

Draft Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
January 26, 2015 – 7 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & KVRI Co- chair
David Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Boundary County Library, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Jim Cadnum, Landowner/Industrial
Ed Atkins, Corporate Agriculture
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commission

Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Shandee Alexander, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Stan Galloway, Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL)
Chip Corsi, Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Dianna Ellis, USFWS, Kootenai NWR
Mitch Silvers, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
Sid Smith, U.S. Senator Jim Risch
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI
Laura Roady, Bonners Ferry Herald
Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
Lee Pinkerton, Boundary County Commissioner

Opening:

Gary Aitken Jr. opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; introductions followed.

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the November 17, 2014 meeting, by consensus.

Patty announced that Faye Krueger will be retiring end of January. She has been a huge support and has helped garner additional funds for the KVRI CFLRA work. A card for her was circulated for a signature and a nice message for her retirement.

Happy Birthday KVRI! 14 years old. The cake was not forgotten and a picture of the group was taken.

Committee Updates:

Forestry Sub-committee Update- Kevin Knauth

Twentymile:
Sold; implementing.

Eastport Heli:
No proposals received; cancelled.

Idaho Buckhorn:
Prescribed burn; implementing.

Kreist:
Planning to sell "Placer Nugget" FY15-2nd Qtr. approx. 3.2 MMBF

Brushy Mission:
Planned to sell FY15- one of the sales on the central zone came in at 5MMBF over anticipated – so will be delayed to FY16 sell- approx. 3.5MMBF

Hellroaring:
Have received comments on the Draft EA. The wildlife biologist is making final adjustments to the Draft BA before sending the final BA to FWS for consultation. Anticipate a decision at the end of May. The refined estimate for FY15 4th Qtr. – 12.3 MMBF

Approximately 21 MMBF is the CFLR target. Hellroaring (12.3MMBF) and Kreist (3.2MMBF) will contribute.

Out-year Projects:
Deer Creek is in development. Scoping notice sent out (FY16 target).
Boulder- Analysis is taking place (FY17 Target).
Trout/Ball- Sell in FY18
Camp Nine- Sell in FY19
Grouse and Bluegrass BMU- Data collection FY15. Need to bring bear management units to a standard.

Kevin noted that Faye Krueger will be retiring end of January. She signed the new Forest Plan, which will go into effect February 17th. A new face, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Macario Herrera (Mac), started in the beginning of January. There are 2 key people moving on. Pat Behrens is moving to Ogden, Utah. There he will work in the Regional Office, for Region 4. Joe Madison will be moving to Gitmo, Cuba, where he will be the resource manager.

Kevin brought up that the CFLRP requires a 5 year report; the Ecological Indicator Report. It focuses on indicators we can assign metrics to, so that we can monitor annually, and see if we're progressing toward our goal. Kevin wanted to see if the group is comfortable and have the ability to monitor these indicators. This will represent KVRI, and will show congress that there are goals in mind. Patty suggested taking the report to the Forestry Committee for review. After review, they can make recommendations to the board. Patty will set a date soon, for the forestry committee to take a look, and will get electronic and hard copies sent out.

Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Sub-committee update:

ITD has been working on how to get enough funds to either replace the tall monitor for something they can use more easily, or update the system that they have. Patty has been pushing to try to get it going again. If ITD is unable to do so, the Tribe has offered to take it on help with getting it running. The next WAC meeting will be February 6th.

Old business:

Regional Forester Award certificates were handed out. Thank you to everyone for all the hard work, and thank you to Mary Farnsworth, IPNF Forest Supervisor and Faye Krueger, Regional Forester for acknowledging KVRI.

New Business:

Norm Merz updated us on recent Selkirk Cabinet/Yaak Grizzly Bear Subcommittee and Caribou Recovery Plan meetings.

Grizzly Bear:

The Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk had one mortality, each. The Cabinet-Yaak was self-defense and the Selkirk (just over Boundary Creek in BC) mortality is still under investigation.

The Delisting process in Yellowstone is proceeding. The USGS just finished a study showing that the decline of White Bark Pine is not substantially affecting the Grizzly Bears.

The NCDE Draft Conservation strategy for delisting is being updated based on submitted comments. The importance of this strategy is that it provides the adequate regulatory mechanism, for the delisting process. While the bear is listed in the NCDE, the forest plans have specific standards and guidelines in place for protections. However, when the bears are delisted those protections go away. Therefore, updates of the Forest Plans need to occur before the delisting can take place.

Woodland Caribou Recovery Plan:

The recovery group will update the existing recovery plan which will focus more on the implementation efforts to involve other stakeholders throughout the updating process. BC initiated a wolf control action, to reduce the predation on Caribou. Norm will update the group regularly on the Caribou.

Dianna Ellis shared information on the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). This is where different federal agencies would work with towns, municipalities, tribes and local governments, to help put in grant proposals to compete for improvement to road access to federal lands. There is \$17 million available for the state of Idaho. Two Projects of interest are: road improvement from town to the refuge, and replacement of the Myrtle Creek Bridge. A group met January 8th about this grant proposal. The group talked about putting in a proposal for a feasibility study. The proposal asks for representation from different federal agencies to sign and show support. A letter of support may be requested from KVRI.

Chip Corsi brought up that IDFG/Commission will be introducing an increase of resident fishing and hunting fees. The legislation is 2 parts. One is the fee increase and the other is price lock, this encourages people to buy every year. The new prices will go into effect in 2016.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

The next KVRI board meeting will be held February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boundary County Extension Office meeting room.

Patty will send out the Deer Creek scoping letter to everyone.

Sandy informed us that the library has started construction of the FAB LAB.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Shandee Alexander

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant