

NEWFC / Forest Service Bi-Monthly Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 2014  
Tri-County Economic Development Office

Next meeting: September 18

Attending Forest Service: Kathleen Ward, Laura Jo West, Gayne Sears, Tinelle Bustam, Michelle Padauni

Attending NEWFC: Russ Vaagen, Timothy Coleman, David Heflick, Mike Petersen, Gloria Flora, Maurice Williamson, Mitch Friedman

Attending public:

A. Agenda:

Introductions / Agenda Review

- 1) NEWFC News
- 2) State of the Forest
- 3) Current Issues
- 4) Project Updates
- 5) Follow up Items

Discussion:

1) NEWFC News

NEWFC's annual picnic is in planning stages and is likely to be held the second week in August. David Heflick is going to take indefinite medical leave. The Vision 2020 grant proposal was submitted to National Forest Foundation and included project collaboration, monitoring and supporting jobs & economy. Maurice spoke about an economic paper that Charley McKetta has proposed to do for NEWFC.

2) State of the Forest

Tinelle Bustam is the new district ranger in Republic. Laura Jo reported that Jim Pena is the new R6 Forester. Forester Pena is very support of forest restoration. Mapping project has looked at Historic Range of Variability out of whack – their analysis found the CNF is not so much out of HRV re fire but it was for insects and disease. TNC has also gotten involved and came up with recommendation that is a huge shift re broader landscapes. The Forest is not sure how this new information will impact strategies and planning.

The Forest is now fully staffed. Brian Hicks will be moving to Sandpoint – so eastside CNF will need to fill fuels treatment staff position. Recreation budget is reduced 50% this year. A reason for this change is an end of Proof of Concept funding and also because the Region is using a new model. Timber cut this FY is projected to reach 45 mmbf.

Forest Plan Revision:

Forest planning group is separating O-WNF and CNF. Margaret Hartzel is retiring from her ID Team leader position. The new planning team will be dedicated just to the Colville. The Draft EIS might be released Winter 2015. NEWFC Blueprint will be one of the alternatives. R6 has not yet approved the Range of Alternatives. Next week CNF

staff will meet to discuss design of new planning process. This change amounts to “turning a big corner.”

Q. Are you (LJW) keeping staff on the Forest to work on projects?

A. This issue is not being discussed this year.

Q. Is there a plan for addressing prescribed natural fire in places such as Twin sisters?

A. We will not put our firefighters in harms way.

Q. Has there been After Action Review on Malo-East Lake?

A. No.

Q. Has the Colville Tribe been involved in TFPA projects?

A. The CNF has submitted a projects list to the Tribes – but thus far they have not engaged. The Tribe has expressed an interest in Fleece and Nine Iron projects.

### 3. Current Issues

- Farm Bill: Kathleen handed out maps of potential treatment areas based on maps and criteria identified by Aaron Everett.

- Collaboration Techniques: Kathleen and Gloria led a discussion about collaborative processes. Deer Jasper is a case in point, putting people in a room and asking them to develop a proposal was problematic because there was distrust in the group and there wasn't personal bonding. Renshaw was different in that a draft Proposed Action was created before the collaborative process began. It's easier to get a few people together first and develop relationships and then add people to the group that share a willingness to collaborate. There is a big cost to this process.

Timber Mountain and Deer Creek are projects where lessons from Deer Jasper and Renshaw will be applied.

- Active and Restoration Rx: Are Churchill skips & gaps significantly affecting harvest volumes? No, Eric Trimble looked into this and volume outputs were similar. Kathleen does not view skips & gaps as the same as variable density thinning. VDT gives more flexibility when managing Active Management Area (WUI plus). Skips & gaps only functions at a landscape scale approach.

- CFLRP: Tinelle handed out copies of 2014-15 CFLR projects and budget. A total of \$1.1 million has been awarded for contracts; NW Youth Corps and LIDAR have been added in. Road decommissioning has been delayed until next year. FY 2015 will be about \$600K less than FY 14.

### 4. Project Updates

- Mill Pond Dam removal is upcoming two-years out

- A to Z is going great and it's on track.

- Monitoring Options: mid-September is proposed – Malo-East Lake and Kettle Face (Matsen Creek) are potential visits

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Wilderness Act Film Festival has had a good turnout.

- Newport RD is looking at weed eradication issue. There are very few weeds in the Salmo Priest Wilderness.
- South End Project: There is an upcoming check-in meeting with implementation team upcoming. There is also RCO and other funding.

#### 5. Action Items

- Temp Roads definition still needs to be addressed. Gloria will be contact.
- Communication Protocol;
- County convening a collaborative process.
- Project maximum 25 mmbf threshold – the forest is delegated authority limited to the sale of 25 mmbf but this does not apply to NEPA.

End