

**B-D Working Group**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, December 16, 2014  
Butte-Silverbow Public Library  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Present: Joe Willauer, Tony Colter, Paul Olsen, Mark Thompson (for part of meeting), Barb Cestero, Sam Samson, Leonard Wortman, Chris Marchion, Ciche Pitcher, Dave Schulz, Tom Rice, Pete Nelson (on phone)

Guests: Rick Franke

Forest Service: Melany Glossa (on phone)

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Meeting objectives:

- Identify next steps for Boulder and Selway Meadows
- Formulate work plan for 2015

1. The October meeting minutes were approved.

2. There was no public comment.

**3. Updates/ Announcements**

- Melany Glossa reported that Christine Dawe received a letter from the State of Montana requesting proposals for state support (\$1 million for work on federal lands). Melany will send the letter to Karen DiBari for distribution to the group. The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF) is planning to forward Boulder Lowlands and Pintler Face as proposals. There is no process other than this yet to access funds from the state. \$2 million of state money has already been awarded for restoration forestry on state and private lands in Montana.

**4. Reports**

- Oct 20 meeting with the Governor – Barb Cestero reported that she and Dave Schulz were both in attendance at the meeting. It was mainly a “rah rah” event for collaboration, and an introduction to the Forests in Focus Initiative (FIFI). The state of Montana currently is allocating \$1 million to support project work on federal lands. Maureen “Mo” Bookwalter has been hired to serve as a liaison between the state and the Forest Service. The state is still working to determine how the funds will be used.

Melany Glossa reported that the Forest Service Regional Office had received a letter from State Forester Bob Harrington requesting proposals for projects in need of funding. Several criteria were defined for priority projects, including that projects are developed collaboratively. The B-D National Forest forwarded two projects to the Regional Office for consideration: Boulder Lowlands and Pintler Face. No process is in place to apply for the funds yet. The Regional

Office plans to select one project per forest by mid-January, and the state will pick 1-2 projects to support. The state has already awarded \$2 million for restoration forestry activities on state/private lands.

- National Forest Foundation (NFF) workshop – “National Forest Management & Collaboration in the Interior Mountain West”
  - Barb Cestero, Leonard Wortman, Tom Rice, and Dave Schulz attended
  - Discussion of the Colville NF and the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (NEWFC), and how they’re a great example. The BDWG doesn’t have a litigator at the table like NEWFC does in The Lands Council and Conservation Northwest.
  - Common barriers discussed: agency capacity and funding, length of time between collaborative agreement and implementation
  - NFF will be putting workshop summary materials up on their website
  - Those BDWG members who attended the workshop felt that it would be useful to bring representatives from NEWFC, the Forest Service, and the Panhandle Forest Collaborative together with the BDWG and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF leadership team.
- Steering Committee meeting with Melany Glossa held on December 8
  - Tony Colter, Barb Cestero, Maureen Connor and Pete Nelson all participated in a meeting with Melany in Butte
  - Discussed how the BDWG could engage in Boulder Lowlands in a focused project (likely a categorical exclusion or CE under the 2014 Farm Bill) as well as looking at the broader landscape and more integrated restoration opportunities; engaging in longer-term planning and priority-setting for the rest of the BDNF; and scheduling a “workshop” meeting with the forest leadership team in January.

## 5. January “workshop” concept

- The group set **Thursday, January 22, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** as the date for the workshop meeting between the BDWG and the Forest Leadership Team. Plan for presentations in the morning and discussion in the afternoon, plus a presentation of the BDWG’s Farm Bill nominations package.
- ACTION: Karen DiBari will draft an agenda for Steering Committee review.
- ACTION: Karen will invite the following people to give presentations:
  - Mike Petersen, Panhandle Forest Collaborative, Northeast Washington Forestry Collaborative
  - Chad Hudson, Coeur d’Alene District Ranger, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF)
  - Christine Dawe, R1 Renewable Resources Director or Mary Farnsworth, Supervisor, IPNF

## 6. Boulder Lowlands

- Melany Glossa reported that she has some funds set aside to work with TEAMS, an enterprise team within the Forest Service, to accelerate the analysis needed on Boulder Lowlands. In early January 2015, her staff will develop a plan for TEAMS and the Regional Office will review it.
- Original plan was to do field work summer 2015, decision in FY16. Now the plan is to have a decision in fall 2015.

- The BDWG wants to look at Boulder Lowlands in the context of the larger landscape (10,000 acres ?)
- Discussion about whether the FS could put in a proposal for state funds to work on other parts of Boulder since funds have been identified for TEAMS.
- Melany suggested that perhaps TEAMS could gather data in a broader area while out collecting information for the categorical exclusion, but she doesn't want to divert their attention.
- Anton Brennick is now on a detail assignment to finish Flint Foothills. Their hope is to have the project out for comment/objection period in January.
- Forest Service contacts: Dave Sabo is the lead on Boulder, Tera Little is the lead on the CE
- BDWG contact: Pete Nelson is the liaison for the BDWG. Other committee members are Leonard Wortman, Mark Thompson, Tony Colter, Rick Franke, and Maureen Connor (need to double-check with her)
- **ACTIONS:**
  - (CE) Melany Glossa will talk with Christine Dawe, Dave Sabo, Tera Little and TEAMS, and then will work to set up a call with that group and the BDWG committee.
  - (Landscape) Pete Nelson will write up a description of issues regarding the Boulder landscape based on information in the Farm Bill nominations package so that it can be a starting point for discussion in the January workshop.
  - (Landscape) The committee will meet to discuss the size of the Boulder landscape (geography, size, etc.), look at the area in terms of key measures/ criteria list such road miles, stream miles, etc. to set the context for where the next priority would be post Boulder Lowlands.
  - Karen DiBari will draft a letter of support from the BDWG to the State of Montana for Boulder Lowlands for review by the Steering Committee.

## 7. Selway Meadows

- Tom Rice reported that the plan is to schedule a committee meeting in January.
- Melany Glossa reported that there is no schedule yet from the Forest Service's perspective. The desire is to take a broadscale look at Selway Meadows for restoration objectives.
- The water issue needs an active discussion.
- Committee members are Tom Rice (main liaison), Paul Olsen, Chris Marchion and Rick Franke.
- Forest Service contacts are Scott Shuler and Jim Brammer.
- **ACTIONS:**
  - Tom will communicate with Scott and Jim about setting up a committee meeting.

## 8. 5 year action plan/program of work planning

- Melany Glossa reported that the timeline for action on this is still being determined. The BDNF is looking at the Idaho Panhandle NF model – will follow the January workshop.
- Vegetation program is already in place, but other programs don't have that yet.

## 9. Housekeeping

- Membership issues
  - Joe Willauer is hoping he can attend more regularly this coming year.
- Meeting schedule for 2015 listed below. Unless noted otherwise, meetings are held from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Butte at the Butte-Silverbow Archives. The group may decide to change locations based on the agenda, and/or schedule field trips.
  - January 22, 2015, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Dillon, BDNF Supervisor’s Office
  - February 19, 2015
  - March 19, 2015
  - April 16, 2015
  - May 21, 2015
  - June 18, 2015
  - July 16, 2015
  - August 20, 2015
  - September 17, 2015
  - October 15, 2015
  - November 19, 2015
  - December 17, 2015

**10. Action items and plans for next meeting**

- See above action items.
- Karen DiBari will invite Mo Bookwalter to both the January and February meetings. The group would like to hear a short presentation from Mo at the February meeting regarding her role and what the State of MT is trying to accomplish through Forests in Focus Initiative (FIFI).

**11. Member Announcements**

- Dave Schulz reported that the Montana Association of Counties (MACO) may have funds to support planning/analysis/implementation of projects on federal lands.
- The Forest Service and MACO met in Helena about how to build communications and they created a working group of county commissioners and line officers, and are working on developing a memorandum of understanding to outline a framework for collaboration and a productive working relationship. The group will meet quarterly. Members are FS: Bill Avey, Julie King, Christine Dawe, and Karen Mollander, and Commissioners: Dave Schulz, Carol Brooker, Mike McGinley, and John Prinkki.
- Chris Marchion was inducted into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame – a huge honor! Read about it here: [http://mtstandard.com/news/local/anaconda-advocate-enters-montana-outdoor-hall-of-fame/article\\_d2f4f2bf-bf33-5e0c-9db5-ae857e82b566.html](http://mtstandard.com/news/local/anaconda-advocate-enters-montana-outdoor-hall-of-fame/article_d2f4f2bf-bf33-5e0c-9db5-ae857e82b566.html)

12. Meeting adjourned.