

Draft Meeting Notes  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
September 16, 2013 – 7 p.m.  
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) The Nature Conservancy  
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commission  
David Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Ronald Abraham, (Alt.), Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & KVRI Co-chair  
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District  
Sandy Ashworth, Boundary County Library, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests  
Mary Farnsworth, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

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

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Kevin Knauth, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, USFS  
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI  
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai NWR  
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group  
Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Fish & Game  
Ed Robinson, Idaho Dept. of Lands  
Laura Roady, Bonners Ferry Herald  
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group  
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management  
Mark Robertson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), North Idaho Field Office  
Aaron Calkins, U.S. Congressman R. Labrador  
Sid Smith, U.S. Senator Risch  
Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo  
Chip Corsi, Idaho Fish & Game

**Opening:**

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

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the July 15 meeting, by consensus.

**Idaho Panhandle National Forest Update – Mary Farnsworth, Forest Supervisor**

The Idaho Panhandle has been working on their Forest Plan revision, and due to changes in the planning rules and litigations it has taken a number of years to get to this point where the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and draft decision will be released to the public the week of September 23. It will be mailed out to those on the Forest Service mailing list and copies will also be available at the district offices. The plan is expected to be published in the Federal Register on September 27 which is also the beginning of a 60 day public objection process.

This will be the first Forest Plan in the country to utilize this objection process. All objections will be published, and after objections are published citizens may file as an 'interested party' (a person need not have an objection to be an 'interested party') to receive further information on the Plan. This process is designed to allow for more communication.

The party objecting, any 'interested parties', and Mary as the Recommending Forest Supervisor will communicate with Faye Krueger, Regional Forester for Northern Region as the Deciding Official along with a Reviewing Official from the National Forest Systems in Washington D.C. to hear the objections. The Reviewing Official will make a determination.

Mary thanked USFWS staff members and Ben Conard for their work in developing the biological opinion. Mary also thanked the many dedicated Forest Service folks who have worked to accomplish this plan.

The question was asked if the Kootenai National Forest Plan was a joint release with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan. Mary advised both forests had their own Forest Plans and biological opinions so they are separate, but the planning team was together for efficiency. There are differences in the plans, different issues and different focus areas. The two plans are not a joint release, but they are being released at the same time.

Mary advised their operating budget was received from the Regional Office with significant cuts and reduced targets. The projects are reduced 10 million board feet. Discussion was held on the funding that is available for sales of 32 million board feet in FY 2014. The transfer of fire funds from all Forests was minimal for the Idaho Panhandle Forest since contracts were issued when funding became available. Discussion was held on the use of partnerships to help the Forest achieve goals.

Roads analysis process (RAP) funds were eliminated and stewardship contracting was not reauthorized. A second sequestration would further reduce funds. The biggest funding reductions are to roads, trails, and recreation.

Good work is being accomplished in the Lightning Creek watershed. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) has designated this watershed a Treasured Landscape restoration site and an aquatics project is currently taking place while the weather allows. Other accomplishments include the wildlife work with grizzly bear plots, and the use of game cameras photos and monitoring.

Kevin Knauth, Bonners Ferry District Ranger, gave project updates:

- 20 Mile - a draft decision notice expected in December and a sale likely in fiscal year 2014

- Idaho Buckhorn - a prescribed burn at the Montana state border - expecting a decision in October

- Kreist Creek – a draft decision notice by the end of October and possibly at fiscal year 2015 sale date

- Hellroaring – EA for comment should be January 2014 with a September 26, 2013 field trip, and a likely FY 2015 sale date

- Boulder and Deer Creek – data collection to be completed this summer, project development this fall and purpose and need planning early in the 2014

The role of the forestry sub-committee was discussed for the Boulder and Deer Creek projects. Forestry sub-committee meetings will be called to start this work.

Dan Dinning thanked Mary for her advocacy of KVRI locally and in Washington D.C.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **Forestry Sub-committee Update – Patty Perry**

A well planned Kreist Creek field trip was held in August. Several wildlife issues were brought up that Kevin has looked in to with the wildlife biologist and will be discussed at a follow-up meeting.

The Hellroaring tour plans were discussed for September 26. The tour will depart from the Forest Service office at 8:00 a.m. with a number of stops included.

#### **Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Sub-committee Update – Kennon McClintock / Patty Perry**

Robyn Miller prepared a WAC sub-committee update, and Patty informed new board members of the background for the WAC committee. The WAC document will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website [www.kootenai.org](http://www.kootenai.org) at KVRI – Documents.

The next WAC meeting will be planned for October. (The meeting has been scheduled for October 21 – 1:30 p.m. at the Kootenai Tribal Office.)

### **New Business:**

#### **Aaron Calkins – U.S. Representative Labrador’s office**

Aaron discussed the *Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act* bill introduced by Rep. Raúl Labrador last year which now has been combined with four other bills as the *Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act*. This bill was recently approved by the House Natural Resources Committee in July and they expect it to pass the Senate. The new bill is H.R. 1526.

#### **Dianna Ellis – Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge**

Saturday, September 21, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Friends of Kootenai NWR will be hosting the annual Art in the Wild. Local artists, vendors, and entertainers will take part in this event. Next year they hope to celebrate the refuge’s 50<sup>th</sup> year since being established with various events.

#### **Wayne Wakkinen – Idaho Fish & Game**

Grizzly bear trapping has been completed for this year. Four bears were GPS collared along with the 3 from last year. All the collars are on female bears - five adults and 2 sub-adults. The collars on the three bears from last year will fall off in October 2014, and the collars placed this year will come off in October 2015. The GPS collar is scheduled to send a downloadable location every two hours during the active season. All the bears are in the Selkirk range.

### **Correspondence – Patty Perry:**

The annual public meeting of the International Joint Commission, Kootenay Lake Board of Control was held in Nelson, B.C., on September 12. No one in attendance at KVRI attended the meeting. Next year the meeting will be held in Bonners Ferry.

The Practitioner’s Network for Large Landscape Conservation, their partners and co-sponsors will be holding a workshop this November at the University of Utah on November 6-8. The workshop title is Large Landscape Conservation in the Rocky Mountain West, Transferring Lessons and Building Capacity, A Workshop for Practitioners. Please contact Patty if you’re interested in this information.

The 2013 Summer Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem Report was received from Wayne Kasworm, USFWS, in regards to bears. A brief overview was given. The report may be found at:

<http://www.igbconline.org/index.php/scy-reports>.

Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Director for the Kootenai Tribe, developed several handouts and updated information on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration projects, they were provided to the group. The documents will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website [www.kootenai.org](http://www.kootenai.org) at KVRI – Documents.

The KVRI board meeting schedule for 2014 was made available. This document will also be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website [www.kootenai.org](http://www.kootenai.org) at KVRI – Documents.

Dan Dinning discussed a conference call he was involved with on the Army Corps of Engineers – regarding development of the Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES). This will provide another tool for landowners along the river to manage projects that fall within the parameters of the document. The Corps is working with USFWS.

**Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:**

Representative Labrador will be in Sandpoint for a question and answer town hall meeting September 24. After the New Year his aid, Aaron Calkins, advised they will attempt to set up a meeting in Bonners Ferry.

The next KVRI board meeting will be held October 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Extension Office meeting room.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Janet Satchwell  
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant