

Draft Meeting Notes  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
January 11, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Chair (KTOI) & KVRI Co-chair  
David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair  
Jim Cadnum, Landowner (Industrial)  
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry  
Kennon McClintock, Conservationist/Environmentalist (alt.)  
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Ed Atkins Jr., Corporate Agriculture/Landowner  
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commission  
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Denise Winey, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Dave Gray, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests (alt.)  
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management  
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group  
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge  
Tom Fler, Idaho Department of Lands  
Steve McNulty, Trans Canada  
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo  
John Lefebure, Contract Forester  
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Raul Labrador  
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch  
Norm Merz, KTOI  
Wayne Kasworn, US Fish & Wildlife

**Opening:**

Gary Aitken Jr. opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; introductions followed. Everyone welcomed the new Co-chair, Mayor David Sims.

**Grizzly Bear Conservation Committee Presentation**

Wayne Kasworn with the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Libby Montana, provided an update on Grizzly Bear Recovery. He also mentioned that Wayne Wakkinen, who used to do most of the Grizzly work in the Selkirk's, took another position as the Regional Wildlife Manager with the Idaho Fish & Game, so Wayne Kasworn agreed to pick up the work in the Selkirk's as well as the Cabinet/Yaak. Wayne gave a great presentation on the Research capture results, Augmentation monitoring of collared bears, Hair snag collection and remote cameras, reviewed genetic results 2013-2014 & reviewed preliminary recovery criteria for 2015. We learned more about the active capturing program in the Cabinets, Yaak and the Selkirk's on both sides of the border and that British Columbia has a cooperating program. He provided a map that showed the travels of the bears that were collared and how the recent fire activity

may have affected their path. They have released 18 bears (13 Females and 5 Males) into the Cabinet Mountains since 1990. See Wayne's full presentation on our KVRI website @ Kootenai.org

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **Caribou Technical Committee**

Norm Merz gave us a quick Caribou update; in 2015 they collared 5 animals and lost 2. A trail cam did produce several photos and 2 calves were in the photos. Norm will be flying next month to do the census and we will know how they did this year.

Norm also mentioned that British Columbia is continuing Wolf Management and removing the ones that pose a threat to the Caribou.

Patty reminded folks that the Kootenai Tribe is contracting with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to lead in updating the recovery plan; The Technical Committee is working on updating the Recovery Plan. Norm has taken the lead on this work & partnering with several agencies/entities in both US & Canada. The last Caribou Recovery Plan was in 1994

#### **Forestry Sub-committee**

The committee met Dec. 1, 2015 and went over projects and fire results. We will follow up with that at the next meeting which is on January 28, 2016 at 10 am at the Kootenai River Inn and Kevin Knauth will have a group of specialists to update us on all the projects and will also have an accomplishment report showing progress to date and targets.

#### **TMDL Sub-committee**

The next meeting is January 21, 2016 8:30 AM at The Tribal Office – Bob Steed will discuss the 5 year review process for our TMDL's

#### **Pacific NW Trail-Sub-committee**

A meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2016 from 10-3 @ the Kootenai River Inn – Contact Dan Dinning or Brad Smith for details; they have agreed to serve as co-chairs in discussions for our geographical area.

### **Correspondence:**

Patty received a letter from the District Ranger on the St. Joe Ranger District. It was regarding a draft decision notice on travel planning. Please contact Patty or Denise if you would like a copy of that letter.

### **Old/New Business:**

Dave Gray announced the centennial year celebration on January 23, 2016 @ 3 PM at the Museum, Cake & coffee will be served.

### **Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:**

The next KVRI meeting will be February 22, 2016

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Denise Winey

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant