

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
October 23, 2017 – 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
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Chairman & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) US Forest Service (USFS), Bonners Ferry Ranger District
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary Soil Conservation District/Ag Landowner
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservationist/Environmentalist
Jim Cadnum, Industrial/Forest
Ed Atkins Jr., Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Tim Dougherty, (Alt.) Business/Industry, Idaho Forest Group
J. J. Teare, Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management
Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Department of Lands
Jim Woodward, State Senate Candidate, District 1
Evan DeHamer, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Jessie Grossman, Yaak Valley Forest Council & Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition
Robyn King, Yaak Valley Forest Council & Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition
Wayne Nishek, Bonners Ferry Citizen
Mike Boeck, Commissioner Idaho Forest Products Commission, Candidate State Rep. 1A
Brittany Morlin, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Illiana Aitken, daughter of Co-chair Gary Aitken Jr.

Opening:

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

The September 18, 2017, KVRI meeting draft notes were approved by consensus.

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition Presentation- Robyn King, Jessie Grossman, Tim Dougherty

Tim introduced Robyn King, Chair for the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition/Yaak Valley Forest Council, and Jessie Grossman, staff member. Their presentation will include the management guidelines they have developed as a collaborative, how they meet the challenges and hurdles they face, and to compare notes.

Robyn stated there was a need to focus on the things they agreed on instead of fighting over their disagreements. They found they had community support with that approach. So building on that success they reached out to partners like Idaho Forest Group, conservation organizations, mill owners, loggers, snowmobile club, and cross country skiers to build their diversity and invite everyone to the table to find common ground. As a result the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition was formed. The

coalition looked at the entire Kootenai Forest, which (as members of the Yaak Valley Forest Council) is what they always wanted to do; see if they could come up with ideas to move forest management ahead while still protecting special places.

The Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition's mission is to demonstrate the ability of a diverse group of Stakeholders to define common ground by implementing projects around natural resources issues, including community protection, forests and watershed restoration, public safety, forest health and community economic vitality. They have demonstrated that their collaboration can accomplish this mission by creating a set of Silvicultural guidelines. That was a big accomplishment for them. They needed a guiding document to unify the common ground voice to participate fully and productively in the NEPA process with Forest Service. This document serves as an internal guiding document that forms their input, comment and participation in the public processes of US Forest Service projects.

Tim D. explained the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition (KFSC) has an executive board that works with the Supervisor at the Forest level and leadership teams that work with Forest wide issues. They also have working groups that work with individual Ranger Districts.

Robyn added that these guidelines are not meant to replace the forest plan; they are tiered off of the forest plan. Our goal is to work in partnership with the Forest Service to support their success. Robyn realized after attending initial community meetings, they needed to create a good working relationship with those who manage 75% of their land mass in Montana. They also continue to do community outreach and let the community know who they are.

The Active Management Guidelines deal with vegetative management, recreation (on road, off-road), and wilderness and reserve lands. The project-level sideboards lead to a more natural looking end-result. Overall these guidelines limit the amount of time the Collaborative needs to go out in the field.

A third party verification of the guidelines was performed by Mason, Bruce & Girard (a forestry consulting company from Portland, OR). Highlights of the study are included in the slide presentation on the Kootenai Tribal website.

Jessie G. explained that The Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition discussions include forest management issues both at the Forest and District level as well as higher level discussions about wilderness and motorized and non-motorized recreation. They are actively working to implement their vegetative management guidelines and where the wilderness and recreation pieces get implemented are in things like travel management, forest planning and legislation.

What they bring to the discussion with the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition is areas where they can find common ground and agree on; motorized recreation is treated with the same level of seriousness and permanency as wilderness. That is something that is important to their partners in the collaborative who represent those values. They want to support each other.

Although they did not propose any changes in existing groomed routes in their wilderness recommendations, the maps they created caused a lot of questions in the community. They worked together with their neighbors and did a lot of fine tuning in their proposals. Jessie shared the map showing the proposed wilderness and backcountry non-motorized areas. These areas are where they wanted to see some level of habitat protection of wildlife (all Roadless areas). They agreed early on that

the conversation around wilderness and recreation areas were going to focus on Roadless areas and their discussion about vegetative management would focus on the suitable timber base.

Where do we go from here? - Robyn King

- We are involved at the project level through our teams;
- The first project where our guidelines were tested was on the East Reservoir Project, the first project that the KFSC supported and intervened on the side of the US Forest Service. The County Commissioners, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the State of Montana also intervened; although it is still in the 9th Circuit Court.
- We have a legislative committee that's working on a piece of legislation that not only takes care of the wilderness/recreation designation but also looks at tools we might add to the existing legislation that allows our collaborative process to be empowered.
- The one thing our collaborative did not want to do was take away the rights of a citizen to petition the government but we would like to have those of us who are willing to come to the table figure out how to work together to level the playing field.
- They also want to create a template of collaborative management of their public lands...to be as proactive as they can in that process.

Jessie added that something that they are working on right now is to bring in the local Forest Service and ask them for feedback and go over these maps just like they did in their collaborative group. They realize how important it is to get their feedback and incorporate their feedback into what they are working on with both the wilderness and recreation areas as well as vegetative management guidelines.

Discussion and comments followed. Tim stated that they are not as close to the 70-90mmbf on the Kootenai Forest as they had hoped. They are going through what the Panhandle went through with Fire Salvage 2 years ago. Montana has geared up the Good Neighbor Authority program and they want to help with that. The Coalition and US Forest Service does not yet have the working partnership that KVRI does with their District Staff.

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition Slide presentation is available on the KVRI Website at www.kootenai.org. KFSC website is www.kootenaifuture.org

Forestry Committee Update- Kevin Knauth and Patty Perry

Washington Office Review-Site Visit Oct. 25/26

The US Forest Service Washington DC CFLR Project Review Visit is this week, October 25 and 26. The Washington Office team will be joined by staff from the Regional Office, the Supervisors Office, the District Office and members of the KVRI Board and our Congressional Representatives. They will begin on Wednesday, October 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the Kootenai Tribal Office, with Dan, David and Gary each talking about KVRI and what it has meant to each of them. We will visit Twenty Mile, the first project that KVRI fully participated in & actually paid for some of the analysis work to be done. It was the first

project in 17 years off the District that wasn't litigated, that had a timber sale associated with the restoration work and it and was in a Grizzly Bear Habitat area.

The next morning will begin at 7:30 a.m. the Kootenai River Inn, travel to Brushy Mission Project & Kevin reported that they will look at the new Hell Roaring Bridge, have chili at Snyder Ranger Station, a mill tour at Moyie Springs at 1pm and be back to District Office at 3:30 for the Close Out meeting. The team will return to Coeur d'Alene that evening.

Boulder Creek Update- Kevin Knauth

Boulder Creek project Draft EA is out on the street and closes on the 6th of November. Patty explained that we have agreed as a group that we are comfortable with it & she asked the Board if they wanted to send a letter of support for the project. The Board agreed.

Deer Creek Project Update-Kevin Knauth

The first sale from the Deer Creek Project went out as a stewardship sale, the Forest Service received one proposal but the time frames were too close and the proposal was withdrawn. They will revisit those cycles and timelines with industry input and will be working toward a resolve. No other proposals are on the table at this time, the sale is still out there and available.

Kevin K. also reported that they will be scoping both Camp Dawson and Robinhood in November.

WAC Committee Update- Patty Perry

There is a Wildlife Auto-Collision meeting on November 9th at 9 a.m. We have gone through the third party validation and know the system works. Brice Sloan will be available to discuss with us the animal detection system, Doppler radar, the newest prototype available and what we can do to move forward with this system. ITD has put together what they think that system needs to look like in order for them to operate it and be useable with the ability to be mobile, moving from one site to another; when the corridor changes or when the habitat changes.

TMDL Committee Update- Patty Perry

Jonathan L. will take us on a tour of the Trail Creek Project on November 7th at 1:00 p.m. It was the pilot project that Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) put together to implement Forest Practices along a riparian area and take a look at what that looks like and how those Forest Practices are meeting the water quality concerns and meeting clean water act. We went pre-harvest and looked at this area and now that the project is completed we will be going back to look at it again. Jonathan also stated they have gotten their post-harvest numbers back from DEQ as well as other data collected on the project. He is pleased they show they met their targets.

Next KVRI Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt,

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant

