

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
October 26, 2017 3:30 p.m.  
KVRI CFLR Review-Site Visit-Washington Office Close Out Meeting  
Bonners Ferry Ranger District Office

**Board Members in Attendance:**

David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho & KVRI Co-chair  
Mary Farnsworth, US Forest Service-Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF), Forest Supervisor  
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group (Field trip only)  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI  
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) US Forest Service (USFS), Bonners Ferry Ranger District

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office  
Mitch Silvers, Senator Mike Crapo's office  
Doug Nishek, US Forest Service (USFS), Bonners Ferry Ranger District  
Meghan Oswald, US Forest Service, Region 1, CFLR Coordinator  
Jody Pliley, US Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF)  
Ed Koberstein, US Forest Service, Bonners Ferry Ranger District  
Allen Rowley, US Forest Service, Washington Office  
Matt Staudacher, US Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF)  
Harvey Hergett, US Forest Service, Regional Office, Region 1  
Erin Swiader, US Forest Service, Regional Office, Region 1  
Anita Hanson, US Forest Service, Bonners Ferry Ranger District  
Glen Casamassa, US Forest Service, Washington Office  
Jessica Robertson, US Forest Service, Washington Office, CFLR Coordinator  
Linda Hoglan, US Forest Service, Regional Office, Region 1, Budget Director  
Brandon Glaza, US Forest Service, Bonners Ferry Ranger District  
Pat Hart, US Forest Service (Field trip only)  
Beth Bigelow, US Forest Service (Field trip only)  
Leanne Marten, US Forest Service, Regional Forester, Northern Region 1 (Missoula)  
Christine Dawe, US Forest Service, Director for Renewable Resources, Region 1 (Missoula)

The meeting began with Introductions. Jessica R. thanked everyone for reassembling and expressed that it had been a great couple of days and thanked everyone for putting on an amazing visit.

The purpose of these CFLR site visits is to extract key innovations and best practices to share with the CFLR network and broadly throughout the agency. We also troubleshoot unintended bottlenecks or issues with our processes that are not helping facilitate the work in the best way that we want it to. We also hope to have conversations about what comes next with CFLR and how best to serve your interests

and the agency's interests. Glen, Allen and I will share our key observations from this trip and want to hear yours as well. Then we will be working on a draft report for your review that is a distillation of those best practices we have observed and the opportunities for further improvement that we see. Those are really meant to be shared action items where we see areas where there may be a system or process that could be improved or need for some more training.

### **Jessica Robertson**

One of the things that really stuck out to me was the shared leadership; the strength with the KVRI partnership with the community leaders and how that is shared with the strengths of the Forest Service's shared leadership. You see that in Collaboratives across the country, but the way you are doing it to me is an overly robust example of the power of that and all of the leveraged resources and work that it brings.

In terms of best practices, it is having skilled staff that troubleshoot and figure out how to get it done both on the KVRI side and all of your organizations and on the Forest Service side as well. That shows me that our systems can always be improved. Something I am going to take back is the reporting systems and how to make them more flexible and to account for the variety of the type of work that happens. By clearing up any misunderstandings on what counts, in particular for road work, and also thinking about how we design systems that better capture the work and don't create unnecessary work and bottlenecks for you to getting that work captured. I also heard your interest in learning from other CFLR projects and how they develop protocols working with partners. That is an action item I will connect you with.

### **Allen Rowley**

I would reiterate the leadership of the collaborative group in terms of the specific co-chair positions within the community providing that stable, strong, focused leadership. I don't have in my memory of a similar shared leadership position in either CFLR or other collaborative groups in other activities that is quite like this; that has a formal social political structure of the City, County and Tribe in terms of the co-leadership. It is great to see.

Another point is that the District has figured out how to work through the administrative hurdles. I have two take homes from that: to figure out a way to share what you have learned with other agencies and to figure out how to reduce the number of hurdles that you are wrestling with.

For each National Forest unit there is a unique mix of tools that can be used; conventional timber sales, stewardship contracts, Good Neighbor Authority, etc. Each National Forest will come up with a different mix depending on their community, their social license, industry infrastructure and specifically here, the use of retained receipts to move from project to project. Developing a rubric to help find the right mix of those tools will be something to consider.

It is always refreshing for me to come to the field to the regions and engage with communities and employees that are optimistic, focused on active management and redeeming our stewardship responsibilities for natural resources all at the same time.

### **Glen Casamassa**

I want to give a strong thank you and tremendous amount of appreciation to KVRI and the work that you all are doing. I certainly think that Gary, Dan, David and your leadership and the work that Patty does to keep this together, the glue, is really indicative of the way you care about what you are doing and the greater appreciation for the bigger community that you are building out of this, that is quite admirable.

Karen and Mitch, your support and work with us this entire time, recognizing the value of this and the support that the Senator provides us is really valuable. And that you can be a voice for not only KVRI or CFLR, but the Forest Service and support of the continuation of the program as well.

The leadership of Mary and Kevin and their staff coupled with the folks of the Regional office and your support is certainly one of keys to success as we move into almost (hopefully) the second decade of CFLR projects.

One of the things I want to bring up is the great warm welcome that we had and the storytelling that I thought was really moving. The hospitality that Gary and the Tribe provided to welcome us into your community was greatly appreciated. The storytelling and the work that you all are doing here displays the shared leadership. You are always looking for different opportunities that present themselves depending on where you are and what you are really after.

Clearly the idea that KVRI is not just looking at one slice of forest kind of work but that you are looking at a more integrated approach from ridge top to the valleys and ridge top to ridge top. That view was really special for me to see. This community you have built has a real strong foundation to launch into another level of what you want to bring forward when and if CFLR is re-authorized.

We recognize that overall the foundational pieces of this community that you've built, the work that you do, the looking for opportunities, and the shared approach to how you want to work is something that will be there regardless of whether you have a program or not. You have really kind of reset our approach to the work that we do.

Some of the things that we can take back to headquarters and be able to work on as a body are the aspects of the way we report, the systems that we work on and the some of the knot holes we collectively like to drag everybody through. It would be advantageous for us at the Washington office to provide a little bit more support in those places where perhaps you feel like you are in the grey and to ensure that you all know that we trust what you are doing.

One thing we didn't necessarily hear about was the monitoring aspects of the program, you probably have them, but that is an important facet overall to the CFLR project. As we look to the potential of re-authorization, having that data, providing that analysis in order to say here's where we were at and here's where we really need to be, and we are on this trajectory. That was the only piece that I thought was a little bit of a gap there, I know you have that but we really didn't get into the monitoring of it.

### **Key Observations from the group**

#### **Harvey Hergett**

I heard the Road storage vs. Road Decommissioning issue. It would behoove us as an agency, to work with Jessica and all of you to get some clarification around that. It is more about the outcome of what is being done not whether you can report whether you decommission the road or not. If what you are doing with the roads when you call it storage actually meets the outcome of what we are looking for in road decommissioning we can work around that. I'd like to get some clear direction. We also talked about doing some training and education on Mary's unit here about what is appropriate around road decommissioning and reporting road decommissioning and how to get credit for that. It sounds like the road storage is meeting the requirements for Grizzly Bear security.

Kevin K. added that the community is very sensitive to and have a clear understanding of the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment. They are aware that storage meets that intent and at the same time are sensitive to not forfeiting that initial investment that was made in certain roads. Being able to store and maintain that investment should we need it in the future is really where they are coming from.

#### **Patty Perry**

I thank everyone for coming and spending the time with us and allowing us to be overly passionate about telling our story. We like it here and have a lot of concern about the area. I think we did all learn a lot by being together.

You are right about the monitoring. Our presentation went a little longer than expected and didn't leave enough time to present the data Mary and her staff worked so hard to put together for you. It shows the things that we've taken a look at; where we are, where we've called ourselves up short, areas where we want to improve and the places that are a bright spot and the places we excelled. I know they have all that and I'm sure they will be sharing that with you. Megan agreed to share that PowerPoint with the Washington Staff.

And we have the economic monitoring report that KVRI actually contracted with the University of Idaho to pull together. So, there is other monitoring going on besides the citizen based TMDL monitoring.

A couple of other things I should mention is that when we did decided to compete for the CFLRA funds, there were 2 other key players who joined us in Washington DC. The Nature Conservancy (TNC); their

representative, Kennon McClintock, is on our Board. And Idaho Conservation League (ICL); Brad Smith is very active on the Forestry Committee & wanted you to know from the ICL perspective it has been a very positive experience and they are fully supportive of the Idaho CLFR projects, be that the Clear Water Basin, Payette or KVRI. While all are different they all have been very good processes to be involved in, they are encouraged by it.

### **Meghan Oswalt**

I'm fairly new to the Regional CFLR coordinator role, and I read a couple of your past year annual reports. While everything that is in there is great and it gave me a foundation, being able to be on the ground, see what you all have been working on, and feel the energy in the room was really nice. I've learned a lot on this trip. I really appreciate it.

### **Jessica Robertson**

That energy in the room is something almost intangible. I feel very privileged to have gotten to visit with different CFLR projects around the country, feel the energy, and experience the chemistry of the groups and see what they have been able to accomplish. There are the tangibles, the things you can measure and those are wonderful. But there is this intangible sense of community and commitment and leadership and you guys have that in spades. It is very inspiring, thank you for that.

### **Dan Dinning**

I asked the question where could we improve and the answer was where can we help you? Our advice to share would be that in a collaborative there needs to be staying power by position not by person. I feel if there is anything that can be taken to the rest of the country it would be elected official type involvement on a consistent basis as opposed to an individual that represents a group.

### **David Sims**

I would like to thank everyone for coming and for your interest in KVRI and our projects; we really appreciate your time here.

### **Gary Aitken Jr.**

I would like to echo the sentiment of appreciation. It rarely gets tedious to talk about the things that we are doing. We are so passionate about the things we are accomplishing. It matters to everybody. Everyone has a stake in it. From the Tribes perspective it's what we do. We've been gaining steam and gaining more power, not power in a facetious way. It's more of a spiritual energy. It's a real power of togetherness and by gaining it, we are bringing things together. As the community gets closer to one another, we are doing more projects on every level, from the river to the forest, and in between. It is really special to be a part of. We appreciate the opportunities and we are definitely proud of the fact

that we can offer ourselves as a blueprint to others that are doing this type of work. We appreciate you coming out here and taking a look at what we do. We are pretty proud of it.

### **Leanne Marten**

Thank you to everyone. The highlights shared were very encouraging and the take home messages are right on; ways to improve the reporting continue to improve the ways we can support the communities and the people on the ground and continue the efforts moving forward. And I thank Senator Crapo's representatives for representing his interests.

### **Christine Dawe**

I have experience working on the Panhandle and with KVRI's leadership and ability to figure things out. Anybody who gets a chance to be a part of something like that is really fortunate. I also appreciate everybody's flexibility with the schedule changes.

The recognition of the things that folks do to make things work and the work arounds really does highlight the need to take a look at our processes and the way we set things up. I also appreciate your recognition and verbal acknowledgement of the need to look at how we can reduce some of the burden and barriers of getting the work done and capturing how we can tell that story more efficiently.

### **Jessica Robertson**

We will get a draft out to you in 2-4 weeks to review and make comments. Basically it consists of what we heard, what we think the common sense follow ups are, did we miss anything, are we off the mark, etc. Then you can provide feedback depending on your interest level, sometimes we've done another call to talk through the action items.

### **Mary Farnsworth**

My question is that we have a revised CFLR report that shows statistics that we feel need to be adjusted to the project. We have worked with KVRI to come up with those proposals. We are submitting that now to the Washington office. We would anticipate you will provide back an acceptance on our proposal? Jessica stated that letters are drafted and ready and waiting.

Also, my understanding is that the Washington office is considering having every CFLR project do such a review, an accounting of the cash and target accomplishments to date in preparation for the projects ending in 2019, so are we done? Jessica said yes!

It was reported from a Washington Staff member in the group that the draft report reviewed in July was very complete. It gave a lot of context and little was left to the imagination. After this visit it is pretty clear to what's going on.

**Mary Farnsworth cont.**

We are pretty proud of what's going on here. The folks on this District are just astounding, the work, the quality and level of commitment to the projects, as well as how they all work together; that is a take home for me. How you work together, in talking to Pat Hart this morning, the feeling of belonging associated with the projects and willingness to work together was mind-blowing and is a model of that integrated approach that the CFLR is supposed to be. Thanks to KVRI for being a part of that.

If CFLR stays or goes away, we are not going to stop doing the things we are doing. We are going to keep doing excellent land management in an integrated partnership manner regardless.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt,  
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant