

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition, Inc
General membership meeting
Flathead Valley Community college
Libby, Montana
September 20, 2007

Call to order

- John Konzen called the meeting to order at 6 PM
 1. Minutes of the previous meeting (6/14/07) were reviewed and approved.
 2. The financial report was discussed and approved
- Bob Clark was unable to attend and he wanted to discuss possible changes to “Level of support Protocol”. Either preliminary endorsement or endorsement pending review of final NEPA or ROD. This agenda item was tabled until Bob could be in attendance.
- Robyn King presented a committee report discussing forest management, recreation, wilderness, and restoration.
 1. Tim presented a map depicting several points that need to be addressed including grizzly bear habitat, roadless areas, timber, old growth, non-suitable timber, and the Wildland Urban Interface. Map overlays will be utilized to reflect the various uses and activities.
 2. The committee will continue to develop base line data. They do want to get more public involvement and referred to the by-laws describing the need for an informed public.
 3. Action items will include develop a Lynx and Wolverine overlay
 4. The committee will make a special effort to get other organizations involved in the planning process. It was mentioned that visitors are always welcome and hopefully they will become involved and committed to the process.
- The committee is still working on the Three Rivers Project.
 1. The project needs mapping to identify the resources
 2. There is a need to get some clarification on organizational protocol for the public’s involvement in KFSC sponsored meetings. People are welcome to attend and participate but shouldn’t interfere with the process established by the stakeholder’s coalition.
 3. The focus of projects is on the WUI (Wildand Urban Interface) and there is a question whether or not they move beyond that. Do we look at Wilderness designation, old growth, timber sales, roadless, etc?
- Scotchman Peak area
 1. The friends of Scotchman Peaks, Doug Ferrell and Bill Martin presented a power point program describing their goals for creating a designated Wilderness in the 88,000 acre complex spanning the Montana and Idaho border. Their organization is three years old. They believe in Multiple Use and would not have a problem with the current use by Snow mobiles. They reminded the audience that if wild areas are not properly protected they will eventually disappear. The Scotchman Peaks would represent one of the last and largest wild areas in the region. The audience was invited to view their website for more details.
(www.scotchmanpeak.org)
 2. The Troy Snowmobile Club, Jerry Wandler presented a visual program (Google Map) that showed the Savage Peak or Savage Mountain trail. He indicated that there may be some limited use of this trail although the current policies forbid motorized travel. This area would be the farthest South for snowmobiles. Their

club would support the Wilderness designation if the Friends of Scotchman Peaks would agree to allow continued use in the area by snowmobiles.

- It was mentioned that the two presentations mentioned above are intended to acquaint the Coalition with the situation. The proponents are not seeking approval from KFSC but simply to create a greater awareness. The question was asked if these issues will be addressed in the revised Forest Plan.
- Kootenai River North
 1. This item was tabled until next meeting

Pizza Break

Following the Pizza break, Kevin Chamberlain served as the facilitator and asked for a report on “What’s needed and What’s Needed”

- Representative Chas Vincent, (HD2) mentioned that he thought the recent legislative session created gridlock over many of the issues. There appears to be confusion among local people about just what is going on. Without proper support, future actions will probably be litigated. Every interest needs to be involved if the proposals are to succeed.

Media/Communications/Outreach/Web page:

- Paul Rumelhart, Kootenai River Development discussed the Website. It will be up and running in the very near future.
- KFSC needs to consider alternates for board members who are absent from the meetings. This would give continuity to the planning/decision making process.
- Paul continues to explore sources of funds that would provide support for KFSC sponsored activities.
- There is need to add more diverse interests to the project teams.

Project team reports

1. Kootenai River North --Ed Levert and Nikia Hernandez.
 1. Objections were filed even though there was a glitch in the process. This project is authorized under the HFRA and time lines have been crunched and some people were missed during the comment period. They did meet with those making the objections and believe they were adequately addressed. The decision was made in July and the Forest Service is now working on developing stewardship contracts. Approximately 2200 acres will be broken up into two separate contracts. One contract has been awarded to Vaagen Brothers Lumber for #1North and another contract on 500 acres should be awarded in early 2008. The contracts will also include monitoring plans.
- Three Rivers—Mike Herrin and Sarah Canepa.
 1. A field trip was conducted in June spending time creating a greater awareness. They are still looking at sites and will be working on NEPA. Hopefully it will be completed in the spring of 2008. There will be a tour on 21 Sept, 2007 to look at a project that this group reviewed earlier. Landowners are very much involved. The potential project will address between 3 and 6 mbf. This area represents wildlife linkages that will also need to be considered. Some wondered if this project is dragging out for it was started in 2006 and the question was asked if the project can be initiated in 2008. When will this project be considered by KFSC? There will be another project presented at the next KFSC meeting.

Young Dodge Project: Tracy McIntyre.

1. Due to the severity of the fire season and conflicting schedules, there is nothing to report at this time.

Meadows Project: Betty

1. Very little activity to date.

Cabinet District: Julie & Steve (**See Handout**)

1. Stimson lumber was awarded the bid for the Green Mountain Fuels reduction and it will be a Stewardship contract.
2. They will be viewing Little Beaver next week.
3. Sanders/Mineral counties trying to get up and running. They are using the KFSC as a model so the partnership can perhaps accelerate its development. The next meeting will be held in St. Regis on the 23rd of October.
4. Julie indicated the Forest Service will be working on the Vermilion river restoration and it is not included as a project in the KFSC.

Miscellaneous:

- Robyn King mentioned that three members went to Washington D.C and visited the Chief's office. The U.S Forest Service believes that the collaborative process as evident in KFSC is the only way to develop long term programs.
- Marianne Roose mentioned some of the high lights of her recent trip to D. C and indicated there seems to be strong support for passing a continuation of the Secure Rural Schools Act. (Secure Rural Schools and Community self-determination Act of 2000)
- Tracy McIntyre pointed out that they will be hosting a "value added" symposium utilizing resource people from the region. It will be held at the same place KFSC meets in Room 127 at the community college. This symposium is scheduled for October 23, 2007.
- The Governor will be paying a visit to Libby and will visit the old mill site. Paul trying to secure 3-400 thousand dollars to upgrade the site for commercial uses.
- Sue Sutherland mentioned that the Northwest RC&D has approximately \$500,000 to spend on hazardous fuels reduction. It must be spent by 2008.

Next meeting

The next meeting of KFSC will be held on December 6, 2007 at 6 PM at the community college.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Jim DeBree

Jim DeBree

Recording Secretary,

HANDOUT
Cabinet Ranger District Update September
20, 2007
Kootenai Forest Coalition

Projects in Implementation Stage

Projects with Letters of Support from Kootenai Stakeholders

- Green Mountain Fuels Stewardship- Proposals have been reviewed and we anticipate an award the week of September 17, 2007.
- West Fork of Elk Fuels - regular timber sale contract is out for bid. Five contractors have picked up bid packages and the sale will be awarded on September 24 at the Cabinet Office.

Natural Fuels burning for wildlife objectives with existing NEP A

- o Vermilion - 500 acres next spring
- o Trout Creek - burned 500 acres this spring and will burn another 500 next spring

Timber Projects

- o Miller Light - sold to Vaagen Brothers
- o ••. L&L TS- small sale for 1 st quarter, no appeals, SBA set aside

Completed Watershed Restoration Work

- o Elk Creek bank stabilization and bank re-vegetation
- o West Fork of Pilgrim watershed restoration
- o White Pine fisheries habitat restoration

Project in Planning Stage

- o Marten Creek EIS finished comment period September 7, 2007 with 7 comments. Planning ROD release after formal consultation for Bull Trout because of stream and riparian restoration work.
- o Little Beaver Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project- IDT will meet next week to draft Purpose and Need for project. Looking for field trip with Coalition member October 2, 10:00 a.m. Members wishing to hike areas under consideration for treatment will need boots, long sleeve shirts, lunch, water and District provide hardhats. Others who just wish to look from roads at full area under consideration will need lunch. After field trip, we will set up a meeting to look at drafting a proposed action with Coalition members and landowners.
- o Vermilion River Restoration Project - this is a project to restore the Vermilion River drainage for watershed and fisheries. This effort will result in multiple projects throughout the drainage to restore the watershed into a better functioning river system. This work will be in partnership with A vista, USFWS and MFWP.
- o Three small blow down timber sales south of reservoirs.