

## Greys River Collaborative Notes

KayLynn welcomed everyone.

Justin & Gary are getting grants ready to go.

It was mentioned that Kent believes there is plenty of money out there for the collaborative's projects. No one else agreed. Everyone did say that it was all about the money and how to get it.

Agenda:

1. Joint Chief's application finalized by October.
2. Mule deer dynamics
3. Determine next steps for funding

Someone thought the Forest Service should ask for money to fund these projects.

A heads up – Byron will be proposing a motorized trail plan at the next meeting.

Justin said that they are close to signing an agreement on the Middle Greys. He discussed the meadows to Three Forks motorized trails. They want to make them wide enough for side by sides. He also said that they would loop away from the main road. He said that there currently were no non-motorized trail plans. They will also work on single track trails.

He gave an update on the Trail Fire – there is a Type 3 team in place with 170 fire fighters. It is about 40 acres in size and every effort is being made to protect the road.

He then spoke of the Tri-basin area. There are lots of projects in the works to make it better through agency cooperation. These improvements include: Road improvement, culverts, and stream improvement.

Also, timber could begin to be harvested this fall.

Patrick said that the roads still need a lot of work. This would help with haul routes. As roads are improved, it would open up more timber sales and more recreational access. He hoped to involve Trout Unlimited and The Game and Fish to replace culverts. This should help with spawning habitats and eliminate several fish barriers.

Kelly said that work on the culverts would start on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August in the area just south of Tri-Basin.

Discussion began about timber harvesting. Where does the money go? How will it affect lynx?

Discussion then moved to how culverts would help toads!!!

Justin said that togetherness makes everything better and neater. Cooperation has helped with the projects to date and he hopes it will continue.

The discussion then moved to landslides. The Blind Bull landslide occurred in June of 2017. It blocked the connection between Big Piney and Middle Greys. The Porcupine Slide occurred during February 2018. Federal Highways might move in and contract the Lander Company to rebuild the Greys River road that the slide damaged. The Porcupine slide damaged a major forest artery.

Next, people weighed in on which slide needed to be addressed first. Ted Jenkins commented that the Porcupine slide area needed to be stabilized. A wet fall could really hurt the Greys River road. There was a brief discussion about priorities in this area. No conclusion was reached.

Bob asked what could be done for the Greys River road.

Justin told everyone not to worry the Forest Service is dealing with this issue.

Judi asked about controlled burns.

Justin said that the conditions must be right for controlled burns and paperwork in place. There are certain "burn windows" when these can occur. Justin really supports controlled burns and said that they are very beneficial. He would like to see them in late fall or spring. The smoke generated is really for the well being of the forest.

Dean said that he disagreed. He said that the smoke isn't good for people and they shouldn't have to suffer controlled burns.

Discussion then went to Trout Unlimited's work in cooperation with their Jackson counterparts to improve fish habitats. They are seeking grants to do quality culverts in the Greys River area as well as Tincup and Swift Creek.

Ted Jenkins questioned how the Greys River area law enforcement worked. He said there are rogue ATVers everywhere.

Justin replied that they have limited resources for this. Groups must have ownership in enforcement.

Ted replied that there needs to be stiffer penalties for the ATV crowd who ignore the laws, and for Pete's sake – leave the firewood people alone!

Bob said that the collaborative needs to focus on the right thing which is – FOREST HEALTH!!!

Jerry said that things have come together well for timber sales to begin.

Derek congratulated the group for their successes. He said that they need to prioritize their spending, but that money isn't everything. He mentioned learning creative approaches from other areas. He mentioned a field trip to Skyline to see an example of a small idea growing into something important. Their success was partially due to using the right NEPA process.

Don Delong spoke about the location of timber harvesting and its effect on wildlife.

Chuck said that we need to support wildlife in this area and he favors a Sublette tour. He said that maybe we could "Cross Pollinate." Success breeds success and we are an example of it!

Dean brought up the Wild and Scenic designation. A very lively discussion followed with only Judi Reide thinking this might be a good thing.

Gary gave a presentation on mule deer.

Taking the watershed approach to meeting goals was discussed. Talk also veered to objectives and focus in the Tri basin area. Again it was mentioned that forest health is the prime goal. Someone said that the collaborative attracts money.

Justin said that tackling all the projects was too large for the Joint Chiefs grant and that we need to focus on smaller watersheds. The group needs to choose whatever will succeed to get the grant by being strategic.

Jerry thinks they should focus on Greys River tributaries that have dead timber.

Bob said that the focus should be on the roads in place.

They decided to list the tributaries and their needs according to importance.

It was pointed out that the group should determine what they want now and then have a Phase 1 and Phase 2 grouping.

The Joint Chiefs application was discussed in detail at this point. KayLynn talked about the projects that are in the works. Input from the collaborative was requested by Jessica. It was mentioned at this time that fire suppression is a big deal at the federal level right now.

The deadline for the draft of the application will be August 31 after which it will go to Rich for review and then to everyone else in the collaborative on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Any editing will be returned to KayLynn by the 17<sup>th</sup> and the Grant will be sent off on October 1.

It was mentioned that letters of support from individual collaborative members should be sent in as well.

Jessica read the Collaborative Charter and it was decided to include language about maintaining forest health, travel management and hydrology. The updated Charter was signed by all.

A 5 year trail plan was discussed as was the plan to maintain current grazing practices.

The grazing data is fresh right now for the Nepa application.

At this point the discussion veered to summarizing what had been discussed and a proposal was made for Destry Deardon to create a story board map for the next meeting to be held in Afton on November 29<sup>th</sup>.