

B-D Working Group
 Thursday, April 16, 2015, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 Butte-Silverbow Archives
 Meeting Minutes

Meeting objective:

- Identify next steps for Boulder and Selway Meadows and 5 Year Action Planning/Program of Work

Present: Paul Olson, Tom Rice, Nathan Korb, Maureen Connor, Leonard Wortman, Ciche Pitcher, Dave Schulz, Rick Sandru

Committee Members: Rick Franke, Bob Zimmer

Forest Service: Melany Glossa, Dave Sabo, Rob Gump (Acting Dillon District Ranger)

Congressional Staff: Erik Nylund, Spenser Merwin, Jeremy Carpenter

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

ACTION ITEMS

Karen DiBari, Dave Schulz, Tony Colter	The BDWG members approved the language in the letter to the Montana Congressional delegation. Karen DiBari will work with Dave Schulz and Tony Colter to send it.
Karen DiBari	Work with the steering committee to more clearly articulate role of the BDWG and how it can work with the BDNF.
Melany Glossa	The BDWG asked Melany to calculate what resources (\$) would be needed for the BDNF to have two full interdisciplinary teams.
Melany Glossa	The BDWG asked the BDNF to provide a break-down of the figure of 14,243 mbf timber volume sold so the group has a better sense of where that is coming from (sawlogs, firewood, pulp, etc.)
Nathan Kolb	Follow up on changes in the BDNF budget over time in terms of researching historical BDNF organizational structure charts, budget figures.
Selway Meadows Cmte	Selway Meadows Committee meeting planned with the BDNF Forest Leadership Team in Dillon on May 5.
Karen DiBari	Forward the Boulder Lowlands/landscape vision list to Pete Nelson to integrate into the vision document he's working on.
Dave Sabo	Talk with Bruce Higgins and forward information about ID team plans.

1. Welcome, introductions and approve minutes

- March minutes were approved unanimously with two changes: 1) Regarding Boulder Lowlands the following statement was removed: *The BDNF will complete the archaeological surveys and provide all information previously collected.* 2) Regarding Selway Meadows, statement about timber sale timing changed to: *NEPA will be initiated in FY17 for timber sale*

2. No public comment.

3. Updates/ Announcements

- Discussion about the passage of a two year authorization for Secure Rural Schools. The group was pleased to hear this news, particularly the county commissioners. Discussion of the need for a longer term fix.
- U.S. House Committee hearing scheduled for April 23, 2015 on the “Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires...”
- Melany Glossa – Congressional and Washington Office tour
 - Most questions in Washington were about production; talked a lot about 5 year timber expectations; BDNF is working toward achieving 20-25 MBF production
 - Signed East Deerlodge; will generate 20 MBF in timber production; 12 culverts repaired or removed; 22 miles road decommissioned (and some other targets); Melany suggested inviting someone from the East Deerlodge collaborative to share lessons learned; expect litigation on project.
 - May 1 is the target for a draft decision on Flint Foothills. Sale planned for next year.
 - Other upcoming projects:
 - Trapper Creek fuels reduction
 - Fleecer – decision next year
 - Pintler Face – starting field work this summer
 - Access is a huge challenge on the BDNF; easements are a problem because new landowners add gates and the FS doesn’t have the lawyers or other capacity to research and follow up on easement violations, rights of way
 - Melany likes the new objections process because it enables the FS to respond to a concern pre-decision

4. Policy Updates

- To address the problem of fire suppression diverting most of the USFS budget: Senators Tester and Daines are co-sponsoring a bill to establish forest and fire fund, there’s an administrative budget request, and there’s an effort to solve the problem in the appropriations request as well.
- Senator Daines held a meeting on April 10 to talk about separating fire and forest funding.
- Congressman Zinke held a forestry reform roundtable on April 2 in Missoula with the timber industry and county commissioners.
- The delegation is working on a joint letter to Chief Tidwell, asking for an accounting of the challenges with implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill.
- **DECISION AND ACTION:** The BDWG members approved the language in the letter to the Montana Congressional delegation. Karen DiBari will work with Dave Schulz and Tony Colter to send it.

5. 5 year action planning, review of 3 year budget/project plan

- Melany Glossa shared the BDNF’s “by the numbers” report to illustrate the breadth of work that is being done on the forest (see attached).
- Farm Bill landscapes and Forest Service large-scale vegetation projects: Melany provided a map which overlays the BDNF’s upcoming projects over the Farm Bill landscapes (see attached).
- The group discussed the 5 year action planning matrix that was developed on the Idaho Panhandle. Melany suggested that this could be used/tweaked on the BDNF, but it needs to be recognized that there are projects in the pipeline already.
- Melany Glossa and Rob Gump said they’re not clear what role the BDWG is playing or wants to play in how it interacts with the BDNF.

- ACTION: Karen DiBari will work with the steering committee to more clearly articulate role of the group.
 - ACTION: The BDWG asked Melany to calculate what resources (\$) would be needed for the BDNF to have two full interdisciplinary teams.
 - ACTION: The BDWG asked the BDNF to provide a break-down of the figure of 14,243 mbf timber volume sold so the group has a better sense of where that is coming from (sawlogs, firewood, pulp, etc.)
6. Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest budget discussion
- Budget: Melany provided a graph showing change in the BDNF budget over the last ten years (see attached).
 - ACTION: Nathan Kolb will follow up on changes in the BDNF budget over time in terms of researching historical BDNF organizational structure charts, budget figures.
7. Selway Meadows
- Committee discussed a vision statement drafted by Rick Franke.
 - ACTION: Selway Meadows Committee meeting planned with the BDNF Forest Leadership Team in Dillon on May 5.
8. Boulder Lowlands
- Those committee members present (Leonard Wortman, Maureen Connor) worked with Dave Sabo to develop a list of points describing the current condition and the vision for the BL landscape.
 - ACTION: Karen DiBari will forward this list to Pete Nelson to integrate into the vision document he's working on.
 - Melany Glossa reported that there had been some challenges with agreeing on the budget required to complete planning for the project. Those issues have been resolved and the interdisciplinary team will be on the BDNF the week of May 18. A public meeting may be scheduled that week as well.
 - Melany still plans to sign the decision memo for the project by the end of September 2015.
 - Paperwork for the funding from the State of Montana is in process.
 - ACTION: Dave Sabo will be talking with Bruce Higgins and will forward information about plans as soon as he learns more.
9. Housekeeping items: Joe Willauer and Sam Samson have both resigned.
10. Other Announcements
- Maureen Connor reported that Senator Pat Kinnell (Darby) told her he's happy to hear about the state funding supporting the BDWG; is interested in attending a field trip.
 - Dave Sabo reported that Shari Ford would be starting the week of April 20 as the Acting Deputy Supervisor of the BDNF.
 - Dave Schulz reported that he will be speaking at the State Fire Wardens Convention in Bozeman the coming weekend on maintaining volunteerism in public safety.
11. Meeting adjourned.