

Meeting Notes  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
Forestry Committee  
June 12, 2018, 1:00 p.m.  
Kootenai Tribal Office

**Attendance:**

Kevin Knauth, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)-District Ranger  
Doug Nishek, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)-Planning Forester  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Ed Koberstein, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)-Timber Management  
Bob Blanford, KVRI, Business/Industry  
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)  
Beth Bigelow, North Zone, US Forest Service (USFS) - Archeology  
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office  
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch's office  
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group (IFG)  
Erin Mader, Idaho Forest Group (IFG)  
Kevin Greenleaf, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI), Environmental Director  
Evan DeHamer, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG)  
Mike Sheppard, Landowner  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Rhonda Vogl, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Opening:**

Patty Perry opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She introduced Rhonda Vogl, the Kootenai Tribe's new Administrative Director. Introductions followed.

Kevin Knauth began the Forest Service updates.

**Grouse BMU**

- Purpose and Need is to bring BMU into compliance with Grizzly Bear Access Amendment, approximately 28 miles of road storage, project spans Bonner and Boundary County and includes the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger Districts
- Draft EA out for comment week of 5/21, closes in a couple of weeks
- FY19 Decision- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

**Winter Travel Plans**

- Focus group continues to meet
- Public meetings will occur as part of the planning process
- Decision in FY20

**Bog Creek Road EIS**

- Purpose and Need is to bring the Blue-Grass BMU into compliance with the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment-25 miles of road storage
- One (1) road recommended for decommission on the Priest Lake Ranger District
- Purpose and Need for Bog Creek EIS is to open and maintain Bog Creek Road for Border Patrol access and bring the Blue Grass BMU into compliance
- Public Meeting @Bonners Ferry District Office on June 21, 2018 at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Doug N. and Ed K. continued with the project updates.

#### Deer Creek-EA

- FY18-Deer Stew-11.5mmbf in 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.
- Service items include; gravel pit development to provide a rock source for ongoing and future road maintenance, Solomon Lake campground improvements, road storage for Grizzly Bear Access Amendment standards, pre-commercial thinning, additional road improvements and construction
- Haul route schedule to Solomon Lake Campground-traffic could be limited during the week
- FY18-Double Bar D TS-4mmbf in 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.
- FY18-Deer Placer TS-5mmbf in 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.

Ed K. explained the natural fuels burning could take 8-10 years before it is implemented and completed in the Deer Creek EA and in the absence of CFLR funding it would come from another line item.

#### Camp Robin-EA (Decision in 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. FY19)

- 3000 acres of treatment, WUI project, heavy fuels, regeneration needs from insect and disease
- EA will be presented to the new Forest Supervisor early next month; Checkpoint #4
- First EA for the NEPA strike team on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF)
- FY19 Robin Hood TS-8mmbf in 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.
- FY19-Camp Dawson Stew-12mmbf in 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.

#### Boulder-EA (Decision in 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr FY19)

- FY19-Black Boulder GNA-6mmbf- 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.
- FY20-Boulder Holder TS-10mmbf in 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.
- FY20-North Star Stew-15mmbf in 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.

**Complete CFLR Project Update 6/12/18 available on the KVRI website at [www.kootenai.org](http://www.kootenai.org)**

Ed K. explained a road reconstruction for a haul route is included in the project using the State contract mechanisms available to the Forest Service. Kevin added that they are realizing real value with GNA. It is nice to have the additional authority for restoration work. Patty asked about the completion of the Twenty Mile Project and it was reported that it should be completed next year.

Patty recapped the projects done under CFLR Funds received in 2012-2019; Buckhorn, Kriest, Hell-Roaring, East Fork Meadow, Twenty Mile, Boulder, Deer Creek and Camp Robin as well as Brushy Mission.

Patty P. also stated that the Farm Bill is being introduced in the Senate right now and includes the reauthorization possibility for CFLR funding. It will be interesting to see if it will be something for existing projects or all new projects can apply. She asked Sid and Karen if planning is in the CFLR reauthorization. They stated that they had definitely passed that information on to them.

Discussion about future CFLR funding followed.

- Can Bonners Ferry Ranger District sustain the current pace and scale
- Discussion of the hope of a couple of more years of implementation on current planned projects
- Challenge is accessibility
- West Side Road opportunity after the BMUs are in compliance
- Field work in the Sandpoint & Priest River Districts have begun

Patty asked Kevin K. to bring project updates, Bog Creek EIS comments, winter travel plan update, and the update on the Grouse BMU comment period to the next KVRI Board Meeting. And to keep the Forestry Committee updated on the need for letters of support for these projects.

Next meeting will be scheduled after Camp Robin comments come in with an update on the Boulder Project.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant