

Draft Meeting Notes
KVRI Forestry Sub-committee – March 17, 2013 - 1:00 p.m.
Kootenai Tribal Office

In Attendance:

Doug Nishek, U. S. Forest Service (USFS)
Ron Abraham, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)
Barry Wynsma, County Resident
Dave Cobb, USFS
Brandon Glaza, USFS
Dan Dinning, Boundary County
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI
Bob Blanford, KVRI
Norm Merz, KTOI
Cleve Shearer, County Resident
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary Soil Conservation District
Aaron Calkins, U.S. Representative Labrador
Judy Morbeck, U.S. Representative Labrador
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo
Pat Behrens, USFS
Dan Muir, USFS
Kevin Knauth, USFS
Brett Lyndaker, USFS
Mary Farnsworth, USFS

Patty Perry, KTOI & KVRI Facilitator
Janet Satchwell, KTOI & KVRI

Patty welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

Presentation:

Kevin Knauth, District Ranger, introduced Mary Farnsworth, IPNF Forest Supervisor. Ms. Farnsworth was invited to attend the KVRI Forestry sub-committee meeting to participate in the discussion of the District's proposal to consider a Ball/Trout Project. The selection of projects on the Forest are business decisions as well as resource needs decisions, based on the responsibility of the USFS to meet targets, consider issues, and provide the best value for the investment.

Pat Behrens, Silviculturist, described an overview of the vegetation management projects within each area of the district:

Mission/Round Prairie: Hellroaring Project and Mission/Round Project

Ruby/Copper: Ruby Copper Sale, Kreist Project, and the Pipeline Project

American/Canuck: No current projects, prior timber harvests, and Forest Plan Old Growth Allocations

Deer Creek: Idaho Buckhorn Burn Project, Old Growth Allocations, and the Deer Project

West Moyie & West Purcell: Projects under contract

Katka/Boulder Area: Prior projects, currently working on developing a project

Twenty Mile: Project planned

White Mountain: Sundance fire, and scattered ownership
Snow/Caribou: Myrtle Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), commercial timber and outyear opportunities
Myrtle/Cascade: Myrtle HFRA, areas analyzed and under contract, helicopter timber harvest opportunities
Trout/Ball: Analysis area of 30,000 total acres, treatment areas
Parker/Long Canyon: Still operating under the 1987 USFS plan
Smith Creek: A harvest project has been finished
Blue/Grouse: A harvest project is finishing up

Trout/Ball Project: The proposed project has a 30,000 acre analysis area which looks at all opportunities for managing the forest. The needs within Trout/Ball general forest area include opportunities for restoring white pine, larch restoration, dealing with mountain pine beetle insect and disease issues, stand resiliency, amount of old growth and fuel loading.

Discussion was held on previous forest investments, road maintenance, timber harvest, and the cumulative impact of returning to some forest areas over and over within the District.

Limited access in the project area and the need for two to three temporary bridges was reviewed. Discussion was held on the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment within a Bear Management Unit (BMU).

Vegetation management using current roads and in Idaho Roadless Areas was discussed and could be addressed in the purpose and need statement of a project.

Discussion was held on the topics to be addressed for Ms. Farnsworth to consider in decision-making, based on opportunity in the Trout/Ball project area and the USFS budget. Further detailed information is needed, such as:

The cost of infrastructure (bridges are expensive, even temporary bridges - approximately \$500K for two)

What investments should be made in the road system

How BMU core requirements would be met

Vegetation management for current and future economics (thinning, restoration, harvest)

Recreational opportunities

Ms. Farnsworth provided the committee a better understanding of the project decision making process at the Forest Supervisor's level.

Boulder Project: The committee reviewed the roads analysis for the Boulder project and discussed how the Road Standards as required by the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment could be met by 2019.

Options to meet the Access Amendment through meeting access needs, water shed needs, and consolidating core habitat will be discussed at a special KVRI Forestry sub-committee meeting to be scheduled in April (meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2014, at the Boundary County Fairgrounds - Memorial Hall, 6:30 p.m.).

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Janet Satchwell, KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant