Panhandle Forest Collaborative Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sandpoint District Office
Meeting Minutes

Meeting objectives:
• Identify follow up steps and share updates on projects
• Address membership issues
• Approve 2015 meeting schedule

Present: Bob Boeh, Phil Hough, Glenn Bailey, Mike Petersen, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, John Finney
Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Greetings and Opening

• The 10/1/14 Panhandle Forest Collaborative (PFC) and 11/4/14 Forest Projects Committee teleconference minutes were approved. An amendment to the 11/4/14 notes was made to clarify that filing of a Freedom of Information Act request is not a violation of the PFC protocols, but going around the designated project contact and not seeking resolution within the PFC first was the violation.

Reports on recent meetings/workshops

NFF “Forest Management and Collaboration in the Interior Mountain West” workshop
• Mike Petersen, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Bob Boeh and Phil Hough all attended. Chad Hudson was on a panel and talked about Bottom Canyon, and Mike was on a panel and talked about BC as well as other work on the Idaho Panhandle NF.
• Faye Krueger and the Regional Office staff gave Bottom Canyon nice attention.
• Good mix of participants at the workshop which added to discussions.
• Was good to have discussions about prospects for success through collaboration instead of debating the merits of collaboration.
• Learned that Region 1 is one of the only regions promoting and testing use of the Farm Bill authorities.

Idaho State Snowmobiling Association meeting
• John Finney reported that they had a large number of people who attended. It was a good event with county commissioners and several PFC members in attendance.
Review of Protocols and Membership Issues

- Paul Sieracki has resigned from the PFC. Paul expressed his grievances on a national environmental listserv.
- The group discussed the need to add some language to the protocols so that it is clear if a member has a concern with the process, the member has the option to bring the concern to the attention of the group, chair or facilitator. ACTION: Karen will draft language for review at the next PFC meeting.
- Decision to make a renewed effort to advertise PFC meetings publicly. ACTIONS:
  - After the Dec 8 Bottom Canyon meeting with Chad Hudson, the PFC will issue a media release describing the PFC’s collaboration on the project.
  - Develop a “Frequently Asked Questions” for the website. PFC members will send Karen questions they think should be included on this FAQ list and Karen will put together a draft that the group will review at the January meeting.
  - Add to PFC meeting agendas a standing item regarding website suggestions as well as a time for public comment.
  - At January meeting, the group will thoroughly review the PFC website. Karen will update in advance of the meeting.

Update on Statements of Cooperation

- ACTIONS:
  - Ask Patty Perry if the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho is interested in submitting a statement.
  - John Finney will follow up with Nathan Sparks about attending meetings, and also about him putting together a statement for the group. John will work on one for the Panhandle Riders.
  - Liz will work with Jeff Connelly to get one from Mike Reynolds Logging.
  - Liz will also reach out to the ID delegation staff.

Meeting location

- The group discussed changing the meeting location in order to make sure there is no confusion that the PFC is a community-led group. Glen Bailey will look into availability of space at the Bonner County offices for next year’s meeting dates.
- When meeting with the Forest Service, the group agreed that it makes sense to meet at the Forest Service offices.
Projects & the Forest Plan

Forest Plan

- The forest plan is expected to be released in January 2015. The Forest Service anticipates appeals/litigation on the plan.

Travel Plan

- The winter travel plan is on hold until the travel plan is finalized.
- The FS may go back to the approach of separating the Cabinets and the Selkirks rather than doing a plan for the whole north zone.
- Public involvement will go beyond the PFC.
- Perhaps the PFC can help the FS get ahead of conflict by developing a zone of agreement on the Kootenai/Selkirks/Cabinets.

Bottom Canyon

- Chad said he’d share a summary of the scoping comments with the committee.
- A meeting is scheduled on December 8th at the Fernan DO for the committee to meet with Chad and his staff. Items on the agenda include the project timeline, road location, and pocket gopher.
- As a reminder, the PFC submitted a letter with several scoping questions.

Jasper Mountain

- Bob and Liz will draft a letter about Jasper Mountain and will share it with the group for consideration, as well as the scoping notice when it comes out.

Buckskin Saddle

- Bob will be the lead contact for Buckskin Saddle. He will contact Erick and will ask for a map of the project area as it currently stands.
- Glen will reach out to commissioners in Shoshone County to ask if they want to be on the Forest Projects committee mailing list.
- Phil will contact Don Childress with Trout Unlimited to ask if he’s interested as well.

Hughes Creek

- Suggestion that Brad serve as the lead contact (he wasn’t at the meeting) and Liz will help out.
- At the fall field trip, the project was very well received by the forest leadership team.
- Good diverse representation on the field trip.
• There are no plans for project movement over the winter, but in the spring it is on the
docket for discussion with regard to the FY16 program of work.
• Would be a good field trip next summer.

Treasured Landscapes Recreation EA

• Phil, John and Brad submitted detailed comments for their organizations
• If it seems there’s added value to have PFC comments on the EA, then Phil and Brad can
alert members.
• Treasured Landscapes Prescribed Burning NEPA will be moving forward soon
• Phil attended the Idaho Roadless Commission meeting in Coeur d’Alene (the group
represents the Governor and the state in interacting with the Forest Service on roadless
lands). Erick gave a presentation about the Treasured Landscapes work and there was a
lot of positive interest. Nice recognition of the PFC and NFF roles in the project.

Collaborative review form

• ACTION: Karen will share a collaborative evaluation form with members to get feedback
on how the process is going and how things can be improved.

Other announcements

• Bonner County has a new GIS department that perhaps could help.
• NFF submitted a proposal to the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation to support facilitation
expenses.
• The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is celebrating its 10th anniversary in January
2015; they will have a big event on January 9th at the Columbia Bank Building in
Sandpoint
• Sandy Compton wrote a nice article comparing old mills with new mill technology, and it
features Bob Boeh.
• PCFC is co-hosting a planning and celebration event for the Oldtown to Dover Trail.
• Discussion about follow up to the meeting held at Snider Guard Station (involving many
PFC members but not a PFC project).

Meeting Dates for 2015 Approved

- January 21, 2015 (3rd Wednesday) changed back to January 14, 2015
- March 11, 2015 (2nd Wednesday)
- May 13, 2015 (2nd Wednesday)
- July 8, 2015 (2nd Wednesday)
- September 9, 2015 (2nd Wednesday)
- November 4, 2015 (1st Wednesday)