

Wyoming Governor's Task Force on Forests
Meeting Summary
April 8-10, 2014
Location, Saratoga, WY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft for Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved
<p>Task Force Members Present:</p> <p>Aaron Bannon, National Outdoor Leadership School Joel Bousman, Sublette County Board of County Commissioners Jacque Buchanan, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forestry Division Jessica Crowder, Wyoming Governor's Office Jason Fearneyhough, Department of Agriculture Buddy Green, BLM Wyoming Steve Kilpatrick, Wyoming Wildlife Federation Mark Konishi, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Harry LaBonde, Wyoming Water Development Office Carl Larson, Larson Livestock, Inc. Lisa McGee, Wyoming Outdoor Council Jim Neiman, Neiman Enterprises, Inc. Rep. Jerry Paxton, Wyoming House of Representatives Reg Phillips, Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District Dan Tinker, University of Wyoming, Dept. of Botany David Whittekiend, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest</p>	<p><i>Alternates:</i></p> <p>Senator Larry Hicks (Alternate for Sen. Driskell) Jack Berger (Alternate for Jim Magagna)</p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i></p> <p>Steve Smutko, UW Ruckelshaus Institute Jessica Clement, UW Ruckelshaus Institute Courtney Amerine, UW Ruckelshaus Institute Richard Stem, Advisor Governor's Office</p>
<p>Agenda:</p> <p>Day 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome from the co-chairs and Ruckelshaus Institute 2. Review of recommendation from meeting 2 3. Information regarding budget allocation process 4. Charter discussion 5. Breakout group discussion on administrative processes 6. Presentation by Daryl Lutz, WGFD, about the Platte Valley Habitat Partnership <p>Day 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuation of break out group discussion on administrative processes 2. Breakout group discussion about cooperation, collaboration and partnerships, local management, socio economic and cultural factors 3. Break out group discussion about diverse forest communities, wildlife habitat, inholdings, multiple use, ecosystem services, conservation, 	<p>Handouts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda 2. Map of Forest-Wide Statistics 3. Utilization of Collaborative Processes in Forest Planning 4. Summary of Experiences with Outfitter-Guide Permitting 5. Charter 6. Preparing for the Mid-Term Nearing Five Years of Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration 7. Wyoming Forest Products and Timber Harvest 2010 8. The Unknown Trajectory of Forest Restoration: a Call for Ecosystem Monitoring

<p>and water</p> <p>4. Tour of the Saratoga wood products facility</p> <p>Day 3</p> <p>1. Break out group about diverse forests continued</p> <p>2. Break out group data and monitoring</p> <p>3. Public comment</p>	
<p>Action Items Completed:</p> <p>1. Completed draft recommendations for resource management</p> <p>2. Finalized the charter</p> <p>3. Completed tour of the Saratoga Wood Products Facility</p> <p>4. Appointed a small group to investigate proposed legislation for wildfire disaster funding</p> <p>Action Items Pending:</p> <p>1. Small group investigating proposed legislation for wildlife disaster funding.</p> <p>2. Finalizing an agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>3. Sorting and editing the draft recommendations.</p>	

<p>Meeting Summary</p> <p>I. Welcome & Announcements</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Co-chairs Lisa McGee and Jim Neiman welcomed the Task Force to Saratoga.</p> <p>II. Review of Recommendations</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Jessica Clement led a discussion reviewing the draft recommendations created during the last meeting.</p> <p>III. Presentation</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Buddy Green (BLM), David Whittekiend (FS), and Jacque Buchanan (FS) led a discussion about the BLM and Forest Service budget process.</p> <p>IV. Administrative Processes</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Jessica Clement led a group discussion on the issues identified by the task force to help frame a discussion about administrative processes. The group discussion focused on the administration of NEPA processes, permits, e.g. special use, recreational and grazing, timber contracts, and other budgetary and fiscal issues.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. The task force broke into three working groups. Each working group drafted their own recommendations and presented those recommendations to the group. The groups drafted recommendations regarding streamlining of regulation and increasing consistency in administrative procedures at the federal, forest and district levels.</p> <p>V. Daryl Lutz Presentation</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Daryl Lutz of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department gave a presentation to the Task Force about the Wyoming Mule Deer Initiative and resulting Platte Valley Habitat Partnership.</p>	
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VI. Cooperation, collaboration and partnerships, local management, socio-economic and cultural factors

- A. Jessica Clement led a group discussion on cooperation, collaboration and partnerships, local management, socio-economic and cultural factors.
- B. The task force then broke into their three working groups again. Each working group drafted their own recommendations and presented those recommendations to the group. Recommendations were drafted that addressed proposals to enhance place-based collaborative capacity around forest management, and recommendations that can assist with removal of barriers to collaboration/cooperation.

VII. Diverse forest communities, wildlife habitat, inholdings, multiple use, ecosystem services, conservation and water

- A. Jessica Clement led a group discussion on the issues identified by the task force to frame the discussion on diverse forest communities, wildlife habitat, inholdings, multiple use, ecosystem services, conservation, and water. The task force discussed the challenge of understanding these processes, because of a lack of information or conflicting information about how the forest community changes over time.
- B. The task force then broke into their three working groups again. Each working group drafted their own recommendations and presented those recommendations to the group. Recommendations results that address the Wyoming Forest Action Plan, Roadless areas, OHV use, management tools, aspen management specifically, and ways to maintain and enhance resilience.

VIII. Tour of the Saratoga Wood Products Facility

- A. Task Force members were able to tour the Saratoga Wood products facility. Saratoga Forest management offers high quality studs from the surrounding lodgepole pines.

IX. Disaster Funding

- A. The Task Force engaged in a discussion about proposed legislation to change funding for wildfire disaster funding within the Forest Service. The Task Force decided to appoint a small group that will research the proposed legislation and report back to the Task Force at the next meeting. Those in the small group include Rep. Jerry Paxton, Bill Crasper, Richard Stem, Jim Neiman, and Sen. Ogden Driskell.

X. Housekeeping

- A. The Task Force engaged in a discussion about the locations of upcoming meetings. The Task Force decided to change the upcoming meeting location from Hulett to Casper. The Task Force chose to change the meeting location to Casper, because it is more centrally located and easier travel for the majority of the Task Force members. The final meeting will be also take place in Casper for the same reasons.
- B. The Task Force engaged in a discussion about whether they would like tours to be a part of the remaining meetings. While recognizing that tours are an invaluable experience the Task Force decided to not spend any future meeting time to take a tour. Rather, the Task Force felt the time could be better used discussing and drafting recommendations.

XI. Roadless Discussion

- A. Richard Stem led a discussion with the Task Force about the history of Roadless and specifically the history of Roadless in Wyoming. The Task Force then engaged in a discussion about whether or not Roadless is a topic that the Task Force would like to tackle. The Task Force agreed that depending upon the purpose, context, and manner of the discussion they may consider having more detailed discussions about Roadless.

XII. Data and Monitoring

- A. Steve Smutko led a discussion about data and monitoring. The Task Force discussed the lack of funding for monitoring. The Task Force also recognized that without knowing the current conditions to which to compare monitoring results, it is more difficult to offer prescriptions.
- B. The task force then broke into their three working groups again. Each working group drafted their own recommendations and presented those recommendations to the group. The three types of draft recommendations that resulted addressed measurable results, funding for monitoring and inventory needs.

XIII. Charter Discussion

- A. The Task Force finalized suggested changes to the introduction of the Task Force Charter.

XIV. Public Comment

- A. The Task Force offered time for public comment. No members of the public offered comment.

Next Meeting –

Date: April 30th – May 2nd

Time: April 30th from 1:00-5:00, May 1st from 8-5:00, and May 2nd from 8:00-2:00.

Location: Casper

Draft Agenda