

Panhandle Forest Collaborative Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
1st floor of the County Administration Building, 1500 Hwy 2, Sandpoint

Members Present: Glenn Bailey, Laura Wolf, Jeff Connelly, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Bob Boeh, Mike Petersen

Partners: Karen Roetter, Sid Smith, Judy Morbeck

Faciliator: Karen DiBari

Meeting objectives:

- Share updates and identify follow up steps and on projects
- Review PFC website and make improvements

1. Greetings and Opening

2. Public Comment – no public comment

3. Update on Statements of Cooperation

- Karen Roetter (Senator Crapo) said they have a uniform policy that prevents Congressional offices from writing a “statement of cooperation” for any collaborative.

4. Updates to Protocols language

- Additional language was approved by consensus: *If a member has a concern with the process, that member may bring it to the attention of the chair, vice-chair, and/or facilitator in order to seek resolution.*

5. Projects & the Forest Plan – updates and next steps

- Forest Plan- IPNF is operating under the new plan; will be finalized in mid-February; even if it is litigated, the FS will operate under the new plan

- Bottom Canyon – Chad Hudson is on a detail to the Boise NF, but Ryan Foote is acting District Ranger and Chad has said there shouldn't be a loss of continuity on the project. The PFC had discussed doing a press release in support of Bottom Canyon but the group decided it would be more appropriate when the next document is released.
- Jasper Mountain – Liz will request an updated Jasper Mountain schedule. Liz and Bob will draft a PFC scoping letter for member review and consideration.
- Buckskin Saddle – Bob requested a map from Erick who said it will be available in the next few weeks. Glen has reached out to Leslee Stanley (county commissioner) and Sandy Podsaid (resource advisor) in Shoshone County to invite their involvement.
- Hughes Creek – The Forest Service is looking for help to support the project. The plan is to revegetate 1 ½ acres after the project is completed, and in late August/September 2015, the FS is hoping volunteers can help gather sedge seed to hold in the seedbank for later use.
- Lightning Creek – Treasured Landscapes
- Granite Reeder – a campground on Priest Lake. The Supervisor's Office has asked if the PFC wants to be involved. The FS is trying to find resources to hook up the campground to the sewer system. The FS has a vault toilet at the day area and one at the campground. Perhaps this could be a stewardship project with a clean water component. A meeting is scheduled from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Sandpoint DO on January 26.
- 5Year Action Plan – Mike will contact Mary Farnsworth about what her approach is to update the plan.

***Discussion about the role of the point person on each project is to keep track of project milestones and check in with the FS.

6. Website review

- Documents are fine
- Ask Phil for field trip photos to add to the website
- Add John Finney to the PFC member list (sorry, John!!)
- Have one projects page with the projects schedule and then link to individual projects pages for further info
- Add Blue Alder Monitoring report

7. Other?

- The Gem State Miner is doing a story on collaboration, and contacted Liz.

- Mike has been working with Kathy McMorris-Rogers' staff. McMorris-Rogers is trying to develop forest management reform legislation that a diverse collaborative would be able to support. There should be a draft released soon. Potential components:
 - Some kind of "fix" for Secure Rural Schools Act funds (currently not reauthorized).
 - Objections process – may require the objector to visit the Ranger District physically to discuss the problem.
 - Support for collaboratively-developed projects.
 - Baseball-type arbitration (example of the Bull Run Restoration project – 3 person panel).
- Jeff commented that Mike Reynolds Logging is currently working on Blue Alder, Nickel Plate, and Lower Priest, all of which had some level of collaborative engagement, and extended his thanks.
- Question: How can collaboratives best weigh in on upcoming legislation? Answer from Karen Roetter provided in follow up: *It is perfectly acceptable for the collaborative to write a letter to a member or the delegation. The Clearwater Collaborative does this from time to time.*
- Discussion of Benewah County's December meeting with Mary Farnsworth and Faye Krueger. Glen related that Bonner County is concerned about whether the FS adequately coordinated with local governments on the forest plan, but not sure there is a remedy. The group had a long discussion about the value of having county commissioners at the collaborative table so there is active engagement throughout project development with the FS.

Meeting schedule for 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)

October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom Canyon Scoping meeting 10/22 • Jasper Mountain Scoping meeting (late October/early November) • Invite Shoshone commissioners and others to be involved in Buckskin Saddle (Don Childress (TU); Larry Yergler; Chad Hudson's contacts; Kajsa van Reit; Sandy Podsaid, Shoshone County Commissioners) • October field trip for Hughes Creek
November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom Canyon scoping comments due (Nov 9) • Jasper Mountain scoping notice released • Treasured Landscapes prescribed fire project - FS consultation with Tribes
December 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jasper Mountain scoping comments due mid-Dec (early) • Treasured Landscapes Rec – draft EA release first week of Dec • Bottom Canyon meeting Dec 8 – CDA district and PFC Forest Projects Committee
January/February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jasper Mountain decision – mid-February • Treasured Landscapes Rec EA comment deadline early Jan (then FS will consult with USFWS) • PFC would like to have a focused discussion about Bottom Canyon engagement moving forward, using the NEPA Roadmap worksheet • Final Forest Plan released • Treasured Landscapes Recreation EA (?)
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hughes Creek to be considered in March/April FS meeting re FY16 program of work
Summer 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June – PFC/FS field trip to Buckskin Saddle • Jasper Mountain implementation
Fall 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFC engage in developing purpose & need for Buckskin Saddle • Bottom Canyon Decision
January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom Canyon contract
Summer 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom Canyon implementation