

Meeting Notes  
KVRI Forestry Committee  
December 1, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.  
Kootenai Tribal Office

**Attendance:**

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District  
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry  
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI  
Norm Merz, KTOI  
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League  
Barry Wynsma, County Resident  
Russ Hegedus, IFG  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Denise Winey, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Opening:**

Patty Perry opened and welcomed everyone and began by discussing Fire Salvage Projects, topics would also include Deer Creek and Boulder Creek CFLR Project/Progress.

Kevin Knauth explained he has a 2014, 2015 reports & Projected 2016 CFLR Report, but due to computer updates, he was unable to bring them today.

Kevin did bring a “North Zone FY16 Initial Program of Work” handout, and discussion began.

**Parker Ridge/Fire Salvage:**

Currently Parker Ridge Trail is still closed and they have no reforestation plans except for maybe White Bark Pine up on the ridge but he was not yet certain about that.

Barry Wynsma brought up the “Blow Down” caused by the recent wind storm, so there was brief discussion on how the high winds affected certain areas. Kevin said the Central Zone was most affected. Most of the Bonners Ferry District roads were opened, between a combination of Forest Service staff and people just cutting their way in. Kevin mentioned that they would offer the “blow down” to the purchaser of any ongoing sales if possible.

Patty asked about the projected timber sales as a result of the Tower fire, and Kevin said potentially 10 MBF could be available. Forest Service will be having an “Industry Tour” soon.

Russ Hegedus asked why there was not going to be much planting in the Parker Ridge area and Kevin explained that the big reason is that everything on the bottom is either BLM or Private land, and as you move in to Long Canyon, Forest Service has a piece in there but it burned at a lesser severity. So we don't have as much to work with. He has flown over it a number of times and there are pockets that got killed but a number of it did not.

It was asked if the Forest Service has a fire severity map, and Kevin said that they did but he hasn't seen the final draft. Russ suggested you could take that map and project the potential risk (looking at the 95-96 winter – and if we get a bunch of snow) model the worst case scenario for Parker Ridge in those areas that burned really hot, to project the soil and disturbance out in the valley floor.

Kevin said, from what he is seeing, if we had such an event it's going to be messy. In working with the county, Forest Service did some initial modeling based on what we know and it doesn't look great. Kevin met with the County and pointed out what they would recommend that they would do from a road perspective. A lot of that work was done the very next day.

Kevin said the analysis shows that a whole lot of water could come off there in a big hurry, if you've seen it, it burned down to a lot of rock, there's not a lot of soil that will "capture" anything and prohibits them to do any activities to help "abate" that.

Russ asked if according to the Forest Service plan, is it 70% - 80% sterilization?

Kevin said across that face there is probably about that kind of percentage, as it burnt it down to a lot of rock and not a lot of vegetation left, it's kind of like you see down low. He said they could put straw & seed it, but the first big run off is going to be a problem and that where the best places to abate the situation is, the land isn't theirs.

Dan Dinning mentioned that the County has already made plans for the Westside Rd. to become impassable and have re-graveled the Valley Rd that comes out on the north and south ends so that there will be access.

#### **Discussed Moving Deer Creek to FY17:**

Dan questioned Deer Creek move to FY17. He expressed concern about timber for the Moyie Mill.

Russ answered that more wood is better than less, the burnt wood from fire salvage would probably go to Chilco. But it would be great if we can get some substitute for that wood. Russ asked what was the total volume of Deer Creek?

Kevin said we initially were somewhat conservative at estimating 10mbf but is likely to hit 15mbf—he also noted it is likely to be in 2 sales, partly because of the bear management. Deer Creek was a 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter sale August/September, but is now likely to be October/November so with the current schedule, we could advertise to sell in October, which makes it an FY17 sale.

Patty commented that as far as CFLR goes, we will probably miss our 2016 targets because we're not going to have things coming on board that we thought we were for FY16. Kevin replied that the FY16 stuff will come around from places like Trail Creek once they get operating.

And from 2015 sales once they get fully operating.

Patty stated that the group would like to know what we have claimed for targets, and asked what our targets are for this year. Dan and Patty pointed out that in 2016, were not going to put out one sale and asked if we could move Deer Creek up 45 days?

Kevin noted Deer Creek was going to be in 2017 whether it was both sales or one.

Patty said we were on target for 19mmbf for 2015 and 21mmbf for 2016, so wondered if we had some other one besides Deer Creek that we were counting on.

Kevin said "2016 was only Deer Creek."

### **Winter Logging Was Discussed:**

Dan wanted know at what point is the criteria established as far as frozen snow limitations by the Forest Service? Kevin said the EA does the analysis to determine the existing situation, once the soil scientist says "I've got some compaction concerns", then all of these other things would be mitigations or "design criteria".

Dan asked at what point of your process is it determined how a sale is developed.

Kevin responded that the soil scientist have a pretty good idea of what units are going to be available. Right now, Deer Creek for instance, we already know. The mitigation action if it is handled through mitigation will come out in the decision; the EA will identify the design criteria.

Barry mentioned that it's not always soils; they sometimes winter log just to reduce the risk of spreading of noxious weeds.

Kevin explained how they were using standards for winters in the past and are making adjustments for the current winter conditions at this elevation.

Kevin offered to see if Kendra, their soils person at the SO, could come & discuss winter logging concepts so we could get better educated.

Patty asked for more information as to why we were splitting Deer Creek into 2 sales rather than the whole package.

Russ asked if it had to be 2 separate sales.

Kevin said no, I'm pretty sure logistically within the BMU, it could work but would require a little more control over the logging operation.

Norm stated that in all the other projects that we did so far, any road work to benefit Grizzly bears was an outcome of the projects, where in this case that needs to be done first to provide the road density standards.

Kevin agreed, we have to work with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for management, but occasionally we ask to do a slight bump above the percentage knowing that as soon as were done in that short period we'll be back within limits.

The group discussed many of the pros and cons of 1 sale vs 2 sales.

Dan asked if any CFLR money was going to be used on the Grouse or the Blue Grass Projects.

Kevin answered, yes some, because both effect project areas, he noted that we can't use CFLR dollars for planning for which most of this initial work is going to occur. It's an implementation thing, so if we do some surveys we can pay for those, but analysis like a specialist writing up a report can't get funded with CFLR dollars.

Patty said, my understanding is that on Grouse, most of the actions were on the Sandpoint District and not on the Bonners Ferry District, so why wondered about spending CFLR money on that.

Kevin responded that the BMU is on both districts.

Patty said the BMU is, but the work to be done, my understanding was in looking at the roads, that we had already looked at that when we looked at the Twenty Mile Project, and that the bulk of what we were able to accomplish was taking place and that they were going to take a hard look at the Sandpoint District to see what could be accomplished with the road network there. Is that not correct?

Kevin responded, it's real close, but there are roads in the BMU that are physically on the Bonners Ferry District to consider.

Kevin assured the group that we are not spending money outside the Bonners Ferry District.

Patty rounded up the day by stating that we didn't get to talk about the CFLR stuff that Kevin has available, so she'd like to schedule for January to talk about the CFLR information that Kevin couldn't get from his computer today. Kevin agreed because he would like everybody to have the report itself. Patty also asked if we could get the projection of how those CFLR dollars are going to be spent this year in 2016, I think we'd like to see that as well.

Much discussion followed regarding funding.

Kevin stated that they had to re-adjust their program to work a little bit because of this fire salvage but they will ultimately have a pretty good idea of how the dollars are going to be spent. Right now they are about 60% of what they anticipated.

Dave asked about an old road that came up from Brown's Creek from the water system and zig zagged up the face of the west side, it was for logging and for access for the power line when they first put it in, rumor tells me that that a contractor has been hired to decommission part of that road. Kevin responded that he didn't know for sure. Dan asked if that was part of our Twenty Mile project as he and Dave commented that they hadn't remembered seeing it in the plans.

Kevin said that he knew of some road storage that was planned in the Twenty Mile project, but he didn't know on that one. Patty asked who was in charge of that one and suggested that maybe Dave should stop in the District and have a chat. Kevin said that Skippy knew more of the ins and outs of what were there, but Brett knows what we have planned for the roads as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Denise Winey

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant