

Forest Collaborative Notes  
Feb.22, 2018  
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### Collaborative Rules

We went through the collaborative process: Who are the constituent groups and what they need:

- 1-Problems
- 2-Interests
- 3-Information
- 4-Criteria
- 5-Trade-offs
- 6-Agreements

Tradeoffs and agreements is where difficulty arises, and people feel threatened.

### Meeting Rules

Went over the voting system:

- 1-really like
- 2-like
- 3-live with it but don't like it
- 4-major reservations
- 5-can't live with it at all

Rich: What a successful collaborative does:

- 1-Help agency set priorities
- 2-Bring resources to agency (money, people, positive attention)

What is next where are we at as a collaborative?

Things that can sink a collaborative:

1-FS making a commitment and then not being able to do it. FS needs to let the collaborative know what can and can't be done- If there are problems let the collaborative know-TRUST

2-Collaborative meets and agrees on timelines then people go outside the collaborative with things the collaborative did or did not say.

New FS Chief-Tony Took

Forest Health is a priority: Recreation, Wildlife, Clean Water, Industry, Infrastructure, Energy, Permitting

Get on top of forest health issues

Looking for ways to get NEPA more efficient and done in a timely manner

How to do a better decision process (NGO's, Collaboratives, Partners)

Agency needs to engage partner's in an open way

Looking for ways for partners, restoration, decision process to be more efficient

Mel: Where are the 5 priorities published? Google the priorities it will come up.

1-safe working environment

2-good neighbors/customer service (returning phone calls and emails)

3-promote shared stewardship (partners)

4-improve conditions of forests and grasslands

5-enhance recreation opportunities/sustaining infrastructure

Byron: How old is NEPA ?

(1969) 1976

The law hasn't changed NEPA process has.

CEQ requires FS to review NEPA every 8 years

Trish:

- Partner and volunteer piece is huge. Budgets are low. Ability to implement isn't there.

Budgets-

- Vegetation Planning-BT has small program in timber management. 4-5 people on the whole forest for timber.
- Looking to reorganize in pods working with FS in Idaho (Boise/Payette/Caribou) This will give FS more capacity to get more \$ for projects.
- Improve the NEPA process. FS will use contracts to get NEPA work done. Use CE when they can.
- Trails and Recreation Aspect-Pilot areas under National Trails Stewardship Act. This would use volunteers/partners to maintain trails. Gateway communities in Wyoming- areas in and around Wyoming range national trails. BT can partner with state, federal, local. Example is to bundle resources at the state level and get visitors to help.

Kent: Are pods for all uses?

Trish: No, just timber.

Byron: What percentage of budgets are firefighting and other.

Trish: 60% firefighting 40% other programs FS gets less \$ from Congress and more of the budget gets consumed with firefighting costs.

Justin: Fire fix from Congress would bring \$260,000 back into the Greys River Ranger District budget. We need to talk to Congress to get fire borrowing out of the mix.

Byron: Asked question on hiring more people.

Trish: There are 1000 positions in the FS that need filled. (Not sure if this is BT or all of FS-Kay Lynn) BT is adding 7-8 positions. There is no hiring freeze they just don't have \$ to hire. FS can hire freely in the fire organizations.

Harv: Where are you adding the 7-8 positions?

Trish: 2 for the Forest Plan Revision and customer service desk. 1 District Ranger in Jackson. 5-6 in Recreation/Trails this will be for running crews in Greys River.

Jerry: Pod timber program-Why not hire a new position into the local timber program?

Trish: No there will not be a new person.

Jerry: Jerry was under the impression that the BT was going to beef up their timber program on the Greys River Ranger District-per Justin.

Justin: Doesn't recall saying they were going to do that.

Trish: Timber organization is in zones throughout the forest. We will advertise for multiple duty stations. There are also a couple retirements coming up that they will have to fill.

Kent: POD area can bring staff in to get work done.

Trish: Crews for timber sale layout are in Boise/Payette. BT doesn't have that capacity. BT needs a silviculture person from Caribou Targhee.

Why can't we use Utah forests (Ashley/WWC)

They are in their own pod or group.

Rich: Could you hire contractors to do work or seasonals? Wasatch-Cache brought in people from Region 1. ( 18 years in 40% reduction in personnel budgets same all goes to fires. )

BT Will start here on the Greys River:

Kent: We need reauthorization for Healthy Lands Act. This streamlines the process. This act can use \$ in area not just where oil and gas are. Partnered\$ and Leveraged\$

WLCI- We could use these \$ in the Greys River Area.

Justin: Forest Product Modernization has a limitation on offering timber products like commercial firewood and house logs.

Timber sales are restrictive. We need to use newer technology to get them done.

Trish: Governor's task force on outdoor recreation recommendations intersect with roads and access.

Governor's task force for timber: CE's can be 3000 acres if in the designated area.

Forest Service/BLM access issues-identify areas

Send Recommendations-get very specific on where to work together.

Access to Wyoming Range for hunting.

Judy: How do we incorporate wildlife interest into timber and access?

Game and Fish has wildlife corridors. They are on the Lincoln County GIS planning maps.

Justin: Greys River Road Landslide- Tri Basin timber harvest would access through the Smith's Fork Road.

Trish: Forest Plan Revision-October 2019- FS Chief said no new forest plan revisions until others are done. FS will hire 2 new positions -collaborative liaison. Forest Plan defines land use on a broad scale.

Justin: Tri-Basin had contract setbacks. Will offer sale later in 2018. CE is in the middle of analysis. It will only be a 250-acre timber harvest.

Tri-Basin study recognized other potential resource areas (Little Greys for bug kill) Other areas in map.

Possibly partner with Trout Unlimited for culvert replacement and fish passage-Game and Fish has \$ available for this also.

Watershed Restoration-Recreation access/trail head signage

Byron: Caribou Loop Trail

Funding:

WLCI-aspen regeneration projects-find someone to talk to about this.

WLCI-stands for Wyoming Lands Conservation Initiative-Game and Fish/FS Use \$ for mitigation for Wyoming Range-funded by oil and gas.

Tri-Basin-We need funding for a log bridge to hold a snow bridge through area where the 2 groomed trails meet. (South End to Box Y)

State Trails will pay for it. Needs approval from FS.

WNRTF-Don't know if there is any money in for this year until after legislative session.

Watershed Restoration Plan- Should implement and use culverts this year.

Byron: Trout Unlimited-Look at getting a forest grant from them.

Look for partners so we can reduce costs.

TU won't partner with work for timber harvest-find out?

Road Improvements: Roads in poor shape. Road system and transportation FS will be working with Caribou Targhee road crew-Road Base from their own pit, blading, and culvert replacement.

Setbacks-CE done last fall didn't happen so Tri-Basin will be in fall 2018. Done by Sundance Consulting from Eastern Idaho.

Jerry: Could we do an EA on entire area-Yes or No  
Upper Greys Project

Good potential to open for larger projects-Lynx has been a barrier. The sooner we can delist the better. Then we could open up for larger projects.

CE Projects the forest can do: Tri Basin number 1, could also do salvage harvesting on Little Greys for dead and dying trees, Lower Greys at Murphy Creek, Bear Creek and 3 Forks, also Grover Park. White Creek drainage has 60% dead timber. (Recommendation 3)

2019: Next area would be Lower Greys, Upper Squaw/Fire Trail  
Some potential for CE in Tri-Basin Area

#3 Lower Greys area  
Squaw Flat/Fire Trail

Murphy is roadless so that is out.

Roadless discussion: Could we get Cheney to tag something onto a bill that would eliminate roadless area.

RARE 2-Roadless area review evaluation in mid 1970's . They got it done to get the timber out. Then it came back and morphed into roadless.

Trump administration could work on?

Reasoning behind FS decisions on Squaw Flat/Fire Trail/ Lower Greys for 2019.

There are insect and disease area designations in the Farm Bill. 2014 Farm Bill the Governor's office did insect and disease areas. (There is a map of these areas with Governor Task Force)

Is there a possibility we could add Greys River to the Governor's map? Then we could do 3000-acre CE's.

With the designation from the Governor's office this can go into roadless areas. Could possibly do another CE with this designation in 2019 through this process. What is the process? Trish meets with Governor's task force and they agree on map area and add it.

There is a large potential if we can get this area designated.

Reasoning behind #2 Bear Creek/Three Forks

Motorized Travel Decision for Middle Greys Project. Draft should be out in a few weeks.

No timber salvage or harvest until trail system is in place.

Potential for timber work later

#4 Grover Park

Landscape (Watershed Scale) Project: sooner than later. This is in a roadless area. CE's can't happen very quick. It makes sense to do a watershed scale project when FS tackles this. The capacity of FS is only so much. Time/Personnel. Not in the next few years.

Dean: Fire history on the front. Do we do as controlled burns?

Jerry: Hill Climb- Could we move the permit to 10 years.

Would need to build in more mitigation factors.

Can we go with an EA or permit from year to year.

The whole hill climb area is in wildlife habitat. Deer, elk, moose

Jerry: When hill climb came in there was snowmobiling on the face. Now we don't snow machine there as a trade-off.

Joe: EA and EIS You should do it in and EIS because then you have to take in the \$ value.

Justin: Hill climb has 3-week window but they are now doing work 4-5 weeks before the event (packing snow) and then rehabbing area later

Gary F: Game and Fish wants to see a comprehensive winter travel plan for everything in SV front range not in their current travel plan. Grover Park and Afton area south were left out of the original travel plan. Game and Fish has letters from last 20 years stating this.

KL-Need more background why is this necessary?

Mule Deer Habitat-over snow vehicles do inhibit

Travel Issues on BLM land Jan 1-April 3

Judy: Shooting in area in summer is hard on animals.

FS-Updated travel management plan we don't have the ability at this time for large plans. Piece meal rather than one big plan. Not until Forest Plan Revision is done.

Game and Fish already went through this in 1990's they did Willow Creek to Dry Creek.

Joel: Concerned if 10-year plan in place without a travel plan. Will Game and Fish fight it? Right now it is year to year. \$for town

FS-Revise Forest Plan 4 years after next year then do travel management plan. Travel management will cover system roads, atv's, snowmobiles.

Gary: show maps for travel management where corridors are for snow machines.

Gary: the southern section wasn't included in the travel management plan.

Let's see maps and information on the process

How do we combine critical winter habitat with a small revised travel management plan.

Where are the designated crucial winter ranges?

Willow Creek/Spring Creek how to we use the crucial winter ranges:

What is crucial winter range? They are a fraction of the acres you can take snow machines on.

Swift Creek South needs addressed.

Recommendation #5 FIND FUNDING

Mitigate dust

When did the forest stop dust treatment

When did they redo the road

Mesia Nyman used federal highway funds to redo road. They did 35 miles for 2 years at \$4000 per mile. From Alpine to Forest Park.

Mel: \$ better spent on regular maintenance than mag water.

Road sediment: Do they test for sediment in water (Grape Assessment)

Liz Cheney office? Is there a federal resource to get road to do dust treatment each year?

CMACK- Limited Funding-designated for oil and gas impacts through WYDOT

Justin to wrap up? Let's look for funding options and get the road open.

WHAT TO WORK ON:

Funds: Trout Unlimited, Orvis, Elk Foundation, Game and Fish, Interior, Joint Chiefs, Nature Conservancy, Soil Conservation, Federal Highway \$, WCLI, State

Send letter of support for ERFO. (Unnecessary now)

Good neighbor agreements with state-up Grover Park

MOU with WLCI they are a 501c3

Meet with Sublette Co. CD

Justin: Fire plan with Star Valley Front.