Panhandle Forest Collaborative
1/23/14 Meeting Minutes
Fernan District Office, Coeur d’Alene
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present
Forest Projects Committee Members: Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Bob Boeh, Mike Petersen, Brad Smith, Paul Sieracki, Laura Wolf, Cliff Anderson, Kajsa Stromberg, Tom Crimmins

Forest Service: Chad Hudson, Michael Jow, Jason McGaughey, Ana Cerro-Timpone, Will Young, Barbara Hansen, Val Goodnow, Sarah Jerome, Jason Jerman, Clint Scott

Guests: Wayne Fitzpatrick (intern)

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Introductions and Meeting Minutes
All those present introduced themselves. The group discussed approved the meeting minutes from November and December, 2013.

Bottom Canyon
- Bob Boeh described the new map, which represents agreement of the Forest Projects Committee at this point regarding the basis of a proposal for the citizen’s alternative (see attachment)
- The PFC Forest Projects Committee met on 1/7/14 to discuss this proposal
- 1,833 acres total harvest area shown in yellow boundaries, representing 44 mbf
- Harvests would be of specific stands within the area, totaling 65% of the area: 28.5 mbf
- Need to go out in the field in summer to i.d. specific harvest units based on actual conditions
- 5 miles of new roads shown in black
- What does “feasible” mean? Answer – that they are acres under consideration for inclusion in the final alternative
- Committee suggests a 10-year stewardship project, and then toward the end of that period, re-evaluation conditions and next steps
- Question about criteria for re-entry into an area?
- Chad:
  - FS will need to analyze for cumulative effects
  - Would be good to have a discussion in the alternative about why the PFC recommends to go “here and not there”
  - Also, discuss “if not now, when” for treatment of areas
• Tom Crimmins raised a question about eliminating access roads (dotted black lines); clarification was made that dotted lines mean the roads are removed from consideration in the proposal; roads will be discussed in detail in the travel management discussion
• Bob forwarded the GIS data to the FS this morning; will also be posted on the project website
• Discussion about how the narrowing of focus is very helpful; this initial proposal avoids areas with younger stands that the FS wanted to stay out of
• Idaho Forest Group may cruise some stands
• Stream buffers are based on the FS GIS layer
• Next steps:
  o Discuss wildlife considerations and other resource considerations, based on this initial proposal
  o Discuss what regeneration harvest would look like
    ▪ Opening size >40 acres
    ▪ Desired opening 100 acres w/retention
    ▪ Use Blue Alder as an example of retention guidelines
• Need to have clear definitions of terms to make sure everyone is talking about the same thing
• Michael Jow has some photos with GPS points to share. They’re somewhat useful.
• Roads
  o Chad Hudson offered to share the FS risks/benefits analysis approach they use for evaluating roads (blank TAP form)
  o Would be helpful if the PFC provides descriptions of how the group views risks/benefits
• Chad reminded the group they the FS needs a plan for where to send their specialists in the spring in order to be the most resource-efficient
• Suggestion to have three generic prescriptions – then go on ground to narrow it down in a field trip with PFC and FS

Kajsa Stromberg presentation (see attached ppt)
• Bottom Canyon (BC) is in the Little North Fork sub-basin
• BC is part of the source water for Shoshone County; supplies most of drinking water for 7,000 people in the Silver Valley
• Crew in BC area last season found a lot of sculpin (Burnt Cabin Creek)
• State of ID does periodic sampling surveys of streams; have longterm snorkel survey data
• Cutthroat trout density has increased
• Every two years the ID Dept of Environmental Protection assess and reports on all waters of the state regarding impairments
• Temperature (warming) is the dominant cause for an impairment. The real story of water quality is much more complex than the red (impaired), blue (full support), or green (unassessed).
• If there’s a temperature issue with a stream, what could the PFC do in terms of recommendations to correct that?
  o Shade
  o Channel widths
  o In stream habitat (pools)
• BC does not have “very impaired” streams but there is lots of room for improvement
• Examples of “very impaired” streams: Beaver Creek, Pritchard Creek
• Will Young (FS) commented that buffers sometimes need treatments so they can resist fire, be a source of large woody debris, shading, structural diversity and species diversity (versus a “leave it alone” strategy)
• Want to make sure that RHCAs (riparian habitat conservation areas) meet multiple objectives – wildlife habitat, corridors, water quality, etc.
• Pollution sources: sediment from roads, old road sites
• Kajsa offered to provide more detailed information about BC streams
• Will commented that an area listed for sediment and temperature is a red flag for field observation
  o Roads right along Burnt Cabin Creek are likely sediment sources
• Have there been any sitings of harlequin ducks in BC area? No, except for sitings around 40 years ago farther up N. Fork
• Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) – when the proposal is a bit more developed, it would be good to inform the WAG about it; FS keeps the WAG updated on all projects.
  o WAG could help with letters of support, funding, etc.

GRAIP
• GRAIP (geomorphic road analysis and inventory package) is very useful in quantifying impacts and in prioritizing where action is needed
  o Sediment is field verified, making the GRAIP model more accurate
  o GRAIP found that in Beaver Creek, some roads produced a lot more sediment than others, and a subset of those sediment-producing roads are actually delivering high amounts of sediment
  o Drain points are where water drains off a road
  o 90% of sediment was delivered from 3% of drain points
  o In Beaver Creek – state identified the top 50 delivery points in Beaver Crk for treatment, then identified high risk culverts for repair, and put it all together in a treatment plan
  o For Bottom Canyon, GRAIP data has all been collected, but needs to be analyzed; with Aaron Prussian leaving the FS, this is a problem that Chad is working to address. He will likely hire someone temporarily or on contract to do the GRAIP analysis
Watershed Restoration Partnership (remediation)
- PFC has the opportunity to propose watershed restoration projects to the Restoration Partnership
- The Restoration Partnership is working on a draft plan (which will be the framework for action)
  – may be done in 2014 (or later)
    o Offers great staffing resources as well

Lightning Creek – Treasured Landscapes Scoping Notice
- The Sandpoint District has issued a scoping notice about the recreational projects in Lightning Creek associated with Treasured Landscapes, as well as an ATV bridge over Porcupine Creek that is intended to benefit bull trout. The group discussed whether to make comments. Further discussion will happen via email.

SFI Proposal
- Karen and Liz will review the proposal requirements to determine if it makes sense to apply

February 12, 2014 meeting – wildlife panel
Laura Wolf is organizing the panel. Speakers include:
- Mike Hillis, Ecosystem Research Group (multiple species/big picture)
- Joel Sauder, Idaho Fish & Game (fisher)
- Shannon Ehlers, Idaho Fish & Game (raptors and owls)
- Ana Cerro-Timpone, Idaho Panhandle NF (bats)
- Laura Wolf, Idaho Fish & Game (deer, elk, wolves and bears)

March 20, 2014 meeting – prescriptions and treatments to support white pine restoration in an age of climate change
- Jeannie White was organizing this but she is out of the office with an injury
- Brad will follow up with Jerry Franklin to see if he might be able to participate
- Questions for panelists:
  o What should the PFC take into consideration with regard to the Bottom Canyon project?
    ▪ Moist forest management
    ▪ Landscape arrangement (Sam Cushman)
    ▪ Cedar, hemlock (Art Zack)
    ▪ What are opportunities with our ecosystem here and now?

Upcoming Meeting Schedule (adjusted to compensate for conflict with Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership Workshop in February)
- **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 CANCELLED**

- **Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Forest Projects Committee meeting with the Forest Service at the Fernan DO, prescriptions and treatments (USFS will coordinate speakers)**

- **Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., PFC meeting with the Forest Service at the Fernan DO, focus on alternative development; working session**

- **NEW: Forest Projects Committee with the Forest Service, Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Fernan DO, focus on 1) GRAIP, 2) recreation issues**

- **NEW: Forest Projects Committee meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., IFG Chilco Mill, 4447 East Chilco Road Athol ID 83801**

- **Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Fernan DO**

- **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**