

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
January 22, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

**Board Members in Attendance:**

David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Dave Gray, (Alt.) Social/Cultural/Historical Interests  
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) US Forest Service (USFS), Bonners Ferry Ranger District  
Don Allenberg, (Alt.) Corporate Agriculture/Landowner  
Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Fish & Game Commission  
Tom Daniel, (Alt.) Soil Conservation/Landowner  
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry  
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservationist/Environmentalist  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Department of Lands  
Jim Woodward, State Senate Candidate, District 1  
Mike Boeck, Idaho Forest Products Commission, Idaho State Representative Candidate District 1A  
Terry Spence, Boundary County Resident  
H. Marty Martinez, Boundary County Resident

**Opening:**

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

Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday to KVRI! Birthday cake was served and pictures taken.

The November 20, 2017, KVRI Meeting Draft notes were corrected and approved as presented to the Board. The December 12, 2017 Combined KVRI Board/Forestry Sub-committee Meeting Draft Notes were approved by consensus.

**The Nature Conservancy Update on Forest Legacy Projects Presentation- Kennon McClintock**

Kennon McClintock presented a brief update on the Forest Legacy Program sharing a map and location of two projects in Boundary County. One project, comprised of 2500 acres of forestland, is in the Trail Creek/Twenty-Mile area and the other is 2500 acres located in the Hall Mountain Area. Both are owned by Hancock Forest Management. Both areas now have permanent easements on them, protecting them as “working forestlands”. Both projects allow public access.

He also shared the importance of Idaho Private Forest lands. Using data from five mills in the 3 northern counties that consume approximately 442mmbf of logs a year; Kennon shared that over 79% of the logs that source these mills are from private forest lands. The 79% figure included Industrial private land, small private land, and logs imported in from British Columbia. State lands (WA, ID, MT) (13%) and Federal (7%) land were also represented in the total number of 442mmbf.

Patty shared that the Federal source of logs since the inception of the CFLR program and the 5-year vegetation plan has steadily increased that number each year from Federal lands.

*Kennon's Forestry Legacy Presentation slides are available on KVRI's website at [www.kootenai.org](http://www.kootenai.org).*

## **Committee Updates**

### **Forestry Committee: Kevin Knauth**

#### **Camp Robin Project**

Patty shared that the Forestry Committee met on Dec. 12th with the KVRI Board members as a combined meeting to discuss the specifics in the scoping letter on the Camp Robin Project. The Board voted to send a letter in response to scoping so that KVRI would have a standing as the project moves forward.

Kevin Knauth then gave an overview of the Camp Robin project. The scoping comment period ended on Jan. 19 and they (Forest Service) will begin addressing those comments this week. Those comments will help shape the project. A Forestry meeting is scheduled on February 1st to discuss the comments received.

One thing they will be looking at in that project is the ATV Trail System in the Camp 9 area. They are looking for public input in terms of how they can manage a trail system that makes sense. Some items in the discussion are: creating a loop system for ATV's; better access to a trail system; ideas to connect to some existing roads already; adding better signage to help with keeping folks on public lands (rather than private); and getting feedback on improved parking areas.

Because the project is in a Bears Outside Recovery Zone (BORZ) they consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to consider how many miles of increased motorized access could be created. Patty clarified that this project is not in a Bear Management Unit (BMU) but in a Bears Outside Recovery Zone (BORZ).

Kevin K. stated that the next steps will be looking at the comments received, talking about the ATV System and looking at the Transportation Analysis (TAPS). Other improvements they are looking at are improving campgrounds in this project area, some other trail work and fixing fishing docks at Brush Lake and Smith Lake.

Patty inquired about the Camp Robin Open House on Jan. 4th that the Forest Service held. Kevin reported a good turnout of supportive folks from the Camp 9 area (5 or 6 public). They are happy to see this project and have concerns about wildfire as that area becomes more populated.

### **Other Project Updates- Kevin Knauth**

#### **Deer Creek-EA**

- FY18-Deer Stewardship-11.5mmbf-2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.
- FY 18-Deer Placer Timber Sale- 5mmbf - 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.

- FY 18-Double-Bar D Timber Sale-4mmbf - 3<sup>rd</sup>Qtr.

**Boulder-EA (Decision in 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. FY18)**

- FY 19-Black Boulder GNA-6mmbf - 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.
- FY 20-Green Gables Timber Sale- 10mmbf - 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.
- FY 20-North Star Stewardship- 15mmbf - 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.

**Camp Robin- EA (Decision in 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. FY19)**

- FY19-Robin Hood Timber Sale- 8mmbf-3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.
- FY19-Camp Dawson Stewardship -12mmbf-4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.

Dan D. asked about the Deer Stewardship sale status. Kevin reported that by putting it back out in the spring it will add one more summer season to the sale which will improve the timing issue.

Kevin K. also asked to schedule another Forestry Committee meeting to discuss the Boulder Project comments and other items before their next internal meeting with the acting Forest Supervisor.

Patty reported that she and Dan attended a meeting in Coeur d’Alene on Jan. 12th and the group discussed concerns with Mary Farnsworth, IPNF Forest Supervisor (moving to a new job 1/18/18), about the forward momentum of the Forest as she leaves. The meeting resulted in agreement to send a letter to express the concerns over the hiring pause currently in place, the vacancies it leaves on the Panhandle and the concern for the interruption of the implementation of the 5 year Vegetation Management Plan. Patty also noted the new acting Forest Supervisor is Holly Jewkes from the Willamette area in Oregon.

Kevin K. reported that the Forest Service did get permission to move ahead and fill some of those positions on the North Zone last Thursday.

Patty also reported to the group that Peg Polichio, Idaho Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Coordinator has asked to come and talk about the program with KVRI. Patty will schedule her for February.

**CORRESPONDENCE- Patty Perry**

Correspondence Received and forwarded to the KVRI Board

- USFS Camp Robin Scoping Letter
- USFS Starry Goat Project Final EIS
- USFWS Canada Lynx Recovery News Release

**KVRI Meeting Dates Updated**

A correction was made to the list of 2018 KVRI Meeting dates and the February meeting date was confirmed (2/26/18) the new list will be emailed to the Board.

### **Idaho Department of Lands Update-Jonathan Luhnnow**

Jonathan Luhnnow reported that Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the Governor has requested in their budgets 8 new positions that will be distributed between 3 regions in the State under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). If approved in the legislature it may add 2 positions in this area in the future.

He also reported that they have begun harvesting on the second TMDL Shade Rule Project Site in Twenty-Mile.

Patty explained the Forest Practices Shade Rules for riparian areas are being evaluated to determine how they meet the State Water Quality Standards, and effect on TMDL plans written by DEQ to protect the stream water quality. There are two pilot project areas in Boundary County. Data is collected for evaluation of the projects and Jonathan answered questions pertaining to details of the measurements used. Jonathan also shared with the group that IDL has hired a new forester, Spencer Hanson, a native of the Sandpoint area. It is 2/3 of a full position (funded 8 out of the 12 months) but will be working part time year around.

IDL has raised its harvest level statewide and their office is picking up a portion of that. In the next year or two they will be re-doing their Forest Asset Management Plan, which guides their harvest level and management with an anticipated elevated harvest as well.

### **Idaho forest Resource Partnership conference**

Dan D. reported that the Idaho Forest Resource Partnership Conference will be held in Coeur d'Alene this year instead of Boise. It is a good opportunity for our Board to attend. Patty will email the registration information to the Board.

### **Reappointment letters for the KVRI Board and Alternates**

Patty stated that the re-appointment letters for the Board and Alternates are available for signatures tonight.

### **Fish and Wildlife Service Update- Chip Corsi**

Chip reported that the fish research crews have been doing their Burbot netting and it has resulted in the highest catch per unit effort they have ever seen so far. It is clearly due to the Tribe's hatchery program. And in talking with Sue Ireland and her crew, it is good enough that we can consider the possibility of restoring a Burbot Season when we discuss fish rules this fall for 2019-2021.

Chip informed the Board that there have been some concerns from the Orofino area about the quality of the white tail deer hunt this year although the data shows that it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest harvest on record. And concerns about the Buck quality are causing discussion about shortening the Buck season. Hunter harvest data show we are maintaining a high number of mature bucks in the harvest.

Dan D. asked about the landowner depredation situation. Chip explained that the kill permits were not going to make a population dent but were to be used to get the elk to move away from eating stored or growing crops. This year they have cut back and are now issuing landowners/ranchers 2 kill permits at a

time, allowing the landowner or their designee to keep one elk; that's on top of more aggressive management of elk through hunter harvest on and adjacent to private lands. Last winter IDFG was more liberal issuing kill and keep permits, but that generated some complaints from sportsman in the area. We have a state wide group working on reassessing the guidelines on the depredation issue. Chip will keep us informed.

**Next KVRI Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt,

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant