

5B Restoration Coalition

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Community Campus, Bullion Room

Present: Lynn Campion, Chip Deffe, John Kurtz, Holly Crawford, Danelle Nance (BLM), Angenie McCleary, Sara Gress, Erika Phillips, Josh Johnson, Brittany (interning with Angenie), Susan Giannettino

NFF: Dani Southard, Karen DiBari

1. Greetings and Announcements

Dani opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

2. Sharps Fire Update

Danelle Nance, BLM

- BLM developed their ESR (Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation) plan
- Lots of public/private interface in the fire area
- Trying to prevent weeds from coming into the burned areas, with treatments focusing on:
 - Noxious weed control
 - Aerial seeding (1/2 of fire at risk for invasive annuals like western yarrow and Lewis flax)
 - Drill seeding near main roads (600 acres completed already) with blue bunch, wild rye, bottle brush
- Unfortunately seed availability is very low nationwide
- Other work includes:
 - Fence repair
 - Assessment of roads and drainage; almost all of the roads are county or state; passed recommendations on to the county and repair is mostly complete, plus signs to keep people on existing roads/trails
 - State is involved and has funding to address needs, though they might have to scale back due to cost
- The Sharps Fire won't affect travel management

Kurt Nelson, Ketchum Ranger District

- 12,000 acres of the Sharps Fire is on the Sawtooth
- The fire burned in a mosaic and slowed down on the forest
- Hotspots near Porcupine

- Burned Area Emergency Report complete; have around \$12,000 for invasives and cheatgrass
- Did prescribed burning in the Upper Little Wood drainage (1,050 acres)
- Have done some seeding but not much

Discussion about 5BRC Opportunities

- Wood River Valley residents didn't really feel this was a big impact because the fire wasn't as visible (as compared to Beaver Creek)
- 5BRC could do some communications work around
 - Role of fire and how agencies are responding to a changing climate and vegetation species
 - Opportunity cost
 - Importance of conservation easements
 - Cause of fire (not a natural event)
 - What is the prescribed burn need on the KR D?

ACTION STEPS:

- Dani will send out a follow up email with a doodle poll

3. Alden Gulch

- Trail is completed; trying to keep people off of it
- Likely there are trees down

4. TrailKeepers (Sara Gress)

- New WRBC board is coming together
- TrailKeepers is a fundraising campaign of the WRBC
- WRBC is the fiscal sponsor; working hard to get all users together on this new board
- Right now focused only in the Wood River Valley
- Many outdoor gear shops are on board to add \$1/rental
- Limelight is interested in a bed tax
- CK's Diner – having an event
- Working on a collection agreement w/the FS to help support trail crew; discussed need to support the Valley Trail Coordinator position housed at BCRD as well (Chris Leman's position) because of its value to organizing volunteer events/communicating with the community
- TrailKeepers is focused on trail maintenance only

5. 5BRC Accomplishments 2-pager

- NFF put together a two-pager to use as a handout at the field trip/celebration event
- Also will be good to distribute to local shops

6. Field tour and Celebration

- Media outreach: Angenie and Kurt will follow up with the Mountain Express
- Discussed high points on tour:
 - Dispersed campsites
 - Plants
 - Fire
 - Erika's Bypass (new road)
 - Active stream restoration
- Discussed basic logistics
- Plan is to meet at the FS Boundary on Deer Creek Rd at 4 p.m.

7. Deer Creek Restoration updates and plans for the upcoming field season – updates from Kurt and Zach

- Trails have been rebuilt, bridges are done, vault toilets installed, the road section is 95% complete.
- Signage is in the process of being finalized. Chris, Dani and Zach have been working on the sign content. It will acknowledge partners and have a shared use message at the main trailhead.
- The focus this summer is riparian restoration, upland vegetation, and white bark pine restoration. The Ketchum Ranger District has put in test plots to look at the impact of herbicides on cheat grass. There is a new virus to help control cheat grass called the “black fingers of death.”
- The KRD got approval for Emergency Road funding (ERBO?) but unfortunately there is no money

8. University of Idaho Fire Resiliency project

- Karen reported that she spoke with Crystal Kolden at the University of Idaho. Crystal would be happy to give a presentation to the 5BRC about the fire resiliency project she is leading. This is a project that Aimee Christensen has reported on in the past. The project is focused on education of landowners as well as assessment of watersheds to predict fire behavior and associated “pre-fire” resiliency actions to help reduce negative fire effects and increase positive effects.

- The group is supportive of inviting Crystal to give a presentation about the project.

9. Updates:

- Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve established – the first Gold-Tier International Dark Sky Reserve in the U.S.!
 - Dani Mazzotta reported about the Dark Sky Reserve that has been established in central Idaho. The SNRA was a huge champion of the effort, and many thanks go out to Kirk Flannigan. The designation is the result of a major collaborative effort with many partners.
 - There will be opportunities to expand the Reserve area to the south of Ketchum.
 - The Dark Sky Reserve designation is expected to have a very positive tourism impact. Other places with this designation host Darkside festivals and use it to attract visitors.
 - A map with stargazing locations is in the works, and there's information on the web at <http://www.idahodarksky.org/>.
 - Local governments are reviewing their ordinances to make sure they comply with and support the designation. LED light pollution is a threat – they save a lot of energy but have negative human and wildlife impacts.
 - BCRD can integrate this information into TrailLink. Galena is a good viewing location.
- BLM Travel Management – John Kurtz
 - The BLM received over 200 comments. They modified the alternatives based on the comments.
 - BCRD and the City of Hailey are cooperating agencies so they will review the Environmental Assessment.
 - The public comment period is planned for mid-May to mid-July. The BLM will host a public meeting around that time.
 - BLM is required to ask: what would the impact of the plan be on wilderness character? Other issues they are putting effort into include urban interface, rights of way, and the Colorado Gulch Bridge.
 - The big shift in the new travel management plan will be fewer miles of new trail for motorized use (the BLM is not removing any miles), increase in eBike-only trails, and adding multi-use trail miles.
 - Ebikes: this is a new technology that is becoming very popular. The BLM is considering how to classify a trail as motorized that only allows eBikes. The FS and the BLM do not allow eBikes on any non-motorized trails.
 - Chip Deffe commented that 80% of bikes sold in Europe are eBikes. People like them because they help with uphill travel. They are a 45-55 lb machines compared to a 30-35 lb bicycle or a 350 lb motorcycle.
 - Ebikes will create uphill flow trails and there is a potential for conflicts.

- ACTION: Group discussed holding an eBike demo day or Beer and Deer event to help people understand more about eBikes. (Chip, John, Chris, Dani, and Jim will work on this.)

10. Quigley Trail – Jim Keating

- The BCRD is working to create an urban access point. Trying to be smart and in sync with opportunities for BLM trail connections.

11. National Forest Foundation updates – projects planned for the coming field season and 5B Restoration Fund investments

- The NFF is still working on getting funding to support a Montana/Idaho field person. Karen will keep the group posted!
- The 5BRC had a long discussion about projects to support with the 5B Restoration Fund that has been built up by the NFF and the Wood River Valley community over the past several years. The group formally voted in support of \$89,000 in expenditures this year, which will be administered through grants and contracts by the NFF. See attached list.

12. Open discussion on other things people would like the 5BRC to work on in 2018

- More public relations effort/information sharing
- Get more people into the group to fill out interests (some people came at the beginning but haven't been here in a while)
- Deer Creek celebration event in the fall?
- People are happy with the work getting done on the ground