

**B-D Working Group  
Draft Minutes  
Tuesday, July 16, 2015  
Butte-Silverbow Archives**

**BDWG Members:** Tony Colter, Paul Olson, Maureen Connor, Mark Thompson, Nathan Korb, Dave Schulz,

**Guests:** Erik Nylund, Bryan Lorengo, Spenser Merwin, Jeremy Carpenter

**Forest Service:** Melany Glossa, Dave Sabo, Charlene Buchas, Scot Shuler, Jim Brammer

**Facilitator:** Karen DiBari

**ACTIONS**

- Share letter RE discounting collaborative with group (Karen)
- Schedule BDWG Steering Cmte meeting (Karen)
- Jeremy Carpenter will send out summary of bill to BDWG
- Check with Dave Sabo to make sure all BDWG participants were added to the forest-wide communications list (Karen)
- East Deerlodge Valley Landscape project:
  - Charlene will share list of EDVL collaborative participants to enable BDWG members to ask questions
  - Karen will send link to the Forest Service site on EDVL
  - Tony Colter will research options for comment on EDVL and report back
  - Karen will put on August 20 agenda
- Alex Dunn will come to next meeting and present about Pintler Face
- Selway Meadows:
  - FS staff will review draft Selway Meadows objectives
  - Committee will flesh out vision with areas, objectives, timeline as well as articulate key questions and concerns

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome, introductions and approve minutes
  - Minutes approved unanimously
2. Public comment
  - No public comment
3. Updates/ Announcements
  - New deputy: Scott Snelson
    - From Minnesota – Superior DR
    - Prior to that on White Mountain and Tongass
  - Action Item: Share letter RE discounting collaborative with group
  - Dave Schulz: Spoke with Bob Harrington about bill that was passed in Montana state legislature that includes collaboratives. (NEED MORE INFORMATION)
    - Spoke with Dave because he is the president of Montana Association of Counties (MACO)

**2015 Meeting Dates (generally  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month):**

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

- Committee established – hiring a coordinator
  1. John Prinkki – Carbon County
  2. Greg Chilcolt – Ravalli County
  3. \$240,000/year allocation
  4. Dave plans to do some follow up to get a better sense of the legislation
- Dave participated in National Association of Counties meeting in Charlotte, NC last month.
  - He is on a committee associated with forests.
- Karen thanked the BDWG for supporting the reauthorization of the NFF by submitting a letter.
- Tony met with Robert Bonney and the Governor last week with some other timber representatives
  - Discussed fire borrowing
  - In the meeting, Tony Colter made a plug for the BDNF and that the policy for punishing a forest for not meeting timber target is not working and is hurting local communities and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge.
  - Lots of discussion around collaboration

#### 4. Policy Updates

- Still working on Wildfire Disaster Funding Act
  - Have a start in the appropriation bill with an end to fire borrowing
  - Senator Tester met with Vilsack about Farm Bill implementation; funding is a big problem - the “elephant in the room.”
  - Planning on introducing the Foresters Jobs and Recreation Act
  - All of delegation supports efforts to reduce litigation
- Senator Daines visited the 10-mile watershed in Helena with Bill Avery (Helena Forest Supervisor). Then they went to the Frenchtown Face project on the Lolo NF
  - Senator Barasso’s bill – having a hearing today
  - Senator Daines hasn’t taken a position yet
  - Senator Tester offered any help he can provide with regards to NFF’s reauthorization
- Land and Water Conservation Fund – up for reauthorization and funding
  - Senator Daines and Tester supportive and working on it
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
  - Question about funding
  - President’s budget includes a request for additional funding for existing projects and a new round of projects
- Congressman Zinke – Forest Resiliency Act passed in the House
  - Action item: Jeremy Carpenter will send out summary of bill to BDWG

#### 5. Boulder Lowlands update and identification of next steps

- 20 page letter came in at very end of comment period for Boulder Lowlands from Sarah Jane Johnson, Native Ecosystems Council
- Farm Bill – 5 categorical exclusions have been signed nationally
- Jasper Mountain – 2500 acres treatment on ID Panhandle NF, no litigation
- Boulder Lowlands summary of activity
  - May – interdisciplinary team came and did field work
  - May 20 – open house in Butte, about 12 people participated
    - Several local residents were very supportive and excited about reducing fuel loads
    - Revised the proposed action

- June 5 – sent out an update
- Commenters included:
  - Sun Mountain Lumber
  - Alliance for Wild Rockies
  - Local property owners
  - Capital Trail Vehicles Association (Helena)
  - Peter Nelson, Defenders of Wildlife
  - Native Ecosystem Council (Sarah Jane Johnson)
  - Phone call with Maureen, Tony, Peter and BDNF about from comments from Peter.
- Sarah Jane Johnson’s comments focused greatly on forest plan and also connections between Yellowstone. Spoke about cumulative impacts of B-L, Ten Mile project on Helena NF, and East Deerlodge
- Project still on track for a decision memo in September
  - In a CE there is no administrative review and no objections process – would go straight to litigation
- There hasn’t been litigation on any of the CEs so far.
  - General comments about new objections process – Forest Service likes the new process a lot.
    - Action Item – Karen will ask Dave Sabo if the full BDWG contact list was added to the forest-wide communications list

#### 6. East Deerlodge lessons

- See two pager about project (attached)
- 9 year project
- Contracted out NEPA
- Project done under transition between old and new forest plans
- 2 objections
  - Sarah Jane Johnson
  - Michael Garrity
  - Objections had names of other forests in them and disallowed a large number of contents
  - May 11 – Notice of Intent (NOI) to sue under the Endangered Species Act
  - BDNF has been coordinating with USFWS to respond
- Moving forward with timber sales
- Have grant funding for aquatic organisms issues
- Bringing in an Americorps group this August
- Restoration work will likely be done
- No changes due to grizzly bears
- Weed treatment big part of the project
  - Have received \$90K over the last 9 years for weed treatments and have \$25K for FY15 and 16
- Link to EDLV project docs: <http://tinyurl.com/odaabsh>
- Letter from BDWG
  - Group discussed potentially writing a letter or statement of support for the EDLV project based on it being a project that involved many stakeholders
  - Action Item: Charlene will share list of EDVL collaborative participants to enable BDWG members to ask questions
  - Action Item: Tony will research options for comment and report back
  - Action Item: Karen will put on August 20 agenda

## 7. Pintler Face

- Have identified area boundaries
- No purpose and need yet
- General identification of timber acres, road decommissions, wildlife habitat, aspen regeneration
- BDWG interested in working on this
  - Comment: need to engage Big Hole Watershed committee
  - Could boundaries be broadened to include larger area?
  - BDWG members took a field trip in July 2013 and follow meeting at Wise River District Office; A lot of stream work needed and high road density
  - Could perhaps engage Chris Marchion due to hunting value
  - Need to frame up what BDWG engagement would look like
  - Desire for sideboards from FS
- Suggestion that Douglas Fir forests need attention
- May need another BDWG committee
- Action Item: Alex Dunn will come to next meeting and present about project

## 8. Selway Meadows update and identification of next steps

- Tom Rice has been talking with Roger Peters (current permittee) and he wants to get involved
- Concerns about losing family friendly fishing opportunities
- Paul is developing a list of issues
- Jim: have evaluated two barrier locations
  - One below the base of the meadows
  - The second ½ mile below that
- Need to put up a 7' drop at barriers
- Wouldn't have substantial impact on brook trout fisheries; FWP could stock hybrids during transition
- Permittee (Roger Peters) is doing an excellent job and meeting standards for grazing
  - Standards will change with west slope cutthroat trout
- Concern: would reestablishment of cut throat trout reduce multiple use
  - Important part of process to identify concerns and talk about them as the project is designed
  - Why not timber first, fish boundaries later?
    - BDNF doesn't have money for timber, but does have money for fish projects
- Action Item: FS review draft Selway Meadows objectives
- Action Item: After FS review, committee will flesh out vision with areas, objectives, timeline as well as articulate key questions and concerns

## 9. Gravelly Landscape Restoration update

- Two field trips planned
- Mid-July had a field trip to Greenhorn Creek to see what fish are left after rotenone
  - Discussed treatment recommendations and effectiveness
  - Prescribed burn
  - Westslope Cutthroat Trout
- August – managing conifer encroachment in grasslands
  - Hoping to work with BDNF specialists to develop a monitoring effort and frontload NEPA
    - Amount of sediment produced by roads

- Aspen location
- Horizontal cover for lynx

10. Headwater Timber Report Numbers (<http://headwaterseconomics.org/dataviz/national-forests-timber-cut-sold>)

- They are not correct for BDNF
  - Problem with FS databases for timber tracking
  - There is value of timber that is not reflected in this database

11. Review of IPNF integrated restoration criteria

- Discussion about need to maintain “healthy” areas on the forest and not just those that are the most in need of restoration
- Big question: what are restoration priorities on forest?
  - For preliminary screens
- Develop plan for different funding levels
- BDNF prioritizes projects based on timber primarily because they haven’t been able to reach timber targets.

12. Membership – **Tabled till next meeting**

- Suggestions for filling seats:
  - Charlie O’Leary (Backcountry Horsemen)
  - Joe Willauer (fishing guide)
  - Chris Marchion (wildlife)
  - Barb Cestero (conservation)
  - Rick Franke (timber) – *was serving as a committee member previously*