

5B Restoration Coalition
Web meeting
September 6, 2018

Present: Dani Southard, Chris Leman, Lynn Campion, Deb Taylor, Kurt Nelson, Nancy Humphrey, John Kurtz, Chip Deffe, Harry Griffith

National Forest Foundation: Karen DiBari

Trailkeepers

The group is up and running. Sara Gress is the new coordinator for TrailKeepers, and the new ED for Wood River Bicycle Coalition. TrailKeepers is a multi-use effort (not just bikes) and is currently a program of WRBC.

Businesses are showing interest. TrailKeepers is applying for an Idaho Travel grant. Intent is that funds will be generated through the Trail Keepers 501c3. Question about how they will be invested? Putting together an agreement with the Forest Service.

Open to any and all suggestions!

Fires

- Sharps Fire –in a monitoring phase; 65,000 acres. 12-13,000 acres are on the Sawtooth, the remainder was on BLM, state or private lands. The full fire line isn't contained, but given its status it made sense to go to the monitoring phase. Trying to figure out how to get equipment or a hand crew up there to close it out. Ketchum Ranger District has a draft BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) report. Biggest issues seem to be invasive weeds, sign damage, range damage. The BLM equivalent of the BAER is focused on noxious weeds, culverts (most of them on private or county land, though), perhaps some seeding.
- Bible Back Fire has been active in the last couple of days; located in and near Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness Area. Are monitoring the fire; moving to the NE in Germania Creek right now. 2600 acres
- Stewart Fire – 2,800 acres; trying to encourage it to move into higher elevations; in active suppression stage; mostly on Fairfield District, but some BLM and private.
- Wapiti Fire – near Grandjean; 4,700 acres; wrapping up in the next day or so
- Had a start in Deer Creek last week; called in some aerial support; taken care of by end of the day. 200 acres.

Pioneers Alliance – held a meeting 9/5/18 in Mackey. Idaho Conservation League has been part of the Pioneers Alliance for many years and has worked with landowners in and around the Craters to Carey landscape, and up into the Little Wood drainage. Tess O'Sullivan at The Nature Conservancy spearheaded pulling together a meeting with landowners affected by the Sharps Fire. Several of the landowners are interested in restoration for wildlife habitat. Purpose of meeting was to share information from agencies, but also to connect private landowners with resources like the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Pioneers Alliance is really focused on private land. Potential to look at BLM if

assistance needed. Important opportunity for the 5BRC to be thinking about the public land aspect of response.

- Are there trails and roads where the County would be a good partner? County has easements through the private sections. Most of the county roads are currently in good condition. Dani will follow up with Tess about that connection between Pioneers Alliance and landowners re: signage.

Kurt – FS is flying the perimeter of the fire every few days; reports are that they haven't seen as much hunting use at trailheads; signs are at the TH about fire

Deb – BAER team makes the assessment to see if there are values at risk (human safety, facilities, natural resources) that need an emergency response. If signs are needed to protect the public, the unit receives funding to purchase them. FS receives funding to apply to respond to natural resource issues within one year. Would likely receive funds this spring and next summer. The District has to pick up the pieces for areas not tied to Threatened and Endangered Species.

With the amount of fires occurring westwide, and with the amount of \$ going to fire suppression, funds for BAER are less available.

UPDATES

- BLM travel planning is moving forward, but is delayed; plan to release a draft in mid-late October, or early November; signed decision likely April; found a new polygon of lands in the Dry Creek area (north of Picabo and south of Bell Mountain) that's about 7,000 acres with wilderness character and some other information that have caused the BLM to reassess some of the routes; there will be a 30 day comment period once the draft plan is released for public review; consideration of whether some members want to put together joint comments; could also help get the word out; maybe a meeting before or after the Deer Creek celebration
- FS:
 - Working with community effort to restore the Pioneer Cabin (supported by NFF and 5BRC)– things are going really well and have a group of very motivated individuals who are getting the cabin in good shape but not changing the character of it.
 - Deer Creek Watershed Restoration Project: work started about 2 weeks ago; 10 dispersed camping sites being put in – should be done next Tuesday.
 - Insectary (supported by NFF and 5BRC) has been moved, monitoring various types of treatments, working with Environmental Resource Center
 - KRD completed a new bridge on the Kinzie Creek Trail this week; new directional trail signs in place
 - BCRD has had about 9 volunteer outings this summer, with a few more scheduled; 95 volunteers total.

Deer Creek Celebration:

- Invitations: invite all of the people involved in the Deer Creek application to attend
- Outreach to media and public communications channels
- Develop a flyer to put at the post office, bike shops

- Media: Karen Bossick and Idaho Mtn Express
- Tour of Deer Creek work – 4 p.m. meet at the Trailhead
- 6 p.m. platters of cheese, crackers, beverages
- FS putting some tables next to the parking area; should be room for setting up

Kurt - will bring a tent/awning

Short comments –County, FS, NFF