

**B-D Working Group
Minutes**
Thursday, March 20, 2014
Butte-Silverbow Courthouse
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Objectives:

- Gain approval of the Farm Bill nominations package from BDWG (Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group) members
- Identify strategies to raise the profile of the BDWG and the BDNF (Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest) with the assistance of Gary Severson

Attendees: Dave Schulz, Tony Colter, Barb Cestero, Paul Olson, Tom Rice, Leonard Wortman, Mark Thompson, Sam Samson, Maureen Connor, Chris Marchion, Rick Sandru

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Guests: Gary Severson, Dan Happel (Madison County), Jim Hart (Madison County), John Prinkki (Carbon County)

Business

- February 20, 2014 meeting minutes approved without any changes.

Farm Bill Nominations

- Barb Cestero reviewed the Farm Bill opportunity and provided context for the draft landscape-scale treatment area nominations package that was emailed around prior to the meeting. Tony Colter explained the screens that Ecosystem Research Group (ERG) used to identify scores for each watershed. The steering committee has had several meetings with ERG to hone the proposal
- The State has identified very broad nominations by Forest Service district, which is a different approach than the BDWG's package. Discussion about the value of having more specific landscapes identified. The Governor can nominate multiple landscapes.
- The seven landscapes on the BDNF are prioritized based on which landscapes are "ripest", based on NEPA work. The group discussed whether to prioritize or not and ultimately decided against prioritization.
- ACTIONS:
 - All BDWG members present voted by consensus in favor of submitting the nominations package to the Governor for consideration, pending non-substantive edits by the steering committee. Karen DiBari will check in with Ciche Pitcher, Pete Nelson and Joe Willauer via email to get their votes since they're not present at the meeting (all subsequently approved).
 - BDWG members present decided by consensus to not prioritize the landscapes, but to list them alphabetically (all thumbs up with the exception of one sideways).
- NEXT STEPS:
 - Tony Colter will ask Travis Benton with ERG will make edits and circulate
 - Karen DiBari will:

- Draft a letter for Tony Colter and Dave Schulz to sign, with the nominations package and the BDWG contact list attached.
 - Circulate the contact list to make sure that people are listed correctly.
- Once all is complete, Karen DiBari will send it to Barb Cestero, who will submit the entire package to the Governor's committee on 3/25/14, with cc's to Melany Glossa, Faye Krueger, and Governor Steve Bullock
- Individual BDWG members will forward the package to their contacts (counties, legislators, Congressionals) and where appropriate, will ask them to contact the Governor to convey their support
- Maureen Connor suggested that BDWG members be ready to meet via teleconference if needed to make any final decisions/adjustments.

Gary Severson Presentation (see ppt presentation for more detail about his reflections on what he heard from BDWG members and what he recommends)

- Decision-makers pay attention to collaboratives; BDWG is on the right track
- Farm Bill package is an excellent vehicle to get attention on the BDWG efforts and BDNF
- His background: has lived in Colorado 45 years; born and raised in IA; worked as a teacher, then worked for a short time in 1970s for Pike National Forest; led facility siting team/community relations for Amaco Oil; then worked for NW Colorado Council of Governments (retired 2010) and was chair of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative. Serves on the National Collaboration Cadre, which does "diagnostic checks" for collaboratives. Is doing work for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Yosemite-Stanislaus Solutions Group (Rim Fire recovery/restoration). Also served on the CFLRP advisory panel.
- Gary Severson received responses to his questions via email and spoke with about 1/2 of the BDWG membership.
- Recommendations:
 1. Who is going to define constraints? BDWG or Forest Service (budget/capacity/etc)
BDWG members responded that the group has already made that decision with regard to developing a landscape proposal based on the CFLRP framework.
 2. Leverage contacts of group members
 - "Power of 10" – each person list 10 key contacts
 - Eliminate duplicates
 - Leverage contacts by keeping those people informed
 3. Don't burn bridges with the Forest Service
 4. Always have an "ask" when talking to the Governor, Regional Office, etc.

Announcements:

- John Prinkki from Carbon County invited BDWG members to a meeting on April 9th at the Gallatin County Courthouse at 1 p.m. He and others are interested in creating a state level group to work with State Forester, Forest Service Regional Office, Governor, etc. to gain influence and get more work done on the ground; group would have a policy focus. The 4/9 meeting is between commissioners and FS line officers.

Items for the next meeting: membership (Parke Scott, Charlie O'Leary); Farm Bill follow up, sharpen focus on roles of BDWG/tasks