

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
February 22, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Ron Abraham, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & KVRI Co-chair
David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Jim Cadnum, Landowner (Industrial)
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation District/Ag Landowner
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:

Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Raul Labrador
Dave Wenk, Boundary County Weed Dept.
Greg Hoffman, USACE
Bob Graham, Boundary County Emer. Mgmt.
Chip Corsi, Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Opening:

Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; he announced that we are celebrating KVRI's Birthday, so everyone enjoyed birthday cake and coffee and then began with introductions.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

Presentations

Kevin Knauth, District Ranger, Bonners Ferry was there to give a CFLR update. Handouts were distributed to all.

The handouts included:

- 1) FY 15 Project Tracking Spreadsheet
- 2) FY 16 Project Tracking Spreadsheet
- 3) CFLN Expenditures (FY 12 – FY 16)
- 4) CFLR FY 11 Targets

Kevin walked the group through the handouts and explained the very complex Forest Service budget process as related to CFLRA. The information was difficult to follow & prompted many questions. Because targets are integrated, it's also challenging to single out accomplishments.

Kevin also noted CFLR funds were affected by borrowing to pay fire suppression costs. If those funds become available again, they will likely be under a different budget line item. In trying to understand the funds allocated to the KVRI/CFLR projects, the targets, accomplishments & timelines the group had many questions. The CFLR funding allocations will end in 2019.

Kevin had provided an overview of the CFLRA with a more simplified information package at the January 28th Forestry Meeting; he was asked to share that at the March KVRI meeting.

Lynx Update

Chip Corsi, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, reported that a Boise judge issued an order that required state officials, the Governor and the Director of Idaho Department of Fish & Game to submit a plan to the court for the protection of Lynx for future incidental trapping in the Panhandle and the Clearwater Region by April 11, 2016. Earlier this month the Department actually filed a motion for the judge to reconsider that decision based largely on interpretation on testimony by the Fish & Wildlife Service. So in the meantime, the Department has asked for an extension on this April 11th due date for the state to come up with a plan. The plaintiffs are The Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds, Wild Earth Guardians & Friends of the Clearwater.

The judge has instructed the state to meet with those folks and try to work out a solution, so that effort will take place. We don't really have indication that there is a problem, in the last several years statewide there have been 4 Lynx caught in Bobcat traps, 3 were released unharmed, 1 was mistaken for a Bobcat, shot, killed and the guy realized what he had done and turned himself in; so 1 known mortality. This is of concern because it potentially affects all trapping, and we currently have been managing wolves pretty successfully and they have not had Lynx recorded in Wolf traps, only in Bobcat traps.

When asked if they think this is just to try to stop all trapping? Brad Corkill answered that "It's all it can be, because there is no indication that the Lynx are even being hurt".

Chip stated that the Department is hopeful that they will get an extension, and they will have to come up with a plan that has a minimal impact on the ability of folks to trap and yet satisfies the judge.

Brad stated that he thinks the Department is handling this situation as best as can be handled, but it is of great concern since states east of us have no snares and the states west of us have no traps, so we are watching this very carefully as trapping is the most effective way of controlling wolves.

Committee Updates:

Forestry Sub-committee

Patty gave an update on the last 2 Forestry Committee meetings.

The first one was on the 28th of January which was an update on the CFLR accomplishments and then an update on all the projects going on all across the District as well as on the Tower Fire. We covered all that in the first meeting, but then we had more questions as the draft EA rolled out on Deer Creek so we met again for a very productive 2 hour meeting on the 18th of February to strictly talk about roads and

what is considered unclassified and what is considered classified and what is going to be added back to the system or what is being proposed to being taken off the system.

Patty explained that the letter KVRI sent regarding the draft EA for the project is in support for Alternative #2, but making sure that we were completely transparent, and there were a couple of issues, the Goshawk production and concerns related to potential closure of Placer Creek Rd. (the 2540 Rd.) and that there wasn't total agreement on those in the committee.

Brad Smith asked her to share that they will provide their letter of comments today in favor of Alternative #4; they feel that Placer Creek Rd should be closed. Patty also stated that the Tribe submitted comments expressing the need to fully restore the 2540 Rd. and leave it open.

Kevin also mentioned that so far, they have received approximately 10 comments mostly in support for all the work they are planning out there with a few minor suggestions. He also reported that the expected sale volume total is about 25 MMBF between the 2 potential sales.

KVRI would like to extend a special thank you to Kevin Knauth and Brett Lyndaker and all of the staff for showing up.

TMDL Sub-committee

The meeting had to be rescheduled for March 18th @ 8:30 AM at the Tribal Office

Pacific NW Trail-Sub-committee

Brad Smith and Dan Dinning will be holding the next meeting which is scheduled for March 30th in the Priest River area. If interested, Contact Brad Smith or Dan Dinning for details.

Correspondence:

KVRI received an invitation to participate in a 5 year action plan meeting that the Forest is going to be undertaking, that will be on the 29th (this coming Monday) from 9:30-2:30 and Dan Dinning will go and represent KVRI.

Patty wanted to remind everyone that the annual IFRP meeting is going to be held in Boise Wednesday and Thursday this week and she and Ron are attending and will give an update for KVRI.

Kevin Knauth announced that the Resource Advisory Committee are in a membership drive and Patty explained there is a real need because if the Title II (Secure Rural Schools) funds become available to the 5 Northern Counties and we don't have a committee, it goes back, we can't spend that money, we can't allocate it. If we don't have the positions filled, we can't use it. She encouraged everyone to consider a position on the committee. If interested, Contact Patty or Kevin for more information.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

Sandy Ashworth announced that Saturday is International Polar Bear Day, and on Friday at 1:00PM; they are going to inaugurate their new interactive video conferencing service with a program that's being put on by the Alaska Zoo. It's about a 30 minute presentation about Polar Bears and Sandy said the program is set up for kindergarten to like 4th grade.

Chip Corsi announced that they have a new biologist "Jim Derrick" and that he will be a real asset to the community. He starts the first of March and will be the manager at the Boundary Creek WMA (Wildlife Management Area).

Karen Roetter with Senator Mike Crapo's office reported that we had Senator Crapo was here Saturday before last and said that hopefully, and is hopeful he will be back up here the first part of April.

The next KVRI meeting will be March 21, 2016

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Denise Winey

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant