

Panhandle Forest Collaborative Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
1st floor of the County Administration Building, 1500 Hwy 2, Sandpoint

Members: John Finney, Phil Hough, Glen Bailey, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Mike Petersen, Brad Smith

Partners/Guests: Cary Kelly, Sid Smith, Karen Roetter

Forest Service: Ryan Foote

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

1. Greetings and Opening

- All introduced themselves
- 1/14/15 meeting minutes approved unanimously

2. Public Comment - none

3. Policy Updates (delegation staff comments)

- Sid Smith raised the issue of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and said that they are looking for solutions. SRS is an issue that divides rural and urban areas. Senator Risch has cosponsored a bill to reauthorize SRS; working to find an offset; it's a tough sell for urban legislators.
- Congress is grappling with multiple issues, including Recreation Enhancement Act Reauthorization and Payment In Lieu of Taxes reauthorization.
- The delegation has talked with Phil Hough about coordinating a meeting on Scotchman Peak Wilderness
- Recognition that there needs to be a change in fire funding; Senator McCain has been a hurdle
- ACTION: the PFC is interested in having an opportunity to meet with Mark Haggerty of Headwaters with regard to the SRS issue.

4. Report on Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership Workshop

- Great networking opportunity. In past years, there has been little to report in terms of on-the-ground accomplishments, but now many of the collaboratives are getting work done.
- Decision-makers attended so that helps that they could hear the issues and concerns of collaboratives.

5. Website – The group identified the following changes to the site

- Remove “you do not have access” from the bottom of the pages if possible
- Change “participant list” tab to “contact us”

- Glen Bailey email update: gbailey@bonnercountyid.gov
- Left justify everything
- Use format: “gbailey at bonnercountyid.gov” to protect against web crawlers
- Link to member organizations w/hyperlink where possible
- Bottom Canyon site (and others): For information from the U.S. Forest Service about the Bottom Canyon project, ~~on the site~~ please visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=42483>. (Use same format for other projects.)
- For information from the U.S. Forest Service about the Jasper Mountain project, please visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45020>.
- *Note – there aren't any FS web sites posted for the other projects.*

6. Statements of Cooperation

- **ACTION:** Karen will send draft language to Mike so he can contact Ken, Kajsia and Tom to ask if they'll develop statements of cooperation.
- **ACTION:** Karen will remind John Finney about preparing one for the Sandpoint Winter Riders.
- **ACTION:** Karen will email the FS (Erick, Ryan) about the IPNF considering a statement of cooperation.

7. Updates to Protocols language - unanimously approved

8. Projects & the Forest Plan – updates and next steps (FOR ALL PROJECTS: please refer to project tracking spreadsheet)

- **5 year action plan** – Ryan Foote reported that the IPNF is working through an update process following the 2012 development of it. Several PFC members participated in the first 5YAP process, including Mike Petersen, Bob Boeh, and Liz Johnson-Gebhardt. In early March, the IPNF met with the county commissioners about the approach. Each ranger is meeting with the counties. Eventually they'll provide maps and give people markers to indicate important areas. The intent is to complete the revision in July. The plan is for the IPNF to first meet with the counties, then the collaboratives. Due to concern from the Shoshone and Benewah County commissioners about weighting, the IPNF is revisiting the weighting criteria. Through this process, the IPNF is trying to identify projects that fit into the 2014 Farm Bill categorical exclusion authority.
- **Bottom Canyon**
 - The Bottom Canyon environmental analysis is being written in 1st half of March; the draft should be done March 15 or so. The IPNF will share sections of the EA with the PFC for review. This is a very fast timeline for development of an EA. A tentative

schedule was developed: PFC Forest Projects Committee review draft by 3/18/15, then provide comments to Ryan by 3/24. Ryan and Mike will coordinate on this schedule if it needs to be adapted.

- The PFC and the CDA District are also very interested in talking about monitoring for Bottom Canyon.
- A letter from Chief Tom Tidwell mentioned Bottom Canyon!

- **Jasper Mountain**

- A public meeting is scheduled for tonight (3/11/15) to provide updates to interested public. The project is about one month behind schedule.
- **ACTION:** Liz will get the updated schedule at the meeting.

- **Buckskin Saddle**

- Erick Walker provided a map to Bob Boeh. No other updates.

- **Hughes Creek**

- **Granite Reeder**

- Potential field trip being set up

- **Potter's Wheel**

- New project on CDA district, which Mike Petersen is getting involved in.

9. Policy Discussion

- General discussion about different approaches to address the challenging forest management issues of environmental analysis efficiencies, how to upscale to treatments at larger landscape level, the need to have clarity on all sides in order to build in certainty.
- Sawtooth National Recreation Area – President Obama gave Congressman Mike Simpson six months to resolve issues around Boulder-White Clouds (national recreation area vs. monument).

Meeting schedule for 2015

- May 13, 2015 (2nd Wednesday)
- July 8, 2015 (2nd Wednesday)
- September 9, 2015 (2nd Wednesday)
- November 4, 2015 (1st Wednesday)