

**B-D Working Group  
Minutes**

Thursday, June 15, 2017  
Butte Archives  
1:00-5:00 p.m.

**Present:** Darcie Warden, Tony Colter, Dave Schulz, Karen Laitala, Mark Thompson, Rick Sandru, Leonard Wortman, Brian Ohs, Nick Gevock, John Kountz, Maureen Connor

**Others:** Dave Stone, Chris Marchion, Erik Nylund

**Forest Service:** Alex Dunn, Scot Snelson, Clint Kolarich, Tessa \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes approved**

Tony 1<sup>st</sup>

Darcie 2<sup>nd</sup>

Group approved

**BDWG Funding Update**

\$1,000 go towards Dave Schulz working with the group from Forest in Focus – (Matt Arno)

**Congressional Update** - Erik Nylund

Timber – cottonwood decision. Tester/Daines fix

- Injunction on Lewis and Clark with no further action until programmatic lynx is done
  - o Many things will come to a halt and may require a forest plan amendment
- DOJ declined to appeal to the 9<sup>th</sup>
  - o DOI weighed in late with wish list changes

Budget – bad for rural America

- Tester committed to funds for rural communities
- Collaboration very important
  - o Erik wants collaborative to educate the public, congress, opeds, ltes
  - o Educate legislatures
  - o Talk about our achievements
  - o Weigh in with Leanne Martin
- Line items (cuts will go towards building a border wall)
  - FS \$850 million dollar cut (Roads, trails, facilities, maintenance budget cuts)
  - Secure rural schools – need reauthorization
  - Refuge (ask Erik about this)
  - PILT – severe reduction \$70 million
  - LWCF – \$64 million (down from
    - All requested level funding coming from Sen Tester. Team Tester is hopeful
- Timber targets
  - o Sen Tester wants a budget to make the saw log target

Discussion around BDNF as a timber forest and how to think about the forest as compared to the Kootnei.

## **Forest Service Updates**

- Greenhorn Project update
  - o Integrated restoration based project based from Gravelly Landscape Collaborative
    - Scoping out next month (July)
    - Decision date fall of next year (18-month timeline)
- Farm Bill CE next to the prison
  - o Partner with state and use good neighbor authority – state and FS lands work
  - o Collaborative process kick-off in January
  - o Decision 9-12 months
- Pintler Face Project
  - o Currently behind the scenes analysis is taking place. Resource reports being written.
  - o Mid July public comment period begins
  - o Final decision a year from now (June 2018) – 2-year total time frame
    - Lots of habitat work
    - Doubles acres of commercial timber harvest compared to past projects
      - July 25 field trip date 9:00am

## **Improving People's Lives – workshop with group**

### **Forest Service Budget**

Question: Should the group submit a letter requesting no decrease in funding for the Forest Service?  
A generic letter to legislature may not be as impactful but if we are specific about where and why it may be more effective. Include rural America in the letter. Include success. Maintain current level of funding.

Unanimous yes to write a letter

#### **Next Steps:**

Understand the budgets coming in

Look at the old budget and current allocation and line items

Scott Snelson get copy of basic budget to Karen DiBari to share with the group

A draft letter will be written for the group to review

Resource for letter: To congressionals and regional office

Ask region about budgets. Regional office can help.

The President's budget is out. Congress will do the rest regarding allocating

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC): sign on letter about the budget that B-D Working Group can look at for ideas

Nick Gevock will ask about sharing an internal letter with the B-D Working Group as a resource

Infrastructure bill coming as well. Might want to keep this in mind with rural areas

#### **Facts:**

135 employees now

When forest combined there were 400 employees

Department of Ag is 21% less than the last budget

### **Big Hole Divide Landscape Strategy**

Full group finished draft review

Darcie will send draft to Karen DiBari to circulate to the group

**July Meeting Date:**

Field trip set for July 25, 9:00 am Wise River Ranger Station

Afternoon meeting after the field trip

**July Agenda Items:**

Steering committee will put it together

- Timber sale economics
- Erik and Spencer to talk about current legislation