

B-D Working Group
Draft Meeting Record
Thursday, November 10, 2016
Butte-Silverbow Archives, Butte
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

BDWG Members: Brian Ohs, Mark Thompson, Maureen Connor, Tony Colter, Darcie Warden, John Kountz, Karen Laitala, Leonard Wortman, Nathan Korb, Rick Sandru, Tom Rice

Committee Members/Others: Nick Jose

Forest Service: Alex Dunn, Betsy Herrmann, Dave Sabo, Melany Glossa, Scott Snelson, Andy Kies, Jeff Shearer, Hilary Rigby, Tera Little, Diane Probasco

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Action items

- Tony Colter will communicate with Dave about remaining as a member of the BDWG.
 - Karen will email out most recent version of the Boulder Landscape Strategy
 - The BDWG and BDNF will review the 5 year plan and rainbow chart every six months
1. October Meeting Record was approved without changes.
 2. Public comment - *none*
 3. Announcements

BDWG

- Review of upcoming workshops in late November/early December.
 - Darcie Warden will be attending the Nov 30/Dec 1 Collaboration workshop at Fairmont Hot Springs.
 - Leonard Wortman and Karen DiBari will attend the Montana Forest Collaboration Network workshop in Helena.
 - Tony Colter and Karen DiBari will be at the Landscape Restoration Principles workshop that NFF is co-hosting with the Southwest Crown Collaborative Dec 1-2.

Forest Service

- The Forest Service won the Wonder Ranch lawsuit – the question was about whether the Indian Creek Trail near Ennis is open to public access or private, and the judge ruled it is public. For more info, go to the October 24, 2016 article in the Montana Standard: http://mtstandard.com/natural-resources/federal-judge-rules-popular-hiking-trail-in-madison-range-is/article_402b285d-d30a-5ecc-8ea5-c74f68a34d07.html
 - Greenhorn will be the first project the MT-Dakota Strike Team works on!
 - Melany Glossa will be in the Regional Office for a 120-day detail as Deputy Regional Forester starting in January. Scott Snelson will be Acting Forest Supervisor and Jim Brammer will be Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor during that time.
4. Congressional Policy Updates – *none*
 5. Membership - The BDWG members present voted unanimously to ask Dave Schulz to continue on as a member of the group.

- ACTION: Tony Colter will communicate with Dave about remaining as a member of the BDWG.

6. Red Rocks Project

- Dave Sabo, District Ranger, introduced the Red Rocks project, describing it as an outgrowth of the high level of interest shown by the BDWG in an integrated restoration project, and a follow up to the Boulder Lowlands Farm Bill categorical exclusion. Red Rocks will be an environmental assessment (EA).
- Tera Little, Farm Bill Interdisciplinary Team leader provided an update regarding the timeline for Red Rocks:
 - Strike Team's goal is to deliver 1-2 NEPA decisions/year (so they will not be doing environmental impact statements, which are larger scale and take a long time to complete)
 - In early October, the Strike Team met with the BDNF; at that meeting, decision made to add acreage to the original Red Rocks project area
- Aquatic Issues
 - West Slope Cutthroat Trout
 - Brook trout are moving in
 - Willow enhancement
 - Other restoration opportunities
- Will not be doing a Transportation Analysis Plan (TAP) as part of the EA but important to identify roads that are sources of sediment and also key access routes
- Considering broadcast burning for conifer encroachment into aspen groves
- Timeline:
 - January/Feb/March – focused discussions at BDWG meetings with the IDT (the January meeting will focus on aquatics)
 - Public meeting in March
 - Field Trip in May
 - Scope end of May
 - Action alternative soon after that
 - Summer 2018 decisions

BDWG Member Suggestions/Discussion

- Ensure there is a large enough treatment of aspen to have a strong impact on the landscape
- Discussion of the importance of remembering weeds and build them into the treatment plan (pre and post treatment, seeding)
- Get a rancher involved in the discussion with the Range Con
- Mark Thompson offered information on minerals
- Maintenance burns planned?
 - Dave Sabo said the BDNF is doing a "18.1 Review" to identify when maintenance burns are needed
 - Build in some monitoring to trigger follow up treatments
- Suggestion to broadcast burn after harvest; Response that due to concern about high fuel loads, the BDNF is looking at a combination of biomass removal and burning
- Question of whether treating just 10% of the project area (total 80,000 acres) is enough to address resiliency
 - Response that not every acre is treatable
 - Treatments are focused on areas slopes with less than 30% grade
 - Trying to move quickly because there are only 2-3 years left of merchantability of lodgepole pine
 - Treatment areas line up with the priorities identified through the rapid assessment

- 10% treatment of a project area is actually pretty good in comparison to other projects in the region
 - Discussion of how to prioritize culverts and noxious weed treatments
7. Boulder Landscape Strategy – the committee has almost finalized the strategy
- ACTION: Karen will email out most recent version of the Boulder Landscape Strategy
8. Carcass Removal and Composting Programs– *postponed till next meeting*
9. 5 Year Action Plan and Outyear Capacity Projections
- Alex Dunn provided a handout showing the projects on the BDNF program of work and the planning schedule by year.
 - A year ago the discussion was all about the bottlenecks and need to move legacy projects through. BDNF goal is 20-25 mbf base output/year with current capacity (?); need to achieve that level and sustain it
 - Discussion about how the next 5 year plan will be scoped out. How can the BDWG engage?

ACTION: The BDWG and BDNF will review the 5 year plan and rainbow chart every six months

10. Committee/Project Updates

- Pintler Face
 - Committee met earlier in the day to get overview of project status
 - Have set another committee meeting for 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., January 19th

ACTION: plan a spring field trip in association with Red Rocks

- Boulder Lowlands
 - Boulder Lowlands implementation beginning
 - No interference with winter recreation is expected; had a rec staffperson involved in the alternative development
- Selway Meadows
 - Committee met and had a lengthy discussion of roles and responsibilities

11. The group will not meet in December. January meeting agenda items

- Carcass Removal and Composting Programs
- Presentation on Trails Surveys in the Pipestone/Delmoe Lake and Galena Gulch areas
- Aquatics issues re: Red Rocks Project
- Status on Montana-Dakota Strike Team
- Boulder Landscape Strategy
- Project Updates

**Upcoming Meeting Dates
(generally 3rd Thursday of the
month):**

- January 19, 2017
- February 17, 2017
- March 16, 2017
- April 20, 2017