

Next meeting: March 10, 1 PM, SCC

Joint NEWFC/CNF Bi-monthly Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2011

Forest Service attending: Supervisor Laura Jo West, Rodney Smolden, John Buehler, Elizabeth Bran, Elaine Kohrman, Tom Pawley, Eric Trimble, Steve Rawlings

NEWFC Board Attending: Lloyd McGee (president)), Ron Gray (treasurer), Tim Coleman (secretary), Serena Carlson (executive director), Maurice Williamson, Steve West, Jeff Juel, Phil Carew, David Heflick, Dick Dunton

Others attending: Claudia Michalke, Sheila Stalp, Chuck Gades, Keith Johnson, Commissioner Diane Wear

Agenda:

Introductions; Review Agenda

1. Forest Service Updates - Laura Jo West
2. NEWFC Updates - Lloyd McGee
3. East Wedge
4. Title II Project
5. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act Proposal
6. Public Comments

Discussion:

1. Forest Service Updates - Laura Jo West

RE: meeting with the Coalition and Rep. McMorris Rodgers staff. Stewardship Contracting retained receipts have not been allowed to be used to do NEPA, however, the Regional Forester is considering giving the Colville that option. Large-scale NEPA was also a concern raised – traditionally broad scale projects are considered a high risk – but given the collaborative situation here the Forest Service is will consider this approach.

Q. Anything to report re your visit with the RO?

A. Mary Wagner has moved to DC; Cal Joyner is Acting RO. There is a trend across the country toward running Forests as individual businesses, investing in and looking for creative ways to get the work done and collaborative groups are important to that process.

Q. Is the FS budget is going to be cut by 5% - how much longer will Proof of Concept be honored?

A. Through 2012. The reality is POC has not been a great help to FS budget. 2013 puts us into the Strategic Budget process and operating in a competitive environment with other forests in Region.

Q. What about biofuels opportunities? How can NEWFC help?

A. I don't believe biofuels factors into CNF's budget. We have some leeway to determine budgets so they are in line with future need – those conversations are occurring locally.

Q. Did you meet with Senator Cantwell staff yesterday?

A. Yes, met with Paul Wolfe and Wyatt King. Clearly they have gotten the message re need for acres treated (10,000 acres) and volume produced and what is needed to make that happen.

2. NEWFC Updates - Lloyd McGee

The Coalition is wrapping up its involvement on Kettle Face Project. We've gone deeper into mesic forest restoration and will be meeting tomorrow with the Science Review Team comprised of Teri Jain, Russ Graham and Derek Churchill to discuss mesic forest restoration prescriptions.

- East Wedge. The Coalition has participated in 5 meetings with the Conservation District to develop a final set of restoration strategies and a final package was handed off to the Forest Service yesterday.

- Third Party Monitoring. The Coalition has identified a need for more third-party monitoring and use that to help improve our efficiencies, including supporting our CFLRP proposal.

Q. Have you considered your capacity to do such monitoring?

A. Yes. There are a lot of people looking for work who are qualified.

3. East Wedge

Claudia has received prescriptive guidelines from the Forest Service. All documents prepared by her Inter Disciplinary Team were given to the Forest Service. A meeting is scheduled tomorrow to discuss the Proposed Action. It is conceivable that a Decision could be signed off by September which would allow for some field work to be done this year.

Q. Will an analysis at the end of this project determine what or what not this project is doing for us?

A. Yes.

4. Title II Monitoring

Misery project is to monitor: Road construction, maintenance and obliteration, Stream side buffers, Regeneration harvest prescriptions. Dick and Serena are working with Richard Edwards, USFS OK-Wen NF, who is program manager, with objective of funding approval by Feb. Then start monitoring plan development with local USFS. Expect operating field season May-Oct, with final report by 1st April 2012.

- Regen Harvest modeling

Dick has been working with Richard Everett. It would be helpful to get funds moving by February to pay costs. The purpose of this project is to model roads and roads obliteration. Operating season is May-October. Expect work to be done by 1st of April 2012.

5. CFLRP – Elizabeth Bran

There is a lot of information coming out RO regarding fire. Mitch Friedman and Serena have been working on drafting the proposal. RO has been giving feedback. Restoration Strategy Team is working to shore up mesic restoration strategies following Okanogan-Wenatchee strategies. We will be tweaking some of our projects but by and large we will be proposing the same projects as our last (2010) proposal.

Q. What sort of agenda is the Forest Service bringing to the Science Committee meeting tomorrow?

A. No special agenda – we see this as our agenda.

Q. How is the information coming out of the meeting going through the translations box – what comes out the other end?

A. This is a basic research approach.

Q. Has contracting of an outside review specialist been discussed?

A. Yes. If the opportunity comes up during the meeting with the Science Team then, yes, we will explore that option.

Q. Is there money available to fund CFLRP projects, and how many will make it through the process?

A. No one knows for sure regarding available funds. The last we heard is that two proposals will be submitted from the Region.

Q. Will a restoration strategy be developed for the entire Forest?

A. Yes.

Maurice asked if Hanlon Project could be included. Maurice spoke with John Stensgar about engaging in CFLRP. John spoke with Teri Jain (Rocky Mt. Research Sta.) and is comfortable with our proposal development. Laura Jo suggested that we get another outside group (The Nature Conservancy or Sustainable Northwest) involved. Tim noted that TNC completed their Okanogan Regional Assessment a couple years back which included the Kettle Range.

6. Broadening the Coalition

Laura Jo said there is a need to avoid backsliding as other groups, especially motorized recreation, broaden and coalesce. A lengthy discussion followed. Several participants noted the long history of Colville NF recreation collaboration has at times been complicated by Forest Service-led recreation planning. However, significant advancement was made toward reaching agreement during the congressional-led Roundtable. Unfortunately motorized recreation did not have a decision-making process in place at that time and further progress was stalled.

There was agreement that in the future vegetation management projects could include recreation infrastructure including new trail development and that this could be a goodwill builder with recreation groups that motivates them to engage as separate but equal participants in project collaboration. Lloyd pointed out that NEWFC is a vegetation-management collaborative group and that building a new collaborative recreation coalition is necessary.

End

Next Meeting: March 10, 1 PM, Stevens County Conservation Group

Adjourned: 3:07 PM

Filename: 11 Jan rev. Joint CNF-NEWFC mtg notes.doc
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: Approved -- Joint NEWFC/CNF Bi-monthly Meeting
Subject:
Author: Tim Coleman
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 1/24/2011 4:35 PM
Change Number: 9
Last Saved On: 1/26/2011 9:54 AM
Last Saved By: Owner
Total Editing Time: 45 Minutes
Last Printed On: 9/24/2014 4:11 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 1,083 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 6,176 (approx.)