

Draft Panhandle Forest Collaborative Meeting Record

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Bonner County Administration Building, Sandpoint

Members present: Glen Bailey, Bob Boeh, John Finney, Britta Mireley, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Steve Klatt, Mike Petersen, Jeff Connolly, Brad Smith

Forest Service/Partners/Guests present: Cait Reeves, Ryan Foote, Alan Harper, Tim Knight, Erick Walker, Anna Broers, Heather Kulp, Brady Bender, Michael Reitman, Han Ding

Facilitator: Emily Olsen

Meeting Objectives

- Discuss the upcoming Tower Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project monitoring
- Share additional project updates
- Discuss inclusiveness and collaborative effectiveness with representatives from the Harvard Negotiation & Mediation Clinical Program
- Celebrate a successful year!

Approval of Minutes

- The September 14th meeting record was *not* approved during the meeting. Members are requested to fill out this Doodle poll after they have reviewed the minutes:
<http://doodle.com/poll/kyr8ne7n7iszrnm>.

Announcements

- Brad Smith, John Finney, and Glen Bailey participated in the Selkirk Caribou International Technical Work Group stakeholder update. Representatives from tribes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fish and Game, and other entities participate in the group, which meets periodically.
- Liz Johnson-Gebhardt spoke on a panel about “Facilitating Forest Restoration through Collaborative Processes” at the Western Governors’ Association Forest Management Initiative workshop in Boise. You can view a recording of Liz’s excellent presentation [online](#).
- Glen Bailey spoke on a panel at the Montana Counties Forest Summit in Missoula to discuss “Collaboration, is it worth the time?” Montana county commissioners expressed gratitude to Glen for attending and sharing the PFC’s story.

Policy Updates from Legislative Staff - *N/A – Legislative staff were not present during the meeting*

Public Comment - *None*

Revisit Protocols and Discuss Voting Status

- PFC members discussed the PFC protocols section on Forest Service participants. To clarify the role of other federal agency participants (e.g., Natural Resource Conservation Service and others), members decided to broaden the “Forest Service Partners” category to “Federal Partners” so that it’s inclusive of all federal agency participants.
- Members also voted to strike the last three bullets in the category so that the language would be broad enough to apply to responsibilities and expectations for the Forest Service and other federal agency participants.

- *Attachment: Updated Code of Conduct*

Tower Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project Monitoring Update

- Anna Broers, graduate student currently working with Pete Robichaud (Rocky Mountain Research Station) through support from the Panhandle Forest Collaborative's technical assistance grant funds, provided an update on her Tower Fire Salvage & Reforestation Project monitoring and fieldwork. Using remote sensing imagery, burn severity and salvage sale maps, and fieldwork to monitor soil disturbance, Anna and the RMRS team are analyzing the effects of post-fire salvage logging on hillslope erosion and stream sedimentation.
- *Attachment: Anna's presentation, "Effects of Disturbance from Salvage Logging on Hillslope Erosion and Stream Sedimentation."*
- **Action Items:**
 - Anna and Pete will produce a final report for the PFC. PFC members requested that Anna include management-related recommendations that the PFC can incorporate into future comments and letters. Members would also like to see a comparison of erosion between logged (treated) areas and untreated areas if possible.
 - Anna will share a draft report in early 2017 so that the PFC can provide feedback before she finalizes the report.

Tower Project – Amicus Brief Recap and Discussion

- Bob Boeh recapped the process the PFC followed to submit an amicus curiae brief in support of the Tower Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project.
- Members discussed the process; even though the PFC had to reach agreement quickly, members felt that the process went well. Brad reported that the process was significant for him because it was the first time that the Idaho Conservation League has submitted an amicus brief.
- The Kootenai Tribe also filed an amicus brief, for both the Tower and Grizzly projects.
- Bob reported that the judge allowed work to continue; the logging is nearly complete.

Five-Year Action Plan Update

- Mike Petersen shared updates from the Five-Year Action Planning (5YAP) process. The Idaho Panhandle National Forest will convene the 5YAP group on December 13th in Coeur d'Alene. Several PFC members will attend and represent the group.
- **Action items:**
 - Liz will update the PFC's previous work plan letter and send it to Mary Farnsworth on behalf of the PFC. The goal will be to agree on a process (ideally a work plan) that specifies at least one project for collaborative engagement in 2017 and outlines how the PFC and Forest Service will work together.
 - PFC Forest Projects Committee members will consider meeting as a committee following the December 13th 5YAP meeting to discuss collaborative projects and other business.

Winter Warming Hut Dedication Recap

- John Finney shared good news from the winter warming hut dedication that was held in October. John reported that 30-40 people attended, including some of the students who designed and built the warming hut.
- Erick Walker lauded John (and the Sandpoint Winter Riders) and Bob (and Idaho Forest Group) for their contributions to the project, a strong partnership among several entities.

Project Timeline & Status Updates

- **Bottom Canyon** –Dan Scaife reported that the district is trying to get the roadwork completed. They have a new engineer on staff, who should be able to add capacity to the project. The Lone Cabin sale (which will be a stewardship sale) is being offered in 2017.

- **Buckskin Saddle** –
 - Ed Koberstein recently sent project data to Bob and Brad (thanks to Ed); the IPNF is still waiting on insect and disease data – additional stand exams will likely be conducted next summer (2017).
 - IPNF staff reported that they are aiming to develop the proposed action in FY18. PFC members asked the IPNF to let the group know about resource needs, such as mapping, that could help support future collaboration.
 - **Action item:** Emily will coordinate with the PFC and Forest Service to schedule a field trip to the Buckskin Saddle project site during the 2017 field season (likely June).
- **Potter’s Wheel** – Project initiation letter will go out soon. The issues related to elk security continue to be challenging. The IPNF anticipates that scoping still start in early 2017; the sale would potentially occur in FY2020. Mike Petersen reported that the Shoshone/Benewah Forest Health Collaborative is interested in the project, and will likely collaborate on it. Mike will keep the PFC in the loop as the project moves forward.
- **Hughes Creek** – LiDAR flown and piezometers are in thanks to great efforts from Priest Community Forest Connection, volunteers, tribe, state, and Forest Service. The partners are currently waiting to hear back about several grants. The funding prospects are encouraging.
- **Bunco Roush** – Though this project will come after Potter’s Wheel, it’s still on the docket. The IPNF has LiDAR data for the area, and is moving forward with the polygon.
- **Granite Reeder** – Tim Knight shared that the IPNF received a grant from the state of Idaho to complete the project. The IPNF is currently pulling a match together (they have until March 2017). The goal is to complete the project by November/December 2017.
- **Lightning Creek** – The project qualified for a federal highways grant. Crews completed the survey work and are now working on design components. The IPNF will need to complete NEPA and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The goal is to begin construction next season.
- **Hanna Flats:**
 - Forest Projects Committee members discussed their desire to meet a second time with Ed W. in the field to see more of the project area. The committee would like to capture recommendations to potentially be discus and approve during the January meeting.
 - Rangers reported that Hanna Flats is “in the mix” for the updated 5YAP but will be above/beyond the scope of work. The project will be additive in terms of value, but will still require from Forest Service staff capacity. Members asked for more information about how the project will be additive to the scope of work.
 - **Action item:** Erick will bring the question about how Hanna Flats is additive forward to Mary/Forest leadership and get back to the PFC about the details.
- **Winter Travel Planning:**
 - Erick confirmed that the IPNF is interested in the entire North Zone (not just the Selkirks). Erick also explained that the PFC and KVRI would be able to add value by helping with public involvement during the process. Emily noted that she talked with Patty Perry recently and KVRI is interested in convening a joint meeting to discuss the process once things start moving forward. Emily will coordinate with Brad, John, and Patty/KVRI once we learn more about the timeline.
- **Jasper Mountain** – Moving forward. Sale pre-advertisement is out. There will be two sales (stewardship and regular) with similar volume.

Miscellaneous Business

- Forest Service staff noted that Melissa Hendrickson, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, has been exploring the possibilities of LiDAR data now that many sections of the IPNF have been flown

and the Forest has the data to use on various projects. Members are interested in a presentation during the January meeting if possible.

- **Action item:** Emily will reach out to Melissa Hendrickson from the IPNF and invite her to share a LiDAR presentation during the January PFC meeting.

Discussion with the Harvard Negotiation & Mediation Clinical Program (HNMCP)

- Students from the HNMCP lead several small group discussions with PFC members and Forest Service staff to discuss collaborative group membership-related challenges and opportunities. NFF will share results/takeaways and potential action items from these discussions when after the students finish the project.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- The next PFC meeting will be **Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 at the Bonner County Administration Building (1st Floor Conference Room) from 12:00-3:30 PM.**
- Members decided to continue the same meeting schedule in 2017 (second Wednesday of each month). The 2017 meeting schedule is below. All meetings will be from 12:00-3:30 p.m.
 - **January 11th**
 - **March 8th**
 - **May 10th**
 - **July 12th**
 - **September 13th**
 - **November 8th**

RECAP: Meeting Action Items

- Anna and Pete will produce a final report from the Tower project monitoring activities for the PFC. PFC members requested that Anna include management-related recommendations that the PFC can incorporate into future comments and letters. Members would also like to see a comparison of erosion between logged (treated) areas and untreated areas if possible.
- Anna will share a draft report in early 2017 so that the PFC can provide feedback before she finalizes the report.
- Liz will update the PFC's previous work plan letter and send it to Mary Farnsworth on behalf of the PFC. The goal will be to agree on a process (ideally a work plan) that specifies at least one project for collaborative engagement in 2017 and outlines how the PFC and Forest Service will work together.
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