

Next meeting: September 15, 1 PM, SCCD

Joint NEWFC/CNF Bi-monthly Meeting Minutes - Revised
July 21, 2011 – SCCD

Forest Service attending: Supervisor Laura Jo West, Rodney Smolden, Elizabeth Brann, Matt Ramich, Vaughn Hinte

NEWFC: Russ Vaagen, Ron Gray, Tim Coleman, Derrick Knowles, Maurice Williamson, Jeff Juel, Dick Dunton

Agenda:

1. Introductions, Review Agenda
2. Forest Service Leadership Updates - Laura Jo West
3. NEWFC Updates - Russ
4. Forest Plan Revision Process – why has collaborated recommendations not moved forward? NEWFC alternative? Public process is flawed?
5. Project updates
6. East Wedge
7. Personnel update
8. NEWFC stuff (retreat, outreach, bugs)

Discussion

1. Forest Service Leadership Updates - Laura Jo West
Robert Sanchez will be the new Republic RD ranger and **Gayne Sears** will be the new Newport/Sullivan Lake ranger. Both will be starting their respective jobs on September 12. Staff are currently focusing on budget and diversity issues. Cal Joyner will be leaving Region 6 in August and will be replaced by Nora Rasure. About 100 people attended the CNF LRMP open house in Colville which got mired in conspiracies about homeland security, government control, etc. Expectation is the public comment period will be extended by 30 days.

R6 Kent Connaughton will be coming to the CNF to review potential pilot project, August 18 & 19. Mike Poulson had discussed this project with Harris Sherman and also with the Coalition.

Discussion

LJ: the word “pilot” creates concerns at many levels. “Large Scale Project” might be a better term to use

Maurice: good to have a consistent theme, ie. Lodgepole pine and beetles and it would be helpful to have maps

Russ: it would be helpful to salvage dying and dead lodgepole trees before they turn blue and do so within NEWFC’s Active Management Zone.

Claudia: why not adjust the Blueprint boundaries to fit the need?

Tim: Depends on objectives. Bugs are natural recyclers, starting the process of turning trees to soil, but if your objective is supporting timber jobs then salvage might be appropriate. The Blueprint was designed to fit the roaded landscape and that’s the more appropriate place for the large scale project.

Maurice: why not use 70 ac. CEs?

Rodney: (showing) this picture (of beetle killed trees) is in the Jasper area but fall within NEWFC’s restoration zone.

Russ: we might have a problem if project area is next to or in a PWA.

2. NEWFC Updates - Russ

Forest Plan Revision Process – why isn't the public and NEWFC collaborated recommendations / verbiage not the same? We would like to be informed by the Planning Team as to their thinking and also we'd like to take you up on your offer to have a collaborative alternative.

Q. Would it be possible to set up a meeting with the LRMP Management Team

A. LJ: Yes. We'll see about setting that up.

Russ: we have some general concerns that PWAs don't have any level of protection and we want that recognized and we also don't believe the timber program is adequate. We'd like to talk about that with the Management Team.

LJ: Maybe in Tonasket? Rodney: my recommendations is call it management area "A, B, C or D"

Russ described the recent NEWFC Retreat including strategic objectives, roles and responsibilities that are currently a work in progress. Also discussed was NEWFC's public outreach strategy. NEWFC has done a lot of outreach to Rotary, Chamber, and other community groups, but apparently we weren't really leaving a lasting impression with most of the participants.

Misery Monitoring Grant: The monitoring plan is being finalized. Dick spoke with Tom Shudda about stream buffer zones and he expects field work to start next week or thereabouts. The draft monitoring field work is expected to be completed by October and final report out by next March.

National Forest Foundation gave NEWFC a grant to hold a collaborative training.

3. Visual Landscape

Matt Ramich gave a PowerPoint regarding an educational device he developed during his 3 year (SCEP) program working with the Forest Service. The project outputs include outreach documents designed for the Forest Service and the public to improve communication re visual affects of vegetation management, visual & character descriptions of the landscape.

4. East Wedge

- What are needs completed?
- When will the project be available to bid?

5. Project updates

- Status of current awarded projects
- Update on time lines for opening projects
- What is in the pipeline for FY 2012?

End

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