

Panhandle Forest Collaborative Meeting Record  
Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> floor of the County Administration Building, 1500 Hwy 2, Sandpoint

**Members:** John Finney, Phil Hough, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Mike Petersen, Brad Smith, Bob Boeh, Laura Wolf

**Partners/Guests:** Judy Morbeck, Sid Smith, Karen Roetter

**Forest Service:** Erick Walker

**Facilitator:** Karen DiBari

**Please note updated meeting dates:**

- **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (not September 9)**
  - **Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (not November 4)**
1. Greetings and Opening
    - All introduced themselves
  2. Reviewed the agenda and last meetings minutes
    - Unanimous approval of the minutes with the correction of two misspellings
  3. Public Comment
    - There was no public comment.
    - The group decided not to advertise committee meetings but to start promoting full PFC meetings through announcements to local media outlets – the NFF will take responsibility for this.
  4. Policy Updates
    - Karen Roetter reported they are cautiously optimistic about fires funded by FEMA
    - Fire transfer may start any day now
    - NFF reauthorization – the PFC agreed to submit a letter of support for the NFF’s reauthorization.
  5. Evergreen Magazine articles
    - Action Item: Karen will send around the link to the series of articles
    - Mary Farnsworth, Chad Hudson, Mike Petersen, Phil Hough, Bob Boeh, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt and others were interviewed
    - The articles offer a lot of commentary on the value of collaboration and also the successful process that led to development of the PFC’s Bottom Canyon alternative.
  6. Projects– updates and next steps

- Integrated Resource Restoration – Several people met with researcher Courtney Schultz from Colorado State about IRR; ACTION ITEM: Karen will send around the ppt presentation; general discussion that the IRR pilot is working well.
- 5 year action plan – there is not much to report since March meeting
  - Derailed by a FOIA from Benewah County (September 9 FOIAs) and on hold until October
  - ACTION: PFC members will review the 5 year action plan to develop thoughts, then identify who could participate in a larger meeting with the Forest
- Bob met with David Dreschel of Idaho Dept of Lands about Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)
  - Gives more opportunity than stewardship authorities
  - Idaho legislature adopted a resolution about GNA
- Bottom Canyon
  - July 15 meeting of the Forest Projects Committee with the district staff to go over comments/objections: 9 – 11 a.m. at the Fernan DO
  - Final decision expected in late July
  - Sales likely in 2016
    - If there is litigation then the PFC needs to think about how to intervene
- Jasper Mountain
  - Decision signed in May
  - Erick Walker said he thinks community at large is supportive of project
  - Bottom canyon was a great foundation
  - Forest Service is currently doing layout work.
    - Paul Sieracki identified several Goshawk nests and the Forest Service is taking action to avoid those areas
    - Sale will likely be a stewardship contract to improve transportation network (no new roads)
  - Offer and award
    - Sale in FY16 (April – June)
    - May be done in two sales
    - Estimate slightly less than 13 MBF
  - Bob Boeh: will be helpful to get sale going sooner (not next year) for bank loans etc. because timber companies are always asked about the volume they have under contract.
  - Lessons learned – Jasper Mountain
    - Erick Walker: Categorical Exclusions need to be in planned program of work because they take a lot of staff resources (Jasper Mountain was an “add on”)
    - The planning, National Forest Management Act side of things is still important and required
  - Buckskin Saddle
    - AJ, Dave Cobb, Erick, Bob, and Brad are meeting July 9 to look at schedule
    - Will try to get info to bring back to the PFC

- Hughes Creek
  - Sean Stash, Army corps, Kalispell Tribe (Erick Bennston), Apex (Jim Woodward) had a field trip on July 7th
  - Plan to dewater channel “reroute”; have funding from Kalispell Tribe and US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - Decision expected next year by Sept. 30, 2016
- Granite Reeder
  - Still looking for funding; it’s not looking good
  - Talking about getting together a conceptual design for the sewer system to help raise money
  - Liz will look into Equinox as a possibility for the design; Brad suggested crowd funding; the two of them will work together
- Potter’s Wheel
  - Located in the North Fork of CDA, in Shoshone and Kootenai Counties
  - Size is about 3 times as big as Bottom Canyon
  - Completed LIDAR flights
  - Laura, Kajsa, Tom Crimmins, and Mike will be involved
  - Shoshone County is restarting their collaborative
  - Mike called Leslee Stanley, Shoshone County about the PFC working in conjunction with the Shoshone Collaborative on Potter’s Wheel
  - Mike sent a note to Ken Till as well about getting involved
  - Potter’s Wheel was originally called Trailing Tepee
- Lightning Creek
  - CE on prescribed fire is in consultation
  - Decision likely in Sept/Oct
  - Lots of activity this summer: Beetop Roundtop trail building (new public access from Spring Creek), large woody debris installation in Lightning Creek, beginnings of warming hut design (construction planned next summer), and continued weed treatments
- Recreation
  - 2016 funding available for winter travel planning but Erick wasn’t sure at what level
  - Looking at proposal going to Resource Advisory Committee
  - Forest will submit requests for two years of funding
  - Oct. 1 is when process would start
  - Action Item: Put on September agenda for Erick to report on process

7. Meeting adjourned.