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Everyone give updates on projects and what they would like the FS to work on.

Justin Laycock gave updates on Tri-Basin.

Patrick Barry-Forest Fisheries Biologist: 10 culverts were replaced this fall. 1 more temporary culvert across the Greys River mainstem. This has opened another 17 miles of trout habitat. This was funded with money from Trout Unlimited that they obtained through WLCI (Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative).

Justin: With the Martin Fire the FS was able to rehab the roads from the South End into Greys River. This was done using crews from the Caribou Targhee forest. They resurfaced and worked the road to the junction at Tri-Basin divide and did a small section between Forest Park and North Three Forks. The FS anticipates that the Tri-Basin sale will be ready to put out for bids next fall. The reason for the late timeline is that the FS has had issues with the contractor for the CE. The CE should be out soon, but the timber sale can't be marked until June when the FS can get in to the area.

Discussion was held on why this is taking so long. The FS did have problems with the contractor that was hired. This has been a learning process to work through with the FS as they have limited timber staff. The BT is hiring staff to be able to address these issues and do the CE's in house.

The FS will work on Fire-Trail and Murphy this fiscal year for additional CE's.

There was a discussion regarding salvageable timber from the Martin Creek/Roosevelt fires that took place this year and whether this also be added to the list of places to work on this fiscal year.

Porcupine Landslide: The FS used federal highway funds to repair the roads from the slide. When the toe of the landslide was removed the slide moved. The FS redesigned with a French drain. The slide moved 2-3 times more material than anticipated. There is one month of work left on Porcupine. The FS may have to plow the road to the slide get the work finished before winter. Snow machine access will be available while work continues.

Blind Bull slide: Blind Bull is opened back up. The Porcupine work allowed the FS to also work on Blind Bull. While they added more drainage to the Porcupine slide, they shifted the work and equipment to Blind Bull. The road is re-surfaced also. The snow machine groomer will be able to go through this year with no problems. Ted Jenkins commented that this is the best he's seen the road in 20 years.

The FS now needs focused on fires and fuels work.

Dean Burnham asked how many board feet will the Greys River District put out in the next 5 years. Dean Burnham asked Jerry Harmon how much was offered in the 1970's. The answer was 10-12 million board feet per year. Dean B. and Jerry H. worked for the FS in that time frame.

Judy Reide asked why there weren't prescribed burns on the Star Valley Front and Bug Creek this year. The answer was that it was so dry that it wasn't conducive to burning this year.

There was a question about fire history along the SV Front. The controlled burns will take place in the higher country and not along the roads.

Jacob Henrie (Fuel Office for the BT): The BT had a timber and fuels meeting two weeks ago. There is a will to get work done that has not been on the BT previously. They are working on how to streamline the effort to get timber off.

Patrick Barry (fisheries biologist BT): The timeline is frustrating on Tri-Basin. The watershed shop and timber shop communicated well this summer and were able to get work done in preparation for Tri-

Basin sale. The communication between departments is improving to get projects done. The Ogden Regional office did want more acres for harvest now that Tri-Basin is in place.

The FS is prepared for the Fire Trail/Murphy effort.

Salt Creek project: This project improved habitat for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. 90% of habitat improvement on the forest are funded through partnerships. (WLCI, Trout Unlimited, RAC etc.)

Hi-Lights of Tri-Basin Learning Experience

- Contracting/Statement of Work
- Timing has been frustrating. It's taken longer than FS thought it would. Good things have come out of it though. Trail head improvement and roadwork will make it easier for future areas.
- This has been a new area of work for the FS. They now know how to navigate this field.
- FS will do all future CE's in house and not hire a contractor.
- The FS has a monthly NEPA coordination meeting now. Relationships are now in place between departments/disciplines that allow the FS to work together better.

Judy Reide: (Wyoming Outdoor Council): She see's the need for the projects but is afraid wildlife is taking a backseat. Discussion was held regarding how wildlife issues are addressed for each decision/project.

Gary Fralick (Wyoming Game and Fish Biologist): The Game and Fish is doing studies on migration corridors to make sure they are not compromised. They see no issues with these projects at this time. The Game and Fish actively comments on all projects. Example: Middle Greys project was modified to benefit wildlife after they had commented on the project. The Game and Fish is not concerned on projects because they are working with the FS when projects come out for comment.

FS: When we look to do landscape scale projects, we will benefit wildlife and other resource areas.

Judy feels that timber harvests are coming first, and wildlife is second.

Kay Lynn thoughts for next collaborative: How do wildlife get considered in projects and how money from wildlife groups support projects.

Ted Jenkins (Outfitting): Ted is concerned about wildfires. Outfitters were displaced because of the fires. Why wasn't there a fire ban in place for deer season?

Timber harvests will help so we don't have catastrophic fires.

Mel Shumway (Private weed control business): He wanted to know what the FS was doing for noxious weed prevention and how they map weeds on the forest. He would like to see educational signs on how to clean vehicles/atv's before coming on the forest. He would also like a comprehensive weed map that all users/permitees could add to when they see outbreaks or areas that need attention, so FS can take care of problem areas.

Kent Connelly (Lincoln County Commissioner): Concerned with the process. We have got to get timbering projects done so the public can see that money is being spent wisely. EIS takes 3-5 years. Get something done.

Robert King (Lincoln County Commissioner): Would like to move faster on projects and see NEPA streamlined. Let's get things moving.

Jerry Harmon (Lincoln County Commissioner): same sentiments as above

Gary Fralick: (Wyoming Game and Fish): Mule deer in GTNP (Grand Teton National Park) have a confirmed case of CWD (Chronic wasting disease.) Mountain Goats in park are going to be removed. Game and Fish are doing a study on how mule deer bucks move through the system. They will be collaring bucks to track them. Hoback to Red Desert migration studies are done now doing Wyoming Range studies. They will identify migration corridors and stopovers.

Byron Baker asked when the Game and Fish would be feeding the elk in Alpine. Gary answered that the Game and Fish want to keep the animals dispersed for as long as possible. There is CWD on feed grounds and don't it to spread. When there are several hundred elk, they will consider it. Check back often with G&F.

Rich: Has had meetings with the undersecretary and chief. They are reaching out to state forestry, retiree's, NGO's. There is a new chief and deputy chief of the Forest Service. FS has lost 7000 employees in timber, biology, and silviculture and 45% of their budget. FS is looking for larger budgets. They are working on streamlining the NEPA process and getting rid of unnecessary regulations. This doesn't shortcut the process, all needs will still be covered. This will make it better.

There is a big emphasis on who has collaborative and who doesn't as far as funding goes. We need to keep the collaborative going but accomplish something. SHOW RESULTS Washington DC will notice, and more resources will come.

Fire suppression is funded at the expense of all other areas.

Combine resources from different areas (within the FS)

Different method to treat forests-master stewardship agreements

DC will focus funds where the need is (Rockies and California) get master agreements in place.

Byron: Why does the FS spend billions to put out fires but not management? He would like to see the FS spend \$1 for management instead of \$10 for fighting fires.

Mel: When third party entities are doing studies and EA's who pays for that? FS pays for some projects to help streamline and add projects. Sometimes companies will pay to get work expedited.

Efforts to use county resources-multiply efforts not duplicate efforts.

There was discussion of how budget cuts in the 1990's did away with programs. Legislation passed in Congress made FS project out what needed done on forest. (Doesn't work well) Clinton administration got into details of FS management. Budgets became flat. For the last 10-12 years fire has gone from 18% of budget to 50% of budget.

Jeremy Larson: (non-motorized recreation-mountain bikes-town council Alpine) He would like to see year-round non-motorized trails and groomed cross country ski trails.

Dan Dockstader: (Senator-SD16) Sense of urgency for FS to get something done this summer.

Dean Burnham: (Public at large) He was a forester by trade. Thanks to the FS for road work and culverts that were done. Fire policy of FS contributed to large fires. No timbering and putting out fires by 10am.

Kelly Owens: (Hydrologist BT) Patrick gave updates regarding fisheries and hydrology departments. Kelly is working on a sediment model. This will help with reduction in sediment loading as a result of all the road projects/improvements. This will quantify the benefits of road work. She will be calibrating the model over the winter.

Byron Baker: (Blue Ribbon Coalition-Motorized Recreation) Blue Ribbon Coalition is supporting the Great Western Trail project which links motorized and non-motorized trails. He would like more single-track trails added to the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Fires need to be stopped. If we timber, we don't burn up the wildlife and infrastructure on the forest.

Justin Laycock: Update on Middle Greys decision. The fires have put the Middle Greys decision on hold. He is meeting with partners to finalize details. They are close to being able to put on a decision (2 weeks). Question was had on whether the final will be similar to the draft. Justin said some dates were modified for more use in the fall. (trails open longer) No winter use was analyzed this will have to be a separate analysis. This will require another NEPA for snow machine use. It is not in the works yet.

Question was asked if the collaborative would support a grooming NEPA? No real discussion on this.

Jacob Henrie: (timber BT) The forest service would like to stop fires before they start. The FS would like to focus on healthy forest that allows good fires/less bad fires. The collaborative is the way to accomplish this. (Hope is not a plan) Prevent bad fires and get accomplishments done from the collaborative so we have a sustainable timber economy that will benefit all the other uses.

Question was asked if FS was implementing a timber economy? Answer was to focus on getting timbering done.

Byron: Byron suggested that there be kiosks in campgrounds that tell the story of what the FS is doing.

There has been resistance to timbering from Jackson and Greys River Ranger District. We are talking about it, but nothing is happening so far, and people are frustrated. We talked about different forests and how they have robust timber programs, while having good wildlife also. This is where Rich might be able to help direct the FS. (Kootenai forest, panhandle of Idaho)

Kay Lynn Nield: Went over good neighbor authority agreements. The Wyoming Department of Ag(State of Wyoming) has finalized master agreements with both regions of the FS. They can now move forward with projects on the forest once the FS identifies a need and has funding. This allows the FS to provide WDA a project and funding to contract with a 3rd party to accomplish what the FS can't get to, do not have manpower to do. This also would allow them to complete a NEPA that does not rise to a high enough priority to commit their staff time to. It can also be used for some infrastructure and clearances. The FS retains all decision-making authority, but implementation tasks (monitoring, clearances, construction of infrastructure etc.....) will occur on forest lands. All we need to do is write a supplemental project agreement and the FS signs off on it with the funding and it's up to WDA to make sure the work gets done. The state does not provide funds but could if they wanted to leverage it. It is not required and there is no match component either.

Dave Allred: (motorized recreation) Dave presented a single-track proposal to the group. This proposal connects Squaw Creek to the South End, one loop in Swift Creek, Dry Creek, and Cottonwood. Right now, single track trails enter and exit at the same place. His group is willing to maintain and clear the trails.

There was discussion amongst the group about pros and cons. Ted Jenkins and Lanny Draney were concerned about connecting the way trail for motorized use. Wildlife concerns came up by G&F/outfitters/horse riders.

We all looked at the maps that were provided and said we would discuss again at our next meeting after everyone had time to think about it. Maps are attached.

Joe Nield and Marc Clark: (grazing representatives) They spoke about the need for infrastructure. They FS provides materials for fencing but many times they don't have materials available when needed. This is because of the funding issues with FS budgets not being approved until well into the grazing season. Most of the funding goes to weed control leaving very little for maintenance of infrastructure. Many of the fences and water developments are not getting maintained like is needed. The infrastructure is 40 years old and in need of serious maintenance.

Permittees have worked with the SVCD and FS to put rangeland monitoring in place but the FS hasn't done any permit renewals. Most forests are on the second round of permit renewals, but not the Greys River Ranger District. NEPA needs to be streamlined to get this work done. It shouldn't be this difficult.

Kay Lynn Nield (Star Valley Conservation District): We have partnered with permittees and the FS to get rangeland monitoring in place, so permit renewals can be done. Our focus has been to get baseline data on permits so environmental groups can't close grazing due to FS not having done monitoring since the 1980's. The Wyoming Department of Ag has provided funding for this through the Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP). All cattle allotments on the Greys River Ranger District have monitoring in place. SVCD is working on getting RHAP's done Fred Roberts sheep allotments on the Middle Ridge. The two allotments we will be focusing on is Three Forks and Bear Creek allotments. SVCD also can apply for funding on water developments on the FS but getting CE work done is problematic. NEPA work needs streamlined.

Lanny Draney:(backcountry horseman) Their group has 500-600 members that met a few years ago. They are concerned about trail conditions and resource damage of motorized recreation. They are looking for a balance between motorized and non-motorized use. Their group presented information to Richard Raione, the previous Greys River Ranger District Ranger regarding trail use. They estimated there were 31,500 horse use days on the Greys River Ranger District.

Byron noted that the forest's designated use is for public use.

There was limited discussion on designated trails.

Justin Laycock commented that the Middle Greys plan should provide looped trails to give users opportunity for and experience.

Jeremy Larson commented that trails are designed for a specific purpose to attract different uses. The FS should design for a purpose.

Single track users noted that their trails are random and look like they are drawn on the map with no input from the users. They need escape routes for storms or emergencies.

There was discussion on unauthorized trail use by motorized recreation and limited enforcement by the FS.

Byron Baker noted that Wyoming State Trails does provide funding to deputize someone to provide education to off road vehicles.

Public lands belong to the public. ORV pays stickers for use. Age old argument. Not sure what solutions are.

Byron provided information on this program. I will send in a separate email.

As a group we talked about priorities for the FS. Fire Trail and Murphy will get a timber CE for 2019 if there is money from Joint Chiefs grant.

As a group we looked at FS maps for next project by the forest service. We looked at Little Greys and Grover Park as the next focus areas. We broke into 2 groups and talked about pros and cons. Justin presented to the group that we do a watershed scale analysis on Grover Park. It was voted on by the group to do this as it was one of the areas that was identified when we first met. This plan would consider all aspects of Grover Park: timber, recreation, watershed, grazing, trails. It would identify existing conditions and what do we need to do from here. There was one neutral vote from Senator Dockstader because this is a prime recreation area right out of the valley. The FS will move forward with analysis for Grover Park.

There was concern that the logging projects would not move forward up the Greys River if we start on a big project like this.

Rich gave some advice to the FS/collaborative that on a watershed project don't make it too big, so nothing gets done or too small that not enough gets done. He also said that there could be different ways for the FS to go about this project. The FS could use all NEPA methods. (multiple CE's, large EA) He cautioned about getting trapped into a bigger analysis. Identify in 3 or 4 months what the urgent needs are while analyzing the bigger area.

Rich offered to do a NEPA training for the collaborative for the next meeting. Which we will have him do. We may offer a public NEPA meeting next time also or possibly before Grover Park comes out.

Next Steps

1. NEPA 101
2. Short- and Long-Term goals lined out
3. Possible field trip in the spring to lay out tri-basin timber sale with some collaborative members. Layout timber sale.
4. Blueprint for Grover Park
5. Doodle poll for next meeting times. Legislature doesn't get out until the end of Feb. so sometime in March.