

Draft Meeting Notes
KVRI Forestry Sub-committee – June 4, 2014 - 1:30 p.m.
Kootenai Tribal Office

In Attendance:

David Cobb, USFS
Dan Dinning, Boundary County
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI
Brett Lyndaker, USFS
Bob Blanford, KVRI
Sid Smith, Sen. Jim Risch
Judy Morbeck, U.S. Representative Raúl Labrador
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo
Carol McKenzie, USFS
Sara Sink, USFS
Jill Cobb, USFS
Ed Morgan, USFS
Kevin Knauth, USFS
Sean Stash, USFS
A.J. Helgenberg, USFS

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

Patty welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

Presentation:

A.J.'s PowerPoint presentation provided information on the Deer Creek planning area which includes Dawson Ridge, Meadow Creek Campground, north to Deer Ridge, Solomon Mountain & Lake, Goat Mountain and Perkins Lake. Acreage includes:

- Deer Creek Planning Area 30,000 ac
- Private 7,000 ac (not included in planning discussion)
- Twin Skin (Active) Units 650 ac
- Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area 3,000 ac

Identified opportunities and needs:

- Maintenance of previously-managed stands
- Overstory removal
- Small wood thinning in young stands
- Dry site restoration & maintenance
- Lodgepole pine
- Fuels management opportunities in Wildland Urban Interface area and follow up treatments

Ninety-seven miles of FS roads are included in the transportation system. Road maintenance needs:

- Brushing
- Blading

- Ditch pulling
- Address drainage issues
- Re-grading and travelway hardening
- Weed spraying

Aquatic Opportunities:

- Culvert maintenance or repair
- Opportunities are associated with necessary road maintenance
- Meadow Creek fish passage enhancement

Wildlife:

- Possible goshawk territories
- Flamulated owls using Dawson Ridge
- Keno Grizzly Bear Management Unit (BMU)
- Deer-Skin Lynx Analysis Units (LAU)

Recreation:

- Solomon Lake
- Meadow Creek Campground
- Perkins Lake
- Moyie River Boat Launch/Dispersed Camping Area
- Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (Trail will have a separate NEPA)
- Deer Ridge Lookout

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

- Planning to scope July-August of 2014, with a decision projected for December 2015

Draft Purpose and Need:

- Promote forest conditions that reduce fire hazard, aid in fire suppression efforts to reduce potential impacts on the resource and adjacent private lands
- Provide for tree species that are resilient and resistant to insects, diseases, wildfire, and drought
- Local economic opportunities by providing sustainable level of timber products, enhance visitor's experience and conservation of natural resources

Field Visit:

June 25, 2014 – 8:00 a.m. Deer Creek Project Field Trip (meet at Forest Service-Bonnors Ferry District; we will be indoors for about an hour for an overview. Bring your lunch & water...dress appropriately for a field trip. If you have an allergy to bees – bring your sting kit.

Carol discussed the Farm Bill Authority that Congress passed which had language within the bill that each state has the opportunity to designate to the Secretary of Agriculture high priority landscape areas. The State of Idaho requested the Forest Service to collaborate and identify these areas. Locally, using the FS five year plan, twenty-six (26) priority landscapes (approximately 450,000 ac.) were identified. May 20th the Secretary approved fifty (50) sites in the State of Idaho, and 26 of them are on the Idaho Panhandle Forest (IPF). The portions not in Idaho were not included in the priority landscape areas.

The designation of priority landscape areas provides for two expedited procedures in the NEPA process:

- A Congressional designated categorical exclusion (CE) for treatment areas up to 3,000 ac.
- An expedited NEPA (also used for fuel treatment in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) Title 102)

A number of requirements, designated in the Farm Bill, apply to using either of the above expedited procedures. A discussion was held on forest projects (needing information on acres and treatments) that may qualify to use these opportunities. Additional discussion was held on an agency being very

clear about addressing issues before a decision is signed when utilizing these procedures, and discussed having opportunities for input early in the process.

A request for more detailed information of likely opportunities on the Deer Creek project was requested before the field trip, perhaps showing the areas of opportunity on a map for June 25. Discussion was held project areas and the small percentage of treatment acres within a scoping area, and why more area is not included in treatment. Within the National Forest there is 38% of suitable timber ground. Discussion was held on knowing the purpose and need, the needed treatments, and on how much of the landscape. Then discussion could occur on what NEPA process would best analyze the project.

Meeting Announcements:

The forestry sub-committee field trip for the Boulder Project will be June 19, 2014, leaving from the Bonners Ferry District – Forest Service office at 10:30 a.m. Dress appropriately for a field trip. Bring your lunch, water, etc.

A forestry sub-committee will be held July 15, 2014, 1:00 p.m. - Tribal Office, to discuss the development of these projects.

Hellroaring draft EA will be available for comment in the near future. Kevin will bring further information to the June 16 KVRI meeting.

Opportunities:

Jill shared an upcoming opportunity to work on a stabilization project on Placer Creek and making fascines to be placed in the creek (along with log structures) in hope to reduce the eroding nature of the stream up against the road. More information will be available for this fascine project which is planned for mid to late September. Patty will bring up the request at the next KVRI board meeting.

Also, volunteers may be needed this summer to assist with placing picnic tables and fire rings in some of the campgrounds. Kevin will let the group know further information.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Janet Satchwell
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant