

**5B Restoration Coalition**  
**September 3, 2014 meeting minutes**  
**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Community Campus, Hailey**

**Present:** Lynn Campion-Waddell, Mark Davidson, Chip Deffe, Karen DiBari, Mark Fleming, Susan Giannettino, Harry Griffith, Jo Heiss, Jim Keating, John Kurtz, Chris Leman, Dani Mazotta, Angenie McLeary, Kurt Nelson, Gary O'Malley, Arlene Schieven, David Sundholm, Joby Timm, Dayle Wallien, Patti Lousen

**Opening:**

Each person introduced themselves. Karen DiBari gave a quick overview of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the various services the NFF provides, including neutral facilitation of stakeholder and collaborative groups, development of funding pools, public-private partnerships with the Forest Service, and work with local partners for project implementation.

The members of the 5B Restoration Coalition organizing committee (Lynn Campion-Waddell, Jim Keating, Susan Giannettino, Angenie McLeary, Kurt Nelson) gave brief overviews of what prompted formation of this group. Key points:

- In the post-Beaver Creek fire environment, private organizations have been asking how to best help the agencies.
- Desire to develop a collective approach, with many different interests in the same room generating ideas.
- Healthy landscapes and healthy economics = healthy communities
- Three important pillars for restoration: environmental, economic and recreation
- Resiliency important (not just post-fire restoration, but taking action to support the landscape in responding potential further disturbances like another fire).
- Important to leverage capability, skills and resources
- Need continuity and persistence
- Challenge to educate users about the time it takes to restore and rebuild recreational resources

Karen DiBari described the series of steps taken to get to this kickoff meeting, including organizing committee meetings last winter/spring, an assessment (interviews) by the NFF, and identifying important interests to involve in the group. Karen will share the list of themes that emerged from the assessment. The group reviewed the draft purpose, vision and goals.

**Comments:**

- Sun Valley Economic Development stats underscore relationship between environment and economy:
  - Sales in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013 vs 2012 were down \$40 million (tied to impacts of Beaver Creek fire)
  - \$10 mill reduction in winter sales in 2013/14 due to poor snow

- Support for a collaborative approach expressed; several members have experience with other collaborative efforts.
- Discussion about the two “phases” in the vision: addressing immediate post-fire restoration, and building resiliency into the landscape and community to enable a better response if/when fire or other disturbance happens
- Desire to keep the group focused – at risk of getting too broad
- Resiliency theme dovetails well with the October 8 conference at Sun Valley: *From Adversity to Opportunity: Building a Secure and Resilient Community*
- Interest in adding a goal of sharing what this community does/developing a model to provide to other communities
- Add “educators” to the structure slide
- Important to learn from other communities’ experiences, but not spend too much time researching
- Comment that this community is great with “big ideas” but not so good with follow up; need to create something that has staying power
- Important to get something going soon, as motivation is waning as time passes
- The Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative (see report [here](#)) has been a successful model for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area following the Halstead Fire; has built support for funding and implementation of work on the ground.
- We have a window of opportunity to do habitat restoration, outreach for tree planting, and coordination with land management agencies because the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is complete for the next 3 years for restoration activities.
- Karen explained that the NFF’s role (thanks to support from the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation) is to facilitate and coordinate the work of the 5B Restoration Coalition, based on recognition that a “capacity boost” is needed.

**Action:**

- Group members voted unanimously (all thumbs up) to move forward with being a steering committee for this effort.

**Next Steps**

- Lots of interest in the group in gathering data (similar to the Hayman Fire Restoration summary that the NFF shared) for presentation at the Oct 8 Resiliency/Economic Summit and also at the next meeting.
- Karen will send out a doodle poll to find a time for a 3 hour meeting, most likely in the week of September 22.
- Karen will develop a reporting format in order to roll up data about post-Beaver Creek fire restoration that has been done.
- Next meeting agenda:
  - Short presentations from different members about activities and what they see as priorities for action. (Geographic scope will vary based on different activities. The Big Wood River area is the focus, but for example, aquatics restoration would likely have to go higher upland.)
  - Identification of gaps in on the ground action, information.
  - Discussion of next steps with regard to 5B Restoration Coalition process
    - Process/structure
    - Prioritizing actions

- Presenters at next meeting:
  - Kurt Nelson – Forest Service
  - John Kurtz/ Joby Timm – BLM
  - Mark Fleming - Idaho Dept of Fish & Game
  - Mark Davidson - Conservation groups
  - Angenie McLeary – County interests
  - Arlene Schieven and Harry Griffith – Economic impact
  - Jim Keating – recreation (quiet and motorized)
  - Gary O’Malley and Joby Timm – Sawtooth Fire Collaborative
  - Att Lousen – landscaping on private lands

**Other Interests to Invite:**

- Cattle/grazing
- Fire protection district representation
- Outfitters
- Carol Brown – Forest Service employee who is on the Hailey City Council and who is also leading a climate change group
- Molly Goodyear, DNRC (educator)
- Aaron Swift – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Boise or Idaho Falls)