

KFSC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
LIBBY MT
5/15/08

President John Konzen called the meeting to order and following a review of the previous minutes (March 13, 2008) a motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept. Introductions were made reflecting 25 in attendance. (Names are attached)

Kevin Chamberlain, facilitator, then introduced Glen McNitt, Forest Service, who made a presentation on the inter-disciplinary team planning process. The power point presentation is attached. It was pointed out that both the Galton and Dodge projects are following this planning process.

- Some discussion on the process used in HFRA (Healthy Forest Restoration Act) utilizing various alternatives and collaboration.
- FS is trying to get the public involved earlier in the planning process.
- This process is necessary to develop functional land management plans.
- If there is better planning from the onset, there is a better chance for success.

Potential restoration projects in the WUI. (Wildland Urban Interface)

- The WUI represents the low hanging fruit.
- What is left to do?
- Can we model acreage?
- Quinn Carver, Kootenai Forest mentioned that they are incorporating various activities and are updating their maps. The new maps will display resource activities plus integrating other potential uses. They hope to have the updated map completed within a month.
- Mike Peterson said that they have decided to focus on restoration and are considering a restoration committee.
- They want to get projects on the ground.
- Ed Levert mentioned that they need to look at areas closer to home.
- What products, jobs and how to resolve the forest planning process.
- What about land acquisition?
- They have looked at forest ecology and now want someone from the timber, and environmental communities for the next meeting.
- If anyone has ideas for guest speakers, let them know.
- Looking at June 25 for their next meeting (Chuck Keegan, Paul Rumelhart, social demographics, MSU, Forest Service supervisor, etc.)
- What is forest restoration and how does it relate to our mission?

Wilderness, Recreation, and Restoration Committee.

- Look beyond the WUI and communicate this to the FS.
- They would like to develop a base map with resources identified.
- How do we incorporate recreation into this?
- Discussion items also included historical RV, restoration and recreation.

- They would like the Kootenai forest to provide information including:
 1. Look at a predictable flow of timber and milling capacities. (Forest Inventory Analysis)
 2. Develop long term predictions for sustainable yields
- They want to bring the recreation element into the mix
- Utilized GIS maps to create overlays of various uses and needs
- Working toward zone mapping. What are treatment opportunities both inside and outside the WUI?
- Are we overloading the FS with our demands?
- Colville Forest used computer models to exam various proposed treatments
- Kootenai has stand data information but it may be difficult to develop modeling to reflect forest lands capabilities. (Available timber, sustainability, etc.)
- Paul Bradford pointed out that there is over 400Million board feet growing annually on the Kootenai forest. (2.2 million acres) Would like to sell at least 50 million board feet. (About 1/3 is considered salvage)
- Quinn can help the committee with some of their informational needs
- If KFSC broadens its scope, will this jeopardize the original intent of addressing the needs in the WUI as defined by the HFRA?
- The Colville found out that focusing just on the WUI, left many other interests questioning the major purpose.
- Tim Dougherty pointed out that Young Dodge is still in limbo so now we are trying to look at the bigger picture and find out where there is agreement.
- What are all the constraints that adversely affect the desires of different groups?

Project teams

Brush Creek ...Ed Levert...

- They have not been able to get up there due to snow but still trying.
- They are looking at proposed dates for a field trip.
- The FS has developed a proposed project with a decision and is now in the comment period. (Salvage sale)

Three rivers... Mike Herrin and Randy Beacham

- This is a HFRA Environmental assessment (EA) and has received a favorable vote from KFSC
- The EA team has talked to a lot of people
- 800 acres of commercial harvest and another 800 fuel reduction
- There will be hand piling, weed control and thinning.
- This project focuses on the HFRA.
- The team has very good focus with lots of valuable input.
- Doesn't seem to be too controversial with different views from the public.
- The county is submitting a cost-share proposal for fuel reduction
- Randy B mentioned that if there are any members interested in the Three Rivers Project please feel free to contact KFSC

John Konzen reminded the group that action needed to be taken on this project.
Robin King moved to adopt Rocky Pine as a project with unconditional support.
Seconded, discussion Motion Passed

Eureka district...Noel Williams

- Young Dodge project has never received support.
- Two weeks ago, FS authorized alternative one. They have since received some comments.
- There are several issues that need to be resolved so they need to get out on the ground and address them
- Glen McNitt pointed out that they are in the official appeal period.
- They are still interested in looking at specifics but based on the current comments, alternative one treats about 3000 acres mechanical and 4000ac prescribed burn out of a total of 38,000 acres total.
- Comment period ends in early June. (45 Days)
- Almost 10 Million board feet saw timber being considered.
- There are aerial photos that show heavy management. The biggest concern seems to be the size of the openings being proposed. Proposed actions meet the standards, wildlife needs, water quality fire protection, etc.
- Ed Levert said that Dr. Jane will be here in June and would be available to view the project.
- This project has multiple years time table so they may adjust their plans as the project unfold
- It was pointed out that KFSC should still study the area.

Fortine...Betty Holder

- The Meadow project representing 2300-2400 acres has timber volumes higher than originally estimated. A decision has been rendered (May 08) and two separate sales will be offered. One sale this summer and the second at the beginning of the new fiscal year.
- The Forest Service is developing proposed action on the Galton project this summer and anticipate a decision in 2009.
- Would like to have field trips.
- Mike and Betty wondered if the Wilderness, Recreation, and Restoration committee would be interested in this project.
- Robin will check with the committee.

Next meeting will be held on the 10th of July when the regional Forester will be here.
Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Jim DeBree

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Recording Secretary

Attendees
KFSC meeting
Libby, Montana
5/15/08

Name	Organization
Beacham, Randy	YVFC
Bradford, Paul	USFS, Kootenai NF
Carney, Eileen	Self
Carver, Quinn	USFS, Kootenai
Coryell, Larry	Self
Dougherty, Tim	Riley Creek Lumber Co.
Gruber, Jeff	Self, Schools
Hall, Gary	Self
Hall, Rita	Self
Herrin, Mike	USFS
Hobday, Brian	F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Co.
Holder, Betty	Kootenai NF
Okonski, Jerry	Candidate, Commissioner
King, Robin	YVFC
Levert, Ed	Lincoln County
McNitt, Glen	USFS
Munro, Michael	Self, Commissioner Candidate
Petersen, Mike	The Lands Council
Konzen, John	Lincoln County Commissioner
Romey, Mark	Self, Lincoln County Conservation Dist.
Roose, Marianne	Lincoln County Commissioner
Wandler, Jerry	Troy Snowmobile Club
Williams, Noel	Lincoln County

Interdisciplinary team planning process
Power Point Presentation
Glen McNitt

IN THE BEGINNING:

- It starts with a line officer initiating a project and designating an Interdisciplinary Team Leader and IDTeam. The line officer also provides them direction on which area of the Forest to conduct the project (referred To as Planning Areas and generally containing at least one drainage)

EXISTING CONDITION

- The various team members utilize available resources (aerial photos, satellite photos, databases, ground-truthed information) to develop the existing conditions on the landscape.
- Data regarding the existing condition is updated/verified at least one field season prior to the I DT beginning work on the project.

DESIRED CONDITION

- The Desired Condition is derived from a host of sources:
 - Forest Plan
 - NFMA (National Forest Management Act)
 - ESA (Endangered Species Act)
 - CWA(Clean Water Act)
 - And a whole host of others

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities are derived from what is existing on the landscape versus what is desired on the landscape.
- Opportunities are typically further refined to reflect various laws, regulation, policies, public desires, etc.

PROPOSED ACTION

- The ID Team typically spends at least one field season verifying opportunities and developing the proposed action
- The Proposed Action signals the beginning of the NEPA process and it is the stage where formal scoping begins.
 - Typically 30 calendar days for comment but can vary.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Public has historically been brought in at scoping phase of the project after the proposal has been developed.
 - Trend is to try and involve the public in the process as the proposal is being developed = collaboration
 - Galton project is an example of this effort.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Scoping – tied to the Proposed Action and typically 30 calendar days in length
- Comment period – tied to the Environmental Assessment (30 days) or Environmental Impact Statement (45days)
- Appeal Period (CFR 215) – 45 calendar days.
- Objection Period – tied to HFRA - (CFR 218) – 45 calendar days.