

Panhandle Forest Collaborative

11/13/13 meeting minutes

Fernan District Office

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Present

Members: Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Bob Boeh, Mike Petersen, Phil Hough, Brad Smith, Glen Bailey, Jeff Connolly, Paul Sieracki, Laura Wolf, Cliff Anderson

Forest Service: Chad Hudson, Michael Jow, Jeanne White

Guests: Don Hall, Northwest Access Alliance

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

All those present introduced themselves. The group discussed meeting objectives:

- Develop a path forward/strategy for how to structure development of the Bottom Canyon alternative. Match up topics with meeting schedule over the winter and various milestones
- Discuss how the committee will communicate/share information (project website)

Alternative Development

Data: no further stand exams were able to be done by the TEAMS enterprise team this fall due to the government shutdown. The group discussed forging ahead using the data that is available. 90% of the stand exams are completed for the initial FS proposal, and 75% of the data is entered. That accounts for 2300 acres of stand exams.

Question about root disease and extent through area? Answer: root disease is through the entire area.

If the group is able to identify screens or filters (for example, merchantable timber), then Chad Hudson offered that his staff could develop maps to show the data visually. The group discussed using the Northwest Management/Bob's map as the base upon which the screens would be overlaid.

The group discussed various approaches/next steps for quite a while, then arrived at the following schedule:

- **December 3, 2013, 2:00- 4:00 p.m. – PFC Forest Projects Committee teleconference**
- ~~Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.~~ **(This date was later changed to Wednesday, January 22, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. due to travel constraints of the main speaker), PFC meeting at the Fernan DO**

- Topic: watershed assessments (Definition of GRAIP on the FS website: The Geomorphic Road Assessment and Inventory Package (GRAIP) is a process and a set of tools for analyzing the impacts of roads on forested watersheds. GRAIP combines a detailed road inventory with a powerful GIS analysis tool set to predict road sediment production and delivery, mass wasting risk from gullies and landslides, and road hydrologic connectivity.) Kajsia Stromberg at the Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality will coordinate with Aaron (?), Forest Service hydrologist, to incorporate Total Maximum Discharge Load information in this presentation.
- **Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, Forest Projects Committee meeting at the Fernan DO, panel of wildlife experts (Forest Projects Committee will coordinate presenters and will work with Laura Wolf, IDFG)
- **Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**, PFC Meeting at the Fernan DO, travel planning
- **Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 10:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m.**, Forest Projects Committee meeting at the Fernan DO, prescriptions and treatments, approaches to white pine restoration, impact of climate change (USFS will coordinate speakers. Potential options: Art Zack, Terri Jaine, Sam Cushman)
- **Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**, PFC meeting at the Fernan DO, focus on alternative development
- **Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, currently scheduled at the Sandpoint DO but may be changed to Fernan based on need to finalize alternative

Then plan to resume regular schedule of meetings unless there's a need to add other dates:

- **Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**, location TBD
- **Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**, location TBD
- **Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**, location TBD
- **Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**, location TBD

PFC Business

- Minutes review and approval – September minutes approved
- Announcements
 - Priest Community Forest Connection just received a National Park Service technical assistance grant to help with a trail in the Priest River area
 - Karen DiBari mentioned a new tool the NFF has developed: “A Roadmap for Collaboration Before, During and After the NEPA Process” – available on the NFF website at <http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/learning/collaboration-and-nepa>
- Website: Karen explained the new Bottom Canyon project website and that committee members have the permission to post documents and information on the Bottom Canyon pages. The group discussed other subpages to add. The group decided to make this a public website for the PFC, but to have disclaimer language stating that the Bottom Canyon information is for working purposes and is not final. Web link: <https://sites.google.com/site/panhandleforestcollaborative>

- Declarations of Cooperation
 - Most people have not had a chance to develop these but the group is still interested in compiling a “declarations of cooperation” document. This will be on the next meeting agenda and a reminder will go out to the group two weeks before the meeting.
- The group decided not to change the October 1, 2014 meeting date due to it being unlikely we’ll have a repeat of the shutdown in an election year.

Meeting adjourned.