

Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group
April 21, 2016 Meeting Record
Butte Silverbow Archives, Butte

Members: Dave Schulz, Tony Colter, Darcie Warden, John Kountz, Leonard Wortman, Mark Thompson, Nathan Korb

Forest Service: Alex Dunn, Betsy Herrmann

Committee members & visitors: Nick Jose

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

1. Welcome and opening business

- Dave Schulz welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all introduced themselves and greeted each other.
- The members approved the March meeting record.

2. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

3. Announcements/Updates

- Karen DiBari reported on the “Critiques of Collaboration” peer learning session (webinar) that the NFF hosted in partnership with the Harvard Negotiation and Clinical Management Program.
- Betsy Herrmann shared that the State of Montana Forests in Focus has issued a request for proposals for projects on federal land. (This issue was discussed in further detail later in the meeting.)
- Dave Schulz mentioned that the counties are working with Matt Arno at the State of Montana to hold a Montana Forest Collaboration Summit this fall.
- Dave Schulz shared a comment from Rick Sandru (who was not at the meeting) regarding wanting to see more post and pole activity on projects.

Actions:

- Karen DiBari will send a link to the “Critiques of Collaboration” peer learning session as well as the information about how to participate in the Collaborative Restoration Workshop plenary sessions through online streaming.
- Karen DiBari will share the RFP on the State of Montana Forests in Focus funding.

4. Congressional Updates (*Spenser Merwin*)

- The Forest Service has said the agency is doubling the funding for Farm Bill projects.
- So far there hasn't been litigation on Farm Bill projects.
- The Chief is working to restore trails funding cuts, partially in response to concerns raised by Senators Daines and Tester.
- The Energy Modernization Bill, which included Land & Water Conservation Funding was passed by the Senate yesterday!

5. Membership

- Dave Schulz described the background of Donna McDonald, a guide in the Upper Ruby and Snowcrests. He has reached out to her to see if she might be interested in membership in the BDWG. The group was supportive of her nomination.

6. Roles

- After discussion, the BDWG approved the roles document by consensus.
- Betsy Herrmann commented that the items on the list in the document are helpful to the BDNF.

Action: Karen DiBari will send out the final document and will post it on the BDWG website.

7. Project Ratings

- The BDWG spent the bulk of the meeting discussing project ratings using the resiliency criteria. Alex Dunn and Betsy Herrmann provided background information and served as technical resources for the discussion.
- The BDWG focused the ratings on integrated restoration project that are not already on the “rainbow chart.”
- Important discussion points:
 - Not all projects achieve all objectives
 - It is important to have a suite of projects in order to collectively work toward these multiple objectives
- Project ratings are listed here, with the note that this is relative and the issues in each of these are complex and so can’t be boiled down into just a number (something Scott Snelson has said many times).

Selway Meadows		21
Greenhorns	na	19
Red Rock/Boulder River	data	19
Maxville Fuels	CE	8
Birch Willow Lost Vegetation	EA+CE	13
Standalone Travel Planning		7
Forest Conifer Project		15

8. Next Steps/Scheduling

- May meeting will be in person
- Group discussed excitement about all of the positive things happening on the forest, and about the action plan for 2016
- An important agenda item for May is identifying for which projects the BDWG will develop landscape visions.

Action:

- Send a letter to the Regional Forester to reflect the BDWG’s appreciation for the resources being made available to support the BDNF

9. Meeting adjourned.