

**Joint bi-monthly of Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition and Forest Service
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2012**

In attendance:

Tom Dibane, Laura Jo West, Rodney Smolden, Robert Sanchez, Josh Anderson, Shiela Stalp, Mike Poulson, Patti Orth, Franklin Pemberton, Craig Newman, Lunell Haught, Dick Dunton, Ron Gray, Russ Vaagen, Tim Coleman, David Heflick, Derrick Knowles, Maurice Williamson, Mike Petersen, Brian Dandel, Bryan Raines, Don Dasheil, Mitch Friedman

Discussion

1. Laura Jo West – FS Budget

Projected volume output is 45 million feet but budget cuts fund just 34.5 mmbf with commitment from Proof of Concept concluding. Budget decline is \$175K in FY 12 and down another 13% in FY 13. Total forest management budget is \$1.8M. Spending down salvage by/to \$400K

2. Forest Plan

Planning has gone into the “black box” phase after finish of public comment. Laura Jo and Becky Heath met with Kent Connaughton to get his approval to move forward re alternative themes. Not likely there will be any surprises in DEIS. Laura Jo said “we’ve heard what you said about the Summit process and NEWFC blueprint.” Expect some mix and match of the two or they might be separate alternatives. DEIS is due out Jan 2013 and not likely much delayed from that because funding is running out. Separate O-WNF and CNF documents will be released simultaneously.

3. Long Term Planning (LTP); Collaborative Landscape Restoration Act Project (CFLRP)

Laura Jo said LTP falls under FS/NEWFC MOU. Consideration is being given where best to engage NEWFC collaboration in LTP. Rodney gave a description of rolling 10 year planning cycle. Every year we are administering what has been sold. 5 year strategy: 1) sell, 2) prep, 3) plan, 4) inventory, 5) new entry, 6-10 year: pool of potential projects but little time investment. We don’t want to interfere with CFLRP which is 10 year horizon. 5 year fits well with A2Z (large landscape, 50K acres) contract 10 year project. Elizabeth is lead re A2Z and Steve Rawlins is lead re CFLRP. It is possible to create new project areas within general CFLRP but that are not CFLRP/restoration focused but there are commercial resource elements.

Q. What is the timeframe of A2Z?

A. Will start next year or as soon as we get a contract package put together.

Q. Will start up costs be included?

A. Yes

Q. In Ferry County are there projects that are not CFLRP?

A. Rodney: we are far apart on designing restoration strategies. Laura Jo: is it the project area or the project? We need to have that discussion and we will get clarity re definitions.

Q. Is there potential to use Tribal Forest Protection Act authority to give Colville Tribe opportunity to bid on CFLRP near the Reservation?

A. Laura Jo: Yes, we have spoken to them about the matching component – FS is supportive of projects. CCT did arch. surveys in the Wedge.

A2Z is a 10 year project, approximately 50K acres. R6 and WO are working on this with prospectus on the street the middle of May with contract award mid-August – over 5 million contract – Mill Creek area is focal point and contract would cover entire area – a whole package – contractor would prepare Purpose & Need, do survey work, NEPA and sale prep. FS would still make decision and have oversight.

Q. Maurice: would not such a large project potentially puts purchaser and risk of financial disaster?

A. Forest Service will maintain control of roles and responsibilities

4. Restoration Strategy

Mesic restoration strategy challenges are showing up with Power Lake. Mitch said Derek Churchill will be hired to help develop restoration strategies. Laura Jo offered to provide Derek office space so he could more closely work with Tom Pawley. Mike Petersen noted that IPNF has a document created by CNF with LTP process that is being viewed by that collaborative group.

Laura Jo: let's be clear what we want out of that – NEWFC has its restoration zone but FS doesn't necessarily see restoration definition limited to that.

Q. Doesn't CFLRP require restoration strategies be the priority?

A. Rodney: there is a project FY5 and plug that in.

5. Collaborative Workshop

A collaborative workshop is in planning phase and objective is to broaden the circle of community collaboration. NEWFC received a grant for this and has contracted with Gonzaga U. professor Lunell Haught to design a process, facilitate discussions and write an assessment report. A workshop is planned for April 12 & 13 in Colville at the Community College, Dominion Room, starting at 8:30 AM. It is likely the second day (April 13) might be broken into several meetings of a few hours duration. Invitations will be sent out soon.

6. Projects Update

An updated projects report was handed out. Kettle Face has ½ mile of permanent road – will talk to Calvin about conforming to CFLRP. Walker – Robert will schedule a meeting to discuss this further. East Wedge will be assessed by a third party and a white paper issued.

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