

B-D Working Group (BDWG)
December 13, 2012
Location: Butte Archives
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Members present: Tony Colter, Paul Olson, Parke Scott, Maureen Connor, Barb Cestero, Sam Samson, Charlie O'Leary, Rick Sandru, Dave Schulz

Forest Service Personnel: Dave Myers, Chuck Mark, Leona Rodreick, Shauna Brewer

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Absent: Chris Marchion, Dick Owenby

1. Welcome: Tony Colter welcomed everyone.
2. Meeting minutes from November meeting: Barb Cestero moved to approve the minutes, Sam Samson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with no changes.
3. Public comment: No public comments.
4. Updates/Announcements
 - County Commissioners conference update. Maureen Connor is still working on it. It will be on February 12 or 19th. She will get something out to everybody on that.
5. Membership and Communications
 - Have 3 open positions.
 - Brain stormed ideas for potential additional members
 - County Commissioner representation?
 - Maureen Connor is willing to stay on as an at large member
 - ✓ The group voted to fill one of the other positions with Maureen Connor.
 - Additional members?
 - ✓ Need to include both northern and southern communities of the forest.
 - ✓ Suggestion to have more equal representation between females and males in the group.
 - ✓ Suggest permittee representation, possibly a multipurpose kind of outfitter.
 - ✓ Potentially expand the group up to 15 members.
 - ✓ A subcommittee will get together to identify what those spots are going to be and then come back to the main group with them. Make recommendations on the structure of the group and the process in how to move forward and potential names. Subcommittee members will be Charlie O'Leary and Parke Scott.
 - County Commissioner outreach regarding BDWG.
 - Beaverhead – no commission change in Beaverhead. Tom Rice is interested in keeping abreast of what the group is doing.
 - Anaconda Deer Lodge – it would be appropriate for someone to go there for one of their commission meetings and do a quick introduction. Will have to get on their agenda. Will have to contact in January to get on the agenda. (Tony Colter and Dave Schulz)

- Powell – (Tony Colter and Chris Marchion will follow up)
- Granite – February meeting. (Tony Colter will follow up)
- Jefferson – No commission change. (Dave Schulz)
- Madison – (Dave Schulz)
- Butte/Silver Bow – Summarize our activities in a letter that can be sent to them. Need to have a sit down with the new Chief, Chairman and Water Division. (Charlie O’Leary and Tony Colter)
- Powerpoint for presentation to the County Commissioners. Can also print out as handout. Barb Cestero will put it together.
- *Next Steps:*
 - *Subcommittee will meet and bring back recommendations for structure of additional members.*
 - *Barb Cestero will pull together a powerpoint as the intro for the presentations to the County Commissioners.*

6. Lodgepole Pine Committee

- Draft Lodgepole Pine Ecology document was handed out. Comments:
 - Need to consider whitebark pine; will take a long time to restore; is listed as a sensitive species on BDNF.
 - Suggestion to add a bullet talking about the impact of a large fire or beetles in lodgepole possibly impacting other species (like whitebark pine).
 - Tony Colter – attended a presentation on Tuesday, the presentations are available online. Suggests we view those presentations as a group. There are vegetation structure and composition slides. There are bullets we can add to the list from the presentation. Group supported this idea as a way to establish a common understanding amongst the group.
 - Can we agree that we need a diverse lodgepole forest with varying age classes to avoid the beetle outbreaks and then look at ways to achieve that? Can that be a starting point?
 - Other species important in the mix as well as the mosaic included other species. Losing the aspen component, douglas fir habitat. This is the whole idea of a more resilient forest.
 - ***The group accepted Parts 1 and 2 of the Lodgepole Pine Restoration on the B-D document.***

Discussion on part 3:

- Suggestion to define resilience and then describe what resilience looks like in lodgepole pine. Rob Gump would be an excellent candidate to help.
- Future step – looking spatially at where the values at risk are on the landscape.
- Suggestion to combine the first and second bullets. Need to determine what the other threats are. Other smaller species which are isolated could be added to the list.
- Tony Colter – the committee did not really plan to come to a conclusion in Part 3.
- Chuck Mark – last winter the BDNF identified areas (color coded red, yellow and green) to show the areas with values at risk; the group requested a copy of that map. The fire response guide is by landscape. That is scaled down to look at indices,

values at risk, etc. to help the Forest Service determine whether and how to manage a fire. The map gives a big picture look at the Forest on the natural ignition side. From the prescribed fire standpoint, the FS picks the time and place as best as possible.

- *Next Steps*
 - *Schedule viewing of the beetle webinar at the next meeting.*
 - *Karen DiBari will send the link for the Future Forests Webinar Series and the Montana Forest Restoration Committee out to everybody.*
 - *Committee will do additional work on Part 3.*
 - ✓ *Define resilience and describe what it resilience looks like in lodgepole pine on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge.*
 - *The FS will bring the map to the next meeting.*
 - *For the next several meetings, the group's objective is to work to formerly adopt the Montana Forest Restoration Committee's document (Restoring Montana's National Forest System Lands) and develop an appendix specific lodgepole for it. The document provides a framework. The BDWG's appendix would specifically address lodgepole (which is currently lacking from the document).*
 - *The FS will provide the R1 bark beetle strategy as a reference document.*

7. Fish Key Watersheds

- Suggestion to document some general feedback for Jim Brammer, and express that the group is interested in how useful the dichotomous key proves to be in meeting identified needs in a fish key watershed.
- Dave Schulz and Karen DiBari will draft a letter acknowledging the accomplishment of the dichotomous key to send to Jim.
- The group will reserve discussion of an endorsement pending ongoing evaluation of the process in application.

8. Upcoming Projects on the B-D

- The BDWG is considering engaging at a deeper level on a project in order to “test” the fish key watershed dichotomous key and the lodgepole pine restoration principles.
- Dave Myers brought in two different types of projects at two different stages. These two examples (Flint Foothills EIS and Boulder River) have specific significance to lodgepole, prescribed fire, natural fire, resilience and restoration.
- The Flint Foothills project Draft EIS is already out for comment at this time. There is a need to reduce stand densities in the Boulder River project to improve resiliency. The Boulder River project has prescribed fire treatments in fish key watersheds. It is important to continue to include and involve collaborative interests throughout the project. The collaborative group may be able to help with hurdles the FS runs across.
- The Boulder is one that would be good to compare what we are doing with lodgepole, fish key watersheds, aspen, etc. Dave Myers could bring in the ID team leader to make a presentation.
 - Comments on the Boulder project purpose and need: Barb Cestero envisions being able to design a purpose and need to benefit timber, wildlife, fish, recreation, etc. How do we get to showing how the project has multiple benefits

for multiple interests in the purpose and need, rather than it focusing on primarily timber?

- Chuck Myers – this would be a very valuable exercise for this project, critique of the purpose and need.
- *Next Steps*
 - *Bring in the ID Team Leader to specifically address the items they are working on.*
 - *Also bring in the specialists working on the project: fisheries biologist Darin Watschke; the wildlife biologist Anne Roberts; and the fire management officer Kevin Smith.*

9. Litigation and Appeals Update

- The USFWS is asking for an extension on providing the biological opinion on grizzly bears until the end of February.

10. Next Steps/Agenda Items

- Barb Cestero will bring a draft powerpoint to the next meeting for the group to see.
- Future meeting dates – January 18, February 21, March 21, May 23 - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!
- For January meeting: webinar presentation for 90 minutes; Boulder River discussion will take 90 minutes; discussion about new members.

11. Member announcements

- No member announcements.

12. Closing

- Meeting adjourned by Dave Schulz.