

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
October 17, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Lee Pinkerton, Boundary County Commissioner (alt.) & KVRI Co-chair
Jennifer Porter, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho & KVRI Co-chair
David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation District/Ag Landowner
Chip Corsi, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (alt.)
Jim Cadnum, Landowner (Industrial)
Kennon McClintock -Conservationist/Environmentalist (alt.)
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Karen Cathey, USFWS
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch's office
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Raul Labrador's office
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group
Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Dept. of Lands
Dave Wenk. Boundary Co. Weed Dept.
Stephen Howlett, Candidate State Representative, LD1, Seat B
Kate McAlister, Candidate State Representative, LD1, Seat A
Dave Gray, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests (alt.)
Lacy Robinson, Y2Y
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
Jim Derrig, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Wildlife Biologist

Opening:

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

The September 19, 2016, KVRI meeting draft notes were approved by consensus.

Presentations: Kennon McClintock, Idaho Forest Products Commission-Annual Teacher's Tour

Every year, for the last 5 years, Kennon has spent a week teaching high school teachers and counselors about the Idaho forests, forest management and the Idaho forest products industry.

It's a five day event based out of Post Falls; over 100 applicants; only 42 are chosen; mostly from out of the area.

Their perspectives at the beginning of the week are: It is not good to cut trees; clear cutting is really bad; the forest products industry doesn't exist here anymore; and there are no more trees left on private grounds in Idaho.

The Idaho Forest Products Commission goal is to educate and inform the public about forestry and the forest products industry in Idaho.

He begins the week by explaining the value of working forests.

Trees produce oxygen, "fix" carbon, provide heat, fuel & energy, provide wood products, & provide food. Forests provide jobs & revenue, clean air & clean water, habitat for wildlife & fish, recreation & intangibles (solitude, space & aesthetics).

Forest products are green: Trees are renewable, forest products are recyclable & biodegradable, comparing total energy cost, forest products far outdistance the alternatives (steel, plastic), and solid wood products fix carbon for a long time.

State forest revenues fund public education in Idaho. (\$31 million to Idaho Public school system in 2015)

Their week consists of Forestry 101, a mill day, and a logging operations day. They learn the following:

- Idaho forests are diverse, managed by professionals over a long period of time.
- Forests are dynamic-always changing; growth, mortality, bugs and disease, fire.
- Forest problems: too many trees per acre, wrong species, historical consequences.
- Introduced to a variety of landowners.
- Forest management: planning, analysis, site prep, reforestation, monitoring, harvesting.
- Forest regulations/certification.
- Water & Wildlife; Forest Practices Act.
- Land Management Careers.
- Timber Harvesting- logging operations visit, OSHA safety talk, logging careers.
- Manufacturing-mill day & careers.

Sustainability is balancing the needs of society, biology and economics. Making sure we can grow trees forever. Our working forests support our local/regional economy by providing raw material and certainty to industry. They need to be maintained as forestland & remain financially viable in order to keep our economy & communities stable. They provide multiple public benefits.

Conversion in land use: leads to land fragmentation, development, & sprawl which affect our economy, our community, wildlife habitat, & water quality.

Conclusion: Are our forest sustainable? YES!

Committee Updates:

Forestry Committee: Kevin Knauth

The Forestry Committee met Oct 5: updated existing projects and discussed the 5 year plan (2021-2026).

Grouse Creek BMU Project-

- In the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger Districts.
- Purpose & Need is to get the BMU in compliance with Grizzly Bear Access Amendment standards.
- Secondary opportunity- is re-routing a road that is too close to the creek, working with Hancock; it is in the Sandpoint District.
- Roads discussion followed.
- Forestry committee has requested the project leader and road engineer provide information from the TAPS analysis, Kevin and the Sandpoint District Ranger will attend the next Forestry meeting, Nov. 10, to give an overview of the roads, conditions, and what roads are affected and where they are.
- Comment period for scoping letter was due today.
- Patty sent, on behalf of KVRI, a comment requesting a meeting with the Project Leader to understand the TAPS analysis and effects on open roads in Boundary County. It was acknowledged as received today.
- After the Forestry committee meeting on Nov. 10, they will have an update including a map to bring to KVRI's next board meeting.

Five Year Plan

- CFLR ends in 2019.
- Planning focused on North zone, Sandpoint and Priest Lake Districts.
- Boundary County- 1 EA and 1 CE; Trout Ball will be an EA.
- More CE projects on this district, lesser volume; smaller areas.
- Extending CFLR off this district; discussion needed, CFLR is a KVRI project.
- The Forestry Committee also asked the Forest Service to create a map of the District, its' current projects and the opportunities available for our District in the future.

Tower Fire Salvage

- Notice of intent to litigate by Alliance of the Wild Rockies.
- Listed concerns: Emergency declaration (with no objection period, either litigate or not)
- Based on NEPA acceleration, scoping letter went to EA with no chance to comment.
- Current activity is continuing.

Deer Creek Update

- Waiting on USF&WS response; then they can release the draft decision which opens the objection period.
- Decision to be signed Feb 2017.
- Two timber sales: First one will be 4th quarter FY 2017, Second sale either 1st or 2nd quarter FY 2018.

- 1st project is a Stewardship project; similar to Brush Lake.

Brush Lake Update

- Stewardship Project-Activities included road work, campground improvements, fire rings, sun shelters, picnic tables, and toilet.

Boulder Update

- Scoping on that project, beginning of November.
- Montana side; Three Rivers District, Starry Goat Project; on pace with our project; similar activities.
- They will do an EIS, we will do an EA.
- 40,000 acres watershed; 24,000 acres road-less area; 4700 acres even age management; 760 dry site management; 500 acres pre-commercial thinning; 5200 harvest treatment.

Patty read details of a letter to Three Rivers District Ranger, stating the recreational opportunities proposed in the area and our support, listing roads #314 (Katka Road) & #4402 (South Side Road) as potential increased recreational traffic. Both projects share the same road system and trail systems, and the cumulative effects need to be accounted for in both project designs.

Kevin K. reported he talked to Three Rivers District Ranger (Kirsten Kaiser) today; Road #4402G Spur road is a concern; entirely on Three Rivers District, does get some ATV traffic; they put a barrier on it with no intention of removing it; don't want to promote access to the RR tracks.

Patty added that this letter was requested at the Forestry Committee meeting. If we are going to exclude that road right now, we should wait on the letter until discussed further. Everyone agreed. (NOTE: email from Kevin K. on 10/18; letter should be sent, Patty received email concurrence from Board members).

Camp Dawson

- This project links work areas that have been done in the past.
- Actively managed in the past, solid road system, no BMU, pre-commercial thinning.
- CE- 4th quarter FY 2019 for decision, a HFRA (Healthy Forest Restoration Act) project.
- CE can treat 3000 acres.

Westside Project

- The Forestry Committee watched Lee Colson's Google Fly over presentation.
- The work pushed out 1 year; the question is what to plan first: the Forest Service lands or private landowners.
- There are grant dollars available; grant deadline is in Jan 2017.
- Look into a Demo project to show what can be done.
- Patty's recommendation to the Forest Service is that they need to identify where the greatest opportunity is and then we can assist in contacting landowners.

Grizzly Bear Update-Patty Perry

A letter from Wayne Kasworm was provided in packets to review; other than that we have not met so there are no updates available at this time.

TMDL Committee Update-Patty Perry

At our last KVRI meeting we decided to send a letter to IDEQ, requesting information before they presented to the Basin Advisory Group. We received a letter from Tom Herron, IDEQ, stating they will add our recommendation regarding the hierarchy of presentations regarding dissemination of information coordinated and developed with Watershed Advisory Groups to their next meeting's agenda.

That was not what we asked them to do. We just asked for the courtesy of knowing what they intended to share with the groups. Dan & Patty will attend the next Basin Advisory Group meeting and will bring back an update for the board.

Other TMDL Update-Patty Perry

- Kevin Greenleaf, Dave & Gerry have all the monitors retrieved and data gathered for this season.
- Boulder Creek was the only temperature monitor data lost.
- All data is downloaded and ready for another season.

Caribou Update: Norm Merz

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service contracted with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to put together a technical team to work on updating the 1994 Recovery Plan for Caribou. They are also working at implementing actions that stave off extirpation of the herd.

- **Stakeholders Update Meeting** on Nov 1, 2016, 1-4 pm, at Kootenai Tribal Headquarters to update where we are in this process.
- Updating the science portion of the Recovery Plan.
- As of this date, no mortalities documented this year; 3 of 6 collars are still out there; battery has gone out of one collar.
- Collared male and female are together during rutting season.
- Reported one calf on a trail camera, they will know more in March.

Ongoing activities:

- British Columbia Provincial Government is implementing their wolf management program; Collaring and tracking wolves; those animals that are going into Caribou Habitat and pose a risk to Caribou are removed.
- If the collared Caribou get near Highway 3 there is a Warning System Protocol/Process: We check on the caribou locations, we call the Ministry, and they turn on the warning signs.
- Maternal penning operation potential; capture females; let them calve; remain in the pen for a month without predators and release. Pens are 17 to 20 acres, a lot of work maintaining and putting them up, not without risks.
- Caribou Population – There are 12 animals as of last February, all in Canada.

Comments/Meeting Announcements/Correspondence

USACE- Columbia River System Operations EIS-Public Scoping Meeting-Patty Perry

Bonnars Ferry, Oct 27 from 4-7 pm at Kootenai River Inn

This EIS will cover river operations, including Libby and Hungry Horse Reservoirs for the near future. Your comments on how the reservoirs and rivers should be operated can be delivered in person at the scoping meeting or in writing.

Subject: IPNF North Zone Winter Travel Plan-Patty Perry

Panhandle Forest Collaborative (PFC) offered to assist in this process. We have expressed our interest in the planning process and KVRI would like the opportunity to host the meetings regarding lands in Boundary County.

We also sent a reminder to the facilitator of the PFC that we are interested in the winter travel planning. We want to meet with Mary Farnsworth when she returns to see how all this will work in our District.

Kevin K. added there is a meeting with Forest Service to understand the process. And he will update us on what he learns.

National Forest Foundation-Patty Perry

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) has applied and was selected as a client to work with a team of three students and a faculty member at the Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program this fall. They are working together on a project to look into stakeholder inclusion in collaborative groups.

The team will be in our area and have asked to meet with KVRI Board Members on November 10 at 9am. Patty will keep the Board informed on this opportunity.

Forest Legacy Map-Kennon McClintock

Kennon shared the Forest Legacy map that he talked about at our last meeting. Showed the parcels of land included in the Conservation Easement project.

Grouse Creek BMU- Comment Sheet-Patty Perry

Comment sent: KVRI requests a meeting with the Project Leader to better understand the TAPS analysis & effects on open roads in Boundary County.

Question to the Board: Does the Board want to meet with the Project Leader or wait for an update from the Forestry Meeting? The board agreed to wait for an update.

Dan is working on getting the Idaho Department of Lands Director to come and talk to the Board about the Good Neighbor Authority in January or February. All agreed that would be a good idea.

Next KVRI Meeting:

The next KVRI meeting will be on November 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. The agenda will include the Annual Burbot Committee Update.

Comments

Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, announced that a meeting with the Federal Highway Administration will be Thursday Oct 27, 2016, 8:00 a.m. at the Refuge. The Project manager will be there. The meeting will discuss the Riverside Road Improvement Project.

Lee Pinkerton-mentioned that County Road & Bridge is trying to get the Myrtle Creek Bridge included in that project.

Neighborhood Weed Co-Op Program - Dave Wenk

- Neighborhood Weed Co-Op Program for Boundary County residents; receive up to \$500 in reimbursement to control noxious weeds on their property; individuals can apply.
- There is a concern that the program may be in jeopardy.
- He would like a KVRI support letter of the Co-Op program.
- This year Boundary County received \$11,000 in funding; 31 landowners treated 1400 acres; the program is funded by the ISDA.
- Dave will get Patty a description of the program for her information to prepare a letter of support for next the meeting.

Meeting Calendar Schedule for 2017- Patty Perry

- The Board agreed to move January and February's meetings up a week next year to work around the holidays, the rest of the year will continue on the 3rd Monday of each month excluding August & December.
- The Meeting dates list will be distributed at our next meeting.

Announcements

Sandy Ashworth announced she is officially retired from the Boundary County Library but not from KVRI.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.
Sherrie Cossairt
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant