

Draft Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
June 16, 2014 – 7 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

David Anderson, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & KVRI Co-chair
David Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Boundary County Library, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District
Jim Cadnum, Landowner/Industrial
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Robyn Miller, Conservation
Ed Atkins, Corporate Agriculture

Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Janet Satchwell, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Brice Sloan, Sloan Security
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Judy Morbeck, U.S. Congressmen R. Labrador
Chip Corsi, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Paul R.W. Anthony, BF Resident
Sid Smith, U.S. Senator Risch
Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
Laura Roady, Bonners Ferry Herald
Ben Conard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dave Gray, Citizen & WAC comm. member
Kennon McClintock, TNC

Opening:

Dave Anderson opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; introductions followed.

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the May 19, 2014 meeting, by consensus.

Presentation

**Sloan Security Technologies, Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Animal Detection Project Update -
Brice Sloan**

Brice gave an overview of the project to date. The animal detection system was tested in the Moose Valley area from December 7, 2013 to March 17, 2014. This is the first detection system that is moveable so in March it was set up in the Fawn Lane (Camp Nine) area up north. The system is Doppler radar designed to capture movement which alarms a signal system. Also, identified as a safety threat are slow moving equipment/bicycles/vehicles, pedestrians, along with the animals. The Western

Transport Institute's study for Boundary County included identified hotspots for wildlife-vehicle collisions on:

- U.S. Highway 95, about 46 miles
- U.S. Highway 2, about 25 miles
- State Route 1, about 11 miles

This mobile system is designed to look at any movement on the roadway which triggers a lighted warning sign using radar, day and night camera, thermal camera, and high speed cell transmission.

The system is:

- meant for poor weather and high humidity (lake areas)
- take down time was one and a half hours and about three hours to put it up in a different area
- it is wireless and could be solar powered, use a generator, or plug into 110

The system firsts:

- mobile
- utilizing medium range radar
- data providing capabilities
- and the second system in North America to use Doppler radar (Canada)

The success criteria:

- is the system stable - up for 180 days; down 10 days for a part failure, two cell phone tower outages
- is Wide Area Radar Sensing viable
- did traffic slow down with an alarm – anecdotally yes; more likely to slow in a curve than on a straight stretch, semi-trucks yes. Useful signage for the active detection area was discussed.
- are we detecting what we need to detect - false negatives/false positives
- is there a deduction in animal/vehicle collisions – at Moose Valley there were no collisions in 3 months, still looking at data from the northern location

Statistics:

- validated true vs false alarms are shown on a graph in the PowerPoint.

Improved filtering:

- less sensitive to trucks
- more sensitive to animals
- dealing with driveways

Next steps:

- costs per month – approximately \$450/mo.
- data valuable to the end users
- Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) – Don Davis and George Schutes have been involved with the committee. Approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) the ITD has ordered a system for use south of Silverwood. This unit is permanent and is placed on a wood pole, however, the mobile staff is capable of supporting equipment to view in two directions (an additional radar node is approximately \$15,000. The radar alarms on threats approximately .5 mile covering the whole roadway.

Brice interspersed actual video of roadway activity that caused the alarm to be triggered during the PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website www.kootenai.org at KVRI – Documents.

The next WAC sub-committee meeting will meet June 18, 2014 and will review information and the opportunities that Robyn and Kennon from TNC have diligently worked on for the in-kind match.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Idaho Field Office - Ben Conard

Ben provided a brief update on the proposal to amend the listing of the caribou. This action arose from a petition to delist the caribou, which was submitted by Bonner County and the state snowmobile association under representation of the Pacific Legal Foundation. In response, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposes to correct the entity to be listed is the "Southern Mountain Caribou", which includes the Selkirk Mountain herd and a string of Mountain Caribou north into Canada. Instead of "endangered," the status is proposed as "threatened" – the reason being there is a much larger total population size, from less than 20 to approximately 1,600 and the risk of immediate extinction is lessened because the larger group is more resilient. The proposal is to expand the boundary of protection to the Southern Mountain Caribou, not just the Selkirk Mountains, and to downgrade the status of the species from endangered to threatened.

This is only a proposal right now. The comment period on this proposal is open until August 6, 2014, and FWS will be holding two formal hearings and comment sessions. On June 25th, County headquarters in Sandpoint, an information session will be held from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (open house style to visit with biologists). At 6:00 p.m. a formal hearing will be held to take oral comment, and written comments may be submitted. The following evening on June 26th FWS will be in Bonners Ferry, at the High School, following the same format.

Discussion was held on predation, movement of caribou, recovery zones, and no expected difference in management with regard to land uses in the U.S. Wolves are under the management of the States of Idaho, Washington, and Canada. British Columbia (B.C.) was interested in reducing or removing that wolf pack and Idaho has given B.C. authority to operate as agents of the state within 20 km of the boundary. B.C. was unable to locate the pack.

Agencies may continue to work with the FWS recovery team. An electronic copy of the Recovery Plan for Woodland Caribou in the Selkirk Mountains, dated 1994, is available by contacting Patty Perry at 208-267-3519 or patty@kootenai.org.

Old Business:

Libby Dam update – Greg Hoffman

Water management advised they are tracking a wrap-around storm – similar to the storms of 2012 and 2013.

Committee Updates:

Forestry Committee Update – Patty Perry

The last meeting was held June 4 with the FS staff presenting information on Deer Creek Project. More information was requested on the assessment of the project.

The FS is also looking for some volunteers mid to late September to assist with gathering materials for a restoration project.

June 19 – Field trip up to the Boulder Project at 10:30 a.m. – meet at the FS.

June 25 – Field trip to Deer Creek Project. Meet at the FS at 8:00 a.m. to review additional information and then visit the site.

July 15 – Next sub-committee meeting, if needed.

The Decision Notice (DN) has been issued for the Twentymile Creek project. The sale package will be completed as soon as possible (estimate 15 mmbf).

The Idaho Buckhorn Burn Project has moved ahead – completing a spring burn, and looking at the fall for other burns to be completed.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Patty Perry

The next TMDL committee has been changed to meet on July 2. The Idaho Department of Lands representative will provide an overview on shade rules, and riparian areas. The meeting will be held at the Tribal office at 8:30 a.m.

Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Committee Update – Patty Perry

The next meeting will be June 18, Tribal office, 9:00 a.m.

New Business:

Janet reviewed the theme of the Boundary County Fair “Once Upon a Fair Time” with Jack in the bean stock images. The August meeting will be held on Monday the 11th, dinner provided, and together we will install the booth.

Correspondence:

A correction to an error on the original Kreist Creek Project notice was received. There are two sales planned for that project: Kreist Creek sale this year (estimate 8 mmbf) and Placer-Nugget (estimate 3 mmbf) sale next fiscal year.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

Chip advised that the Decker Family of Leonia, together with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have negotiated a three year agreement (beginning July 1) for Private Land Fishing Access on the Decker Land Co. property.

The next KVRI meeting will be July 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Boundary County Extension Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Janet Satchwell
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant