

Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
Forestry Committee
September 6, 2018, 1:00 p.m.
Kootenai Tribal Office

Attendance:

Kevin Knauth, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)-District Ranger
Doug Nishek, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)-Planning Forester
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Ed Koberstein, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)-Timber Management
Bob Blanford, KVRI, Business/Industry
Beth Bigelow, North Zone, US Forest Service (USFS) - Archeology
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch's office
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group (IFG)
Kevin Greenleaf, Landowner
Evan DeHamer, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG)
Eddie Spicer, landowner
Shelby Herber, Idaho Conservation League
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League
Jennifer Costich-Thompson, USFS
Steve Selser, USFS
Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Department of Lands
Carol Kriebs, KTOI Environmental Director
Linda Bernhardt, USFS
Albert Helgenberg, USFS
Joe Heisel, USFS
Sara Sink, USFS
Dan Gilfillan, USFS
Sarah & Mike Lee, Landowners
Sue Ireland, KTOI
Scott Soult, KTOI
Rhonda Vogl, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Opening:

Dan Dinning opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions followed

Deer Creek EA Update- Ed Koberstein

- Deer Creek Stewardship sale awarded to Foust Logging, making tremendous progress
- Ed K. invited the committee to consider a Field Trip later this fall to view all that has been accomplished
- Second sale awarded to IFG (Idaho Forest Group)

- Third sale will be awarded next week. That will complete all the commercial timber sale portion of the Deer Creek EA

Other work accomplished

- Road Maintenance contract nearing completion on the old spur road off the Moyie River Road about the 3 mile marker.
- AOP replacement completed on Placer Creek
- Campground improvements at Solomon Lake
- Close to finishing up on Leonia
- Brushy Mission 2- all volumes done
- Northern Prairie is completed, East Fork Meadow, Placer Nugget- volume removed from that sale
- Hoping to finish up Snow Way in Snow Creek and Myrtle this fall
- Getting a lot of the old sales off the books this year
- Hellroaring and Twenty Mile, will work there through this winter
- Culvert is being replaced on Rd 2517 just past Copper Creek Falls Trailhead, should be done in 3 weeks or less, through traffic closed until completed. Included in target accomplishments in CFLRP

Boulder Creek Project –Doug Nishek

Boulder Creek EA -Objection period started 44 days ago -will hear tomorrow at the close of business if there are any objections on the project. Doug reviewed the area the project covers.

Joel H. stated the road repair on The Main Boulder Creek Ghost Town Road (road washout area) is done but the closure order has not yet been lifted. Only remaining contract work to do is the re-seeding of the disturbed areas. They will review the area next Wed. Sept. 12.

Boulder Project sales

- 1st sale, GNA (Good Neighbor Authority) sale will be offered next summer
- Crews in the field now and working on the other 2 sales as well
- They will be offered in the fall of 2019 and summer of 2020
- Black Boulder may come out sooner, have made good progress

Camp Robin EA Comments- Doug Nishek

- The 30 day comment period is done
- Received 12-14 letters, most in support with a few concerns to be reviewed today
- Doug N. reviewed the comment period process for new attendees

Comments reviewed

- The Goshawk management in the area
- ICL (Idaho Conservation League) concerns included input on lynx and the multi-story lynx habitat, and concerns over motorized trails open to full size vehicles and the fiscal impact on the recreation budget. Kevin K. added that the Forest Service has the ability to look at stewardship and GNA dollars to manage those systems and they do not envision it coming out of the trail or recreation budget.

- Eddie Spicer comments included concerns of treatment near his property, would rather see a more select harvest instead. And the blocked road; suggestion of leaving it open for his use to have two separate accesses to his property. They will be reviewed by the Forest Service upon a field trip to discuss the prescriptions on his property.

Dan D. reminded the group of considering the social and historical uses of roads being considered for possible storage on areas of huckleberry picking or wood cutting use in the future.

Timeline for Camp Robin- Doug Nishek

- Forest Service Supervisor will be briefed on September 26
- Draft Decision notice goes out in October and that starts the 45 day objection period
- November decision

Camp Robin Sales

- Two sales, 3rd and 4th qtr. June and Aug of 2019
- First sale is a Stewardship sale near Brush Lake /Round Prairie south (Camp Dawson Stew)
- Second sale is around Robinson lake (Robin Hood TS)

Fire Update from Kevin Knauth

Copper Mountain Fire

- 500 Acres
- Fire started East of Copper Lake, north of the trail head, very brushy and nasty area
- Fire pushed by SW winds, had a hot shot crew in there and at one point had 140 people on the fire
- Right now keeping an eye on it, moisture coming and temperature changes are ahead
- We have a border agreement with Canada that allows for us to go after fires from their side that we view as threatening to us and vice versa
- No salvage value
- Dollars Spent Approximately 1.7 million

Smith Creek Fire

- 1000 acres
- Lions Head Country near Bear Creek and Smith Drainage, lots of moisture there
- Only concern was on Hancock Company land to protect timber values there and further to the north private parcels included: 100 + acres with a cabin; 30 acre parcel; 10 acres with a cabin
- Brought in a fire use module for management, crews used a sprinkler system anchored in the drainages and around the cabins
- Contacted the landowners and they supported everything they were doing
- Main concern- near Bear Creek, could grow another 10 acres in that direction of the ridge, if it gets there helicopters will be used.
- Dollars Spent Approximately 200,000

Rhonda V. added that Kevin K. will be presenting at the next KVRI Board meeting on September 17 as to the status of the local fires and a representative from Idaho Department of Lands will report on the Fleming Creek Fire.

Winter Travel Planning Update- Kevin Knauth

The Forest Service Supervisor's Office wanted to make sure the public had the opportunity to help drive where they were going to go with alternatives for over snow vehicle travel management. They gave the public the opportunity to establish a focus group. They provided the meeting location, map layers, and specialists to answer questions as the group worked their way through discussions. The hope was that the focus group would bring an alternative to the table that could be analyzed in greater detail by the Forest Service. They did not get to that point.

The next step will likely be for the Forest Service to develop alternatives using the side boards that they know are in place (wildlife concerns), generate some polygons that would represent open areas to snowmobile in and also polygons representing the far end of what could be analyzed. Then have the members of the public provide input as to what is important to them. Then move forward with an EIS with a Decision by summer 2020.

The new District Ranger in the Sandpoint District Office is Jessie Berner. She is the point of contact for the Winter Travel Planning.

CFLR update

Ed K. explained that they are compiling the targets now and could present them at a meeting next month. They are meeting the 2018 fiscal year targets and have over achieved in a number of them.

Sid Smith reported that they are not hearing of a lot of changes to CFLRP other than reauthorization And no one knows if we need to re-apply or not. Kevin K. stated that the work that we have under the NEPA already would be able to be completed.

Dan D. explained the CFLR program has assisted in funding our projects in the Kootenai Valley Watershed and Forest in the last 8 years. Kevin K. stated that monitoring will continue beyond the 2019 deadline even if continued funding is not received. Sue I. added that the program showed an effort and commitment of the KVRI Board, elected officials and Senators and Congressman to collaboration and to representing this community so well.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.
Sherrie Cossairt
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant

