

**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:
  - Discuss wildlife considerations and other resource considerations, based on this initial proposal
  - 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
  - Chad Hudson offered to share the FS risks/benefits analysis approach they use for evaluating roads (blank TAP form)
  - 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?
  - Shade
  - Channel widths
  - 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
  - Roads right along Burnt Cabin Creek are likely sediment sources
- Have there been any sightings of harlequin ducks in BC area? No, except for sightings 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.
  - 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
  - Sediment is field verified, making the GRAIP model more accurate
  - 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
  - Drain points are where water drains off a road
  - 90% of sediment was delivered from 3 % of drain points
  - 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
  - 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)
    - 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:
  - 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