NEWFC / Forest Service Bi-Monthly Meeting Meeting Minutes September 20, 2012 Stevens County Conservation District

Next meeting: November 15

Attending Forest Service: Gayne Sears, Robert Sanchez, Laura Jo West, Elizabeth Brann,

Attending NEWFC Board: Russ Vaagen (president), Timothy Coleman (secretary), Maurice Williamson, Derrick Knowles, Jeff Juel, John Smith, David Heflick

Also present: Lunell Haught, Mitch Friedman, Tricia Woods, Derrick Vaanmarter, Joy Jewelson, Mike Poulson, Matthew Scott,

- A. Agenda:
- 1) Welcome/Introductions
- 2) Review Agenda
- 3) MOU Revision
- 4) CFLRA
- 5) Forest Plan
- 6) Restoration
- 7) Landscape Assessment
- 8) Projects Update
- 9) Turnover and implications
- 10) State Forest Health Project
- 11) A to Z
- 12) Forest Health Forum
- 13) Power Lake
- 14) Dave's Questions to Laura Jo
- 15) RAC Grant discussion
- B. Discussion
- 1) Welcome/Introductions
- 2) Review Agenda

Russ asked that Communication Protocol be discussed.

3) MOU Revision

Draft 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding discussion was facilitated by Lunell and changes incorporated into the final working draft.

Action: Gayne Sears and David Heflick volunteered to put together the glossary (page 3 (8) a first draft completed by November 15.

4) CFLRA

Vision 2020. FS is currently in the process of reporting what got accomplished, where money was spent and project monitoring. FS has hired the Enterprise Team (Vincent Archer) to do their monitoring report. Some funds got transferred to the Fire Borrowing Fund. There is no commitment to continue funding though planning is proceeding as if those funds were coming next year.

5) Forest Plan

Alternatives will be approved by the Regional Forester in November. The biggest issues on the Colville cover the gamut of wilderness additions and other alternatives that try to mirror the NEWFC Blueprint, Laura Jo said she was "championing that." Alternative comparison has to do a comparative assessment and that's difficult given the various management scenarios. Wilderness proposed will be from zero to most areas (not clear). The Summit process will also precipitate its own alternative. CNF is also splitting out its alternatives from the Wenatchee-Okanogan. Tim offered to share information he has with Laura Jo about a voting process that occurred re PWAs during the Summit process.

6. Restoration Zone

LJW: there is a commitment to Restoration principles with input from Derek.

DH: There are problems with Power Lake and challenges with East Wedge, Derek's participation in those can help develop restoration principles.

LJW: Is there a question about CNF commitment to restoration principles?

DH: We do need those in writing so we can reference them.

LJW: I'm committed to following Derek's approach in implementing East Wedge to the degree that approach was consistent with the effects analysis documented in the final EA (still to be determined). Power Lake, yes, we have looked that over and can commit to working with Derek to develop prescriptions – and as long as that is consistent with East Wedge we can do that.

LJW: East Wedge issues should be worked out in the next couple of weeks.

Mitch: Derek was contracted to help accelerate forest restoration projects and fill the timber pipeline. However the Forest Service can use him most effectively is best.

- Ninemile has been identified as a key watershed tied back into monitoring plan.

7) Landscape Assessment

CNF working with the R 6 lab is looking at East Deer Creek as the practice area. Planning is moving forward on that process.

8) Projects Update

FS will go over 5 year plan in March. Looks like 35 mmbf will be sold in 2012. Some project staff have been detailed to fire. Current status of sales:

- Working on Sand Creek
- Kettle Face North is to be awarded soon
- Working on Walker
- Working on Kettle South
- Power Lake has been signed
- Working on East Wedge
- Windstorm salvage decision due out soon

- Starting on Deer Jasper and Renshaw
- Working on Mill Creek A to Z
- Q. What is status of the Republic Wind salvage?
- A. There are two CEs covering about 400 acres treated.
- Russ spoke about two potential projects: 1) Boulder Pass and 2) Thirteenmile area project working with the CCT. NEWFC asked if FS would consider the projects. NEWFC is looking at some restoration in areas with roads and may consider moving them into active management. Elizabeth responded FS would consider working them into our program of work (10 year vegetation plan) recognizing that something else may be delayed.

9) Turnover and implications

Laura Jo mentioned the potential of 20 individuals leaving in the next 6 months. That number is an estimate and includes those who are eligible to retire (but may choose not to). Ten are pretty much certain and there are others either eligible or who are seeking new positions elsewhere. Colville NF has to pay to move replacements for departing staff.

10) State Emergency Forest Health Project

Next Tuesday, 9 AM there will be a Forest Service webinar held to discuss what funding is available and emphasis areas.

11) A to Z

Solicitation documents – what can you do for us? - are done and on their way to the Washington Office. Expect a solicitation will be out in November or December and the contract let by February. CNF hasn't been able to find any way to recover expenditures on inherently governmental work such as contract administration but they were able to get Enterprise Team help with the additional dollars the WO gave the Forest for working on the pilot project. FS oversight will be needed as project layout occurs.

12) Forest Health Forum

The intention is to get forest health professionals to dialogue about insects, disease and utilization on private, state and federal forests. Proposal is to meet at the community college, then disburse to Boulder Pass tour and then return to the community college for a panel discussion.

13) RAC Grant discussion

Tim asked about rejection of NEWFC's grant proposal to fund expanding collaboration and beaver relocation. Laura Jo said she would look into is the way we shared the solicitation about RAC proposals.

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