

B-D Working Group
Draft Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 2014
Butte Silverbow Archives
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting objectives: Move forward in identifying next steps for Selway Meadows, Boulder Lowlands, and communications

Present: Tony Colter, Barb Cestero, Pete Nelson, Maureen Connor, Chris Marchion

Forest Service: Melany Glossa

Guests: Dan Stsek, Nathan Korb, Erik Nylund

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

1. Welcome and approve minutes

Because it was low attendance, the group did not review the minutes.

2. Public comment

No public comment.

3. Updates/ Announcements

Karen DiBari reminded everyone of the upcoming “National Forest Management & Collaboration in the Interior Mountain West” workshop being hosted by the NFF in Missoula, October 28-30.

4. Gravelly Landscape Collaborative (GLC) *presentation by Nathan Korb and Barb Cestero*

Nathan Korb works for The Nature Conservancy. See attached powerpoint. He described the approach that the GLC has taken to create an “opportunity map” which identifies large areas within the Madison District portion of the Gravelly where restoration work needs to be done.

- Focus on low elevation forests (aspen, fir, willows)
- Highest biological productivity is in willow/aspen (production goes down with conifer encroachment)
- In Douglas fir stands, objective is to open canopy
- Don't have much motorized recreation in area, but a lot of work to do with regard to roads
- Proposing about 6000 acres of prescribed burning, 4000 acres of mechanical
- Held a kickoff meeting in May 2012, attended by about 55 people
- The current GLC working group has ~20 people with diverse interests (missing motorized recreation)
- Created a shared statement of current condition, followed by a shared statement of desired condition
- Formed a technical team to develop maps and work with the forest silviculturist
- Next steps:
 - Sharing their opportunity map and vision with a larger circle (launch group), plus presentations to the grazing associations, BBQ, watershed committee, BDWG, others
 - They have a meeting scheduled in October with the FS, working to develop the process
- Ranchers have been very supportive

- Challenges are FS capacity, sage grouse amendment
- This project is a pilot of the GLC – they plan to do more
- Melany said the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF) currently does not have funding to work on a Gravelly project – potentially NEPA could occur FY16

5. Selway Meadows and Boulder Lowlands

Melany Glossa:

- Reported that the forest is focused on legacy projects, and that the BDNF is very behind on meeting vegetation targets
- Presented a potential timeline for the group to consider, which targets issue-focused projects by year at Selway and/or Boulder.
- Said the BDNF is no longer doing watershed assessments due to capacity limitations; instead addressing projects by issue such as irrigation, timber, roads, etc.
- Invited BDWG members on a field trip with Don Long (Fire Lab) to talk about fire condition class and group, and other issues (information sent to committee)

Group discussion:

- The group talked quite a bit about their desire to agree on an overall vision for a landscape, and then decide how to “break it up” into doable NEPA/implementation pieces.

6. Outreach/communications plan – tabled

Meeting adjourned.