

Grey's River Forest Collaborative

August 16, 2018

Flipchart Notes

Kay Lynn:

- Joint Chiefs Application ready before RFP comes out in October in next few weeks. Now Salt River Range and Watershed Application.
- Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) funding – no money this year. Will look at proposals for later years.
- Contacted TU and Leslie Steen.
- Is working on WGFD Fence Conversions.

Justin:

- Middle Greys Project ongoing. Motorized, ORV system of trails includes 64" and single-track loops. Separate from main Greys River Road. Signed decision late August. Interest in non-motorized trails in the future.
- Byron Baker will have single track proposal next time.
- Fire Trail Fire, doesn't affect salvage timber project, approx. 40 acres
- Tri-Basin: working on fish culverts, recreational opportunities, salvage harvest Categorical Exclusion, 3rd party contract with Sundance Consulting. Looking at road improvements-partnership with Trout Unlimited (TU). Improve spawning, reduce fish barriers. Watershed restoration and improve the haul route.

Patrick: Re. Tri-Basin - Develop roads package that reduces maintenance. Will start culvert work 23 August for a few weeks. Put south side timber sale up first – 250 acres.

Don: Need to consider lynx, boreal toads. Mitigation build in for future motorized trails.

Justin: Decision re. Tri-Basin by Justin expected this fall.

Blind Bull landslide June 2017 Big Piney/Middle Greys area – contract awarded. Not sure when work will start. Porcupine landslide spring 2018 – bypass route in place but is temporary. Federal highways funding and administration contract, USFS in between.

Control burn plan for Star Valley in place for when conditions are right – Star Valley Front. Create benefits for wildlife. Hopefully this Fall or Spring 2019. Concerns re. smoke – do it in burn window and do it quick.

Leslie Steen: Upper Snake project manager for TU re. stream restoration. Has Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust funding for all four projects above. WLCI grant re. culvert and fish passage inventory for next year. Also working on Tin Cup Creek and Swift Creek.

Tedd: Concern re. motorized use off-road ,unlawful use. Justin working with motorized community to keep use lawful. Tedd would like more emphasis on motorized law enforcement.

Patrick: Works on soils and fisheries for USFS. New to the group.

Kelly: also new to the group. USFS Hydrologist.

Bob: Wants to keep purpose on forest health, not very interested in transportation.

Jerry: We're getting projects done – let's keep it going.

Derek: Have discussed 5 year vegetation plan with USFS and Lincoln and Sublette counties. This included Fire Trail/Murphy Creek. Plan includes everything except Grover Park. What would a watershed assessment look like? Can happen with outside funding re. Greys River. Not sure what scale this would be. Should we visit Skyline to see an example of a project? It contains a commercial sale, road work. It was started at a small scale and achieves many purposes. NEPA conducted in 9 months including public involvement.

Don: Wildlife benefits in older stands – he would like to explore this topic with the group.

Justin: Should connect projects to Salt Range?

Chuck: Wants to visit Skyline to cross pollinate with Sublette.

Dean: Wild and scenic designation possibility creates concerns.

Judy and others see benefits in this possibility.

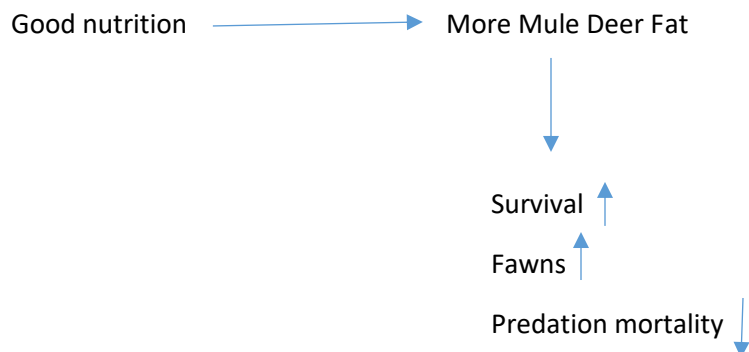
Rich Stem's Presentation re. funding possibilities:

Drop-dead date middle of October for Joint Chiefs application. Brooke is important to this. This year it is more competitive for fewer dollars. USFS, Kay Lynn, Commissioners, NGO's, WGFD, State Forestry all part of this. Rich can help with the approach, review the draft, help make it competitive. Needs a collaborative with NGO's, commissioners and state support. Looking for projects that are decided or almost decided. Use Salt River Range approach with specifics. Need to include private lands.

Re. watershed approach – determine scope, purpose and need at the front end crisply.

Do the "right" NEPA process – make sure it is the right scope, size and NEPA-type, purpose and need.

WGFD Gary Fralick's Presentation re. Mule Deer:



Gary asked the Collaborative to consider aspen stands and over age stands treatments as a way to help mule deer population nutrition, connectivity and migration.

Needs for Current Projects

Joint Chiefs Application will include Watershed Improvement to benefit wildlife and reduce fire threat (group needs to see Joint Chiefs Application Criteria – Kay Lynn will send):

- Irrigation system
- Swift Creek
- Weed treatments
- Star Valley Front Prescribed fires
- Star Valley Ranch fuel break
- Fire Trail Creek/Murphy Creek
- Little Greys
- 3 Forks area
- Grover Park
- Swift Creek (bring in Lower Valley Energy)
- Add small water/riparian improvements.
- Add available funds
- Include BLM?

Future Projects

- Phase II of the Greys River Collaborative needs to build on its successes.
- Crow Creek, Corral Creek, Spring Creek: Tributaries that need help in relation to fire risk.
- Look at where we have system roads.
- Look at the priorities, short term and long term.

Next Steps:

- First Draft of Joint Chiefs Application to Rich by 31 August
- First Draft for review by Collaborative et al. 7 September
- Comment Deadline September 17
- To signatories by September 24
- Letters of support need to be received by September 17

Next Meeting: 29 November

- Byron Baker's proposal.
- Updates Joint Chiefs Proposal.
- Updates current projects.
- Discussion for new projects:
 - Mule deer habitat: aspen and older stands.
 - Crow Creek, Corral Creek, Spring Creek: Tributaries that need help in relation to fire risk.
 - System roads.