

**Draft Meeting Notes**  
**KVRI Forestry Sub-committee – November 12, 2014 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Kootenai Tribal Office**

**In Attendance:**

Barry Wynsma, Citizen  
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group/Timber  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County  
Steve Petesch, USFS  
Cleve Shearer, Citizen  
Beth Bigelow, USFS  
Joe Madison, USFS  
Colleen Trese, Idaho Fish & Game  
Tom Elliott, USFS  
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League  
Shanna Kleinsmith, USFS  
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI  
Leaf Magnuson, USFS  
Bob Blanford, KVRI/Business  
Lee Colson, USFS  
Cleve Shearer, County Resident  
Sean Stash, USFS  
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary Soil Conservation District  
Jill Cobb, USFS  
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo  
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch  
Pat Behrens, USFS  
Kevin Knauth, USFS  
AJ Helgenberg, USFS

Patty Perry, KTOI & KVRI Facilitator  
Janet Satchwell, KTOI & KVRI

Patty welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

Kevin K. discussed the Region's interest in the Panhandle for program needs, timber targets, and restoration work. This also provides opportunities to improve recreation, roads, trails, aquatics, and watersheds, while operating as a zone and utilizing the personnel from within the zone (Sandpoint, Priest Lake and Bonners Ferry) to work with the Bonners Ferry district team and the KVRI collaborative.

Tim added that a bulk of the infrastructure is in this region with the lumber and processing. Patty included Treasured Landscape project and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) work as also bringing attention to the region.

A brief review of projects included the meetings and field trips that have been held on the Hellroaring project, and the FS anticipates a sale in FY2015. For the Deer Creek project the FS anticipates multiple

sales starting in 2016. Boulder Creek project expects sales in 2017. Kreist will have a Placer-Nugget sale in FY2015 along with the balance of the Brushy Mission project.

**Presentation: Deer Creek Project – AJ Helgenberg, USFS**

This project area includes west of Dawson Ridge to Goat Mountain and from Meadow Creek Campground to the Moyie Springs. The planning area has 30,000 acres, minus 7,000 private acres and the Twin Skin Unit timber sale at 650 acres provides a planning area of approximately 22,000 acres. The Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area is 3,000 acres.

Patty reviewed the purpose and need objectives which provides for discussion on the “why here, why now” topics. Purpose and need includes opportunities the committee would like the team to look at in the project:

- Recognizing vegetation has changed over time.
- Declining forest health and the forests are less resilient to natural disturbances, as in the past. Reduce the area on the landscape that include unwanted species - grand and douglas fir and to provide for more fire and disease resistant species.
- Reduce fire hazards in the wildland urban interface (WUI) areas on both public and private lands.
- Expand recreation opportunities in the project areas by maintaining, improving, and creating those opportunities.
- Noxious weed treatments, improving aquatic systems, and the utilization of forest products.

Tools proposed in the actions (that would be determined as the FS finalize plans:

- Prescribed burning
- Pre-commercial thinning
- Small wood thinning
- Dry site improvement harvest
- Harvest shelterwood and seed tree removal, followed by burning and underburning
- Road activities and maintenance
- Road reconstruction
- Temporary road construction
- Road storage
- Improvement to trail #44
- Reduce congestion at Solomon Lake boat launch, camping site work
- Meadow Creek Campground loop trail work
- Snowmobile parking lot construction

Discussion was held on the roadless area, the Keno grizzly bear management unit (BMU), the Deer-Skin lynx analysis unit (LAU), along with goshawk and flammulated owl considerations. Fish passage at the railroad crossing of Meadow Creek is an ongoing discussion. There are critical habitat units for lynx but not multi-story habitat.

Existing conditions in different units were discussed through the use of PowerPoint slides. A forest health protection discussion included information concerning the inability to stop beetles and looking at opportunities to convert the stands that are more resistant to disease (western larch, white pine, ponderosa pine).

Discussion was held on the possibility of providing flexibility in a sale contract, on a case-by-case basis, to manage the restrictions involving active goshawk nests. Also, one BMU shared by the Kootenai N.F.

and the Panhandle N.F. was discussed as to open roads, storing roads, temporary roads and coordinating the timing of projects with both districts. The Panhandle is able to manage the core requirements of the district's side of the BMU, although timing will be critical. Joe explained the difficulties and challenges and the opportunity to work together to accomplish the project with restrictions. He continued to discuss the Open Motorized Road Density (OMRD) standards.

The timeline to implement the proposed project is projected for September 2016.

Steve discussed the proposed snowmobile access parking area, recreational use possibilities at Solomon Lake, and a proposed loop trail for walking and biking at the Meadow Creek campground area. Pend Oreille Pedalers, a non-profit bicycling organization based in Sandpoint, have agreed to build and maintain the trail (a Heritage Management Plan would be required). Trail #44 is a non-motorized trail that would receive some work on a few problem areas.

Jill showed some photos of the Placer Creek Road stabilization project which was part of the Kreist project. An earlier request to involve KVRI volunteers in the fascine work project was held in October. It will be monitored and they will know next spring how the project is holding up. Appropriated and CFLR funds were used to work on this section. Jill suggested a geophysical engineer look into doing the ditch work and the upper slope. Discussion was held on this section of road and the plans for scoping. Discussion on the forestry committee included: looking at the whole project, proposed restoration work, and the lack of TAP's information is considered before going out for scoping. The KVRI board will meet November 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Janet Satchwell  
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant