

Draft Meeting Notes
KVRI Forestry Sub-committee – Boundary County Extension Office
March 10, 2014 - 1:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Doug Nishek, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Cleve Shearer, County Resident
Sean Stash, USFS
Brandon Glaza, USFS
Brett Lyndaker, USFS
Dave Cobb, USFS
Erick Sjoquist, Idaho Dept. of Lands
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Labrador's Office
Aaron Calkins, Congressman Labrador's Office
Kevin Knauth, USFS
Barry Wynsma, County Resident
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League
Russ Hegedus, IFG
Dan Dinning, Boundary County / KVRI
Pat Behrens, USFS
Jennifer Anderson, USFS

Patty Perry, KTOI / KVRI
Janet Satchwell, KTOI / KVRI

Patty welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

Presentation:

The elements of the Boulder Creek Project's purpose and need were discussed. Boulder Creek watershed and its forks and Boulder Meadows were shown on a map as potential harvest and treatment areas. To look at connecting trails and roads may take us out of the Boulder drainage since the Boulder Bear Management Unit (BMU) is larger than the watershed.

A discussion copy of purpose and need was presented at the meeting and will be made available with these notes. The following committee participant comments are in addition to the purpose and need document.

Aquatic Resource

Historically Boulder Creek meadows was partially dammed-up from beavers, which helped with blow outs in the spring time and provided good fishing. If habitat allows, it would be nice to encourage their return as they were trapped out of the area approximately 50 years ago.

The drainage has been utilized for well over 100 years – among the uses were sheep grazing, placer mining, the old Cutoff Trail went over to Callahan Creek over the top of Twenty Mile, and the Tote /

Wagon Road that a portion of the Riverview Trail follows today. It is a unique drainage in respect to historic use.

Enhancing the stream structure of Upper Boulder Creek through the meadows might be something to consider. Beavers are good at this though the ponding may make us have to reroute existing trails.

Look at dispersed camping sites – address any aquatic concerns (also provide for continuing recreational aspects).

Vegetation Resource

This area had a complex fire history – fires swept up the area from the time the railroad was built, the 1910 fire burned trees in this area. A saw mill utilizing flumes logged that area.

In terms of structure and composition Boulder Creek is considered a very homogenous landscape. In other words, much of the landscape is similar in size and age. Mature lodgepole pine stands considered moderate and high hazard for mountain pine beetle attack are a significant component. The late 1800's and early 1900's fires created large openings on the landscapes in the Boulder Creek area; those large openings or patch sizes have since regenerated to conifers.

Sensitive plants and their habitat exist in riparian areas.

Fire and Fuels

No additional comments were made.

Not much of this watershed is in a WUI area – developed areas include the Black Mountain tower and radio EMS communications site. Boulder Creek does not provide drinking water for a community.

Recreation

The need to document history and heritage sites, which are unique to this area, was requested.

The trails in this area are lengthy, approximately 20 miles. Callahan Creek drains into Troy and other trail systems go to Grouse Creek on the Sandpoint Ranger District. There is a trail system that connected the old mining sites with Katka Creek and went down to what was called the Gaps of the Mountains and to the Yaak. The trails were used before roads were developed up there. A nice trail could be developed that would also tie in with the old pack trails. Travel Analysis Process (TAP) will provide options.

Enhancing the recreational experiences, or provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the local mining and ranching history. Purpose and Need is different than the Proposed Action for the project. (No new facilities are a reality of the projected FS budget).

Wildlife Habitat

Have to achieve the standards of the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment for the Bear Management Units by increasing core habitat rather than contribute to meeting the standards by 2019. This could be accomplished in a variety of ways. A separate meeting will be held to discuss transportation in the area. Provide opportunities for the recovery of habitat for wildlife, could be an economic value as well.

Economic

Maximize opportunities to utilize forest products and provide economic opportunity through restoration related activities.

Though hard to measure, recreational use is also large factor in the local economy also – hiking, biking, horseback riding, hunting & fishing, and camping.

Forestry Committee Meeting Announcements:

A field trip will be tentatively planned for the end of June.

March 17, 2014 - forestry committee meeting at 1 p.m., Kootenai Tribal Office. We will have a discussion with Mary Farnsworth – IPNF Forest Supervisor, concerning the possibility of a project in the Ball/Trout drainages. As time allows we will review the TAP for Boulder Creek Project.

April 7, 2014 – a forestry committee meeting will be set for the Boulder Creek Project TAP discussion. The location and time to be announced.

All meetings are open to the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Janet Satchwell
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant