

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2007
6:00 p.m. Memorial Center in Libby

The meeting was called to order shortly after 6pm by President John Konzen. New faces introduced themselves.

Minutes: Steve Simonson moved to accept the minutes as presented Robin King accepted. Motion passed.

Financial Report:

Financial \$12,533 left in National Forest Foundation account. Tracy McIntyre moved to accept the report, Mike Peterson seconded.

Possible Uses for Foundation Monies: Request that we address salvage uses, Public Outreach.

Project Reports:

Murphy Lake:

- ✿ The Meadows Project Murphy Lake has an ID team.
- ✿ Stewardships HFRA project.
- ✿ Seeking public input for stewardships.

Eureka District: Tracy McIntyre

- ✿ The logging is done except for one portion that was too steep to access. Logging will be completed when conditions permit.
- ✿ Cleaned up environment. Post harvest monitoring needs to be done.
- ✿ Purchaser found market for small diameter wood.
- ✿ Number of jobs created is unknown at this time.
- ✿ Enis Miller took biomass to Olney for utilization.
- ✿ Tracy's group looked at other projects in West Kootenai Salvage Pinkham Creek.

- ✿ Young Dodge Project 38,000 acres boundary area. 2000 acres National Forest. 4% is state land. What parts of project meet outlined conditions?
- ✿ Drivers:
 - Restore vegetation species
 - Want to connect smaller blocks of land into larger blocks to create quality wildlife habitat that provides thermal cover and security.
 - Want to reduce ladder fuels within and without WUI.
- ✿ Recreation opportunities:
 - Boat launching ramp on West Kootenai.
 - Make road system more usable to recreationists and still maintain habitat for wildlife.
- ✿ Regeneration harvest

- 🌲 Commercial thinning
- 🌲 WUI need to reduce fuels on old growth stands on approx. about 300 acres. Some under burning, but also some overgrowth. Want to maintain pattern of old growth forest. Prior to burning, this area needs to be burned with manipulation.
- 🌲 Roadside salvage proposed - about 200 acres of salvage but not designated old growth stands. Area meets criteria for old growth, but not designated old growth.
- 🌲 Treating larger stands with regeneration harvest not clear cut. Large diameter trees to be left. Approximately 10.5 million board feet. Bob Sidel private land WUI.
- 🌲 Looking at connecting old growth stands to create a more natural pattern.
- 🌲 Need to know concerns and issues, then scope can be defined prior to field trip.
- 🌲 Team is scheduled to meet to discuss issues and concerns prior to scoping date. Team members include: Tracy McIntyre, Mike Petersen
- 🌲 Doug Fir salvage: numerous pockets of dead Doug Fir in Pinkham drainage. Would like to remove some of the material. Some large diameter trees. Undesignated effective old growth and replacement. If not salvaged will fall or die due to insect infestation. Approx 220 acres out of 3000 acres. Look at HFRA for this project.

Libby District: Malcolm Edwards & Ed Levert (also see attached report)

- 🌲 Kootenai River North fuels reduction.. Has been publicly scoped. Approx 2,5,00 acres in treatment area all WUI. Soliciting written, email and phone comments. 2 helicopter harvest units. Will use stewardship contracting, with HFRA authority project. Leave larger better trees to reduce ladder fuels. 35% bark on the ground. Looking at 2 viable alternatives.
- 🌲 Voiced Concerns: What will it look like next to my land? Some neighbors don't like the smoke.
- 🌲 Stakeholder group looked at marked stands 21, 22, and 17. Most was heavily logged in early 1920's. Large tree retention, intermediate or improvement harvest is the prescription and Goal is to leave 60-80% basal area.
- 🌲 Stewardship to be initiated fall 2007.
- 🌲 Utilize non-traditional diameter classes that would normally be piled and burned for pulp or chips and to promote better air quality.
- 🌲 Security and thermal cover for wildlife will be retained.
- 🌲 Analysis area Bobtail Creek water quality-an issue we are resolving.
- 🌲 Stewardship may be breaking out smaller units for smaller sales.
- 🌲 Good fuels progress for Libby area, but there's always more to be done.
- 🌲 A Discussion was held on various stewardship stand prescriptions.
- 🌲 Final conclusion: The team is in "violent agreement".

Vote to be taken at June meeting after NEPA document is available.

Three Rivers District:

- 🌲 Rocky Pine fuels reduction:
 - The team has spent time in field.
 - Project will fall within 2 miles of WUI.
 - Dry site habitats.
 - Homes scattered throughout area.
 - HFRA possibility.
 - Scoping letter to public in the spring.
- 🌲 Mike Herrin is the new ranger for Three Rivers District, out of Bonners Ferry.
- 🌲 Pine Creek, Cougar Creek, Rocky Draw area pine restoration. Group has been out and has held meetings. Had requests to take 2nd look at some areas.

Commercial:

- 🌲 Intermediate harvest 1050 acres.
- 🌲 50 acres regeneration.
- 🌲 4-7 million board feet in varied condition.

Non commercial:

- 🌲 Stewardship
- 🌲 130 acres under burning and no piling.
- 🌲 Small tree fuel reduction: thin, remove fuels, use mostly for pulp.
- 🌲 Pre-commercial thinning: dense stands in proximity of homes.
- 🌲 670 acres
- 🌲 Treatment for noxious weeds (could be tied to harvest contracts).
- 🌲 Grizzly bear cover issue on travel corridor.
- 🌲 Need to get out into field for further consideration.
- 🌲 Expected scoping date: End of April

Cabinet District: Cesar Hernandez

- 🌲 Cabinet Mtn. Resource Group hasn't met since last meeting.
- 🌲 Their only project at this point is the 7 acre L & L.
- 🌲 Coming out with EIS for Martin Creek as high as 10-12 million board feet sale.
- 🌲 Coming out with EIS in 2009 for Pilgrim Creek with WUI component. There are a considerable number of homes in area.
- 🌲 Cougar Vermillion: WUI from Swamp Creek, Trout Creek to Thompson Falls. 20-26 million board feet.

Topics of Discussion:

- ✿ \$4000 grant monies on hand from National Forest Foundation remaining. Possible uses for that money were discussed:
- ✿ Outside speakers: Mr. Cowan re: experience on fuels reduction. Speaker to clarify any controversial issues within the group. Base understanding of silvacultural systems (specialist)
- ✿ Wildlife habitat, large species conservation.
- ✿ Work with Yaak Forest Council & Eureka to schedule speakers so as not to duplicate.
- ✿ Committee to create list of topics: Chris Damrow, Roger Sherman, Ron Hvizdak, Jerry Wolcott, Mike Petersen, Sarah Canepa.

Port Authority's Function:

- ✿ Stewardship contractor due to bonding capabilities.
- ✿ #1 function is to create jobs in the area utilizing local contractors.
- ✿ Bonding can be more accessible to Port Authority as small contractors may not have bonding capability. Large multi faceted projects may require many bonds. One group can usually cover bonds easier.
- ✿ Need to define "Local"
- ✿ Fuel Reduction Projects outside WUI. Question was raised whether it should be named Forest Restoration Projects Outside WUI

Wilderness & Recreation:

- ✿ Motion to form a committee to flush out preliminary ideas and comments to bring back to the group. Dave Hadden(?) seconded motion. Held discussion. Form a committee to address forest wide issues including timber, wilderness, restoration and recreation and ecosystem sustainability and make recommendations to the stakeholders. Motion by Mike Petersen, Roger Sherman seconded. Motion passed.
- ✿ Committee members: Robin King, Bob Clark, Eileen Carney, Andy Eckberg, Tracy McIntyre, Ed Levert, Paul volunteers Rita Windom. Mike Petersen will serve as advisor.
- ✿ Jerry Wolcott suggested that the group needs to get their arms around the existing projects. Jeff Gruber seconded the thought. Cesar Hernandez disagrees; wilderness and recreation have strong impact on the area.
- ✿ Look at how Colville worked this issue it gained momentum as the team addressed it.
- ✿ Look at the forest as a whole.
- ✿ Keep collaborative efforts going within the group.

Grants/financial: Paul Rumelhart, Tracy McIntyre and Steve Simonson committee.

Salvage: Looking to get a flight in the air and will report at next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday June 14th at 6pm. The location is yet to be determined.