Fair expenses (\$3,100)</li> </ul> <p><i>Grants and Funding (Juli)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Treasurers Report</li> <li>- \$18,051 in funds on hand</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have received Forest Fair reimbursement from DNRC</li> <li>- Awaiting MFCN final disbursement, \$1.5k</li> <li>- NFF grant being considered</li> </ul> <p><i>Recreation (Tony &amp; Kayla)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This committee's work has been undefined thus far</li> <li>- Work that has happened: Stimson easement, Norguard trail, Lovers Lane TH, FS Trail 817</li> <li>- Kayla will assume lead of this committee moving forward</li> </ul> <p><i>Legislative, KWTC (Zach)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal maps will be ready to share soon</li> <li>- Creating a special forest restoration area on the Glen Lake Irrigation District</li> <li>- Not sure what the delegation retirements will mean for this proposal going forward</li> <li>- Thank you to Sen. Daines and Rep. Zinke's staff for their KFSC involvement over the years</li> </ul> <p><i>District Subcommittees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cabinet (Juli): Flat Tail project meeting was attended by several board members, comment period upcoming in June, project details available here: <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/kootenai/projects/66938">https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/kootenai/projects/66938</a></li> <li>- Eureka/Fortine (Jeff Whitlock): small GNA sale coming out in April addressing blowdown salvage, Greater Trego project decision in early FY27, reworking the Sunday project, Boulder North and Burning Bolder projects on hold</li> <li>- Libby (Ed): awaiting timelines for the Swamped project, Ripley court requirements being met, Mitchell Jackson, Harper, and a Pine Flats project are upcoming. Would like to host a field trip to see the Pine Flats project and would like to include the public in this tour</li> <li>- Three Rivers (Tim): Comments submitted on Upper Bunk emphasizing value of haz fuels and WUI work, 200 acres of old growth treatment, cut small ladder fuels and not the big trees, project endorsed overall</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:50 pm</b></p>	<p><b>2026 KFSC Work Plan, presented by Tim and Doug</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No priority feedback shared at the meeting</li> <li>- Board members should submit any work plan feedback in writing to Zach Angstead by March 31, EC will then finalize the work plan at their April meeting and distribute to all board members</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:55 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Wrap-Up and Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Action items: send 2026 Work Plan feedback by March 31 to Zach Angstead</li> <li>- Topics for next meeting: none requested</li> <li>- Date for next board meeting: Thursday, June 18, 6-8pm, likely at Community College</li> </ul>
<p><b>8:05 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>

## **KFSC Election Results, March 2026**

*The following board members were renewed for a two-year term that will end in March 2028:*

- Tim Dougherty
- Doug Ferrell
- Wayne Maahs
- Ed Levert
- Juli Thurston
- Josh Letcher
- Shawn Morgan
- Cameron Wohlschlagel
- Kayla Mosher
- Larry Miller

*The following new board members were elected for a two-year term that will end in March 2028:*

- Isabelle Manning
- Bill Naegeli

*The following Executive Committee members had their seats renewed for two years:*

- Tim Dougherty
- Juli Thurston
- Wayne Maahs
- Ed Levert

*The following KFSC officers were elected:*

- Tim Dougherty, co-chair
- Zach Angstead, co-chair
- Juli Thurston, treasurer
- Isabelle Manning, secretary