

**Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group (BDWG)
Meeting Record**

3:00-5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 4th, 2020
On Zoom

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance

Members: Tony Colter, timber representative; Maureen Connor, citizen-at-large representative; Chris Edgington, fishing representative; Nick Jose, timber representative; Chris Marchion, hunting representative; Darcie Warden, conservation representative; Commissioner Leonard Wortman, Jefferson County.

Technical advisors: Jeanne Dawson, Cheri Ford, Catherine Mcrae, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF); Steve Kimball, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

Facilitator: Travis Anklam, National Forest Foundation (NFF)

Guests: David Delsi and Sean Claffey, Gravelly Landscape Collaborative; Bryan Lorengo, Montana Logging Association; Tim Love, Montana Forest Collaborative Network; Claire Reading, Trout Unlimited; Commissioner Dan Sager, Powell County

Decisions

October meeting record approved with no amendments.

Action Items

- Ben Irely and Travis Anklam will work with the BDWG Recreation Committee to schedule their next meeting.
- Darcie Warden and Tony Colter will send the Capacity Committee list of questions to Jeanne Dawson and Cheri Ford (BDNF).
- Darcie Warden will send Gravelly Landscape Collaborative documents to Catherine Mcrae (BDNF) to be used in crafting a social media post(s).
- Travis Anklam will follow up with BDWG Committees on action items.
- BDNF staff will consider overlaying CFLRP and Montana Forest Action Plan data in the out-year planning process.
- BDNF staff will reach out to solicit input from BDWG members on FY2023 project planning.
- BDWG Recreation Committee members will connect with BDNF ranger districts to understand what projects are being considered for FY2021 and see if there is an opportunity to provide input.

Bin Items

- BDNF staff will update BDWG once they know which GAOA projects are funded and identify if there is an opportunity for BDWG to make recommendations on those projects.

- BDWG members will connect with the National Collaboration Cadre to revisit and consider crafting a restoration strategy document.
- BDWG members will discuss members to act as liaisons to BDNF ranger districts.

MEETING RECORD

1. Welcome, introductions, approve meeting record

[Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group (BDWG) members reviewed and approved the October meeting record.]

2. BDNF project update Q & A

- Project updates were shared by BDNF staff ahead of the meeting via the BDWG project tracker on google sheets. [Please email tanklam@nationalforests.org for the link.]
- Specific project updates
 - The Fleecer project is under injunction and is being retooled in order to get court approval.
 - The Tendoy Oil and Gas and the Greenhorn Environmental Analysis (EA) projects are undergoing programmatic lynx consultation and will proceed on a similar timeline.

3. BDWG committee updates

- The BDWG has shifted its Committee meeting format to be held via zoom breakout rooms immediately before the full BDWG meeting each month. BDWG Committees gave updates regarding their work.
- **Communications Committee update**
 - Communications Committee members met with Catherine Mcrae (BDNF) to get on the same page regarding communication on the BDNF.
 - The Committee is working to plan future communications, highlighting important topics, and get messages out to the public on a regular basis.
- **Recreation Committee update**
 - Recreation Committee members received updates from Jeanne Dawson (BDNF) regarding project funding streams and the FY 2021 and 2022 projects being proposed for funding.
 - The Committee desires to select a leader and will meet with BDNF to review project lists before the next meeting.
 - The Committee would like to find more opportunities to provide input on projects being considered by BDNF that relate to recreation.
 - The Committee plans on identifying a BDWG member liaison for each ranger district to find further opportunities for input and increase communication.
- **Capacity Committee update**
 - Capacity Committee members created a list of questions regarding capacity on the BDNF and submitted it to BDNF staff. Committee members would like feedback from BDNF before proceeding.
- **Partnership Committee update**

Partnership Committee members were unable to meet this month.

4. Strategy Session Update

- BDWG members shared an update regarding a strategy session they held between the September and October meeting.
- Conclusions from that meeting included an agreement to shift the BDWG Committee meeting format, that the BDWG is working on the right areas, and that BDWG members would like to maintain Ranger involvement and include presentations from partners as a regular feature of future meetings.

5. Update on lynx management Q&A

- BDNF staff gave a presentation on lynx management, how it relates to projects and capacity on the BDNF, and offered an opportunity for questions from BDWG members and other meeting attendees.
- In the past several years lynx populations on the BDNF have changed, leading the BDNF to be designated as a lynx “occupied” forest, requiring further environmental assessment in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for projects that may affect lynx habitat.
- **Questions & Comments**
 - When do you expect FWS to be done w/ their part?
 - Likely the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2021.
 - How many lynx are on the Forest?
 - At least two.
 - Where does Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) fit in?
 - FWP could potentially serve as a partner in the future.
 - Several BDWG members expressed appreciation for the lynx assessments, and the likelihood that the process will produce better defined criteria for management.

6. Restoration Strategy & Out-year Planning Q&A

- BDNF staff gave a presentation explaining how the restoration strategy created for a recent CFLRP application on the Forest relates to the broader Forest Plan and Out-year planning efforts.
- The restoration strategy serves as a valuable resource, but ultimately is subordinate to the Forest Plan when planning and making decisions. Both the Whitetail and South Tobacco Root projects are, however, examples of projects that were informed by the restoration strategy and collaboration with the BDWG.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - What is our restoration strategy? Do we have a document that summarizes it?
 - Neither BDNF nor the BDWG has a formal restoration strategy document.
 - BDWG members commented that much of the BDNF is not included in the latest CFLRP application and asked how we can ensure that restoration priorities are included across the forest.
 - BDWG members would like to consider drafting a restoration strategy document.

7. Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Presentation

- BDWG invited members of the Gravelly Landscape Collaborative (GLC) to present on their organization and efforts.
- GLC members shared the story of their involvement with the Greenhorn project, and ideas for communicating with the public regarding work on the BDNF.

8. Public Comment & Member Round Robin

- The Montana Forest Collaborative Network released a recent report and conference zoom recordings that can be found on their website [[link here](#)].
- BDWG members felt that the breakout meeting format for Committees and partner presentation from GLC was helpful.
- BDNF asked BDWG members how they would like to share input on projects going forward.

9. Meeting Adjourned at 5 p.m.