

Panhandle Forest Collaborative
2/27/13 draft meeting minutes
Second Avenue Pizza, Sandpoint

Present: Jeff Connolly, John Finney, Phil Hough, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Aaron Calkins, Kevin Greenleaf, Linda McFaddan, Matt Davis, Kim Johnson, Mike Petersen, Karen Roetter, Paul Sieracki (10 minutes only), Brad Smith, Sid Smith, Erick Walker, Laura Wolf, Mike Nielsen

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Greetings

- Everyone introduced themselves as several people new to the group were in attendance.
- Mike Petersen and Liz Johnson-Gebhardt gave a brief overview of the Panhandle Forest Collaborative's (PFC) purpose as an orientation.
- Mike Nielsen (Bonner County Commissioner) mentioned that Joyce Broadsword, recently elected to county commissioner, is taking a job that means she has to vacate her seat. A new commissioner will be named in the next several weeks and that person may be interested in participating in the PFC.

November Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were approved with one change: Linda McFaddan, as the Forest Supervisor's delegate, is a voting member of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative.

Announcements

- Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership Conference
 - Karen DiBari attended the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership (IFRP) conference in Boise in January, and represented the PFC. She found the conference very valuable and recommended that the group consider sending one or two people next year.
 - Brad Smith mentioned that the IFRP may be doing a "roadshow" like they did last year with Russell Graham and Penny Morgan. He also highly recommended the conference.
- *Treasured Landscapes* - Lightning Creek Art Show and project kick-off event is scheduled for Friday evening (3/1) at the Panhandle Bank Building. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Structure and Relationship Committee

- The committee met by teleconference on 2/12/12. Participants included Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Phil Hough, Chad Hudson, and Karen DiBari. The committee identified several recommendations.

- The full PFC discussed each recommendation and brought forth new ideas. See attached protocols document for details.
- Several people requested electronic copies of the protocols so they could share with others and think over the recommendations. Karen will send these out.
- Key points:
 - Group discussed increasing the external outreach efforts, starting with placing an announcement of upcoming meetings in the local papers. Phil Hough volunteered to be responsible for this.
 - Group is going to discuss further the Forest Service role.
 - Group discussed the issue of data sharing. Group members wanted to be sure the full PFC supported an information request when it is made. Also, it was decided to consider information sharing in the context of the Bottom Canyon project as a start. The group discussed that the Forest Service can and does share most information, with the exception of archaeological information. The FS purchases NatureServ data and they are not allowed to share it.
 - Group discussed having commissioners and state agencies sit on the PFC as members, not “partners”.
 - Group decided to establish a standing recreation committee.
 - Group decided to clarify what consensus means (committee will need to work further on this). The group is interested in looking at the matrix model that Northeast Washington Forest Coalition uses and that the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group adapted.
- Next steps: Follow up on the above issues (and items in attached protocols) via a committee teleconference. Participants will include: Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, John Finney, Mike Petersen, Chad Hudson, Phil Hough, and Karen DiBari (others are welcome to participate if interested).

Bottom Canyon Project Presentation

- Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Mike Petersen, and Jeff Juel met with Chad Hudson on 2/8/13 to discuss this project. The committee representation wasn't as diverse as usual due to many people being unable to attend. The group discussed the need to have strong committee engagement in the process and a diversity of interests represented. Liz and Mike have reached out to Tom Crimmins (motorized recreation) and he is interested in engaging on the project. Kootenai County Commissioners may also be interested: Dan Green or Jay Nelson.
- Chad Hudson and Mary Farnsworth have suggested that the PFC develop an alternative for consideration for the Bottom Canyon Project. Linda McFaddan shared that KVRI uses a similar process. They have a series of meetings to address different aspects of the project, starting with forestry issues, then wildlife, fisheries, etc. The anticipated schedule would be:

- Committee meeting in April (?)
- Field trip in late May/early June
- Monthly meetings of the committee (and report-backs to the full PFC)
- The group discussed having some meetings in the Coeur d'Alene area since that is closer to the project area.
- The Forest Service is planning to gather more data this summer during the field season, begin scoping in the fall of 2013, and complete the environmental assessment in June 2014. The PFC would need to develop its alternative this fall (deadline not clear yet). The Beaver Creek project is currently keeping district staff quite busy but in late spring, they'll be transitioning to focus on Bottom Canyon.
- ACTION: By consensus decision, the PFC members agreed to engage in the Bottom Canyon project and to develop an alternative.
- Kim Johnson, Deputy Ranger, Coeur d'Alene District presented preliminary information about the Bottom Canyon project (see attached). **As a reminder, this is very preliminary and there will be opportunities for the PFC to get more information as the project further develops and field work is done.**

Winter Travel Management

- John Finney and Brad Smith reported that there are no new updates since their proposal for a public engagement process on the Selkirks was presented in January. The Idaho Panhandle forest plan may be out in May. The USFWS is still reviewing biological assessments.
- Mary Farnsworth has earmarked some funds in the recreation budget to advance discussion on winter travel (\$25,000 in FY13 budget). Brad Smith offered to help raise funds for the process.
- The forest needs to identify an interdisciplinary team leader and purpose and need
- Erick Walker raised the issue of there being pros and cons of limiting the winter travel plan to the Selkirks vs. expanding to the whole north zone.

Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting is March 20th and will feature wildlife presentations.
- The May 15 meeting conflicts with the Idaho Panhandle NF's forest leadership team meeting (May 15 and 16). Karen will send out a doodle poll to find an alternate date in May.