

Meeting Notes  
KVRI Forestry Committee  
January 28, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.  
Kootenai River Inn

**Attendance:**

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Kevin Knauth, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District & KVRI  
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry & KVRI  
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI  
Norm Merz, KTOI  
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League  
Barry Wynsma, County Resident  
Russ Hegedus, IFG  
Dave Gray, Planning & Zoning & KVRI  
Albert J. Helgenberg, USFS  
Eric Sjoquist, IDL  
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Labrador  
Doug Nishek, USFS  
Jody Pliley, USFS  
Shoshana Cooper, USFS  
Jeff Laeu, USFS  
Matt Staudacher, USFS  
Brett Lyndaker, USFS  
Tim Dougherty, IFG  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Denise Winey, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Opening:**

Patty Perry opened and welcomed everyone and began with introductions. The meeting agenda and handouts were distributed.

Kevin Knauth started the meeting out with CFLR Reports.

Everyone received a copy of the "Planned/Accomplished" Target Report for Fy14, 15 & Fy16 proposed targets. Kevin explained that the "Accomplished" Target is sometimes more than the "Planned Target" because they plan 2 years out and somethings are tied to where we are in the timber sales and what road work we are doing at that point, so some of it can be tough to estimate.

Patty pointed out that we are not going to see the effects of the fires on 2015 and that we would see it on 2016 due to the data gathering process. So it may look as though we over achieved on 2015. Patty also suggested that Kevin lists the "project areas" on the "Accomplished" report. Bob Blanford suggested having an "accumulative to date" so we could see how we are looking compared to targets, but Kevin said that would be difficult to offer because they do not tract things like culverts and such. Kevin also mentioned they do consider the numbers for planned prescribed burns and was able to claim certain acres in Parker Ridge Fire. Kevin Greenleaf asked if the "Accomplished Target" amount was for everything in the district, and Kevin Knauth said yes. Kevin Knauth will be sending the electronic copy of the CFLR Annual Report for 2015 to Patty to disburse to anyone interested.

### Tower Fire Salvage

Doug Nishek presented a slide show that provided everyone a visual of the Tower Fire location and pictures of the aftermath. Most of the area is managed by the Priest Lake District, even though technically it is in Washington State. They are currently planning on treating appx. 40% of what was burned on the acreage managed by IPNF (could be less depending on the access), and there is another 12,000 burned acres on the Colville side. According to Tim Dougherty, on the Colville there was a 77 acre sale and they had one bidder and they advertised and sold it a week and a half ago; and the Washington DNR has 9 mmbf sale, 455 acres that sells next week and no road side salvage sales. Doug thought the IPNF is looking to advertise the sale in July. Doug said we are asking for an ESD "Emergency Situation Determination" which will allow the Forest Service to bypass the objection period. Patty suggested that if someone wanted to comment, it should be expedited, and she asked that in order to be able to comment timely, we should have Doug walk us through the information and answer our immediate questions.

### Grouse BMU/Blue Grass BMU

*Brett Lyndaker gave us an update on the Grouse and Blue Grass BMU's with a visual update. He started out with the Grouse BMU and explained that they have identified a series of roads with mixed ownership, some are private industry and some are IDL land but they are solely looking for roads that are on National Forest to meet the standards. The only places in the CFLR area that would come into play are a few scattered sections in Trail Creek and then some in Twenty Mile (which is pretty much done). He showed some roads that may be closed ("decommissioned" or "stored" roads) but mostly will be stored roads and most of them are already seasonally restricted. Brad asked about the timeline for scoping and Brett said they are legally obligated to have it done by 2019.*

*Brett then moved on to the Blue Grass BMU update. He described the location as up by the Canadian Border; its eastern boundary is Westside Rd. western boundary is upper Priest Lake, the District boundary is by the Continental Mine, with part on the Priest Lake Dist. They will need to close about 25 miles out of 40 miles to motorized use. About 17 of the 25 miles are on the Priest Lake District and those roads will probably be closed so just a small portion will be in the Bonners Ferry District. The Border Patrol is planning to reconstruct the Bog Creek Rd. and it appears they will be analyzing the entire BMU. They will have 2 action alternatives, both of which would get to the standard. The assumption is that Bog Creek road will likely be reconstructed.*

### Boulder Project Update

*Doug Nishek presented a visual of the road damage after the flooding and showed that the road is gone on the Montana side of the bridge. Doug explained that they are trying to get the funds to fix it this year and that fixing the road is a priority. It will cost over \$1Million to repair the road by the bridge. Patty mentioned that TMDL funds might be available for something that is "shovel ready" and thought maybe they would be able to contribute.*

### Trout/Ball Creek Project Update

*The North Slope access is limited. Some temporary bridges would be needed. They are still brainstorming on "trail fixing" opportunities. Recreation is popular and there are a lot of roadless areas. There's been no access since the 80's. It was suggested the Forest Service try stewardship contracting with this project to put money into the trails budget.*

### Camp Dawson Project Update

*Meadow Creek, Camp Nine area time for fuels reduction and stand cleanup. The project is surrounded the by Brush Creek, Hellroaring & East Fork Meadow projects. Basically the project is located along private land in the urban interface. Sivicultural needs are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> entry, with maintenance type prescriptions. Would consider selling in FY2020 per Kevin Knauth.*

Deer Creek Project

*AJ Helgenberg supplied a visual presentation of the Deer Creek Environmental Assessment and explained the 4 proposed actions and said that the comment period ends February 22, 2016. Patty suggested drafting a letter from KVRI as to which alternative they supported. Barry asked what the timeline was for selling? Kevin Knauth explained that it would be after Christmas (second quarter in 2017) due to diverting staff to fires last summer.*

*Shoshana Cooper with USFS announced that they are recruiting board members for the Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee. They need 22 applications and will accept 11 new members. She will provide info for Patty to distribute.*

*Everyone agreed to schedule the next Forestry Meeting after the Deer Creek comments were in.*

Meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

Denise Winey

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant