

B-D Working Group
Draft Minutes
Tuesday, June 9, 2015
Butte-Silverbow Archives

BDWG Members: Tony Colter, Ciche Pitcher, Peter Nelson, Paul Olson, Rick Sandru, Leonard Wortman, Maureen Connor, Mark Thompson, Tom Rice

Guests: Erik Nylund, Dylan Klapmeier

Forest Service: Melany Glossa

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

ACTIONS:

- Karen DiBari will share with Pete Nelson the list of requirements for reporting to the State of Montana on BDWG engagement in Boulder Lowlands.
 - Karen DiBari will circulate the Selway Meadows and Boulder Lowlands vision statements with the group.
 - Melany Glossa will ask Charlene Bucha to make a presentation at the July meeting about East Deerlodge and Flint Foothills, and to share the one-pager and the web link about East Deerlodge.
 - Karen will set up a doodle poll for a conference call between the BDWG steering committee and the BDNF on Boulder Lowlands.
1. Tony Colter opened the meeting. May meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
 2. No public comment.
 3. Updates/ Announcements – Peri Suenram is leaving the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF) and will be working for the Washington Office starting June 14th. Melany Glossa has made an offer to a strong candidate for deputy supervisor.
 4. Policy Updates – Congressman Zinke has introduced a new bill about forest management that supports streamlined review for collaboratively developed projects. Senator Daines issued a statement in support of the elements of the bill; appreciates collaboratives like the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group (BDWG) and wants their input on forest reform. Erik Nylund referenced a letter that is circulating from a variety of interests, outlining important forest reform components. Congress is focused on fire borrowing; markup is planned on Interior appropriations next week.
 5. BDNF out-year planning, East Deerlodge, follow up on “By the Numbers”, and ID team expense
 - Melany Glossa offered to arrange to have a presentation about the East Deerlodge project at the July meeting (volume sawlogs, post and pole, firewood, etc.); this is in response to BDWG member questions. The BDNF has received a notice of intent to sue on the East Deerlodge project; lawsuit would be likely to be filed in August. Melany Glossa asked if the BDWG might consider submitting a letter of support for the project. She has a one-page briefing paper about project objectives that she will share. The BDNF will hear back from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by July 11 about lynx

consultation. The project is 40,000 acres. Project website:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=25807>

- Discussion about “By the Numbers” and how some of the measurements are confusing and not “apple to apple” comparisons (for example, ccf or centum (100) cubic feet vs. mbf)
 - Melany Glossa raised the issue of the need and opportunity for “citizen science” information gathering to help with adaptive management on the BDNF.
 - Group reviewed the outyear plan (see attached) and Melany Glossa stated she is asking her Forest Leadership Team to develop a long-range restoration/vegetation project plan with clear filters/criteria. Her target is to have the BDNF 5YAP complete by October 2015 so that the Pintler Face project can be run through the filters.
 - Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Cost: Melany Glossa reported that the contract with TEAMS for the Boulder Lowlands categorical exclusion is \$260,000. It costs approximately \$1 million annually to support an ID Team on the BDNF.
6. Report on IRR meeting – BDWG members who participated in the meeting with Courtney Schultz, Peri Suenram and Cheri Ford about the integrated resource restoration budgeting process (IRR) shared the following:
- Primary value of IRR on most forests is added flexibility; this hasn’t been the case on the BDNF due to the size of the forest’s budget
 - IRR is not new money but is a repackaging of existing resources
 - In Region 1, decision-making about how to use IRR is done from the “bottom up” at the forest level. In Region 4, projects compete regionally for IRR funds.
 - Most of the IRR money has gone into Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects
 - On the BDNF, 26-31% of the budget is in IRR (budget line item is NFRR)
 - IRR forests have to report on various performance measures; stream restoration is an important piece of that for the BDNF; there are 292 watersheds on the forest so this is “low hanging fruit”
 - If a forest doesn’t meet a target one year, it is added to the target # for the following year; this is a big problem because then a forest is continually in the hole and forests are penalized in their budgets for not making targets
 - In Region 1, road funds are tied to timber funds and they go up and down together
7. BDWG Roles—updated draft approved
8. Boulder Lowlands update and identification of next steps
- Scoping comments – group discussed whether the BDWG should develop scoping comments or not. Did not reach agreement on this.
 - Group agreed to request a conference call with the BDWG steering committee, Melany Glossa, Dave Sabo and Bruce Higgins to get more information about Boulder Lowlands, share concerns about the collaborative process and litigation risk. Desire of the BDWG is for this project to be a “win” but of course the project needs to be done right.
 - Public meeting for Boulder July 16 – those present agreed to work with the BDNF to support more public discussion about scoping comments at the regularly scheduled July 16 BDWG meeting.
9. Selway Meadows update and identification of next steps
- Report from committee: 1 or 2 headgates are being designed by the NRCS
 - There are limits on what can be done due to rain

- Tom Rice spoke with the permittee and things are being worked out between the different parties
- ACTION: circulate the Selway vision document and add to agenda to make a decision on it at the next meeting

10. Membership issues tabled until next meeting

- Recent resignations: Chris Marchion, Sam Samson, Joe Willauer
- Change in employment of Rick Franke, committee member

11. Meeting adjourned

Upcoming Meeting Dates

(Please mark your calendars!)

- July 16, 2015
- August 20, 2015
- September 17, 2015
- October 15, 2015
- November 19, 2015
- December 17, 2015

DRAFT