

**Draft Meeting Notes  
KVRI Forestry Sub-committee  
February 13, 2014 - 1:00 p.m.  
Boundary County Extension Office**

**In Attendance:**

Doug Nishek, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Cleve Shearer, County Resident  
Sean Stash, USFS  
Karen Roetter, Sen. Crapo's Office  
Brandon Glaza, USFS  
Brett Lyndaker, USFS  
Dave Cobb, USFS  
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)  
Erick Sjoquist, Idaho Dept. of Lands  
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Labrador's Office  
Kevin Knauth, USFS  
Barry Wynsma, County Resident  
Mike Brown, Blue Sky News  
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group (IFG)  
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI  
A.J. Helgenberg, USFS  
Russ Hegedus, IFG  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County / KVRI  
Sid Smith, Sen. Risch's Office  
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League  
Pat Behrens, USFS  
Jennifer Anderson, USFS

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

Patty welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

Updates were given on the following forestry projects:

Idaho Buckhorn Burn: The decision was signed by the District Ranger on February 3, 2014, and the legal ad was published on the newspaper of record on February 6, 2014. A 45 day appeal period will close March 23. If no appeal, the project may be implemented in five days after the close date; if an appeal is filed implementation could be 15 days after the date of the last disposition which would likely push the project into the fall.

The purposes of the burns are for whitebark pine enhancement, wildlife habitat, and fuels reduction. A plan is being developed to include staggering the burns so that all the units would not be burned at the same time. There are some spring only burn units.

Twenty Mile: The biological assessment for this project was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in December 2013. Mary Farnsworth, Idaho Panhandle National Forest Supervisor has coordinated the timeline with the USFWS so the Forest Service is expecting the biological opinion by April 1, 2014. They anticipate having a Decision Notice out by May 1, 2014, and look to sell and award before October 1, 2014.

Kreist: This project is an informal consultation with USFWS and a draft biological assessment has been submitted. Mary Farnsworth, Forest Supervisor, has coordinated with the USFWS and expects a draft decision notice by May 1, 2014, with the objection process to follow. The plan is to sell and award two sales this fiscal year: Placer/Nugget and Kreist Creek.

Discussion was held on possible transportation and stewardship opportunities in this area, and that temporary roads are returned, after the project, to the grade of the land prior to use. Also discussed was maintaining the trail in this area for motorized access, visual concerns in the area, and the importance of coordinating with Idaho Parks & Recreation and Pat Hart in keeping the trail accessible during this project.

Hellroaring: The Forest Service is reviewing the specialist reports and will be preparing an assessment to submit to USFWS. This project is scheduled for a 2015 fiscal year, fourth quarter sale date.

Discussion was held on the definition of lynx habitat which is defined as spruce/fir potential vegetation or cedar/hemlock/grand fir potential vegetation types within 200 m of spruce/fir habitat types. Potential vegetation and the ability to maintain snowshoe hares are considered in managing a LAU. This area is also within a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Eastport Helicopter: The project is an unfinished unit (originally part of the Eastport Hazardous Fuels Project). Funding has been allocated for this summer and utilizes stewardship authority which was permanently renewed in the Farm Bill. The forest service will hold a stewardship workshop for the industry – the date will be announced as soon as arrangements are made. The prescription on this project is group selection and underburn.

Boulder: The project is 40,000 acres analysis area. The FS has studied the road system and completed a Travel Analysis Process (TAP), along with an analysis of the Bear Management Unit (BMU). The target road standard for 2019 will require 10–12 miles of drivable roads be reduced. The need for trail work was also mentioned. A field trip into this project area will be planned for this summer.

Deer Creek: NEPA work, a TAP, and the project objectives will be started soon. This project will be revisiting some areas with additional opportunities to keep prior work accomplished in good condition. This summer a field trip could be planned to revisit Dawson Ridge and see a variety of treatments that have been used.

The ID Team will look at options and viability of the project before meeting again and scoping is scheduled for spring and early summer

Potential Project Areas: Included in the district's five year plan is the Trout/Ball Creek area (analysis area: 30,000 acres) for potential project planning. This would be the first season to start field work to cycle this project into a four year process. Discussion was held on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) addressing the opportunities and the need to manage restoration, wildlife,

suitable production ground, and access projects in this area in a positive way. The forest district has an obligation to meet standards and output with the funds and time set in targets. The need to be in this area remains valid.

Other:

Patty stated a local contingent will be attending the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership (IFRP) meeting next week in Boise. Dan, Patty, a Kootenai Tribal Council member, Kevin K., and Mary Farnsworth will have the opportunity to discuss the CFLRA projects and what we're working on and what has been accomplished.

The collaborative has, does, and will continue involving all the stakeholders in the process.

Discussion was held on the FS sales and the ability of the buyers to get the work accomplished in a timely manner.

The Governor's office will be contacted by the Boundary County Commissioners to make the request on behalf of the collaborative which would allow KVRI to actively look at provisions in the Farm Bill which allows funding for projects to address insect/disease issues. Further Farm Bill news will be discussed as information becomes available.

Meeting Announcements:

The next forestry meeting will be on March 10, 2014, at 1:30 p.m., County Extension Office to discuss the Boulder Creek project. The Deer Creek project meeting will be held on May 14, 2014.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Janet Satchwell  
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant