

Meeting Minutes
KVRI Forestry Sub-committee – February 11, 2015 - 1:30 p.m.
Kootenai Tribal Office

In Attendance:

Barry Wynsma, County Resident
Jim Cadnum, KVRI Board - Landowner/Industrial
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Maria Chaney, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
Sid Smith, U.S. Senator Risch
Kevin Knauth, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)-KVRI Board
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group
Kevin Greenleaf, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Bob Blanford, KVRI Board – Business/Industry
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner – KVRI Co-chair

Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Shandee Alexander, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Patty welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made. The topic for the meeting was to review the CFLRA Annual and 5 Year Reports.

Patty announced that the next Forestry Sub-committee meeting would be held March 11th at 9:30, located at the Kootenai Tribal Office. The committee will focus on the Deer Creek project, and information concerning the roads and scoping letter.

Kevin Knauth, briefly updated us on the following forestry projects:

Twentymile and Idaho Buckhorn:
Implementing

Eastport Heli:

No bid proposals received- project is not economically feasible.

Tim Dougherty explained the situation on helicopter logging and the difficulty of getting contractors in this region; project is canceled.

Kreist:

Close to advertising Placer Nugget sale (sell FY15)

Brushy Mission:

The Forest Target for timber sale went up to 50mmbf; this will allow for the sale in FY15.

Patty expressed appreciations to Kevin for working to get this moved to FY15.

Hellroaring:

Making final edits

Expecting turn around March 15, 2015, plan to sell 4th Qtr. FY15

Out year projects:

Deer Creek is in development. Scoping notice sent out (FY16 target).

Boulder- Analysis is taking place (FY17 Target). Possible field trip, early October

Trout/Ball- potential to sell in FY18

Camp Nine- potential to sell in FY19

Grouse and Bluegrass BMU- Data collection FY15; with these projects we hope to address the need to bring bear management units into compliance with the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment.

Presentation: Annual Report and 5 Year Report- Kevin Knauth:

A CFLRP Annual Report: 2014, and the 5 year CFLRP Ecological Indicator report handouts were passed out for review; Kevin presented slides.

The goal of the Annual Report is to report on how we are using the CFLR money, and what we are accomplishing with the money. It shows what external dollars or match we're receiving, including actual funding, grants or volunteer hours. Any type of services can go towards the CFLR match. By the end of the program, we need to show a 50% match for every CFLR dollar we spend. The challenge with the funding is that it only covers implementation, it does not cover planning. The benefit of CFLR money is that it provides extra money for projects, but it also diminishes the Forest Planning budget-which could limit work in other areas.

Targets are exceeding in the Trail systems and Culvert replacements. The focus is to take advantage of the funding including vegetation treatments, replacing culverts, and taking care of roads, and trails. Patty brought up that, everyone involved would like to have a good understanding of where the monies are spent. Brad Smith mentioned this would be valuable to his group as well.

The FY2014 Target Accomplishments are better explained in the narrative, than in the table. FY2014 Target accomplishments are as follows: "Prescribed burning (1000 ac), invasive plant management (400 ac), fish passage/culvert replacement (6), road decommissioning (7.5 miles), road maintenance (35 miles), timber harvest (521 acres), and reforestation/tsi (400 ac). The project also set aside approximately \$450,000 of CFLR funds to help support helicopter restoration work in 200 acres of dry-site ecosystem, but no interest was received from the timber industry." (CFLRP Annual Report: 2014 pg. 9).

The FY2014 Actual Accomplishments are as follows: "We were able to sell nearly 43,000 ccf, harvest nearly 6,000 ccf, and treat 521 acres with timber sales. These timber related accomplishments were accompanied by impressive accomplishments in other resource areas such as 543 acres of invasive plant management, 145 acres of soil or water resources protected, 2,676 acres of fuels treated, and bio-energy production through vegetation treatments. Targets are becoming easier to accomplish because our more recent projects were planned with a greater eye towards the many restoration opportunities afforded us through the CFLR project." (CFLRP Annual Report: 2014 pg. 10).

The 5 year Ecological Indicator report is a report to Congress that assesses whether, and to what extent, the program is fulfilling its' purposes. There are 4 ecological indicators under both a landscape scale, and a project scale.

- Landscape scale:
 - Fire Regime Restoration
 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat
 - Wildlife
 - Norm Merz brought up that we need to change “endangered species,” to “endangered **and sensitive** species.” (Project Goals)
 - Norm also suggested that Kevin change “Increase shrub diversity, forested vegetation types, and openings to benefit grizzly bears and flammulated owls,” to “Increase shrub diversity, forested vegetation types, and openings to benefit **wildlife**.” (Desired Condition Statement 2nd point)
 - Another change noted “Reduce disturbances and improve security by reducing motorized routes **to benefit grizzly bears and other wildlife**.” (Desired Condition Statement 3rd point)
 - Fish
 - Watershed Condition
 - Invasive Species Severity

CFLRP Evaluation: The score for “Watershed Condition (46%),” and “Invasive Species Severity (40%),” should both be changed to “Good.”

- Project scale:
 - Fire Regime Restoration
 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Condition
 - Wildlife
 - Fish
 - Watershed Condition
 - Invasive Species Severity

CFLRP Evaluation: The score for, “Invasive Species Severity (30%),” should be changed to “Fair.”

Meeting Announcements:

There will be a KVRI meeting February 23rd. The committee agreed to recommend approval of both reports, with the above changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.