

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
September 19, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commissioner
Kennon McClintock -Conservationist/Environmentalist (alt.)
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation District/Ag Landowner
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Chip Corsi, Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Ree Brannon, USDA-NRCS
Karen Cathey, USFWS
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Raul Labrador
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group
Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Dept. of Lands
Dave Wenk. Bo Co Weed Dept.
Wayne Wakkinen, Id. Fish & Game
Stephen Howlett, Candidate State Representative
Michael Lucid, Idaho Fish & Game
Greg Hughes, USFWS-IFWD-Boise
Scott Soultz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Bob Young, Kootenai Valley Sportsman

Opening:

Co-Chair, David Sims, opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed.

A Get Well card for Darrell Kerby was passed around to sign and Sherrie read a Facebook post Darrell wrote about his heart attack.

The July KVRI meeting draft notes were approved by consensus.

Fair Booth pictures were shared with the group.

Presentations: Michael Lucid, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Multi-Species

The Multi-Species Baseline Initiative (MBI) is a collaborative of organizations that monitor wildlife and microclimate across the Idaho Panhandle and adjoining mountain ranges.

Michael explained that the Project was started to begin to address the issue of climate change and managing wildlife through these changing ecosystems in our region. According to Michael, there are two things to consider: the distribution and abundance of species and the micro-climate requirements for these species.

Multi-Species Baseline Initiative Project:

- Eighteen (18) organizations partnered with this project
- Funded primarily by a competitive State Wildlife Grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service
- Cooperative effort of 500 individuals contributing to this project, including 200 volunteer citizen naturalists that helped to do field work and many other things
- The project had 19 target species, listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in either Idaho or Washington State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP)
- He also reported that they are officially done with Phase 1 of the project and beyond that they hope to continue long term monitoring this project

The Study Area was divided into 919 (5x5 km) cells. The full treatment in each cell included:

- **Winter Bait Station survey** Forest carnivores-Lynx, Wolverine, Fisher
- **Wetland survey** Amphibians, Collected water temperature data
- **Terrestrial invertebrate survey** Gastropods (slugs and snails), Collected air temperature data

After 4 years field work, (2010-2014) they completed standardized surveys in over 2000 sites detecting 182 species. Because they chose a multi-species method, they were able to obtain solid standardized data for 182 data deficient species as well. And they collected micro-climate (air or water) data at 1169 wildlife survey sites.

Michael's informative presentation kept his audience engaged and entertained.

The full slideshow presentation is available on the website www.kootenai.org.
The full report of Michael's study is available at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/baseline>

Committee Updates:

Dan Dinning: Dan attended the Panhandle Forest Collaborative meeting in Sandpoint and a presentation by Peg Polichi, Idaho Department of Lands, on Good Neighbor Authority.

- Good Neighbor Authority is an agreement with the Forest Service & Idaho Department of Lands.
- In a specific project there is a pool of funding, put forward by 3 timber mills, to be a revolving fund.
- The State of Idaho can contract specialist NEPA teams much quicker than the Forest Service can do. By the agreement of the Forest Service the State of Idaho will do the contracting and management of the sale from day one. The NEPA teams are still overseen by the Forest Service.
- The goal is to add more sales faster; it has restoration and harvest components.
- Funds can be reimbursed once the sale is sold. Should add volume above the 5 year plan has set up.
- Future project proposed: Hannah Flats. Teams were hired 10 days after requested. This is a work in progress.
- Biggest issue is still road construction.

Dan's recommendation was to invite Peg, or another representative from Idaho Dept. of Lands, to come and give the board a presentation. It was agreed that we should do that...Dan will make the contact.

TMDL Committee Update

Patty reported on last week's meeting with Bob Steed, Idaho DEQ, who gave an overview of the monitoring done over the summer in Boundary County. In April, Bob met with KVRI via conference call; he explained DEQ would be doing BURP monitoring for the TMDL 5- year review during the summer season. The BURP crew was looking at 30-40 sites; Bob discussed the sites to be included, he talked about the new eDNA monitoring DEQ wanted to do in partnership with the FS Rocky Mountain Research station.....the monitoring could determine presence/absence of bull trout and help with updating the DEQ fish distribution mapping. The sample sites would be coordinated with BURP monitoring sites. As monitoring was undertaken, there were several additional sites – beyond the expected 30-40; approximately twice as many eDNA sites as the Board initially understood there would be.

Patty requested Bob meet with the TMDL Committee to help us understand the difference in the number of sites, and review the work plan with the group. Bob explained that the intent was to do numerous sites on Blue Joe and Grass Creek, along with other BURP sites in order to gain more data and information pertinent to delisting or changing a listing category.

Bob considers the issue to be miscommunication, and we have learned that we need to better understand plans in the future. Because the summer collection mapping was presented to the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group without any knowledge of the TMDL Committee or KVRI Board - Watershed Advisory Group, the committee suggested that the KVRI Board correspond with DEQ requesting the local WAG be briefed prior to the BAG.

Patty read a letter that will be sent to Thomas Herron, Water Quality Program Manager, IDEQ upon the Boards approval. Discussion followed. The Board agreed that the letter that Patty read should be signed and sent to Idaho DEQ.

Comments/Meeting Announcements/Correspondence

A to Z Project:

The North Fork Mill Creek A to Z project forest health restoration project is a contract between the Forest Service and Vaagen Brothers Lumber that includes forest thinning and controlled burning to reduce forest fuels located in the Colville National Forest.

An article on August 17th reported that work was beginning on this project. But on August 24th the report was that Alliance for the Wild Rockies conservation group filed suit against the Forest Service and now the project is on hold again.

Updates will continue.

Senator Risch's Office-Thank you card:

A Thank you card was received from Sid and Senator Risch's office. The annual retreat for the Senator's entire staff was held in Bonners Ferry this year and a field trip was organized to visit the Twenty Mile project area to show them what the KVRI/CFLR projects have accomplished on this district.

Wayne Waakinen -Underpass Cameras Update:

Kara Campbell (IDFG) and Norm Merz installed cameras in the first two underpasses in late July. In about 7 weeks, they captured lots of deer of course, but also got black bear (with cub) mountain lion, bobcat, domestic cat, skunk, rabbit, coyote, and elk using the underpass. A camera was put in a third underpass this week. Thanks to Wayne Waakinen and Chip Corsi for the cameras for this project.

Invitation to the International Joint Commission (IJC)

Kootenay Lake Board of Control will be meeting Thursday September 22, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Kootenai River Inn. If someone can go and give us an update, that would be great.

KVRI has received a scoping letter from Sandpoint Ranger District:

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests is proposing a project in the Grouse Bear management unit on National Forest Service lands in the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger districts: The Grouse BMU Compliance Project. The project will manage the road system to bring the bear management unit into compliance with the Forest Plan and the 2011 motorized access amendment.

Patty would like to talk to Kevin Knauth to see if this is a concern for our district for this project. They welcome our input and comments. It was dated September 14, 2016. Erick Walker, District Ranger is the contact for this project. Patty will have more information as she gets it.

Kennon McClintock- McArthur Lake Forest Legacy Update:

- This Conservation easement project was started in 2010 with Forest Capital. Forestland was sold to Molpus (5500 acres) and Hancock (2520 acres) in 2012.
- In the Trail Creek & Twenty-Mile Drainage, 8000 acres in total in this Forest Legacy application.
- 5500 Acres of Molpus forest will have the conservation easement in place this fall. The rest will hopefully close next year with Hancock.
- Thanks to the Idaho Fish and Game who helped with some financial support in order to close this easement.
- Public access will be allowed in perpetuity.

Next KVRI Meeting:

The next KVRI meeting will be on October 17, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Burbot Committee update request

November meeting Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Director for the Kootenai Tribe has asked to have a Burbot Committee update.

Chip Corsi –Trapping Ruling:

Dave Wenk asked about the trapping ruling. Chip Corsi reported that nothing was final yet but the judge agreed to review his decision.

Senator Risch update

Sid reported they are working on the budget and hoped to vote by the end of the week.

Comments

Greg Hughes, USFWS Boise, stated he had been in Idaho for 2 weeks, attending many meetings, and the tenor and tone of the meetings with Idaho Fish & Game and all their partners was deeply appreciated and refreshing. He was glad to be here tonight.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant