

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
February 26, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Chairman & KVRI Co-chair
Dave Gray, (Alt.) Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) US Forest Service (USFS), Bonners Ferry Ranger District-District Ranger
Don Allenberg, (Alt.) Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation/Landowner
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservationist/Environmentalist
Jim Cadnum, Industrial/Forest
Angela Cooper, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Vice-Chairman & KVRI Alt. Co-Chair
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
Doug Nishek, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)-Planning Forester
Tom Flear, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
Jon Songster, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)
Ed Wingert, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)
Mike Sheppard, Landowner
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Evan DeHamer, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG)
Matt Roetter, Hayden City Council
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office
Kat Sarensen, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Opening:

Co-Chair, Gary Aitken Jr. opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed.

The January 22, 2018 KVRI Board Meeting Draft Notes were approved by consensus.

Good Neighbor Authority Presentation- Jon Songster, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)

Jon Songster, Idaho Department of Lands, gave a brief history and background of the Good Neighbor Authority. Jon is the primary point of contact for the National Forests in Idaho and reviews potential projects with the Forest Service and coordinates state staffing and resources to help advance the projects.

Good Neighbor Authority began as a pioneering concept that enables states and the federal government to work together to better manage federal lands. In 2000, Colorado became the pilot state and the program eventually extended into Utah and to the Bureau of Land Management. Under the 2014 Farm Bill the Good Neighbor Authority extended to all states and the original requirement that the projects had to be adjacent was dropped. Idaho Department of Lands is working with the US Forest Service to carry out more forest and watershed restoration projects under GNA. The partnership is increasing the pace and scale of restoration on federal lands.

GNA agreements are now in place with four National Forests; Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Payette, and Boise National Forest. Jon shared handouts of "Idaho Good Neighbor Authority 2017 Overview/ 2018 Plans" and "Good Neighbor Authority in Idaho, Frequently Asked Questions" describing details of GNA and the work being done on the Forests in 2017 and 2018 (available on website).

Rules for Good Neighbor Authority Projects:

- Projects have to follow a Collaborative process
- Projects have to be consistent with a Forest Plan
- Projects cannot occur in Roadless or Wilderness areas
- It prohibits any new road construction or road re-construction

Jon shared that the road issue has been a challenge they have had to figure out how to make it work on projects. Discussion explained the difference between program income and county payments. Revenues generated from GNA projects, including the sale of timber, and will it offset costs incurred by the state and fund additional management activities. According to the handouts received, program income is not subject to county payments.

GNA Projects Update- Ed Wingert, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)

Jasper GNA West

Will sell Thursday in Priest Lake

3.6mmbf, 306 acres

NEPA was already done with the original Jasper Project

Hard Rock GNA

Coming out in July

Public works contract will be completing road work for that project which ends in Sept

8.6mmbf, 800-900 acres, both in Priest Lake Ranger District

Black Boulder Timber Sale Prep contract

Twenty Mile location

NEPA done soon

After the prep contract is done it will become a GNA timber sale, sold in 2019, 3mmbf

Hannah Flats Priest Lake

First sale in the state that IDL has done start to finish

2400 acres

Decision sign in April

15-18mmbf, it will be split into 2-3 projects

Patty asked the reasoning behind splitting the Stewardship into a GNA if looking for efficiency?

Jon stated that it is to generate program income for Good Neighbor Authority to be used on more projects to accelerate pace and scale.

Kevin K. added that the Forest Service will realize efficiencies utilizing the IDL contracting process which is far simpler than the federal one.

Forestry Committee Update- Doug Nishek, USFS

Doug Nishek shared the Camp Robin Recreational Trails Map with the group and explained the ATV Trails Proposal. The Camp Robin Project began as two separate Categorical Exclusions (CEs) and was combined into one Environmental Assessment (EA) to accomplish more of the resource and recreational needs in the project. The Forest Service anticipates recreation increasing in the Camp Nine area and would like to address that while they are in the area by creating a comprehensive ATV plan. The ATV users are already using existing road beds, signage is needed to direct traffic and there is a proposed new mountain bike trail connecting the existing Brush Lake trail to the ridgeline. Because the project is located in a Bears Outside of Recovery Zone (BORZ), the storage of roads was discussed to offset the creation of 3-4 miles of new trails.

Scoping letters and concerns expressed at the open house help in creating the proposals including the possibility of including UTV's as well as ATV trail access as the result of requests made. If trails become degraded beyond the ability for the Forest Service to maintain them, seasonal closure may be needed. Doug expressed that there is still time for more input so spread the word.

Patty stated that the Forest Service is working with private landowners and the Deer Park Water Association in order for their needs to be addressed in the project.

Camp Robin Timeline

- Decision to be signed in October 2018
- Draft EA out for comment by June 2018
- 2 Sales FY19, 12mmbf & 8mmbf
- Checkpoint 3 for Camp Robin March 5 with the Forest Supervisor

Boulder Project Timeline

- Checkpoint 5 for Boulder is March 1 with the Forest Supervisor
- GNA sale, 6mmbf
- Traditional timber sale, 10mmbf
- Stewardship sale, 15mmbf

Dan Dinning requested this same presentation from the Forest Service be brought to the Boundary County Commissioners also. Kevin agreed.

New Business-Patty Perry

Regional Partner Round Table March 14, 2018 Missoula, MT

The US Forest Service regions are hosting round table talks to discuss NEPA efficiency. Although Dan and Patty cannot attend, a member of the tribal staff will attend to represent the Tribe.

Wildlife Underpass Update- Evan DeHamer, Fish & Game

A report of the Wildlife Underpass was presented to the group and discussed. Evan stated that after reviewing the historical detections in the report he sees the increase in detections representing that wildlife are using the underpasses as they had hoped. The cameras will be checked more often in the future.

KVRI Birthday Picture and Tribal Brochure- Patty Perry

Patty shared a birthday picture that will be sent to the newspapers, and the new Kootenai Tribal brochure was made available to the group.

KVRI Fair Booth and Reappointment Letters Update- Sherrie Cossairt

Sherrie stated that the KVRI Fair Booth is reserved and paid for; and she still has board member re-appointment letters to be sign.

Senator Crapo Office update- Karen Roetter

Karen expressed that their office is aware of the flaw in the Road issue in the GNA and they are working with several offices to try to fix that, it's been heard loud and clear.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Update- Kurt Pavlat

Kurt reported that Secretary Zinke's plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior to gain efficiency may have an effect on the BLM. The Bureau has always been primarily state boundary oriented in organization, and that has served them quite well. The understanding is that there is a lot of push back from the governors and congressional delegations to see the Bureau remain state oriented, not regionalized. Kurt will keep us informed.

Next KVRI Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt,
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant