

NEWFC / Forest Service Bi-Monthly Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2013  
Stevens County Conservation District

Next meeting: **Tentatively scheduled** for November 14, 1 PM, SCCD

Attending Forest Service: Laura Jo West, Rodney Smoldon, Robert Sanchez, Kathleen Ward, Jon Day, Craig Newman

Attending NEWFC: Russ Vaagen, Ron Gray, Timothy Coleman, Maurice Williamson, Dick Dunton, Matt Scott, Chris Childers, Steve West

Attending public: Russ Larsen, Commission Mike Manus, Commissioner Steve Parker

A. Agenda:

Introductions / Agenda Review

- 1) Russ Update
- 2) Laura Jo Update
- 3) Current Issues
- 4) Project Updates
- 5) Next Meeting

Discussion:

- 1) Russ Update

Gloria Flora is now working for the Coalition on contract. Jeff Juel and Derrick Knowles are no longer on the board and Matt Scott has joined the board.

- 2) Laura Jo Update

Her expectation is agency budgets will continue to be cut. There are some differences in budget (color of money) allocations from 2013. Recreation budget is taking a huge hit. On the timber side CNF is expecting a budget hit. CNF is lobbying R6 heavily to get budget from this year because it has met its objectives (41 mmbf). A to Z is huge in regards to helping capacity – and everybody across the nation is watching us to see how it pans out. East Wedge was not appealed.

Personnel: new NEPA coordinator on Pend Oreille side is in outreach currently.

Q. What is timeline on East Wedge?

A. It's in 5 year plan, FY 2014 – whole project in one year.

Q. Has fire budget been impacted?

A. Laura Jo – R6 has held some money back in case of emergency.

- 3) Current Issues

a. Derek Churchill departure / transition – Derek will be here through the remainder of the fiscal year – there is possibility of getting a second year grant – but unlikely to get a third year. The default is to continue to do CFLRA projects on the Forest. David advised

that we look out years to plan for his inevitable departure: will CNF be trained and able to take over and what are the options? CNF agreed to begin internal discussion of potential options and report back to NEWFC at next joint meeting.

Q. Maurice: Will a landscape approach to project planning be taken in the future?

A. Rodney: Yes – that ship has already sailed. There is some funding for Derek. A staff is doing photo interpretation for Orient project and that will be applied to Nine Iron / Fleece projects. There is a learning process among staff going on, there are a lot of conversations about this. Rodney will be meeting with Derek about the Orient assessment.

b. CFLRA Planning – David spoke with Karen who is working with Tom Black and GRAIP (Geomorphic Road Analysis & Inventory Package) in Orient watershed. Rodney, because the CNF is now an official CFLR project the CNF is going to continue working on those projects, using FY 14 money, operating under the assumption that FY 14 funding will be forthcoming.

A. David: Is it possible for non-federal money to fund CFLRP?

Q. Rodney: I doubt that and I'm confident funding will be forthcoming.

c. Capital Christmas Tree: Vaagen Bros. Lumber will supply a crane to put load the tree. Laura Jo thanked Columbia Cedar's contribution of cedar for ornaments production. The tree will cut November 1 near Newport; Pend Oreille County is putting on celebrations and the Kalispel Tribe will be involved. From there the tree will travel to Republic and then the rest of the State and then tour the country.

d. Stewardship Contracting Reauthorization – Because most of the volume produced on the CNF is Stewardship projects this is very important to local mills. There is Small Business set asides (SBA) part of Stewardship Contracting that is important to local mills.

e. Hasting's Bill – there is some conflict / disagreement about the bill. The Coalition's position is that the bill is poorly developed and we expect it will not pass the Senate. There is concern from within the Forest Service re problems with applying bill provisions on the ground. Russ spoke to industry's interest in raising timber outputs from 2.9 billion board feet to 6 bbf. Russ said industry's objective is to streamline the process.

f. Forest-wide Travel Analysis Process

Craig handed out copies of the CNF Executive Summary of the DRAFT Forest-wide transportation system assessment. The document summarizes key issues and recommended actions. It is not a decision document.

Q. What is the timeframe for implementation?

A. The draft framework for travel management is at R6. A final framework will be arrived at over the winter and then applied during project level NEPA analysis.

Development of this framework was driven by the Transportation Rule. Laura Jo explained how to get the most out of budget expenditures. The protocols will go through

a validation process at the project level. Craig summarized the goal of this analysis is to identify the minimum road system across the Forest to provide efficient travel system.

g. NFF Capacity Grant

NEWFC was unable to get an extension for grant expenditures. NFF has encouraged NEWFC to apply for other grants in the future. Russ has been speaking with Sharon Timko about expanding collaboration. NEWFC's hope is the get help from Sharon to expand community collaboration beyond what is now NEWFC.

4) Projects Update

-Flowery Trail bid will open this coming Monday

-Carrant Creek is FY 13

-Deer Jasper / Sherman, FY 14 planning, FY15 DJ implementation, FY 16 Sherman implementation

-Walker – up for sale in FY 14 Waiting to see if it will in fact be a Stewardship project. If Stewardship is not reauthorized by April the project will be laid out as a typical timber sale.

-East Wedge – after action review. David and Maurice expressed interest in pulling together staff to review post action project review. Kathleen said staff will be working with David Seesholtz from PNW Research Station in Boise. Assumptions, stressors, what the collaborative group thinks should be looked at and who are stakeholders are key issues areas.

A to Z is an experiment and as such it is fraught with uncertainties. David Seesholtz will be engaged learning process. A plan is to move along quickly to determine assumptions by various interest groups, successful project contractor and develop a set of monitoring protocols. There is a potential conflict-of-interest piece relative to project collaboration NEPA re NEWFC and VBL's participation in it – perhaps. Laura Jo said maybe there was a need for a separate MOU for project collaboration, but she was not sure. Deer Jasper and Renshaw processes have been helping to inform this new collaboration process.

Q. Russ: When is the next meeting of Renshaw collaboration group?

A. Kathleen: Not sure – she will check with Gayne.

Action: Kathleen will ask Gayne when the next Renshaw collaboration meeting will be held.

Q. Tim: has a schedule of grazing allotment NEPA analysis been developed?

A. Robert: we will be looking at that over the winter.

- Fen, field trip upcoming to look at post harvest treatments.

5) Next Meeting

Laura Jo has a busy schedule – she is likely to be gone. November 14 was suggested as the possible meeting date.

End

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