

Panhandle Forest Collaborative Meeting Record

12:30 – 4:00 p.m., May 15, 2019

Sandpoint Library, Community Room B

ATTENDANCE

Members: Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, community non-profit representative; Britta Mireley (alt.), community non-profit representative; Travis Icardo, conservation group representative; Mike Petersen, conservation group representative; Brad Smith and Shelby Herber (alt.), conservation group representative; John Finney, motorized recreation representative; Mike Gaertner, non-motorized recreation; Alan Harper, timber representative; Laura Wolf, wildlife representative.

Technical Advisors: Chase Bolyard, Jon Songster, Ed Wingert, Idaho Department of Lands; Felipe Cano, Shoshana Cooper, AJ Helgenberg, Jeanne Higgins, and Dan Scaife, Idaho Panhandle National Forest; Nathan Sparks, Idaho Parks and Recreation; Tim Kastning, Office of Congressman Russ Fulcher; Sid Smith, Office of Senator Jim Risch.

Guests and Observers: Paul Sierack, citizen; Eric Nave, Erin Plue, and Morgan Root, Idaho Forest Group; and Tom Dabrowski, Idaho Trails Association.

Facilitators: Ben Irely and Maisie Powell, National Forest Foundation

MEETING OUTCOMES

Action Items

- Bring maps to next meeting from Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership (IFRP)/Forest Action Plan (FAP) meeting
- Ben Irely to create one-pager about collaborative to be used for funding outreach
- Ben Irely to send email to Tim and Sid about LWCF and CFLRP
- Ben Irely to add Kurt Dyroff and Alan Harper to the Potter's Wheel Subcommittee.
- Ben Irely to send out Hanna Flats maps from last meeting
- Jeanne Higgins to plan a discussion on Buckskin Saddle to help understand significant effects, issues and concerns
- Ben Irely to send reminder and info about field trip
- Felipe Cano will remind group about Kaniksu CFR field trip with hydrologists on May 30th

Bin Items

- Public meeting about Bog Creek, perhaps similar to the Colville Forest meetings

MEETING RECORD

1. Welcome, introductions, and approve agenda for today's meeting

- Ben Irely introduces the agenda and PFC members reviewed and approved the March meeting record.

- Announcements
 - Ben Irely reviewed ground rules to remind members and inform guests and observers.
 - Updates from IFRP: Liz Johnson-Gebhardt mentioned that GNA is working to bring in more private contracts. Jon Songster said there was more activity happening in Region 1 than in other areas. IFRP will be putting together summary. There is a desire to put together pilot projects in Regions 1 and 4. Alan Harper heard a common theme of wanting to get more done, but that there is a lack of funding. The goal is to have a project chosen by July. Erin Plue mentioned the need for more maps and visuals to help with educating private owners.
 - Facilitation funding: NFF applied to the Innovia Fund. The decision is in June or early July. Previous grant still has some funds remaining, but the grant period ended and NFF is waiting to see if they can continue to use these funds. Ben Irely asked if anyone has any funds in the interim. He also mentioned crafting a one-pager as a request for support.
 - Brad Smith mentioned the Buckskin Saddle project and documentation about the roadless condition. Jeannie Higgins mentioned reaching out to the group before the initial scoping starts.

3. Policy Updates

- The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Sid Smith gave a final update on the Gun Range Bill. The Target Range and Support Act was signed into effect last week by the President addressing public target ranges on Federal lands. This increases the amount of money states can contribute from Pittman-Robertson funds to 90%. It also reduces local and state matching from 25%-10%. Sid Smith also mentioned that Disaster Funding may have funding for Forest Service fire budget, but is still in negotiation in the House and Senate.
- Tim Kastning updated group on The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2019. Congressman Fulcher signed on as a co-sponsor. This Act attempts to address some of the bottlenecks in Forest Service projects by streamline processes.

4. Updates on Good Neighbor Authority

- Jon Songster updated the Collaborative on GNA. GNA has been operating since 2014, but Washington has been in process of updating this since last fall. States have given input on issues and are hoping to have new guidelines for GNA by this summer.
- Updates will hopefully provide guidance on program funding from GNA.
- The memorandum that all new cooperative agreements must be approved by Secretary is no longer in place.
- Ed Wingert mentioned temporary road construction and logging operations will generate income for GNA. Jasper 2 is still on hold. Black Boulder was just completed and will go to the Forest Service tomorrow for review. Hanna Flats write up needs review and this will happen in next couple weeks. The plan is to sell Black Boulder and Hanna Flats in the next couple of months. There is sale prep for the KCF Project, and they are starting to look at Rosy Cedar with a kickoff meeting at the beginning of June. They have been looking at other non-timber

related projects like aquatic invasive passage. Paul Sieracki asked about GPS coordinates for the projects.

5. Project Timelines and Status Updates

- Buckskin Saddle
 - The project is moving towards scoping. Trying to reach out to public before scoping. There will be refinement as it moves forward.
 - There was a Forest Projects Subcommittee meeting this morning about the project.
 - The Subcommittee had questions about controversy around new road construction and acreage. There is roadless harvest around Kilroy Bay, Pinecove, and Granite Creek. The Committee agreed that it would be good to pursue an EIS due to the level of potential controversy.
 - The Committee's interest is in setting the project up for success and an EIS helps avoid risk.
 - The IPNF wants to discuss with the Forestry Subcommittee to help understand effects, issues and concerns. The IPNF understands there will be effects, but needs to determine whether or not they will be significant.
- IPNF staff discussed USFS's Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) initiative and associated changes that streamline decision-making and activities within the Forest Service.
- Chloride Gold
 - IPNF is collecting GIS coordinates, but Buckskin is a priority. Still some discussions about third-party NEPA and an A to Z project for Chloride Gold.
- Honey Badger
 - The subcommittee meeting at end of March had good attendance. This kickoff meeting discussed participation and a collaboration plan. There was no decision making, but worked to determine where to go with the project.
 - Trails Working Group (TWG) met last night to talk about Honey Badger. TWG should be worked into this project.
 - There will be a story map with a GIS platform for public access.
 - Scoping will be in January or February of 2020, but public participation with pre-scoping will pick up soon. Mike Petersen thought interface and outreach with the public was great.
 - Dan Scaife did a presentation for Four County Natural Resource group to start spreading the word.
- Bottom Canyon
 - IPNF hopes to wrap up the project within the week to avoid prolonging road closure. Currently the public is rerouted.
- Kaniksu Community Project
 - The Priest Lake Community Restoration Project [new name] is in its early stages.
 - Dave Cobb and Felipe Cano had a subcommittee meeting this morning to discuss current and future aspects of this project.

- There was a successful kickoff meeting with Ecosystem Research Group (ERG) and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). Chase Bolyard and Dave Cobb will be the points of contact.
- The project will be from Binarch Creek to Priest River, 130,000 acres landscape scale project with a focus on hydrology and engineering. The IPNF and state are looking into including Priest River Experimental Forest.
- There will be a week-long integrated approach for developing opportunities for NEPA (similar to Tower Savage project) in September.
- Ongoing initiatives: Using Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP) to look at road sedimentation into streams; developing mailing list to hold pre-scoping meeting with public (would be conducted by PFC); reaching out to NGOs; reaching out to Derick Churchill about wildfire to see if he can work with research partners.
- The next subcommittee meeting will be held prior to Dave Cobb's retirement.
- Liz Johnson-Gebhardt says the PFC will need informational backup from USFS for this public meeting.
- Potter's Wheel is close to wrapping up.
- Scattered Schoolhouse
 - This project has grown. It started as a fuels project, but could potentially be a Shared Stewardship project. It is lower priority than Chloride Gold.
 - There is a need to have conversations at local and district level about size of project, but the Forest Service is leaning towards going bigger.
- Kaniksu Winter Travel Plan
 - This planning effort has been shelved by the IPNF for the moment.
- Bog Creek
 - Final EIS and decision rule was recently released. There were 10 objections following the EIS and the Forest Service is in the process of addressing objections. There will be meetings with objectors late May through Early June.
 - Prior to or on June 15th, USFS will announce their findings and then publish their record of decision. Decision will likely be in August.

6. Public Comment

[No public comments made.]

7. Round robin: meeting closeout

- Ben Irey reminded group about field trip on June 26th to Honey Badger. Confirmed the next meeting on the 17th of July. The following meeting will be on the 18th of September.
- Felipe Cano mentioned meeting at Kaniksu CFR with hydrologists on May 30th.

[In round robin fashion, each member and visitor was given a moment to reflect on how this meeting has gone and to suggest changes for future meetings.]

- Brad Smith is on sabbatical from July 1 to September 30th, Shelby Herber will be the alternate.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33