

Next meeting: June 9, 1-3 PM

Joint NEWFC/CNF Bi-monthly Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2011

Forest Service attending: Supervisor Laura Jo West, Rodney Smolden, Ed Maffey, Tom Pawley, Elaine Kohrman

NEWFC: Russ Vaagen, (vice president), Ron Gray (treasurer), Tim Coleman (secretary), Maurice Williamson, Jeff Juel, David Heflick, Dick Dunton, Steve McConnell

Others attending: John Eminger, Sheila Stalp (Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers), Matt Hobbs, Cassandra Hemphill (U of MT)

Agenda:

Introductions; Review Agenda

1. Forest Service Updates - Laura Jo West
2. NEWFC Updates - Russ
3. CNF Project Updates
4. NEWFC Questions & Comments
5. CNF Follow-up
6. Public Comments

1. Forest Service Updates - Laura Jo West

There are two district ranger vacancies in Republic and Newport. Travis Fletcher will be taking on a 4 month assignment as acting DR in Newport and Al Watson will be acting DR in Republic for the same time frame. The deputy forest supervisor position will not be filled.

Q. Why won't Travis be detailed to Republic?

A. FS doesn't assign acting status in the same districts as where staff live.

Q. Who will be taking over allotment management renewals while Travis is gone?

A. Brandon Wyman

2. NEWFC Updates – Russ

NEWFC is currently looking for an executive director and board president. Lloyd was NEWFC's communication liaison between the Coalition and Forest Service. With Lloyd's departure, liaison needs will be split between Maurice and David Heflick. David noted that he and Maurice met with Laura Jo and Elizabeth to discuss their assignment by the NEWFC Board to be liaisons. They set a meeting with Laura Jo for May 10 to discuss the MOU between NEWFC and the Forest Service as per that agreement to review provisions upon its renewal (signed last year). Continuity between in-person meetings saves time and is more efficient.

3. Project Updates

Ed Maffey handed out copies of current projects lists of currently awarded, completed and pending forestry projects. Tim will post these to the NEWFC website.

Q. Why is Sand Creek scheduled out to August?

A. It is scheduled to keep timber outputs spread throughout the year which is done to mesh with FS workforce capacity.

Q. When is Hanlon cost-share road construction to be awarded?

A. As soon as supplement to existing agreements (ie. Stimson, DNR) is completed.

Q. When will Kettle Face be awarded?

A. Kettle Face will be split in two and contract preparation will be done – second quarter (January 2012 at the earliest) for the first contract with the second contract to follow as soon thereafter as possible. POV staff are being redirected to work on this project. Until Power Lake is completed the POV staff will work on Kettle Face (in 2012).

A. Mesic restoration strategy

Re: Terry Jain / Derek Churchill mesic restoration strategy. Paul Hessberg has declined to engage in this discussion and he told Tom to go ahead with what was in the strategy. The CNF strategy re CFLR follows O-WNF strategy modified to fit the CNF biophysical environments.

B. Collaboration Efficiency

During Malo Eastlake planning, Linda Fee recommended a post-project analysis be completed to determine efficiencies or lack thereof realized during the project. David noted that Linda Fee had distributed copies of the analysis. Laura Jo will find and distribute electronic copies of that analysis.

C. East Wedge

NEWFC submitted comments, asked questions, but received no response back from Stevens County Conservation District (overseeing project planning and layout).

There will be more collaboration on the project and Rodney or Jean Lavell will have to be at the table. Conversations so far have been between FS and NEWFC, not SCCD. The problem is SCCD-hired contractors have all the data. FS will not be using HFRA. Scoping has been done and there are issues that should generate another alternative that has no road construction in it. The question is how does the FS collaborate on alternatives? There may need to be some shift in the collaboration process by perhaps engaging more directly regarding fuels treatment, prescriptions and roads. FS will meet internally and Rodney will report back to NEWFC regarding process changes. Also, it is difficult to measure cost efficiencies under the current reporting structure.

C. LIDAR Update

Maurice recapped conversation with Laura Jo regarding what information is available? Tom noted about 100K acres of LIDAR was done in 2008 along the entire Sherman corridor. The hope was to develop a Sherman project but for a variety of reasons planning has been postponed to FY 2012. Hydrology, stand structure, roads, non-forest, topography data were all very good. Shortcomings are species analysis – LIDAR doesn't look under trees - which means ground-based analysis would still be necessary. LIDAR is very expensive.

Q. Is it a buck an acre for the analysis – 49 Degrees N costs were higher?

A. Yes, a buck an acre, but there is potential for hidden costs and the FS is assessing cost efficiencies.

Maurice noted that for bigger analysis areas the costs for LIDAR decreases to 70 cents/acre.

Q. What are walk through vs stand examine costs? Would it be cheaper to have specialists do a walk through rather than gathering plot data?

A. \$20/30/acre are stand examination costs. Walk through data would not have data collection associated with it and it would therefore be cursory.

D. Development Meeting Protocols/Agendas

Lloyd and Don had discussed putting together a standardized meeting protocol. In the past agendas were determined a week in advance and distributed widely. David suggested drafting FS/NEWFC meeting agendas during monthly check-in meetings between Maurice, David and Elizabeth.

E. Forest Plan Revision

FS is now projecting June 9 for release of its draft action plan that includes an executive summary and maps that include wilderness recommendations and proposed management areas. FS outreach to key groups is being developed and will be announced the week before the official roll-out. FS met with Pend Oreille and Stevens County commissioners this past week. Colville NF will have it's own proposed action. The Draft Forest Plan will also be CNF specific while the EIS will include the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville. There will be a 60 day public comment period following release of the action plan. Planning is likely to follow 1982 NFMA regs. Rodney noted there is some uncertain how a new plan will effect projects in the hopper at the time it is enacted.

F. Government Shutdown

Maurice spoke with Traci Beck about potential for a government shutdown. Laura Jo said only project advertisements were impacted and she doesn't expect any other problems this year.

G. Education opportunities

-Fire suppression was identified as an issue that needs further discussion so there is a shared understanding of what to expect in the event of a wildfire. Laura Jo has spoken with Steve Rawlings about it.

-Budgeting is an issue that is complicated and often misunderstood. Laura Jo is looking for an opportunity to hold an educational seminar regarding the issue that would be open to the public. Elaine warned to expect to see more competition regarding appropriations. IRR comes from community groups (like NEWFC) that lobby Congress re Forest Service budgets. May 19 there will be a Forest Enterprise Team meeting to discuss NEPA and Margaret Hartzell will be there to discuss Forest Plan NEPA. Tom noted that the FET helped planners regarding the Summit Pierre road proposal.

Meeting Schedule:

- June 9, 1-3 PM, will be the next joint meeting of FS / NEWFC – this will also be NEWFC's annual meeting.

- July 14, 1-3 PM, joint meeting of FS / NEWFC

- Elaine Kohrman received a placard of appreciation from NEWFC.

End

Adjourned: 12:03 PM

Filename: 11 May 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: 5/5/2011 10:17 AM
Change Number: 12
Last Saved On: 5/12/2011 3:06 PM
Last Saved By: Owner
Total Editing Time: 176 Minutes
Last Printed On: 9/24/2014 4:17 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 1,176 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 6,709 (approx.)