

Draft Meeting Notes
KVRI Forestry Sub-committee – August 15, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.
Kootenai Tribal Office

In Attendance:

A.J. Helgenberg, (U.S. Forest Service) USFS
Sean Stash, USFS
Sara Sink, USFS
Barry Wynsma, County Resident
Dan Dinning, Boundary County
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI
Bob Blanford, KVRI
Pat Behrens, USFS
Kevin Knauth, USFS

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

Patty welcomed those in attendance.

Announcements:

Kevin Knauth advised the known status of several fires within the district.

The Kreist-Lightening sale package is in the Supervisor's Office (S.O.) after a few edits were made and should be published for sale soon.

Idaho Buckhorn Burn project has spring and fall burn units. The crews will concentrate on getting the burn done on the cheat grass areas at appropriate times which will produce the best burn for the vegetation types. Some burning was accomplished by a helicopter with heli-torch.

Twenty Mile Project contract was pulled (and a unit of approximately 15 acres was removed) due to the sighting of an occupied goshawk nest. When the unit is withdrawn before the contract is sold the acreage cannot be added back in to the project. Discussion was held on protecting necessary sites on future projects, but leaving them in the project so that if a site was no longer an area of concern the protection could be removed and treatment as planned could proceed. The project has a ten year scope and with the unit removed there are no options available to reopen the unit within that time period. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) allows us to recognize issues and explore options.

Presentation: Deer Creek Project

Kevin K. advised that field data is still being collected for Deer and Boulder Creek projects, with a priority being given to Deer Creek. Both projects are scheduled for sale in FY2016.

Unfortunately, FS specialists were not able to attend today to discuss their areas of study. Bear Management Units (BMU), maps for yarding systems, fuels treatment and areas of opportunity were discussed. The forestry sub-committee would like to continue discussions with details on treatment units and acreage, vegetation management, transportation system (roads), recreation opportunities and aquatic restoration considerations. Kevin K. will be working with the staff of Kootenai NF to discuss project implementation and coordination on roads. The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho may request Government-to-Government (G2G) coordination with the involved agencies. The discussions with Kootenai N.F. should take place prior to further meetings. Managing recreational motorized trails was also discussed.

The recreational perspective will be analyzed separately through the whole project area. Dispersed sites are creating sanitation issues because of overuse. Camping sites, restroom, fire pits, and tables may create a positive end result by utilizing designated sites.

It was mentioned that Keno Creek is of utmost importance to the Kootenai Tribal culture, probably the most important on the Idaho Panhandle Forest. In other projects, concern about burning in stages has been discussed since huckleberry harvest is very important and bushes can take 5 – 15 years to regenerate depending on the severity of the burn.

Contracting documents will include language concerning weed control. Rare plants will be buffered from areas to be treated.

Contact information for the owners of 7,000 acres of private land within this project area should be gathered & information shared with them. A public meeting – open house would provide an overview of the project and an opportunity for additional public input.

The proposed action includes: 3,000 ac. of commercial thinning vegetation treatment, 700 ac. of small wood thinning, 640 ac. involving only prescribed burning, and 800 ac. of pre-commercial thinning. Information needed includes: the purpose and need description - provide the information why we're going there and what actions will be utilized as management tools in the treatment units.

Discussion was held on the need of the forestry sub-committee to develop with the project specialists a statement of purpose and need – the why we are going there? The importance of what you leave, why you leave it there and what we are striving for in the future drives the proposed actions. The committee requests the number of units to be treated and total number of units, roads and access.

The timeline for this project will be looked at for future committee work and scoping. The committee needs to be able to work through the details of purpose and need issues. The analysis will be important to cover with the committee, as well as an understanding of the important social and cultural perspectives, and the resources available as a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project. The transportation analysis needs to be available in order to provide options available and scenarios for consideration so decisions may be made to get to the best result.

Discussion was held on the Placer Creek Road and the information that was brought up on the field trip. Sean wished to briefly summarize what the transportation analysis plan lead to, and the risks that outweigh benefits from a forest management perspective on the section of road. Sean requested the social and cultural perspective on the transportation aspect, while the committee needs to see the whole transportation network of the project area to understand road densities, and how it may affect private lands. More information is needed for the committee.

A future meeting will be set.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Janet Satchwell
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant