

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative

April 16, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT NOTES

Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Ed Atkins Jr., Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation/Landowner
Doug Nishek, (Alt) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)
Jim Cadnum, Industrial/Forest
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservationist/Environmentalist
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Dave Gray, (Alt.) Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Wally Cossairt, Boundary County Commissioner Candidate
Greg Becker, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Boundary/Bonner County
Jim Woodward, State Senate Candidate, District 1
Marty Martinez, Citizen
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
Mike Boeck, Idaho Forest Products Commission, Idaho State Representative Candidate, District 1A
Tim Dougherty, (Alt.) Business/Industry, Idaho Forest Group
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Wildlife Biologist
Steve & Linda McLeish, citizens
Jason Smith, citizen

Opening:

Co-Chair, Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed.

The March 19, 2018 KVRI Board Meeting Draft Notes were approved by consensus.

2018 Forest Legacy Proposed Project- The Nature Conservancy- Kennon McClintock

Kennon McClintock, The Nature Conservancy, began his presentation with a brief review of the Forest Legacy Program which is outlined in his complete slide presentation on the KVRI website at www.kootenai.org.

Moyie River Forest Legacy Project 2018

- Land owned by Hancock and Molpus in the Dawson Ridge area
- Total project is 6326 acres (Hancock-2172 acres & Molpus-4144 acres)
- The area is at high risk for development in the next 20-30 years
- Easements will be perpetual and will guarantee public access on these lands
- Road situation will remain the same as it is now

Boundary County is a resource based economy. We depend on agriculture and timber to fuel our economy. There has to be a balance and that balance is being threatened. Resource lands bring in jobs, property taxes and stumpage to land owners. Mills provide jobs, taxes and profit to the owner which equals community stability. Industry needs certainty of a log supply and the forest landowners need a market. If the land cannot produce the logs needed, the mills shut down, land loses its value, the timber ground is left unmanaged and those unmanaged lands convert to residential use. The public can lose access. Also forestlands developed into subdivisions drop out of the timber base.

Boundary County has 200,000 acres of private land with 40,000 acres of Industrial Forest and 80,000 acres of Small Woodland. In the last 10 years approximately 10,000 acres have changed hands from Industrial to Small Woodland ownership. The total acres in the County that are in Conservation Easements are 20,000 acres in Industrial acres and 5,000 acres in small woodland. With all the forestlands in the County it still cannot supply the mills in the county alone. They have to rely on timber from outside the County as well as Canada. Tim D. stated that the Canadian logs have decreased this year because of the market in their country.

Kennon was surprised to hear at the Candidate forum on Wednesday night that the timber industry is dead and there is no forest products industry in Boundary County. In 1990, the data showed 3 mills in the County needed 97mmbf of logs and cut 166mmbf of lumber. Today in 2 mills they take 118mmbf of logs and cut 236mmbf of lumber year. He would say the industry has improved and doing quite well in the last 20 years. Tim D. added that IFG hoped to cut 178-180mmbf of lumber this year at Moyie.

Kennon also presented 2017 Mill Data that represented 6 mills in the Region and sources of Timber Supply by Forest Ownership. (Moyie, LaClede, Chilco, Naples, Priest River and Plummer) The total log volume of 470mmbf came from Industrial (50%), Small Private Woodlands (22%) and Canadian land (8%) for a total of 80%. The State and Federal Lands contributed 20% of that log volume. It is critical we maintain this base. Concern was expressed about land exemptions and timber based management of those lands. It is an Issue for the industry and an issue of fairness for the taxpayers in the County.

Detailed information of Kennon's presentation is available on the KVRI website at www.kootenai.org.

Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail presentation -Doug Nishek USFS

Doug reported that the Forest Service met last Friday with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) and staff, Dan D. (Boundary County Commissioner), representatives from Idaho Conservation League, the Yaak Valley Forest Council, and the Congressional staff to discuss routing alternatives to the Idaho portion of the Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail. The conversation has been looking at 2 drainages in the Selkirk Range for through-hikers, specifically the Myrtle Creek and Ball Creek Drainages. The hikers tend to hike 15-20 miles a day, re-supply, and continue on. At this time the best option seems to be routing traffic through

the Ball Creek drainage because it is mostly public land and from the Forest Service biologist's point of view have a minimum potential for bear/human conflict. Also, over 20 hikers per week is considered high use and they will have to account for the disturbance in the BMU. Also noted was any significant re-route of the trail will take a congressional action.

The map used to describe the area of the trail is available on the KVRI website at www.kootenai.org.

Caribou Update-Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)

Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe Wildlife Biologist, updated the Board with the Caribou Census. The annual caribou census only found 3 caribou, down from 11 caribou last year. They were in the Kootenay Peak area on the east side of the Selkirks in BC. , they are now radio collared and confirmed to be all female.

Where do they go from here? The US wildlife managers have a good working relationship with our BC counterparts and will be discussing options for the future. However, the decision lies primarily with British Columbia. They are also waiting for blood work and pregnancy results. It is too late in the season to capture them now and move them due to heat and stress. Revelstoke already has filled their maternal pen at this time. Nothing likely will happen until next winter.

There was a maternal pen set up in the Selkirks for an average snow pack of 9- 10 feet of snow at an elevation of 5500 ft. This year, the snow pack was 150% of average and the perimeter of the 15 foot high fence was near the snow line in March and snow is still accumulating, so they were unable to conduct the penning operation this year.

Fish and Game-Chip Corsi, Idaho Fish & Game

Chip Corsi, Idaho Fish and Game, reported that the Legislature passed a new trespass law. IDFG is working on an explanation of the new law for the next printings of hunting regulations. It will come out in the reprint of the Big Game Rulebook. It is a little clearer on the Agriculture lands than on Timber lands. Just be aware that if you use intermingled lands, private/public, there is a change. The agency will be doing their best to provide clarity in the regulation books. Chip will keep us posted.

Next KVRI Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt,

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant