

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2015; they will have a big event on January 9<sup>th</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)~~ *changed back to January 14, 2015*
- March 11, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
- May 13, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
- July 8, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
- September 9, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
- November 4, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday)