



KVRI TIMELINE 2002-PRESENT

Prepared and maintained by Karen Schumacher

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2002

1.17.2002 _ Why a Resource Advisory Committee/Partnerships/Expectations Charter/Bylaws: What do we need? Define function & roles

Note that the committee has been formed under a Joint Powers Agreement between the Tribe, City and County - the designated co-chairs include Gary Aitken Sr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Darrell Kerby, Mayor of Bonners Ferry, and Kevin Lederhos, Boundary County Commissioner.

Patty Perry mentioned that IDEQ, EPA, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to work cooperatively on the TMDL

2.25.2002 Gary Aitken Sr. shared his expectations for the RAC with the group and expressed encouragement for what can be accomplished.

Jeff Laufle, Variable Spring Flood Control Strategy (VARQ) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided the group with an update on the Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations EIS.

3.18.2002 Steve Kozel, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) District Ranger, gave the group an overview of the Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests' Forest Plan Revision. It is required by law that forest plans are to be revised every 15 years. The current plans are near the end of their intended 15-year life.

Burbot Recovery Strategy & Corps of Engineers EIS Process; Patty Perry followed up from the last meeting on forming Burbot Recovery and EIS subcommittees. She asked that the group develop the subcommittees at this meeting. **Other Subcommittees to come in the future** include Wetland Conservation Strategy, Sub-basin Planning and TMDLS

Next the group talked about a new name, with several being mentioned for consideration. A list will be prepared for the next meeting.

4.15.2002 History and Background of the Committee presented

After comments and discussion, all agreed on the name Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative.

TMDL; Overview of Process; set up subcommittee
Wetland & Riparian Conservation Strategy; set up subcommittee

5.20.2002 News Release from the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the May 21st public information meeting on the operation of Libby Dam;

Patty also informed the group of the support letters (she was directed to write at the last meeting) and the response to those letters attached to their packets

Update on Kootenai River Burbot Recovery Status - **USFWS is not working on an approach since there is no funding to work on status reviews and listing actions unless they are part of a court mandated settlement.** The USFWS was sued to move forward with this process, and has been having discussions with the plaintiff, and has reached a tentative agreement. Details of that agreement will be available after it's approved by the court.

6.17.2002 Bylaws: Darrel Kerby recommends that the group adopt the by-laws (as submitted); consensus was reached.

Wetland & Riparian Conservation Strategy: It is suggested that an inventory be done to see what is in the county. Folks will be asked to bring data or inventory and format of their data information to the next meeting

TMDL: Dave will be meeting with the EPA on July 18th regarding the methodology on temperature TMDL's.

Status on Bears: **Some of the bears that had been sighted have been radio collared.** The Fish and Game will have approx. 40 remote cameras between Pack River and the Cabinets to try and document the bears movement in the two drainages.

Burbot: Sue Ireland suggested that the burbot planning committee have a work session to **begin developing a recommended winter flow** scenario for burbot. We could then draft a system operational request to the technical management team, and we can begin to work out difficulties.

7.15.2002 **A final copy of the by-laws was distributed**

Burbot: There is a lot of unknown information that needs to be addressed. Due to burbot's fragile state and limited information, it will be very **difficult to find a strategy for rescue**

Wetlands: The group would like to start to pull together **an inventory of all the wetland projects that are going on right now and the projects** that are going to be completed in the near future. The group needs to look at all the issues, including environmental, social, common motivations, common goals and objectives and prioritizing

8.19.2002 Patty Perry announced that a training course – Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) of riparian/wetland areas - would take place at the tribal office on September 4th & 5th

9.16.2002 Burbot; a work session to review information the Corps provided pertaining to the request in April for a modeling package that portrayed flood control operations and how dual requests for operations for burbot in the winter could be fit with the constraints the Corps already operates under. There was some discussion in **regards to having the burbot as a listed species**

Wetlands; The goal of the group is to develop a **Wetland/Riparian Conservation Strategy** by looking at the natural resources, economic and social aspects (three legged stool) and how they would fit together

TMDL; recognizes that they are going to have to determine whether or not to include those streams that are being proposed for listing or move ahead with the current list

10.21.2002 Burbot; The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho is leading and facilitating the Burbot meetings; the group **is working on the technical information to develop a scientifically sound document for recovery**. Scott also provided an update on the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor.

TMDL; The Tribe has met with the three co-chairs of KVRI regarding applying for a **watershed grant from EPA to continue with the TMDL process**.

11.18.2002 Burbot; has **reviewed the S.O.R. and cannot reach a consensus**. BPA has given their strategy for the Systems Operation to the TMT and it does not include implementing the S.O.R. for Burbot in full.

VARQ; At the Burbot meeting, the Corps mentioned that the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is available and had brought copies to the library

Co-Chair Gary Aitken Sr. thanked everyone for their efforts. When Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative first started, the group was focusing mostly on TMDL, now the group has branched out into a lot of subcommittees and everyone is getting involved and participating.

Co-Chair Darrell Kerby brought the group up to speed on the issues of the Highway 95 project from Mount Hall to Eastport.

12.5.2002 VARQ Presentation: **The Army Corps of Engineers gave a presentation** on the Draft EA on Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations Interim Implementation (VARQ) that discussed:

After the presentation, the folks from the Army Corps of Engineers offered time for discussion. A complete copy of the slides are attached to the original KVRI meeting notes and upon request, copies can be made available.

2003

1.13.2003 Hand-outs were provided regarding:

- **Follow up on the letters** that were sent to the Corps.
- **Letter of response to VARQ EA** with information on river flows right now.
- **The decision and press release from the Corps.**

Wetland and Riparian Conservation Strategy; mission statement

TMDL; The group is starting to set all the components of what the TMDL Water Quality Planning is all about and is starting to make progress. Grants discussed

VARQ-EA Update; **discussion and concern** expressed

2.18.2003 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **have postponed their planned general public meetings indefinitely.**

Burbot; **The group needs to find a way and to boost the stock here.**

Wetland and Riparian Conservation Strategy; The wetland committee is **looking at a current inventory of the wetland riparian areas within the county**

VARQ-EA Update; Colonel Ralph Graves explained how he had arrived at the **decision to implement on an interim bases the VARQ operation at Libby Dam**

3.17.2003 Burbot Update; The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that Endangered Species Act protection for the lower Kootenai River burbot is not warranted.** The burbot committee has received a Congressional Appropriation for funding and has hired a contractor to work with the committee to prepare a conservation agreement

4.21.2003 Burbot Update: The burbot committee acknowledged that there is a lack of local knowledge (and history) regarding the burbot and has decided that it is **time to get started on a project that integrates local burbot history**

TMDL: The plan outline for what a TMDL actually looks like was distributed. It has the components established in there

Idaho Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be working with **Idaho Transportation Department in developing a monitoring plan for the wildlife aspect of the highway 95**

Adriane Borgias spoke to the group about the **air quality program at the Kootenai Tribal Office.** This year, she has been speaking to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality regarding smoke management in the valley

No May, 2003 Meeting

6.16.2003 Mike Herrin, the new District Ranger at the U.S. Forest Service, Bonners Ferry District, was welcomed by the group.

MacArthur Lake: The group is working with Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to assist in early planning efforts for the possible realignment of the dangerous “S” curve and to reduce the number of animal/vehicle collisions

The **two written testimonies of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee regarding impacts** on tribal fish and wild management programs in the Pacific Northwest and the oral testimony of Vice-Chairman Gary Aitken Sr. on behalf of the Upper Columbia United Tribes regarding impacts on tribal fish and wildlife management programs, were distributed.

7.21.2003 TMDL: The TMDL Plan is on schedule; at this point, there is enough funding available for DEQ to keep moving forward with our TMDL. Boundary County has 19 streams that the cumulative watershed effects (CWE) team will assess, this will be completed by the end of the year

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is a commission between the U.S.A. and Canada over the waters that they share. Patty Perry distributed **correspondence** between an assistant and Irene Gross, a commissioner on the IJC. The **correspondences discussed allowing diking around Duck Lake** and the concerns over velocity issues and backwater issues.

8.18.2003 Forest Planning: Mike Herrin and Gary Ford gave a presentation on the Forest Plan revision process.

update on grant funds received recently that will **provide staffing for KVRI** for the next 2 years. The Tribe has been notified that it will receive a grant from the Office for Native American Programs that will be utilized to continue the TMDL work and assist in staffing for KVRI.

MacArthur: He also explained that there is **a need for a project sponsor and that the sponsor must be a governmental entity; the funds allocated by Idaho Transportation Dept. (\$300,000) will likely be withdrawn if a sponsor is not determined by mid-September.**

Don Davis, ITD, provided information on the highway project and the Wildlife Monitoring Plan that is being developed in cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish & Game and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. ITD is required under the ESA (BiOP for Grizzly Bear Recovery – USFWS) to develop the plan. **Three animal**

crossings will be installed and monitored as part of the highway re-alignment project for the purpose of providing habitat connectivity-10% match for the project, and Tom identified ways this could be addressed

9.15.2003 Correspondence was distributed and reviewed in regard to reinitiate consultation on the BiOp of Federal Columbia River Power System operations in reference to **Libby operations and effects on Kootenai River White Sturgeon**

EIS/VARQ met to get an understanding of the ground water modeling and the seepage damage studies associated with the implementation of VARQ.

Burbot: Before the next meeting, the subcommittees of the Burbot workgroup (hydro, habitat, aqua-culture, and monitoring & evaluation) have work to do and have information to review that needs to be back to Ray Beamesderfer by October 15

Mike Gondek explained to the group **a fish passage project that is proposed to twenty-mile creek. Mike Gondek** and Rene Jeppsen are putting together a grant proposal; the deadline is October 1st. **KVRI agreed to write a letter of support for the project**

10.20.2003 **KVRI agreed to form a Forestry Committee** to work with the U.S. Forest Service on Forest Planning pertaining to the Kootenai and Panhandle National Forests

Chip Corsi with Idaho Fish and Game distributed a summary of the **Thorman property acquisition/management meeting. The intent of the buyer is to sell the property to Vital Ground,** who will simultaneously turn the ownership of the lower portion of the property over to Ducks Unlimited; Ducks Unlimited's intent is to have Idaho Department of Fish and Game provide on the ground management

11.17.2003 Burbot: This year, **Bonneville Power Administration has committed ¼ of a million dollars in foregone revenue to work with KVRI in trying to achieve the burbot flows for this year which** would run from the middle of November to the end of December

Patty **asked the KVRI group for a letter of support to go write the Tribes' application for the EPA Watershed Initiative grant.** The application will be for restoration efforts on Westside Tributaries (including Trout, Parker, and Long Canyon creeks) and augment work already being undertaken. These will also dovetail with TMDL work. The group agreed by consensus to provide the letter and had asked that Patty prepare it for signature of the three chairs.

The County Commissioners were asked to initiate contact with the National Academy of Science Review (NASR) for the Sturgeon Bi-Op. They wanted to seek public opinion through KVRI before pursuing this

2004

1.12.2004 Congressman Otter thanked KVRI for being successful in working together and recognized everyone's hard effort in making the group's work effective. Darrell Kerby gave an overview of KVRI and sub-committees.

Wetlands: Scott Soultz has hired Stacy Stovall of Conservation Innovation, Inc. as a professional writer to help the committee write the Wetland/Riparian Conservation Strategy; the strategy should be completed by its deadline

Burbot: Sandy Ashworth added that the committee will start to look at funding options to start an aqua-culture program.

TMDL: There was been some changes in the approach with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to temperature TMDL's and sediment TMDL's; the temperature TMDL's will now be on a regional scale

Forestry: Mike has arranged for a hydrologist, fish biologist, and a wildlife biologist to come to the next meeting to discuss what can and cannot be done in areas that have grizzly bear, bull trout, or riparian zones and how that interconnects with other issues since 60% - 70 % of our National Forest is considered endangered species habitat. There will also be folks to discuss timber values with the group.

A letter of support for the Kootenai Tribe's Watershed Initiative grant application was distributed at the last KVRI meeting, the committee directed Patty to prepare and send the letter. It was signed by the three co-chairs (copy attached to file).

A letter from Frank Bevacqua of the International Joint Commission with regard to Duck Lake impact on local dikes was distributed. Brief discussion followed (copy attached to file).

Chip Corsi with Idaho Department of Fish and Game gave an update on the Thorman Property. The acquisition has been completed; Ducks Unlimited now owns 620 acres of the lower portion

Copeland Wildlife Crossing: Don Davis with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) discussed the project

2.23.2004 Myrtle Creek Salvage Area: Eric Thompson with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) explained that his agency has been working closely with the Kootenai Tribe, Boundary County, City of Bonners Ferry, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the Myrtle Creek Salvage Area. Both the BLM and USFS have landholdings in that area and are trying to capture as much of the timber value as possible

Burbot: 20 Burbot received from the Duncan Lake Stock out of Canada being held at the University.

TMDL: Patty explained that the temperature portion of the TMDL is going to be done on a regional scale

Smith Creek: Ducks Unlimited Property (Thorman Property): Chip Corsi distributed a hand-out pertaining to the start-up/operations of a public involvement group for the management of the Smith Creek – Ducks Unlimited Property

Boone and Crocket Club - McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor: met with the three Co-Chairs of KVRI to discuss the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor passages and see if there would be potential for a work group

Mike Herrin discussed that there is \$185,000 set aside from the Copeland project for Wildlife Habitat Mitigation.

3.15.2004 When Congressman Otter attended the meeting in January, he was inspired to **write a speech to present to Congress applauding the joint efforts of KVRI**

Sue Ireland distributed a copy of the Table of Contents for the Final Draft of the Burbot Recovery Strategy

Sue Ireland explained that the Kootenai Tribe has submitted for a Congressional Appropriation Request to continue funding for Burbot Recovery

Sue Ireland distributed the Table of Contents of the Kootenai River Subbasin Assessment and the Kootenai River Subbasin Inventory

4.19.2004 Subbasin Planning Presentation: By Sue Ireland

Burbot: Sue gave an update on the conservation aqua-culture activities taking place. The Tribal Hatchery has been able to hatch Burbot eggs; University of Idaho has also been able to hatch Burbot eggs.

A copy of the Current Budget Status for a Kootenai Valley NAWCA Grant was distributed.

5.19.2004 A copy of the Libby Dam Operation Presentation topics was distributed Bob Hallock with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) gave an update on sturgeon status; there are new approaches with concern to conservation that look promising

A copy of the first complete draft of the Wetland/Riparian Conservation Strategy was distributed.

6.21.2004 Presentation on McArthur Lake Corridor – Chris Servheen and Bob Summerfield:

Handout Kootenai Resource Initiative – What it is

The Joint Powers (Tribe, City, and County) and the U.S. Forest Service met to discuss the Myrtle Creek Watershed potential for restoration and protection.

Patty explained that Washington State University has invited KVRI to participate in their watershed conference on November 16, 2004

7.19.2004 KVRI has created a Myrtle Creek Sub-Committee.

Sue invited folks from KVRI to an International Kootenai Ecosystem Restoration Team (IKERT).

KVRI Website: Patty, Ed Atkins, and Dan Dinning discussed forming a KVRI website that would have the minutes, agendas and updates.

8.16.2004 Presentation – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Flood Level Assessment

9.20.2004 Wayne Wakkinen – Vital Ground Presentation Update

Sue Ireland – Kootenai Tribe of Idaho/Todd Reeves – Bonneville Environmental Foundation:

Sue explained that the Kootenai Tribe has entered into a 10 year agreement with the BEF to fund the Tribe to implement their stream monitoring program for the restoration work that is taking place with private landowners on several westside tributaries to the Kootenai River.

The Sturgeon Recovery Team has decided that they would like to have sturgeon released in both country's (USA and Canada) along with Montana and Idaho, concurrently, to make sure they are recovering all historic habitats.

Sue Ireland announced that there has been a press release from Senator Craig's office; the appropriation requested on behalf of the Burbot Recovery Committee

has made it through the Senate appropriations Committee and is in line for the full Senate and then it will be reviewed by the House of Representatives

The Thompson Falls Commissioners invited Dan Dinning and Patty Perry to provide information on KVRI in Thompson Falls last week

Gary Aitken, Sr. was invited to Harvard University to accept the American Indian Economic Project Award. Gary is proud of KVRI for their collaborative efforts between the Tribe, County, City, and Schools for their accomplishments. Next year, the Kootenai Tribe has been invited back to Harvard for their environmental efforts and it is a rare occurrence that any Tribe would be invited in consecutive years on different issues. The group discussed the progress and uniqueness of KVRI.

10.18.2004 TMDL: A draft letter addressed to the Director of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) from the Co-Chairs of KVRI was distributed. Patty Perry explained that at the last TMDL committee meeting, Bob Steed, the new staff member of IDEQ to work on the Moyie and Lower Kootenai Rivers **TMDL was available and discussed a different approach for the committee to take for the temperature TMDL**

NEPA Process: **A letter from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)** to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was distributed. Sue explained that the letter starts off the Natural Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for a large-scale ecosystem project

The Process to Review and Adopt Subbasin Plans document was distributed

A letter to the U.S.D.A. Forest Service from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho was distributed. Patty Perry explained that the Tribe provided a comment with regard to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Special Areas; **State Petitions for Inventoried Road less Area Management.** The letter was made available for KVRI to review.

Smith Creek Management Committee. At the last meeting the group looked at different types of parking areas and funding available

11.22.2004 Nutrient Re-Introduction Project: IDFG and KTOI Staff Biologist Biological Assessment/Sturgeon – Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Burbot Systems Operations Request – Greg Hoffman U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Patty discussed the Washington State Tele-conference that was on November 16, 2004 in Pullman, WA

Patty read **a letter to KVRI from the International Joint Commission** that thanked **KVRI, Sue Ireland and her** staff at the Kootenai Tribal Fish and Wildlife Office, and the City of Bonners Ferry for their time to meet with them.

2005

1.24.2005 The Group gathered at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate three years of working together with a “KVRI Birthday Party

Two-Tail Peak Forest Health Project – Eric Thomson, Kurt Pavlat, and Bill Cook, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Evan Lewis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Seattle

The Burbot Technical Management Team submitted a SOR to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to request water from Libby Dam be as cold as possible since the opportunity of a high water year is not available Burbot Sub: Patty Perry announced that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) final draft will be sent out to anyone who would like to review it.

Patty Perry passed around a **letter from Kennon McClintock**, Forest Capital Inc. designating Jim Cadnum, a local forester contracted with Forest Capital Inc., full authority to make decisions on Forest Capitals behalf. KVRI welcomed Jim to the group

Chip Corsi announced to the group that IDFG will try to get Sec. 6 funding to help recover species back in North Idaho. Currently, they are short of funds for a Grizzly Bear Education Coordinator

2.28.2005 Discussion/Proposal of a KVRI Grizzly Bear/Wildlife Committee

3.21.2005 Sue gave a brief overview of the Burbot Strategy and Burbot MOU. Sue explained that the strategy covers several different types of action; the MOU states the intent to implementation that strategy. The MOU is being circulated for approval from the

KVRI came to consensus to form the Grizzly Bear Conservation Committee with the expectation that it will be facilitated and operated as other committees are

4.18.2005 Mike gave an update on the White Bark Pine project scheduled for summer 2005. The project has gone through the NEPA phase and the decision has been made. The project will thin out small diameter trees surrounding White Bark Pine in a two-year period

Discussion – Signing of Burbot MOU

5.16.2005 Presentation from Corps/USFWS - Kootenai River Sturgeon and Bull Trout Biological Opinion:

TMDL: At the recommendation of the Technical Working Group, KVRI sent a letter to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) asking for the use of the potential natural condition approach for the Temperature TMDL. That request has been honored

6.20.05 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – VARQ EIS Update – Evan Lewis:

7.18.2005 Myrtle Creek Working Group – Project Recommendation (Letter)

8.15.2005 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Kootenai Tribe of Idaho – Habitat Pilot Project

Governor's Roadless Area – Boundary County/Formation of a KVRI Workgroup:

9.20.2005 Burbot Systems Operation Request – Sue Ireland:

A copy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service System Operational Request was distributed. KVRI agreed to be listed as a partner in the request

10.17.2005 BLM Two Tail Project – Kurt Pavlat, Bill Cook

Introduction of New KVRI Board Member IDFG Commissioner Tony McDermott

Wildlife Crossing – Rich Clough asked for KVRI 's assistance in helping him find local landowners with knowledge of the wildlife along the McArthur Lake corridor

11.21.2005 Burbot System Operation Request (SOR) – Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Patty Perry explained how the Burbot Committee decided on the SOR for this year and that the purpose was to study the effects of temperature on burbot migration.

Governors' Roadless Initiative: overview of how the committee was formed and the work/approach to-date

Smith Creek Working Group: They almost are complete with the Boundary Creek connectivity permitting application process and construction is expected to start next fall.

Grizzly Bear Recovery:

- viewed an identity test for bears (hunter video provided during the black bear hunting season)
- discussed human caused mortality rate

- clarified the direction to the committee by KVRI

Idaho Transportation Department: Jim Porter, J.U.B. Engineers, Amy Schroeder, Idaho Department of Transportation, District 1, and Dan Adams, Landon Group:

Jim Porter, JUB engineers, Amy Schroeder, Idaho Transportation Department, and Dan Adams, of the Landon group met with the folks at KVRI to discuss the highway realignment project at the McArthur Lake area

Mike Gondek, USDA, NRCS, recognized achievements of Patty Perry on leadership and support for natural resource measures in the County, with a certificate and plaque. KVRI thanked and congratulated Patty

Sturgeon Critical Habitat Designation – Bob Hallock, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

TMDL Implementation Plan: discussed the draft TMDL Plan (available at the County Library, Kootenai Tribal Office or IDEQ website) and requested KVRI's (as an approved Watershed Advisory Group) approval to move forward with the document going out for public comment.

Bob Steed discussed: How the TMDL process works

2006

1.23.06 Roadless Committee: Patty Perry was directed to write a letter to the commissioners explaining the KVRI efforts and relating that there was not a consensus of the group. Wayne Wakkinen asked about the role of the subcommittee after the letter was submitted; the thought being that the committee would not meet again.... since the purpose was specific and the timeframe is past.

TMDL Committee: Patty Perry gave updates on the TMDL Plan. The DEQ Boise office has reviewed it and it is in the final stages of completion with no technical edits.

Grizzly Bear Conservation Committee: Patty Perry provided an update and explained apparent miscommunication of the participants in the purpose of the committee and the role and type of education to be shared

Patty read an email written to her from Darrel Kerby stating the City of Bonners Ferry wishes to cooperate with the agencies as much as possible to facilitate recovery of the bear. They do not desire to have KVRI to become a forum for the debate over the science of grizzly bear recovery. It was agreed that the subcommittee would proceed as originally tasked.

2.27.06 McArthur Lake: Highway 95 Project Progress: The next step has been to form a working group---this working group is made up of local residents

Myrtle Creek Project Progress: A draft document will be coming out at the end of March; for those who did not see the scoping notice it is in the Federal Register and can be accessed online

Sturgeon Biological Opinion: they would not be talking about the Kootenai Sturgeon Critical Habitat, but mentioned there would be a public hearing held at the Kootenai River Inn in the Ktunaxa room on March 16th Another issue that was brought up was the possibility of delisting the sturgeon if the project is successful and proper recruitment occurs.

Wayne Wakkinen wanted to speak to the group, at a later time, on the presence of wolves in Boundary County. He mentions the documentation of the wolf pack spotted last summer in Upper Boulder Creek which has been referred to as the Caulder Mountain Pack. He also mentions there were tracks found up Hall

Mountain. He would like time to talk about the wolf situation south of I-90 versus the situation north of I-90.

3.27.2006 Two-Tail Peak Project: Eric mentioned that BLM wanted to use KVRI as a resource for collaboration and information to disseminate at the beginning of the project. The contract for this project will be awarded in the early fall. Before closing, Eric thanks KVRI for their long involvement and good process with the public.

Status of Wolves Statewide/Boundary County

Smith Creek: Dave Wattenbarger reported that the working group has received funding and permitting on the connection between Boundary and Smith Creek area

Burbot: Sandy also explained that burbot were found in Bead Lake and Sullivan Lake (Washington State) and were doing well....and share very similar genetics to the burbot that are in the Kootenai River. It was thought they could have possibly been transplanted. At this time the idea of nursery lakes was brought up.... utilizing these fish. The idea is to use outdoor lakes for reproduction of burbot because they are hard to culture quickly at the hatchery. However, the biologist pointed out the burbot found in Bead and Sullivan Lakes could carry disease and wipe out all fish in Kootenai River.

KVRI Subcommittees process; communications; Board decision-making: At this point, there was discussion among those at the table and it was expressed by most – they were frustrated with the time and effort that went into the meetings, prior to January, only to come back to the KVRI group and have nothing done as a result of no consensus. After much discussion, it was decided there would be no immediate action taken regarding a decision on whether to amend the bylaws. The group was asked to consider the options that were discussed, think about it, and bring comments and suggestions back to the next meeting.

4.17.06 U.S. Forest Projects Update: Pork Chop The Mission Brush Project Myrtle Creek Project Templeman Hazardous Fuel Project

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – BIOP Update Dave Ponganis, most of the Corps time has been spent with a technical group made up of the Kootenai Tribe, Salish Kootenai Tribe, Fish & Wildlife Service, Bonneville Power Administration, State of Montana, State of Idaho, USGS and some folks from Canada.

Grizzly Bear Committee: Discussed draft brochure that could be used as an educational piece and the committee could start working on.

Burbot Committee: There is evidence that the population in Bead Lake and Sullivan Lake were originally Kootenai fish, but there are fish health concerns when discussing bringing them back.

KVRI Subcommittee process; communications; Board decision-making; KVRI Member Re-appointments: The Joint Powers came up with some points which Gary Sr. read aloud and **are attached**. Billy Barquin, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, went over the **revisions made to the bylaws**: handout is attached. Patty Perry stressed again the meaning of consensus

5.15.2006 Proposed Land Management Plan: the draft Land Management Plan (formerly Forest Plan) had been released on May 10th. There is a website that can be visited to receive more information on the Proposed Land Management Plan, Proposed Land Management Plan map, Comment guideline form, contacts and Proposed Land Management Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER):

www.fs.fed.us/kipz

TMDL Committee: press release will talk about setting the base of the chemical, physical, and **biological conditions of the river in the Kootenai** and Moyie Subbasins

Grizzly Bear Committee: proposed to have an educational display at the fair with Idaho Fish & Game, purchasing receptacles for garbage that are bear proof & they will also look at signage. The **focus right now for the group is to educate**

The Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development has been a partner with KVRI since it's started and asked last fall if they could submit the KVRI's process in **which all have worked together as a success story for a National Resource Conservation Development Council Quorum**

6.26.2006 Gary Aitken, Sr. updated the group in regards to **the Salmon Biop meeting which he attended in Oregon.**

Patty Perry gave more background She stated the operation of the Libby Dam and the operation of the reservoir have several things which are taken into account. Flood control is one, but also the biological opinion that was written for the recovery of the sturgeon, the biological opinion that was written for the recovery of the salmon in the lower rivers, and the VARQ which changes the way the water is held in the reservoir and the way it is released from the reservoir. This calls for not drawing down the water so far in the winter and refilling the pool sooner based on trying to meet fish recovery needs.

Sturgeon Update: Vaughn Paragamian started off by mentioning the sturgeon spawning period ended early June and by default this has been a very unique and

opportunistic year. They have collected over 700 eggs, most were found at Shorty's Island

Patty and the co-chairs of KVRI worked to put together a letter for the board members for reappointment. Letters have been drawn up and co-chairs have all approved and signed them.

Patty Perry brought up the Vital Ground newsletter which was distributed to the board and several copies were provided for those who were interested.

Chip Corsi added information regarding the fluorescent stripe which is located on the dam at McArthur Lake. He explained there has been some settling observed.

Patty mentioned an email which was sent out regarding the news release stating that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is seeking comment on Idaho's request to manage wolves north of Interstate 90. There may be some presentations on this topic at future meetings.

Before adjourning, Dan Dinning made the comment that the fish below Libby Dam are displaying symptoms of gas bubble trauma. The long-term effects are unknown at this time.

Dan Dinning also added the ban has been lifted and boats and water craft are allowed on the river again.

7.17.2006 Wildlife Mapping/McArthur Lake Corridor: The group has been looking at successful areas of crossing much like the area near Pack River where animal tracks have been found underneath bridges

Update on McArthur Lake Highway 95 Re-alignment: They were very excited because there was a lot of good input and participation. Things were moving ahead and then, from reading in the papers, ITD has had a budget change.

Myrtle Creek HFRA Project comments: Personnel from the Bonners Ferry Ranger District were asked by KVRI to summarize the comments received during the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Project Leader Doug Nishek gave a Power Point presentation outlining the comments by resource. This presentation is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website

Question: How is KVRI involved with the Objection Process?

Answer: HFRA projects include collaborative involvement and the Myrtle Creek project has been developed through the Myrtle Creek Working Group. The Forest

Service will bring objections to KVRI for discussion. There may need to be more working group meetings held also.

Darrell Kerby mentioned **the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have agreed to come to Bonners Ferry as part of their after-action review process following the Libby Dam spill.**

8.21.2006 Bob Steed, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) presented. Comments were received from the Kootenai Environmental Alliance, EPA, and Idaho Fish & Game. In closing, Bob asked for permission to take the TMDL forward to the Basin Advisory Group. There were no objections, so it was agreed by consensus he will take the TMDL forward.

Dianna Ellis wanted to make the group aware that the Kootenai Wildlife Refuge has written a grant in hopes to receive money to do restoration on Deep Creek with a multitude of partners such as the Kootenai Tribe, Idaho Fish & Game and the Nature Conservancy

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws: Patty Perry explained the topic had been tabled to give people a chance to look over to proposed changes and bring back their opinions for discussion. At this time, the purpose in revisiting this topic is to clean up the bylaws and tailor them more for the KVRI group as it is now.

McArthur Lake status: they presented to the Idaho Board of Transportation on why they thought the McArthur Lake project should continue on their Horizons list. At closing, Dan mentioned he believed it would be either September or October when the ITD Board will meet and make their final decisions

September 6th the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be at the Kootenai River Inn (tentatively at 9:00 a.m.), for an After-Action Review of the past spring flood activity.

10.16.2006 U.S. Forest Service Update: Mike Herrin, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), updated the group by first mentioning **the snowmobile and caribou lawsuit** that is currently taking place. The USFS is currently working on getting the final Myrtle Creek Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) Project documents out.

The Mac Creek culvert is almost blown out

The burning that has taken place for the last couple of weeks on top of the Selkirk Mountains is part of the White Bark Pine Project.

Recap IGBC Fall Subcommittee: Idaho Dept of Fish and Game (IDFG), updated the group on the black bears, grizzly bears, and wolf that were caught in the area and the black bear that was killed in the Porthill area

Burbot Committee: Patty added the group is keeping in line with the conservation strategy and still getting a few questions from the TMT which Bob is dealing with. In the event that it is required, Patty asked if they could provide a letter that KVRI again is in consensus and support of the implementation of the SOR.

11.20.2006 U.S. Forest Service/ Myrtle Creek Update: Mike Herrin, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), updated the group on several issues including Myrtle Creek, on the snowmobile lawsuit and Two of the smaller timber sales, Templeman and Eastport, are categorical exclusions. In closing, Mike mentioned he has taken a new position as the district ranger on the Troy Ranger District. He will begin on February 4th

ITD Habitat Work funding: Dan Dinning mentioned during the Copeland ITD project there was money set aside for improvement for the elk habitat about three years ago.

2007

1.22.07 Myrtle Creek Update: They are hoping to have the biological opinion back from the Fish & Wildlife Service by the end of the month.

Two Tails Project: The Two Tail Peak project involves approximately 700+ acres of BLM land located about eight miles up river from Bonners Ferry. Eric will periodically come back to the KVRI and keep them updated as to the progress of the contract which is supposed to begin this coming April and proceed for up to four years.

Smith Creek: Dave Wattenbarger mentioned the group has been working on a transfer of property that is currently owned by Ducks Unlimited to Idaho Fish & Game

Grizzly Bear: the group discussed putting out brochures at planning and zoning for those who are moving into the area and those that are planning to build. The group would like to put out a fact sheet because there are many myths out there and it could help separate fact from myth.

TMDL: Patty spoke with Bob Steed last Wednesday and he shared the **TMDL had been submitted to EPA.**

Dan Dinning mentioned that Raymond Abraham, a member of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, had passed away the previous week. It was noted that this is a great loss.

Tony mentioned that delisting of the wolf is expected to happen at the end of the month and they suspect that maybe a year from now they may be able to treat wolves as a big game animal.

2.26.2007 Patty Perry mentioned Gary Aitken, Sr. usually co-chairs for KVRI however he was unable to attend the meeting because he was in Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Myrtle Creek Update: Don Gunter, Acting District Ranger for U.S. Forest Service (USFS), explained they had received **a letter from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) requesting some additional information for the Myrtle Project.**

TMDL: Patty mentioned there is a **letter included in** the packets from U.S. EPA Region 10 **that there has been approval for the Kootenai River and Moyie River Subbasin TMDL.**

Rich Clough, who came to talk to the group about the McArthur Lake area and the **wildlife movement in** the area

Amendments to By-laws: what KVRI was intended to do and how it was setup and why it was setup. It clarifies the members of the KVRI are appointed by the JPA, the members of KVRI are folks from the community the only things being changed are the clarification as to what KVRI is and how people are appointed.

Chip Corsi mentioned IDFG has held a handful of meetings discussing moving forward to spend the mitigation dollars for the impacts to wintering elk from the North Highway Project.

Dan Dinning added he spoke with Josh Burnham, with American Wildlands, who was involved with the community group that helped with the McArthur Lake realignment project, which was developed

John Martin updated the group on the Craig-Wyden Act that provided the county payments to offset the loss of revenue due to the reduction of timber harvest on federal lands.

3.19.2007 VARQ/Sturgeon Flow Planning Process: Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, spoke with Cindy Henriksen from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) before the meeting to get some updates. Due to the flood event that took place last year, the decision was made in January by the USACE to follow the strict VARQ flood control rule curves this year. The VARQ and fish flows are two different things and can be implemented separately. The sturgeon flows are based on a biological opinion which was written by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The VARQ is based on a model that is designed to balance the different needs for power, flood control and fish flows.

U.S. Forest Service Updates: Don Gunter, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), started by mentioning a new district ranger had been selected. Linda McFadden The USFS is still working on the Myrtle Creek final environmental impact statement

Don brought maps for the special snowmobile closure order area There was a scoping notice sent out to the public for comments on development of the Selkirk Mountain Range Winter Travel Plan

Idaho Fish & Game Research Update: Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG), brought updates to the group concerning grizzly bear, wolves and caribou.

Dianna Ellis mentioned on behalf of the refuge, There have been reductions going on and declining budgets over the last few years. There have been some refuges that have been closed.

Chip Corsi, IDFG, reported last month on the efforts to move forward on mitigations for the Elk Mountain Range by Highway 95.

Wayne Wakkinen added to his wolf recovery update that the 2006 annual report for wolf recovery has been released. There should be a link to the report that can be accessed through the IDFG website.

4.23.2007 USFS Update: Don Gunter, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), stated the 30-day objection period for the Myrtle Creek HFRA (Healthy Forest Restoration Act) Project had started

Jeff Knetter, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG), added they have completed the burn season on the Smith Creek Property and the Boundary Creek WMA. They are currently prepping food plots.

At that time, Dan Dinning announced an update on behalf of the Boundary County Commissioners. He stated the Twin Bridge will be replaced possibly

Chip Corsi, IDFG, said there will be a Fishing Scoping Meeting at the Boundary County Extension Office on April 24th at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to get ideas from the public. One of the ideas is to keep the Moyie River open year round

Dan Dinning asked what the yellow floaters were in Sinclair Lake. Vaughn Paragamian, IDFG, stated they are part of an experiment they are using to rear burbot that they will eventually be able to release into the Kootenai River. Vaughn said the burbot, or ling, population in the Kootenai River is basically non existent

Gary Aitken, Sr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, wanted to notify the group that the Tribal Hatchery currently has 5 or 6 female White Sturgeon. The interesting fact, he pointed out, was that one of them was caught in 1976 and still had a Montana tag on it. Now it has come back and is ready to spawn.

Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy, announced they have been working with Forest Capital Partners on developing a project for some of their property located in the McArthur Lake Area. They are hoping to apply for funding through the Forest Legacy Program, which is a federal program under the farm bill that provides funding to purchase conservation easements on private working forests.

5.21.2007 Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Fish & Wildlife Director, was asked to update the KVRI group on the Sturgeon Restoration Project and the Burbot Conservation Strategy. Sue brought a handout, Kootenai River Ecosystem Adaptive Management Program. This is the combination of much work done through the Kootenai Tribe's program and with Idaho Fish & Game.

Sue added there was a fish that the Tribe caught this year that is an adult female ready to spawn. The fish had a floy tag (a plastic tag that sticks out of the dorsal fin) that looked like it was from Montana. IDFG staff called Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks staff and asked them about this fish. They found there was some fish sampling work done in 1976 where they captured and tagged 5 sturgeon, one of which was this fish. At the time it was only 13 lbs. and was captured right below Kootenai Falls. It has now matured and is in spawning condition and has come up from Kootenay Lake to spawn.

It was asked how long the sturgeon was and how much it weighed? Sue stated she wasn't able to recall at that time, but knows it weighed over 150 lbs. and was approximately between 7-8 feet in length.

The Tribe will be hoping to use the Deep Creek boat ramp and potentially the Search and Rescue dock for staging areas where the barge will be set up and where

they bring the cores to off load them. Coring will begin this summer. The Tribe is on the County's Commissioners agenda on May 22nd to gain permission to use the above-mentioned boat ramps.

Burbot Conservation Strategy: At this time Sue explained the Tribe had received funding to start developing master plans to work towards the design of ponds and facilities that will be needed to get the project on a production level

Kootenai River Flows: Greg Hoffman, USACE, started by mentioning that Sue had talked about the Ecosystem Restoration Program and USACE has been trying to do things with the dam that fit with that concept. He stated he will be talking about the flow augmentation out of Libby Dam for sturgeon that started the previous week and specifically what they were doing for temperature. Greg's PowerPoint presentation will be available on the Kootenai Tribe's website: www.kootenai.org.

USFS Update: The Myrtle Creek Objection Period ended May 10th. The Templeman and Twin Skin HFRA field trips took place.

Grizzly Bear Sub-committee: Wayne Kasworm has provided information on bear movements which will be discussed at the next meeting. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee will be meeting later in May. Wayne Wakkinen, IDFG, went over the Hair Snare Study

TMDL Sub-committee: The focus will be on Deep Creek. The committee will be bringing maps and project information to share. They will be looking at different things that can be implemented from the TMDL

John O'Connor, representative for environmental/conservation interests on the KVRI Board, read his letter of resignation to the group; letter attached to file.

Darrell Kerby stated the new Visitor's Center is nearly complete.

Dan Dinning mentioned the Boundary County Commissioners met that afternoon along with Darrell Kerby and several representatives of the community. The Governor sent out a letter to all 44 counties concerning the West Nile Virus

Patty stated she mailed out the Categorical Exclusions decisions to the board members on the Stampede Thinning Projects and Burning Projects

The time is here to send in the application if there's interest to have a booth at the Patty shared that Chan Nagel and Cleve Shearer have suggested that the group be more proactive and put more information in the paper fair once again.

6.18.2007 Burbot Presentation: Vaughn Paragamian, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG), stated his department made the DVD mainly because they wanted to raise the level of attention for Idaho's only fresh water cod in the Kootenai River. Vaughn presented a DVD on burbot; the presentation can be found on the Tribe's website.

U.S. Forest Service Update: In absence of Linda McFaddan, new District Ranger, Patty offered to give an update on the Myrtle Creek issues. There were several objections to the project Patty added the Joint Powers, along with the Tribe, have written letters to encourage the USFS to proceed with their project as presented and move ahead to implement it

Patty stated the amended bylaws were brought to the meeting for all the board members to take.

KVRI Outreach: The group needs to get the message to the broader public. Patty spoke with a few members and asked for them to brainstorm some ideas. The group doesn't want a public information piece but rather a start to a preliminary information piece that could go into a historical archive.

County – West Nile Virus Preparation: Dan Dinning updated the group on the West Nile Virus. He stated there were 23 deaths last year due to the West Nile Virus. It is anticipated to be moving into the area this year.

7.16.2007 U.S. Forest Service Update: Doug Nishek, USFS, attend for Linda McFaddan (District Ranger) to provide the update on the Myrtle Creek Project. Doug stated the USFS is currently working on the record of decision (ROD) which will be released at the end of July.

Smith Creek Working Group: Mike Gondek, USDA NRCS, updated the group The Smith Creek Management area was formerly the Thorman Wetland Reserve Program and is now connected with Boundary Creek

TMDL Subcommittee: Patty stated the group has been making a lot of head way. They have moved rapidly from the TMDL planning to implementation.

KVRI Outreach: Patty mentioned at the last meeting it was asked that the group think about developing a committee that would shape what kind of outreach KVRI should have

Fish & Wildlife Commission Update: Tony McDermott updated the group this week include changes to the January 07 muzzle loader rules and Panhandle fishing rule proposals. One of the fish proposals is to increase fishing opportunity by keeping

the Moyie River open all year with a two trout harvest limit. IDFG is currently in the process of developing its wolf harvest plan. Idaho has 700 documented wolves with some believing that there is another 300 that haven't been documented.

8.20.2007 U.S. Forest Service Update: Linda McFaddan, USFS, stated they are making last minute corrections and additions to the record of decision (ROD).

There will be a 30-day reviewing coming up in approximately a month for the Templeman project.

There was a small fire in the Smith Creek drainage that was contained to approximately 17 acres

The Nature Conservancy Project Proposal: Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), **proposed a project** that **would acquire a conservation easement on 654 acres** of private timberlands owned by Forest Capital Partners (FCP) in Boundary County

Horizons Vision Rally: Sandy Ashworth gave some background on the project stating the scope of the project is to find a common vision for the community on where the community would like to be over a long term.

9.17.2007 U.S. Forest Service: Linda McFaddan, USFS, stated they are working on **putting out the timber sale for Myrtle Creek.**

Smith Creek Working Group: The group has looked at **possibly pursuing the purchase of the land. Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) was approached by the realtor several weeks ago.** He further explained the purchase of property would involve a rigorous process that the group would have to go through to actually acquire the land.

TMDL Sub-committee: The focus of the committee has been on Deep Creek, recognizing that Deep Creek and Boundary Creek were the two that were limited for shade.

Kootenai River Restoration Project: The intent of the meeting is to help explain **what the Bonneville Program is, how the project fits, how it came about, why, how it fits with sturgeon recovery,**

Resource Advisory Council: Gary went on further to explain he has been on the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for communities that have lost money due to reduced timber harvesting receipts.

TMDL Sub-committee: Patty Perry stated the group will be discussing the new 303d list, which is now part of the integrated report. Patty added the 319 Grant application process for implementation of TMDL related projects is open currently.

Fish Recovery Update: Kristin James shared the Tribe received a message earlier in the day in regards to the fish recovery. Kenneth LaMarsh had phoned the Tribal Office to notify Sue Ireland and others that he was witness to several hundred, possibly thousands, of Kokanee spawning in the south fork of Trout Creek.

10.15.2007 Kootenai River Restoration Project Update: the project will be to create a channel within the existing channel. This will allow for a narrower and deeper stream system that will have the habitat attributes that were outlined in the biological opinion for sturgeon. The project design will also create a flood plain for the river

KVRI Board Appointment: **A letter of acceptance** from Justin Petty (an employee of The Nature Conservancy), was submitted to the co-chairs, expressing his interest in serving on the KVRI Board as the Conservation/Environmental Representative

Flood Level Stage: The significance is that the river restoration project could mean a huge difference to flood stage, and what it may mean to seepage is even bigger. A goal of the entire project is to reduce flood stage and reduce seepage.

Grizzly Bear Updates: Chip Corsi updated the group on the bear in the Nordman area. The bear became food-conditioned and habituated as a result of continued access to human produced food sources, mostly cracked corn and black sunflower seeds. He had been relocated and found his way back and continued to cause problems so IDFG shot and killed him.

Hair Snare Project: Wayne originally wanted to test sixty 5x5 km sites; however, the scope of the project allowed for only 45 sites to be tested that were visited 3 - 4 times.

11.19.2007 Burbot Conservation Strategy: On October 31 2007, the KVRI burbot sub-committee met in Bonners Ferry for

their annual meeting. The committee determined, based on the demographics analysis of the population, which the burbot population was so low that they were going to have to take action with aquaculture or reintroduction to be able to make in difference in bringing the population to a size that could respond to habitat improvements. The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho was able to secure funding through help from the congressional delegates and also from Bonneville Power

Administration (BPA) to start developing techniques the progress to date (please find hand out available on the Tribe's website – www.kootenai.org)

Libby Dam Operations in Relation to Burbot Conservation: Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, displayed a power point presentation he developed for the purpose of the KVRI meeting

Burbot Findings: Vaughn Paragamian, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), spoke to the group about the netting success for burbot. He displayed power point slides to guide his presentation (www.kootenai.org).

U.S. Forest Service Update: Linda McFaddan, USFS, stated there is a proposal to move the lookout tower on Black Mountain 1.5 miles north of its present location

Myrtle Creek Sub-committee: Linda McFaddan, USFS, mentioned the group met on November 7th to discuss monitoring. The prescriptions that have been written for the first project, Mini Mac, were also discussed

Grizzly Bear Sub-committee: Scott Robinson, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is on the sub-committee and he brought displays that are available for use at the library, fair, visitor's center, etc. They are accompanied by several handouts on grizzly bears. The display and everything is part of the sub committees grizzly bear education and outreach. The library is in need of their own C.J. There's a dead bear available. The group is looking into securing funds to get the bear mounted.

2008

1.28.2008 Caribou Movement Plan Update: Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG), stated approximately a year ago there was a lawsuit in Spokane about winter recreation relative to Selkirk Caribou. The judge imposed snowmobile restrictions in the Selkirks Wayne passed out a handout on Selkirk Ecosystem Woodland Caribou Movement and Habitat Use Analysis (available on Kootenai Tribal Website: www.kootenai.org)

Smith Creek: Chip Corsi added the commission did approve acquisition of Sullivan's property. The group can now try some restoration attempts without worrying about flooding someone out

TMDL Sub-committee: The new 2008 Integrated Report which is where the streams for this area get listed or not listed for being impaired and needing TMDL There was a recommendation letter passed out to all KVRI board members, the Watershed Advisory Group (WAG), coming from the technical committee that

works on TMDLs, which suggest the letter of comment, be sent to DEQ. A letter was put together for the board to submit to IDEQ regarding the Blue Joe listing (the letter is available for any who would like to review it. The letter was approved by consensus of the KVRI group.

2.25.2008 Appreciation for Darrell Kerby: Darrell Kerby, former Mayor of Bonners Ferry, had served on the KVRI Board as a Co-Chair since the beginning of the organization, in 2001. Since his term as Mayor has expired, his seat as a KVRI Co-Chair goes to the new Mayor, Dave Anderson.

Boundary County Milfoil Project: Terry “Duke” Guthrie, Boundary County Weed Superintendent, brought a slide show for the group to view. There were several graphic **pictures of Eurasian Milfoil infestations along the Kootenai River.**

TMDL Sub-committee: Several members provided written comment to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) asking that they reconsider Blue Joe listing. The Kootenai Tribe just received a letter from EPA stating that they will be considering DEQ’s 2008 Integrated Report

Grizzly Bear Sub-committee: Patty explained the grant application was submitted to TransCanada, thanks to Scott Soult, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Wayne Wakkinen. She has received positive comments back, but she hasn’t heard if they’ve been awarded the funds.

Wolf Delisting Decision: Tony McDermott stated the USFWS wolf delisting decision was announced on February 21, effective February 28.

3.17.2008 Natural Gas Safety & Awareness Program: Steve McNulty, TransCanada, gave a power point presentation to the group on natural gas safety and awareness. He explained that they do not own the gas in the pipeline they are just the conduit. TransCanada has recently acquired the Tuscarora pipeline.

Stormwater Erosion Education Program (SEEP) Training: Jamie Davis, Idaho Association of Conservation Districts, works locally with the five northern counties on water quality issues, urban conservation, and development. Jamie displayed a power point presentation for the KVRI group. The power point is available on the Kootenai Tribe’s website which can be accessed at: www.kootenai.org.

TransCanada Grant Funding: Grizzly Bear Subcommittee had worked with Steve and his counter-part from Oregon to apply for a grant. Steve stated **TransCanada approved the grant,** and he presented a check to committee members in the amount of \$4,000.

Lynx Critical Habitat Update: Bryon Holt, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), stated on February 28th, 2008 they published a **proposal to revise critical habitat designation for Canada Lynx**.

TMDL Sub-committee: **designation on Blue Joe** Mike stated KVRI will be receiving a letter from IDEQ addressing their correspondence & questions. The TMDL committee will be working with DEQ, USFS, and EPA to understand more about what's taken place, if there's adequate monitoring, and what additional monitoring could/should be put in place at this time.

Twin Skin Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA): Patty received the **Environmental Assessment for the Twin Skin HFRA project**. There is a 30-day comment period

4.21.2008 Presentation to Darrell Kerby: Karen Roetter, Senator Crapo's Office, presented an award of appreciation to Darrell Kerby. On Tuesday, February 12th, **Senator Crapo read aloud his statement on the floor of the senate, commending Darrell on his many accomplishments benefiting the community during his years as Mayor and those as a City Council member.**

Update on Libby Dam Spring Operations: The power point presentation will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe's website (www.kootenai.org). In the biological opinion there is a call for spill testing. There are currently discussions taking place surrounding **the federal lawsuit regarding sturgeon recovery actions at Libby Dam and in the Kootenai River. There is court proceedings scheduled to occur this spring, and it is a possibility the judge will decide to order USACE to spill 5,000 - 10,000 cfs of water.**

Kootenai Tribe Stream Restoration Project: Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Director for the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, **updated KVRI on the Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Program**. The Tribal Fish & Wildlife program is guided through the policy direction of the Kootenai Tribal Council and implemented by dedicated staff and subcontractors, in collaboration with many agency partners and co-managers. The main goal is to restore fish and wildlife resources in the Kootenai drainage

Gretchen Kruse, Free Run Aquatic Research (contractor for the Tribe), presented information on a project pertaining to three Westside tributaries; **Gretchen provided a power point presentation that will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe's website (www.kootenai.org).**

Lessons that have been learned: Success that has encouraged results: Where the project will go from here

Proposed Conservation Easement near McArthur Lake: Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy, and Kennon McClintock, Forest Capital, introduced a project to the group. The Nature Conservancy is applying to Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for Forest Legacy **funding to acquire a conservation easement on private working forests in the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor.** The project includes approximately 3,800 acres of private timberlands owned by Patriot Investments and managed by Forest Capital Partners in Bonner and Boundary Counties, Idaho. The KVRI board approved the letter of support by consensus and submitted it to The Nature Conservancy

Robyn added the **Boundary Creek project, which KVRI supported, was approved. They received approximately \$1.5 million in funding** through the USFWS for the acquisition of a conservation easement on Forest Capital Lands in Boundary Creek, covering approximately 655 acres. The grant was submitted by IDFG.

Smith Creek Working Group: Dave Wattenbarger stated the group met and discussed the purchase of 20 acres on Smith Creek. The purchase appears to be going through. They are intending to combine the utilization of Smith Creek with Boundary Creek.

Burbot Restoration in the Kootenai River Basin: Sue Ireland wanted to make the group aware **of a handout titled “Burbot Restoration in the Kootenai River Basin”.** She and Patty put together an article for the American Fisheries Society Symposium on topics such as the KVRI group and their collaboration with the community. The article appeared in an international proceeding to burbot and also another article which appeared in a magazine called Northwest which talked about stream restoration program

Grizzly Bear Updates: Wayne Wakkinen, IDFG, got word they received a grant to help the county complete the fencing project in the Good Grief area.

Wayne has nearly 1200 samples waiting to be sent off to the DNA lab as part of the DNA testing project for grizzly bears. To have all the samples processed they are looking at spending \$25,000 - \$30,000.

KVRI Outreach Articles: The KVRI group made the Bonners Ferry Herald

Wolf Management Update: IDFG and the Fish and Game Commission are currently trying to figure out seasons, quotas, and other aspects of the wolf management process.

5.19.2008 Update on Caribou Status Review: Suzanne Audet, USFWS, updated the group on the Selkirk Mountain Caribou 5-year review. USFWS has been working on

the project for the past two years. She was not able to give conclusions or final recommendations because the review is not complete

At what point does USFWS step back and look at the recovery efforts and decide there has not been any success and to either change their plan or drop it all together? Suzanne explained that success is a relative term. The population has been augmented twice. In the opinion of USFWS and other agencies working on caribou recovery, these augmentations have kept the population going. Many people would view that as a failure; however, USFWS see it as a success, because they believe the population could have been extirpated if the population hadn't been augmented.

Kootenai Wildlife Refuge—Comprehensive Conservation Planning: Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), presented information to the group on the Kootenai NWR's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). Her power point will be available on the Kootenai Tribal website: www.kootenai.org.

Update on Farm Bill: Mike Gondek, NRCS, updated the group on the farm bill. His power point presentation will be available on the Kootenai Tribal website: www.kootenai.org.

TMDL Sub-committee: Patty Perry stated the group met recently; and also, the letter that KVRI submitted has not been responded to formerly. There are more complications than what originally appeared...with regard to the change in status for Blue Joe Creek. The group will be placing monitoring devices for temperature on June 10th

Grizzly Bear Committee: Patty stated the committee does not have a bear hide for the mount yet. They thought it would be a good idea to use a bear from the area. Wayne added that Canada will provide a bear hide. He also mentioned IDFG received funding for the grant he had applied for.

6.16.2008 TMDL Sub-committee: Patty Perry stated the group met on June 10th to deploy water monitors. Members split into groups and deployed monitors into Deer, Meadow, 20 Mile, Trail, Boulder, Mission, Hell Roaring, Spruce, Copper, Long Canyon and Lower Boundary Creeks. Dave Wattenbarger added the monitors were placed to help the committee with gathering data pertaining to temperature requirements for selected streams.

Grizzly Bear Committee: Sarah Canepa, Vital Ground Foundation, explained she has been working on a partnership effort for outreach and education in the Cabinet Yaak Recovery Zone. They conducted a public opinion and knowledge survey in

Lincoln and Sanders County to better understand the knowledge people have regarding grizzly bear behavior, needs, habitat needs and their opinions on grizzly bears and grizzly bear recovery.

Dan stated there was discussion on **the food storage rules** also. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicated they wanted to make it mandatory across all forests to have food storage containers.

Patty added that the committee had a letter to present to the KVRI group regarding **mandatory bear identification testing for hunters**

Smith Creek Working Group: It was clarified by a member of KVRI that Smith Creek Working Group is not a sub-committee of KVRI. They simply report to KVRI as a courtesy. They manage Smith Creek Wildlife Management area and are made up of citizens of Boundary County.

Letter from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA): Patty sent out a letter to the board regarding the rebuild of the Libby to Troy section and Libby to Bonners Ferry section of BPA's line.

USFS Letter to KVRI for Twin Skin EA: letter she received from the USFS for notification of completion of the Twin Skin Healthy Forest Restoration Act project decision notice and finding of no significant impact.

Vital Ground Grant: Patty received a letter from Gary Wolf. It was a memo to the friends of Vital Ground. They are in the process of raising \$150k for a matching challenge grant. She has the information available for all who are interested.

Smith Creek Channel: Chip Corsi, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG), stated they are working on a feasibility study to determine effects of restoring a portion of the Smith Creek channel.

7.21.2008 Smith Creek Working Group: the main point of interest was on a grant that had been received to determine the feasibility of rerouting Smith Creek into its old channels. There was some concern from nearby landowners, but the concerns are on hold until the study is complete.

Review MFWP – Bear Identification Test: The group took the test and passed with 100% correct! Patty brought the group back to the main point of why they were looking at the test. She explained the write up on the website was tailored more towards what the grizzly bear committee was thinking about with regard to voluntary testing for bear hunters. **The subcommittee is looking at the bear identification test as an education and outreach tool.**

Forest Service Update – Mission Brush Project: Linda McFadden updated the group on the **Mission Brush Project**. She stated on July 2nd a panel of judges of the 9th Circuit Court rendered a decision on the Mission Brush injunction. The USFS feels the decision is a confirmation of the good work they have been doing and will continue to do.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Project on Kootenai River: Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, asked that KVRI be made aware of a study they will be conducting on the river. The Kootenai Tribe is working with Gary Barton, USGS, who will be doing tests on the river on August 11th. There will be red dye containing rhodamine (which is biodegradable) used. The purpose **for the study is to check particulate travel time so that the sediment transfer models can be firmed up for the feasibility studies**

Pete Rust, IDFG, has worked with **the Sturgeon Recovery Investigation** for the past seven seasons. He gave a power point presentation on the 2008 projects underway. The presentation is available on the Kootenai Tribal website; www.kootenai.org. His work includes Burbot, Sturgeon & trout.

Kootenai Tribal Fish & Wildlife Department Field Sampling Activities: Patty went over **the document Sue Ireland, Kootenai** Tribe of Idaho, provided on their projects taking place on the river.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Studies: Patty also **shared the handout** that was sent by Tom Buckley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, regarding the project they are working on the Kootenai River. This document will be available online as well

Patty stated Kristin had put together a KVRI pamphlet for the purpose of a take home message for folks to be displayed at the Boundary County Fair.

International Kootenay Lake Board of Control: **Patty included a letter** from the International Kootenay Lake Board of Control.

Milfoil Project: Dan Dinning explained the county is looking at a test treatment plot of 20 acres for milfoil in the Kootenai River.

9.15.2008 Meeting w/ Sportsman's Club: Patty stated the meeting was held on September 8th at the Sportsman's Club at 6:00 p.m. She, along with Wayne Wakkinen, Dan Dinning, and Tony McDermott, were in attendance. Wayne presented the bear identification test. **The Sportsman Association voted to support a mandatory Bear identification test for all hunters** before they can purchase an Idaho Bear tag.

10.20.2008 Burbot Conservation Update: Vaughn presented a power point slide show which will be available on the Kootenai Tribal website, www.kootenai.org . Patty added that the burbot group met a couple weeks ago, and they are working on some issues that will help augment the burbot recovery. She also highlighted the project Vaughn had **done last year by releasing burbot larva in a pond**. The project may have been successful; however, after releasing the larva they found out the pond contained a substantial perch population. As a leaving note it was mentioned there are currently pathology studies that need to be done before releasing the **burbot into the river due to disease and other related issues**.

Burbot Sub-committee---SOR Recommendation: Greg Hoffman put together a System Operation Request (SOR) which gives folks an idea of how the Libby Dam would operate to help aid in burbot recovery.

The process, as Patty understood, is that the committee puts together an SOR; the committee makes the recommendation to KVRI. KVRI presents the SOR to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and asks them to make the request for the committee. Warm water has been proven to be lethal to baby burbot. **There has not been a request for a reduction in the level of water. Patty asked for KVRI to entertain the idea of sending a recommendation for the burbot committee to USFWS**. The group agreed by consensus and Patty was told to move forward with the recommendation.

The TMDL stream at Deep Creek has five projects currently taking place. They are cross fencing, stream habitat being placed such as root wads, rock barbs, and woody plants. The woods are being worked on upstream.

U.S. Forest Service: Has there been acceptance by the USFWS that climate change is occurring? Chip stated the folks he works with realize climate change in taking place, but he doesn't know where the service is as an agency. He also isn't sure what it means as far as setting priorities.

Grizzly Bear: Wayne Wakkinen reported Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) **has access to a grizzly bear hide**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Updates: Mike Gondek, NRCS, **stated the Farm Bill passed however there will be major changes**. There will be a forest health initiative which may have a positive impact on forest landowners in this area. The initiative will include a 30 year easement and allow for silvicultural practices to be used.

Grizzly Bear IGBC Sub-Committee Meeting: gave a brief overview of the subcommittee meeting. The meeting notes are available to view on the Kootenai tribe's website, www.kootenai.org. The major focus of the IGBC subcommittee for the upcoming year will be on sanitation and education. The **DNA Hair Snare project is moving along**. He has obtained permits to get the samples across the border to the laboratory to be tested. Now the only issue is getting them up there.

Sturgeon Litigation Settlement; Kootenai Habitat Master Plan: An agreement was reached in the litigation process & there was a joint news release that came out in September that stated there was a settlement agreement. Patty distributed information, prepared by the Tribe's attorney, with the bullet points outlining the agreement. The handout is available on the website, www.kootenai.org

Follow-up on meeting with Sportsman's Club: Patty asked if there would be harm in writing a letter stating that the local area residents have presented the idea and discussed the issue. The consensus from the group was to get the letter drawn up and they would review it in January. Tony stated the letter would make the Fish & Game Commission take a second look at the issue and figure out how they would like to approach the next step.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: in the reorganization, the office has been divided along state lines, creating a North Idaho Field Office and an Eastern Washington Field Office.

2009

1.26.2009 Cabinet Yaak Survey Presentation – Grizzly Bear Recovery: The Public Opinion & Knowledge Survey on Grizzly Bears in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem along with the Executive Summary is available on the Kootenai Tribal website: www.kootenai.org.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Libby Dam: Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented information on Libby Dam Operations and how they relate to burbot recovery efforts. His power point presentation is available on the Kootenai Tribal website: www.kootenai.org

National Floodplain Easement Program: Emergency watershed protection floodplain easement project has money available. They are looking for acreage that may qualify. It's a permanent easement similar to the WRP.

Fish Passage Project proposal Update: The proposed projects are on private lands. They will put together a design plan and attempt to secure funding for the projects. They will also need to contact Burlington Northern railroad.

Mandatory Bear Identification Test: Chip Corsi stated the recommendation for mandatory bear identification testing for bear hunters from KVRI (and Kootenai Va Grizzly Bear Mount: The bear specimen is in the freezer in Creston. Wayne has all the necessary permits; he's just waiting to find the appropriate taxidermists (needs to get information from Scott Soult, KTOI). Iley Sportsman) is being taken into account within serious venues.

IDFG Hair Snare Project (Grizzly Bear): The hair samples will be taken to the lab next week. The cost to get all the samples done is \$25,000. Wayne Kasworm may have more money available to supplement analysis if needed.

Chip Corsi, IDFG Budget Information: They have submitted a proposal to possibly become legislation for revenue increase. The price of licenses and tags would increase. The current budget has been essentially the same (up 2%) since the last revenue increase 4 years ago. They are proposing a 20% increase. (Chip passed around a handout, which will be available on the Kootenai tribal website: www.kootenai.org.)

Representative for Congressman Walt Minnick: Shelley Landry, Representative for Congressman Walt Minnick, has been busy setting up their office with all the essentials that are needed. She is from Sagle and really excited for the opportunity to be involved with KVRI

Initial Stimulus Proposal: Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, stated they do not have the actual stimulus bill yet. The Senate is working on their version of the bill this week. If folks in Bonners Ferry have projects they would like to have considered, they need to submit those projects to the appropriate federal or state agency

Coordinator Update – Draft Concepts Federal Land Legislation/Owyhee Initiative Presentation: Patty Perry reported that in the last few weeks she had been requested to visit with Bob Boeh of Idaho Forest Group (arranged by Bob Blanford, KVRI Board) regarding potential for Federal Land Legislation, of which portions of a beginning concept are in Boundary County. He was wondering if it was the type of effort KVRI might take a part in.

Wildlife Refuge-CCP Process & Update: During the presentation, Dianna pointed out a slide pertaining to an area of land which has been proposed for a land

exchange with Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). The IDL approached the Service with an informal proposal to exchange (or lease) a 120-acre State-owned parcel of Deep Creek floodplain immediately south of the Refuge for a portion of the Refuge's forest land of equal value. The forest land could be logged by IDL to provide revenue for schools.

Idaho Department of Fish & Game-Caribou Movement Analysis: He also added there were only 3 caribou located in the Idaho & Washington area during last winter's census. That number probably isn't much higher, if any, during other parts of the year.

Floodplain Easement money available through Stimulus Bill: Justin Petty stated he received documentation regarding \$140 million which may be available for flood plain easement

3.16.2009 NRCS – CWA/TMDL 319 Proposed Projects Mike Gondek updated the group on several projects which included:

- **319 Grant Project with local livestock producer, Merle Olsen**
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Fish Passage Project in 20 Mile Creek Area with Rob Sampson

Emergency Watershed Protection Program for Floodplain Easement: Mike stated this program just recently reached his desk This is an economic initiative or stimulus package program. The land needs to qualify by having certain criteria but aside from that it's pretty straight forward. One area of interest Mike and Dianna thought would be a good fit is the stretch of land just south of the Wildlife Refuge Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) owns. They wanted to swap the land with the refuge prior to the economic initiative.

Fish Passage Project in 20 Mile Creek Area: There are three sites in the 20 Mile Creek area Mike is looking to place fish passages at.

Letter of Support for 20 Mile Road Rebuild Patty sent out the letter of support for the 20 Mile Road Rebuild Project

Caribou 5 Year Review Status: Rich Torquemada, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), stated the 5 Year status review for caribou was completed in December. The recommendation was to maintain the current listing

4.20.2009 2009 Caribou Census: Wayne stated the winter caribou survey has been completed. The survey included both U.S. and British Columbia with a total of 46 adult caribou and 5 calves. The count was the exact same as the year before.

TMDL Committee: Bob Steed with IDEQ had updated the TMDL group on the stressor identification assessments for other creeks in the area drainage. Patty sent out the website to the board to view. The creeks included will have full consideration for the next TDML grant:

Idaho Fish & Game Commission: provided an update on the Yellowstone grizzly bear and the Bitterroot Ecosystem Recovery Plan The Commission passed a motion to formally oppose reintroduction of any bears into central Idaho. Tony felt that the Commission opposition was a result of the progress with wolf de-listing and environmental lawsuits. Chris stated that there was zero funding for this reintroduction and currently no plan to proceed.

319 Project Support Letters Patty stated the last TMDL meeting the committee discussed the option of a letter of support for Mike Gondek's project for Merle's property. The committee decided it was a good project but perhaps not the best fit for the program.

Brandon Glaza, USFS, had a letter from the TMDL committee to the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the 20 Mile Creek Project he presented to the group. He needs the same letter signed and sent to the Department of Environmental Quality and Panhandle Basin Advisory Committee. The group approved both of the letters by consensus to support the projects. Linda McFaddan stated the RAC approved Brandon's project and granted him \$60,000 and now he is trying for 319 as well

5.11.2009 Forest Legacy Proposal: Sarah Canepa, Vital Ground Foundation, is based out of Troy, Montana. She briefed the group on North Idaho's Timber Community Forest Legacy Project. They will be submitting an application for fiscal year 2011. the reason behind her presentation to the group was to ask KVRI for a letter of support. A motion was made to submit a letter of support. **The board approved a letter of support by consensus.**

Supplemental DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) Grizzly Bear: Linda McFaddan, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), presented information to the group on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Implementation Strategy (EIS) for Access Management, port to accompany the application. 70% of the bear deaths are related or occur around roads. That implies that the public are going out looking for the bears which isn't the case. Dan added that it's very important that the community understands that this is an order from the court to re-evaluate everything and may, in some cases lessen the restrictions on the roads. After some discussion, it was decided that comments should be submitted based on science, the reasons for

mortality, what's been done to prevent mortality and the progress that has been made rather than comments based on what is socially acceptable. **BMU Mileage Handout.**

Kootenai Habitat Project Update: Patty briefed the group for Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, because she was in D.C. briefing others on the same project. A handout explaining the overview of **The Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project** was passed out. The Kootenai Tribe has been working on this project for some time now.

The Nature Conservancy: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will be applying for a Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) grant through NRCS, to help pay for a conservation easement on property in **Boundary County owned by Lynn Jantz**. The project parcel consists of 1000 acres of agricultural farmland, located directly east of the river from the Boundary/Smith Creek WMA managed by IDFG.

6.15.2009 Kootenai River Habitat Project: Alison provided a handout with information **pertaining to the Master Plan Content**, purpose of the project, project goals, location, limiting factors, restoration strategies, restoration treatments, and next steps (available on the Kootenai Tribal website, www.kootenai.org).

Grizzly Bear Sub-Committee - Supplemental DEIS Grizzly Bear: Linda provided a map that shows the bear management units (BMU's) within the county that would be affected under alternative E in the county. There are 8 BMU's, but under alternative E there are 4 that do not meet the standard proposed in the supplemental DEIS. At that time Patty asked the board to consider the letter to Ranotta McNair, USFS Supervisor for Idaho Panhandle, and Paul Bradford, USFS Supervisor for Kootenai National Forest, regarding the EIS. The board agreed by consensus to send the letter. The letter is available **Response letter DSEIS Motorized Access**

Smith Creek Working Group: The group discussed the realignment of Smith Creek study that has been conducted by Vaughn Paragamian, IDFG. They will look at the Smith Creek realignment and the budget in relationship to the purchase of property.

TMDL Sub-Committee: The group will be placing monitors into the streams once again. There are several streams that have been listed and the group is trying to get a baseline and make sure they know what is taking place in the streams before any restoration efforts are conducted.

Boundary Creek Easement: Justin Petty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), stated they presented on this project approximately a year ago. They are in the final stages of a 654 acre conservation easement purchase on private land owned by Forest Capital Partners at Boundary Creek.

7.20.2009 Grizzly Bear Subcommittee: **The group posed for several pictures** with the new Grizzly Bear mount that was funded through a grant from TransCanada and labor donated by John Thomas, a local taxidermist. The grant also funded the bear skull cleaning by Shawn Fredrickson, Dawson Beetle Works.

Boundary County Mosquito Abatement Program: In 2006 the State of Idaho had the highest infection rate of West Nile Virus. In 2006 the State of Idaho had the highest infection rate of West Nile Virus. **In 2008 30,000 mosquitoes were caught in 84 sets. Wetlands containing cattails are areas which will produce mosquitoes. In one weekend Phil caught 14 different species in a trap. There have never been over 9 different species caught in a trap throughout the entire state.** Boundary County has the most diverse population of mosquitoes for the State. **Thus far Phil has not had one mosquito testing positive for West Nile Virus.**

TMDL Meeting: The group deployed temperature monitors at Boundary Creek, Long Canyon, Ball Creek, Deer, Meadow, Hell Roaring, Mission, Rock, Spruce and Falls just to list a few. Some of the monitors were cabled in areas where there is increase run off. The group put the monitors out to get a baseline with Long Canyon as a reference. They will be writing another TMDL document for recently listed streams and wanted to get some background sampling to use.

Grizzly Bear - Idaho Department of Fish & Game provided several updates i.e. •U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) **provided money thru a grant** to buy forty (40) 65 gallon bear resistant trash cans for residents and (3) 6 cubic yard dumpsters.

August - No Meeting - Fair

9.21.2009 Panhandle Health District, H1N1 Flu Virus: Diane Blanford, Registered Nurse at Panhandle Health District, updated the KVRI group on the H1N1 Flu, a.k.a. Swine Flu.

Boundary/Smith Creek Working Group: Chip Corsi said there have been questions on budget for the Smith Creek Restoration Project which is a different budget from the Management Unit budget, and is not even a budget on its own yet, but part of a larger budget to resto tour the Blue Joe Creek project in the Continental Mine Area.re fish habitat to Kootenai River tributaries.

TMDL Meeting: tour the Blue Joe Creek project in the Continental Mine Area. there is still a listing for metals for TMDL When the removal took place, there was big equipment used on F.S. property and it was left looking pretty rough. **The group that toured the area will recommend to the TMDL committee is that they shouldn't try to do any projects up there.**

Congressman Minnick Visits: Congressman Minnick visited the area and talked with the KVRI Co-Chairs. He is interested in looking at a collaborative that will address **issues in North Idaho similar to the biomass (fuel)** and how we could develop an ability to have some certainty towards biomass. The plan for this group is to hold meetings all around the collaborative area so all members have to travel at some point. Part of the discussion is to understand how to get a predictable flow of wood fiber to accomplish this?

U.S. Forest Service, North Zone Roadside Salvage Project: Patty received a **letter dated September 14th from USFS** on the North Zone Roadside Salvage Project. The project will take place on the Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint and Priest Lake District.

Outfitters and Guides Board: Chip Corsi met with the Outfitters and Guides board executive director and their chair of the board; also USFS. They are reviewing **outfitting and guiding for fishing on the Kootenai River.**

Bull Trout Critical Habitat: USFWS drafted the critical habitat a few years ago, they were litigated on that, and were ordered to review the final designation. The FWS remanded the CH, and have court direction to come out with new critical habitat by the end of 2010. USFWS schedule is to develop a new critical habitat proposal by the end of this year.

IDFG Wolf Harvest: Chip reported the current number reported are 6 wolves harvested so far. Most of the state won't open until October 1st and it's predicted there will be more hunting once big game season allowing rifles is underway. Tony McDermott added there have been approximately 17,000 tags sold so far. IDFG has an excellent web site with lots of information on wolves. Chip stated DNA samples are being collected from harvested wolves mainly to build the database because one of the biggest questions that have come up in the court proceedings is whether the wolves are moving around enough and breeding enough with packs elsewhere that there is enough flow of genetic material to prevent inbreeding

10.19.2009 Kootenai River Habitat Project: Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, briefed the group on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project. A map was displayed providing information on the specific areas of the project. The map and

other information can be found on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [under the Fish & Wildlife tab](#).

Burbot Release: Sue stated the **first release is scheduled for Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Search and Rescue dock**. All the permits have been obtained from the USFWS wildlife inspector, the Canadian Transplant Committee and Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG). There are 30 burbot at the University of Idaho from the 2006 study that have sonic transmitters and will be released by the Ministry of Environment at Goat River in Canada on Wednesday, October 21st

National Geographic – Premiere of Monster Fish of North America (Sturgeon): National Geographic came to the Tribal Hatchery in April and spent a week with the staff and **filmed hatchery activities**, including staff and tribal involvement with the sturgeon restoration.

USACE, Libby Dam Temperature Operations: Greg Hoffman, USACE, briefly discussed spring, summer and fall operations at Libby Dam for 2009.

Recommendation for Burbot SOR: Patty added that each year around this time, the burbot committee sends a recommendation to KVRI that the group implements a Standard Operating Request (SOR) to be sent in for a consideration by the technical management team.

Congressman Minnick Collaboration – October 3rd Meeting: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss formation of a collaborative regarding wilderness issues in Boundary and Bonner Counties. The co-chairs felt they needed to bring information to KVRI and see if they wanted to participate in the process.

Forestry Committee Discussion: Patty stated there's a legislative guidance within the Forest Service that would provide for a pilot project on areas that cover more than 50,000 acres. **It was discussed with the Co-Chairs that it is an appropriate time to move from the Myrtle Creek project to a bigger project**. He thinks the forestry committee and collaborative group could dovetail each other at some point, but thinks KVRI should consider a committee. The land area has to be over 50,000 acres but it would qualify for special funding.

Idaho Fish & Game---Wolf Harvest: Chip Corsi stated the Panhandle season opened October 1st with a quota of 30, as of this meeting only 7 have been harvested.

Grizzly Bear: DNA Hair Snare: Wayne Wakkinen has not received the data back from the labs, but he did receive preliminary information that identified 15 different grizzly bears.

11.16.2009 Bull Trout Critical Habitat: Rich Torquemada, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), presented information on the Bull Trout Critical Habitat and the process.

Boundary/Smith Creek Working Group: The group will meet in January for budget planning and looking at ideas for new projects and funding. For the new members at the meeting it was explained the idea of the group is to use the public as a resource to help the group with management direction.

Congressman Minnick Collaborative: Patty stated the future of the group is unclear at this point, but the people see there is a benefit of talking together. It's undetermined how the group will take shape, but there is an agreement to meet in January.

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC): Wayne Kasworm gave an update. He caught three grizzly bears in the Yaak this year that are fitted with GPS collars. He has two hair snare projects. Charlie Robins, researcher with Washington State University, through hair analysis he looked at diet of the bear composition. Nitrogen and carbon isotopes and tell what component of their diet is from meat which is a nitrogen component as opposed to plants which is a carbon component. The grizzly bear subcommittee has tried tackling some of the issues in the community related to grizzly bears. They have received funding to help fence dumpster sites and cleaned up a lot of the sanitation areas around the county

Forestry Committee Discussion: Patty stated at the last meeting the group discussed picking up after the Myrtle Creek project and trying a broader forestry effort and creating a Forestry Sub-Committee. – Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLR). This program may or may not be helpful to the Forestry Sub-Committee, it is a competitive funding opportunity that could help to accomplish some work on the ground.

2010

1.25.2010 Burbot Temperature Update, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Greg Hoffman of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Libby Dam provided an update on temperature operations at the dam for the benefit of burbot.

Spill Test Information - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Rich Torquemada, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Greg Hoffman, Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) updated the group on the upcoming 2010 sturgeon test spill from Libby Dam.

Burbot Information/Kootenai River Habitat Project: Sue Ireland gave a progress update about the Tribe's Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project

Burbot Restoration Briefing: Sue Ireland also gave a short briefing about the **first release of hatchery produced burbot** into the Kootenai River and tributaries.

Congressman Minnick Collaborative: Shelley Landry, Congressman Walt Minnick's Office, provided an update on the meeting held earlier in the day for the proposed Panhandle Collaborative. The Forest Service provided maps and good information for the group to consider.

Idaho Commerce & "Climate Change, Bioenergy, & Preserving the Forests of Idaho & Montana" Conference: Bob wanted to bring to the attention of KVRI, the March 3-4 Conference in Boise hosted by the Society of American Foresters, University of Idaho, and several other organizations. "Climate Change, Bioenergy, and Preserving the Forests of Idaho and Montana. Bob included a meeting flyer for the conference which will be available on the [Kootenai Tribe's website](#).

2.22.2010 Boundary-Smith Creek Management Committee: The Smith Creek restoration project is waiting on next phase of drawings. Bids were sent out for the job and Quadrant Consulting Company was chosen for contracting.

Congressman Minnick Collaborative: Tribal council directed Patty and Billy Barquin, Kootenai Tribal Attorney, to explain why they view themselves differently and why they only participate as observers. They explained the sovereignty issues the Tribe has and the trust responsibility that federal entities and agencies have to tribes. Tribal Council also directed Billy and Patty to talk about positive aspects the Kootenai Tribe could bring to the group.

In the KVRI Forestry Committee, the group's approach is not to look at areas that are of concern right off the bat. KVRI needs to be sure that the groups that are

interested in the land base are invited to meetings, in order to avoid conflict later. It is best to have all interests in the room and visit about the issues right up front. The problem with the Minnick Proposed Collaborative is that some may feel it's being developed to be a door keeper for projects and could be used as a tool to distract the KVRI group and others from their goals.

KVRI Forestry Committee: Dan stated it is extremely important that the citizens, organizations, and those involved in needing the product to attend the forestry meetings. This process will be equal to or greater than the Myrtle Creek process. All interests need to be in the same room to help develop the process and move projects forward. After success on smaller projects, the group may look into the City watershed again.

McArthur Lake Road Project: There were alternatives developed for the McArthur Lake Curves and what could be done with realignment and what would be done for people and wildlife. **For a lack of funding and because Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) put the road project into the Horizon Plan there has not been any future work planned.**

3.15.2010 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mick Shea, Greg Hoffman: There have been changes made to the requirements and operations for Libby Dam. A settlement was made on litigation with Center for Biological Diversity, State of Montana, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USACE. One of the requirements of the settlement is to shape the sturgeon volume to release an additional 10,000 cfs in the river channel (equivalent of two more units beyond the five existing units) for seven days during the sturgeon spawning season. The total volume of water provided for the sturgeon in a single year won't change, just the overall shape of the release of flows from the project. The plan is to conduct the spill test for the next 3 years.

Vaughn Paragamian, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG): Vaughn Paragamian, IDFG, presented information to the KVRI group on the white sturgeon spawning location and the research IDFG has been doing. Vaughn's presentation will be available on Kootenai Tribe's website, www.kootenai.org.

KVRI Forestry Committee: The group met on March 9th at 1:30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall at the Boundary County Fairgrounds. The group reviewed funding options and determined the best scope for approach would be to look at the project area as the entire ranger district as a landscape scale and narrow that down to smaller projects. The first project the group agreed to begin with **is in 20 Mile Creek.**

Grizzly Bear Committee: The group met on March 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Kootenai Tribal Office. The meeting prior Kim Annis, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, had attended and shared the use of electric fencing for discouraging grizzly bears from fruit trees, garbage, gardens, etc. The committee will be planning a demonstration for the committee so they can understand how the process will work.

4.19.2010 Boundary County Walkabout: The Boundary County Walkabout sponsored by the Boundary Community Coalition for Families, whose membership includes every organization, association, and agency serving the county's families.

East Fork Meadow Creek – Environmental Assessment: The East Fork Meadow **Creek Assessment (EA)**, on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest is ready for your review and comment. The complete EA, along with supporting documentation, is available for viewing, downloading and printing on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests website at <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/ipnf/projects>

Leonia Project: The Bonners Ferry Ranger District is **proposing the Leonia Project** which would implement dry-forest and fire regime restoration on as many as 700 acres, located approximately 11 miles to the east/southeast of Bonners Ferry in

Congressman Minnick Collaborative: The group discussed a potential mission statement, membership (or not), process of how the group would operate, and areas of concern and areas where work could be completed. Boundary County.

Forestry Subcommittee: Patty has been visiting with Ranotta McNair, USFS Supervisor, and Linda McFaddan, USFS District Ranger, who will be collecting more information for the group to consider in applying for funding through the **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program**. Patty, Dan Dinning (Boundary County Commissioner), Linda McFaddan, and Ranotta McNair will be meeting on the morning of April 30th to go over the information Linda has gathered and review what it will take for the group to receive funding through this process.

Forest Legacy Program – Justin Petty, the Nature Conservancy: The Boundary Connections Forest Legacy Project will protect 1641 acres of critical private timberlands in one of the most ecologically significant areas of the Northwest. The Hubbard and Wages families have partnered with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to protect these family farms through the Forest Legacy Program (FLP).

Road Closures (5 yr. History) – Brandon Glaza, U.S. Forest Service: Brandon was asked to give this presentation to the KVRI group because there were questions on

road closures and why the decision to do so. A power point presentation was provided and will be available for viewing on the Kootenai Tribe's website, www.kootenai.org.

Proposed Land Exchange – Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management: Kurt provided a power point presentation which will be available on Kootenai Tribe's website, www.kootenai.org. The proposed land exchange is formally titled the **West Boise Foothills, North Idaho Land Exchange**. It is called **M3** for short because M3 Eagle LLC is the proponent.

Proposed Land Exchange – Bob Boeh, Idaho Forest Group: A power point presentation was provided and will be available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, www.kootenai.org. Idaho Forest Group owns four sawmills in North Idaho (Grangeville, Chilco, Laclede and Moyie Springs) and is the largest lumber manufacturer in Idaho. There are approximately 65,000 acres of forest land that is managed on a sustained yield basis. 8 to 10 million feet is cut off of the 65,000 acres. Idaho Forest Group is looking to incorporate the land from the proposed exchange to supply a small portion of the mill needs of the facilities.

5.17.2010 Copeland Underpasses --- Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG): Are animals using the wildlife underpasses?

- There are over 800 animal uses documented between the 3 underpasses. All animals from mice to moose. There were not any grizzly bears, mountain lions or wolves documented using it.
- The southernmost underpasses receive most of the use.
- 600 of the 800 uses were white tail deer.

Grizzly Bear DNA Analysis Results --- Wayne Wakkinen, IDFG: Sam Cushman, U.S. Forest Service Researcher, received funding for a 2 year study for DNA sampling. IDFG's project was set up to sample 50 5x5 kilometer grids. Sam will be using the same 5x5 kilometer grid with 300 cells and 3 hired crews. He will be sampling for grizzly and black bears

Forestry Subcommittee: A final Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) Proposal was pulled together and is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, www.kootenai.org.

Congressman Minnick Collaborative Update: KVRI group was asked to consider the landscape issue and formation of a two County Committee; we will discuss the item further at the June meeting.

Forest Legacy Project Updates: The Bane Creek Neighbors project, just north of 3-Mile, will close by the end of the year. ... community project for Alan and Caroline Farnsworth. This project is up for funding in 2011.

6.21.2010 Grizzly Bear Subcommittee: At the next Grizzly bear committee meeting the group will review a brochure that provides information on electric fencing. Kim has a video available the group may be able to use to run during the Boundary County Fair. The bear proof bear cans need to be picked up from the Priest River Ranger Station and get them dispersed.

Forestry Subcommittee: The CFLRP proposal will not be considered for funding this year. The proposal has been reviewed and Ranotta will get more information and provide feedback The KVRI collaborative has focused on projects mainly (Myrtle Creek HFRA) until recently when the Forestry Subcommittee was formed, which will look at a broader landscape approach for the county and community. Currently Bonner County is only interested in forestry and KVRI is focused on several different resource issues. **It is still undetermined how KVRI will fit with a Bonner county group.**

Boundary County Fair Booth: Sandy Ashworth has agreed to help Kristin and Patty put together ideas for the KVRI booth to help tell the groups story to the local community.

Grizzly Bear 5 Year Status Review --- Wayne Kasworm, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Based on findings and what was concluded, there was a recommendation of no change in status at this point for grizzly bears. Everything would remain the same. Part of the reason for the “no change” recommendation was because of the revision of the recovery plan that will be taking place approximately at the conclusion of the 5 year review process. They expect the conclusion of the recovery plan revision to be the end of 2012.

TMDL Committee: Patty **provided a letter of support** for the 319 Project that the TMDL committee has reviewed by email. There was no objection to bring it forward to the KVRI Board. The letter of support will go to the Basin Advisory Group and the project is for the Kootenai River Bank Restoration Riparian and Enhancement in the Braided Reach

A full **copy of the letter** will be posted to the Kootenai Tribe’s website, www.kootenai.org . The committee met and deployed the temperature monitors. At the meeting the group reviewed the new integrated report & **put together a letter to bring to the KVRI board** that could be recommended for comments on the integrated report.

Forestry Subcommittee: The CFLRP proposal the group put together did rank high enough for national consideration, but Linda McFaddan and Ranotta McNair have worked very hard to get the committee some time with the Regional Forester, Leslie Walden, to introduce ourselves and explain who we are and what we hope to accomplish – this would be a benefit for next year’s funding cycle.

Border Gate Projects: Rather than permanently barricading the few remaining unauthorized access points; Border Patrol is pursuing a permit from the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to install emergency access border gates located directly at the U.S./Canada International Border.

SRS Funding: Senator Risch and Senator Crapo signed onto a Letter of Support for the SRS Funding that is significant to the county. The funding runs out next year.

9.20.2010 Idaho Department of Fish & Game Grizzly Bear DNA Analysis --- Wayne Wakkinen: Wayne collected DNA samples from bears in the Selkirks by a method known as hair snares. The information and data he collected is contained within the power point presentation he provided, available on the Kootenai Tribe’s website <http://www.kootenai.org/documents/SELKIRKDNAAnalysis09.20.10.ppt>

Update on Proposed Land Exchange --- Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM): http://www.kootenai.org/documents/M3_KVRI_09.20.10.ppt

Smith/Boundary Creek Working Group: A few members of the group met and toured the Smith/Boundary Creek and reviewed the food plots to determine success and possibility of use for the next year.

Border Patrol --- Lon Postulka: Gates are being manufactured and they hope to get them in place before the snow flies. The location of the gates will be Boundary Creek and Saddle Pass.

U.S. Forest Service 30 Day Comment Period---Clark Creek Blow Down: The Kootenai Tribe asked the USFS to consider a project that might have potential material for a river restoration project. The area of consideration is approximately 30 acres and has a lot of large trees that were blown down

10.18.2010 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Libby Dam, Update on Burbot Operations : Greg provided information and updates to the KVRI group in regards to the Libby Dam Operations for Burbot. This is the first year the KVRI burbot committee has not made a recommendation to the KVRI board in regards to dam operations for burbot Greg’s PowerPoint can be found on the Kootenai Tribe’s website <http://www.kootenai.org/documents/10.18.10KVRIBurbotTemperatureGHoffman.ppt>

U.S. Forest Service Regional Review Team - Forestry Issues: The forestry committee had a grant opportunity that they applied for; the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) was successful in receiving the funding.

Panhandle Collaborative Meeting: The collaborative will be meeting Thursday, October 21st at the Priest Lake Experimental Forest.

319 Grants: The Basin Advisory Group, made up of representatives from the 5 northern counties, reviews applications for 319 grants. The 319 funds, in reference to a section of the Clean Water Act, are Federal dollars allocated to each of the states, and the state of Idaho has received approximately \$2 million this year to be expended statewide. The second ranked application was for the Kootenai Tribe's project on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration.

Bull Trout Critical Habitat Final Rule: The final rule and habitat appeared in the Federal Register on October 18th. There are maps available with great details, the maps can be found on the USFWS website, www.fws.gov.

McArthur Lake Corridor Project: Bas passed along an update from Robyn Miller, TNC, concerning the Forest Legacy project at McArthur Lake will close in early December. He continued by updating the group on the **Proposal to form** an Ad Hoc Technical Committee which would look at reducing wildlife vehicle collisions

Selkirk Burn Project - Lee Colson, Fuels Tech. US Forest Service, B.F. Ranger District: Lee provided information on a preliminary project for the U.S. Forest Service. The maps Lee used will be displayed on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [here](#).

Smith/Boundary Creek Working Group: The group is considering management decisions concerning harvesting/grazing/mowing in order to create spring and fall goose pasture for goslings.

Caribou Plan Review Status, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: FWS recommendation was that caribou is a DPS and should continue to be listed under the endangered species act. They were listed as endangered prior to the review.

U.S. Forest Service Regional Review Team - Forestry Issues: Patty added the review team members thoughts maybe be helpful as the forestry committee is reconvened in January and looking over the possibility of the Collaborative Landscape proposal again.

Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, asked Patty to update the group on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project (KRHRP). The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho is

ready to implement the first phase of a large-scale ecosystem restoration project in fall 2011 in the Idaho portion of the Kootenai River.

2011

1.24.2011 McArthur Lake Wildlife/Vehicle Collision Ad Hoc Committee Report: Recognizing that a great deal of work had been done previously to address the issue, the purpose of the meeting was to assess the current state of knowledge and develop feasibility actions for reducing WVCs. **Draft for Committee**

IDFG McArthur Lake Area Update: Wayne will conduct habitat modeling for the McArthur Lake area showing where important crossings may be. He will begin trapping black bears in the spring. The bears will be fixed with radio collars to track their movements.

The Nature Conservancy, Update - Ball Creek Ranch: McArthur Lake conservation easement between Forest Capital, Idaho Department of Lands and TNC closed on December 1st. The conservation easement ensures that the 3,943 acres of timberlands owned by Forest Capital Partners will continue to be managed as a working forest and for non-motorized public access.

Forestry Committee - CFLRA Proposal: KVRI Board members have been working with the Forest Service to update the CFLRA Proposal submitted last year. To accompany the proposal, a **Letter of Commitment** to be signed by each of the board members was presented.

U.S. Senator James E. Risch: On behalf of U.S. Senator James E. Risch, Sid Smith (Senator Risch representative), presented **KVRI with a letter congratulating** KVRI on 10 years of working together

2.28.2011 Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Study --- Katherine Kendall, USGS: She provided a power point presentation overview on the bear research her team has done in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). Her power point is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [Here](#).

2010 Sturgeon Spill/2011 Operations --- Greg Hoffman, USACE: Greg Hoffman offered a handout summarizing the Libby Dam operations and Spill Testing. This handout is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [Here](#).

Forestry Committee - CFLRA Proposal: The co-chairs and a few board members went to Missoula and met with the Regional Forester and staff directors to present the proposal. A follow up thank you letter was sent to Rick, acknowledging &

thanking him for the opportunity to meet and possibly work together in the future. (This letter is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [Here](#))

3.21.2011 Richard L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award --- Sue Ireland; presented by Vaughn Paragamian: Vaughn presented the award to Sue Ireland after reading her nomination letter.

Caribou Survey Status; Grizzly Bear & Black Bear ID Study --- Wayne Wakkinen, IDFG: KVRI and Kootenai Valley Sportsman's Association recommend to IDFG development of the Black/Grizzly Bear ID Test.

Forestry Committee - CFLRA Proposal: [Link](#) Linda McFaddan, USFS, stated USFS has started fielding questions from committee members. On Friday, USFS was notified by the Washington, D.C. office that due to funding they have postponed the FACA committee meeting in selecting new projects.

Libby Dam Forecast Update --- Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Greg Hoffman provided handouts, available on the Kootenai Tribe's website ([Here](#)), with new information for March runoff forecast and flood control calculations and sturgeon tiered flows. State- and Watershed-specific snow pack information is available at: [Here](#) Columbia Basin snow pack map is available at: [Here](#)

Boundary County Commissioners Letter of Support --- Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner: Boundary County Commissioners sent a letter of support on the grizzly bear study that was presented at KVRI's February meeting. KVRI did not take a stand and was not asked to. The county was asked to join with Lincoln County and support the study. (This letter is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [Here](#))

CFLR Coalition --- Patty Perry, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho: [Patty received a letter from Will Whelan](#), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), making KVRI aware of CFLR Coalition. It looks like a committee that KVRI would want to consider or support. The goal is to secure full funding for, and ensure the success of, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program.

4.18.11 Highway 95 Black Bear Work for 2011, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) - Wayne Kasworm: FWS received a grant from the Federal Highway Administration to conduct work regarding wildlife linkages across major highways in North Idaho and Northwest Montana. There will be several areas where Wayne will be conducting studies: Highway 95, McArthur Lake, I-90 at Lookout Pass, Idaho/Montana Border, Highway 200, vicinity of Heron, Noxon, Clarkfork and parts

of Idaho To get the best science available the group plans to conduct the following:
 12-15 black bears fitted with GPS radio collars Hair snare projects on both sides of the highway to evaluate genetic component

Burbot Sub-Committee Annual Update: KVRI held a conjunctive meeting with the Burbot Sub-committee meeting to hear of efforts and projects the group has been conducting.

The Nature Conservancy – McArthur Lake/Highway 95 Committee: Bas Hargrove expressed interest in a safety committee looking at wildlife and vehicle collisions that has been meeting but would like to join KVRI as a committee to help move the effort forward.

National Forest Foundation: There will be a group of meetings beginning on April 26th in Sandpoint, Idaho. This will give KVRI a chance as stakeholders to discuss with the Kootenai National Forest and Idaho Panhandle National Forest the groups' perspective on Forest Management.

5.16.2011 NFWF Grant Opportunity – Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy: Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), announced the pre-proposal grant application TNC updated the group on at the last KVRI meeting has been selected by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to now submit a full proposal which will be due June 1st. They have requested \$122,530 with a required match (non-federal cash or in-kind) of \$122,530. The grant proposal is for the McArthur Lake Wildlife Safety Project.

Smith/Boundary Creek Management Group: Chip updated the group on the Boundary Creek Rechanneling efforts. The group is still exploring options and reviewing preliminary designs. There are concerns from landowners located downstream and the design will need to pass Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) regulations as well

Forestry Committee: The group met on April 20th and discussed projects that could possibly be completed whether CFLRA funding was received or not. The next meeting will be held June 20th and the group will meet briefly before taking a field trip to the Twenty Mile Project area to take a look, as the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) received a \$40,000 RAC grant last year to do the analysis work.

TMDL: The group met earlier today and talked about the upcoming TMDL's. Bob Steed provided a map with all the main tributaries. The group spoke about implications of temperature TMDL's with potential natural vegetation and whether or not it can impact what can be done on the landscape outside the riparian areas.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Libby Dam Flow Information Update - Handout: A handout was provided on the Libby Dam Flows. Several members that had attended the Libby Dam public meeting on May 9th provided updates to the group. Because of the slow warm up there is still a lot of snow pack that is unusual for this time of year. The lower elevation snow is coming off the mountain the same time the high elevation snow is coming off, providing unusually high flows for this time of the year.

Trust for Idaho Public Lands: Robert Rasmussen, Trust for Idaho Public Lands, approached the Boundary County Commissioners concerning support for a Forest Legacy Project on Stimson land near McArthur Lake.

Idaho Fish & Game Commission: Tony McDermott, Chip Corsi and new Director Virgil Moore will address the Benewah County Commissioners on June 13th to discuss wolf issues and Benewah County's Natural Resource Plan.

6.20.2011 Kootenai River Flows Update - Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Greg Hoffman provided an update on the recent Kootenai River flows. Predictions for flood stage for Bonners Ferry, according to modeling, show levels are dropping

Forest Legacy Proposal - Robert Rasmussen, The Trust for Public Land: Robert Rasmussen presented information on a proposal for a Forest Legacy Program project (McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor Conservation Project, Phase II) to be completed on 6,850 acres owned by Stimson Lumber Company. A factsheet on the proposal with an area map is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [Here](#).

Smith/Boundary Creek Management Group: The group will meet with Natural Resource Conservation **Service (NRCS) Wetlands Committee Boise** staff on June 29th at 5:00 p.m. at the Kootenai River Inn and review the 5-year Management Plan.

Grizzly Bear Cabinet Yaak Population Study: Scott Soult, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, attended a meeting discussing the Cabinet Yaak Population Study. This was the first meeting and the group was trying to understand what the study plan was going to do, what size of general population study area, where is the progress at, what are the needs.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation - Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy (TNC): [Link](#)

A full proposal was submitted to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) after the document was reviewed and changes were supplied from KVRI folks and others. If TNC was successful with the grant proposal the money will be funded this fall, \$117,000 was requested. The money will help to implement projects and recommendations for the Ad-hoc Vehicle Collision Strategy Task Force.

RAC Project Funding – Twenty Mile Creek Project: KVRI had an opportunity to apply for funding through Idaho RAC to help with facilitating Forestry Committee meetings. Dan Dinning put together the proposal requesting \$25,000 and were awarded \$20,000.

Y2Y – Rebecca Lloyd: Y to Y is the benefactor of American Wildlands had from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation There is approximately \$100,000 to use for wildlife and people mitigation on highway 95 and Rebecca hopes it will be a precursor to the TNC grant proposal submitted to the NFWF

7.18.2011 Kootenai River Habitat Project Update --- Tom Parker, Geum Consulting: **The project focuses on restoring habitat for focal aquatic species** (sturgeon, burbot, etc.) and restoring the ecosystem as well. The group will be restoring ecological processes that will in turn create habitat that the fish and other species depend on.

Grizzly Bear Committee: Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, provided a photo of an electric bear fence Scott Soultz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, installed around a chicken coup on the property of a Sandpoint resident DNA Grizzly Bear Population Study being developed by Kate Kendall. The group talked about what the study will do, what it won't do, what is to be expected, how the committee can use the study, etc. The group realizes the study will not provide trends, the study will not provide future or past mortality, but **the study will provide a credible baseline population estimate.**

WAC Committee: The group met on July 12th and reviewed the report the Ad-hoc committee put together. Rebecca Lloyd, Y2Y, was in attendance and has funds provided initially by American Wildlands that was handed over to Y2Y to spend as they see fit.

CFLRA Funding Update: A handout was provided to the group concerning CFLRA Funding budget. Currently the FY12 bill includes \$30 million for the CFLRA, a 20% increase from what was enacted in the FY11 Continuing Resolution.

9.19.2011 Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project --- Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTI): There has been a lot of implementation done since the beginning of

the project. *Power Point Presentation is available on Kootenai Tribe's website, [Here.](#)**

Forestry Committee --- Patty Perry: The committee took a field trip up to Twenty Mile project area. The field trip provided an opportunity to look at the entire drainage. The committee originally thought there was a possibility of working with USFS on treatment of 2,000 – 2,500 acres. After the field trip the group discovered those projects would be good, but long term there is much more that would need to take place to make them effective.

WAC Committee --- Patty Perry: The grant was brought to KVRI and Robyn Miller, TNC to use for the purpose of wildlife mitigation at McArthur Lake and other areas of interest in Boundary County. The committee did not want to move ahead without bringing the proposal to the Board to get approval and move forward to have Western Transportation Institute (WTI) to conduct the analysis, cost benefit assessment and preliminary information and look at what can be done to help those areas. There are a few minor changes to be made to the letter of agreement between Y2Y and WTI.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 5-Year Review for Grizzly Bear Recovery: FWS has completed 5-Year Review for Grizzly Bear Recovery for the lower 48 States

10.24.2011 Forestry Committee --- Patty Perry: The committee took a field trip up to Twenty Mile project area on October 21st. The group covered the wildlife analysis in Grouse and Boulder BMU's.

IDFG Update --- Wayne Wakkinen: In the McArthur Lake area, there are 14-15 bears with radio collars and during bear harvest season there have not been any killed.

Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project Update --- Patty Perry: Phase 1a and 1b work are underway and will be wrapped up in mid-November. The flows will be coming up to reduce the levels in the reservoir above Libby, Montana.

USFS Leonia Project EA on Bonners Ferry District --- Patty Perry: The project is out for review.

11.21.2011 Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) Wolverine Study --- Dan Dinning: Information was shared with the KVRI group of a **wolverine hair snare study that will be taking place in the Selkirks**. Since IDFG staff was not able to attend the meeting – the topic was rescheduled for the January KVRI meeting for further discussion.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Caribou Proposed Critical Habitat --- Ben Conard: **The rule for Critical Habitat Designation has been submitted** and will publish in the Federal Register immediately after Thanksgiving Holiday. The proposal will then be subject to a 60 day public comment period. A year from now a final determination will be made to list the critical habitat or not, depending on the comments and how it goes through the process

Forestry Committee --- Patty Perry: The committee looked at **Twenty Mile area for a first project. The group came up with goals and objectives for** the area and what they would like on the landscape and then paired those with what activities will need to take place to achieve those goals.

TMDL Committee --- Patty Perry: [Link](#) The committee met on November 16th at the Tribal Office. The committee has been working on TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Loads) for a long-time writing plans for the various stream segments around the county that are listed on Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) integrated report as not meeting the water quality standard that have been designated for in the stream systems

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee --- Dan Dinning: Also, it was mentioned that for the Bear **DNA Study \$1.2 million has been committed** out of the total \$1.7 million that's needed to complete the first year. Kate Kendal's team will begin hiring crews in January. Additionally, at their meeting on Nov. 10th, the IDFG Commission **approved the Bear Identification Test on a voluntary basis**

2012

1.9.2012 It was clarified the meeting was not an official public hearing or public comment meeting. The purpose of the meeting was strictly **for information and so the community may be educated on what is proposed regarding caribou critical habitat** Bryon Holt provided background information and overview on the Woodland Caribou, which is available on the Kootenai Tribe's website under the KVRI heading, [HERE](#).

2.13.2012 Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) Caribou Data --- Wayne Wakkinen:

Wayne's presentation can be found on the Kootenai Tribe's website,

[Caribou Habitat Modeling](#)

[Summary of Available Science](#)

[Selkirk Population](#)

General Accounting Report

Forestry Committee --- Patty Perry: KVRI was successful in securing approximately \$12million in CFLRA funds to work with the USFS over the next 10 years.

KVRI Facebook Page: The idea of a facebook page has been thrown around. Patty will check into conflicts with our current website or whether the Tribe has any regulations on having a Facebook page. There are a lot of younger generations that would rather communicate on Facebook than on a website

New Forest Planning Rule: The new Forest Planning Rule is complete. They are looking for a federal advisory committee to help with guidance and implementation of the new rule. The Tribal Council has asked Billy Barquin, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Legal Counsel, to apply for the Tribal position on the federal advisory committee in DC.

3.19.2012 Forestry Committee --- Patty Perry: The committee has been busy with CFLRA work. The last meeting was held at the Kootenai Tribal Office on February 27th where the group walked through all the NEPA-ready project opportunities and prioritized them for completion this year. Linda McFaddan, Forest Service (FS) District Ranger, walked the board through the projects the committee is recommending to move ahead with. **The Board approved by consensus the Forestry Committee to move ahead with the recommended projects as proposed.**

KVRI to Submit Comments to FWS --- Patty Perry: The board had asked for a letter to be drafted for comments regarding Proposed Critical Habitat Designation for Woodland Caribou.

Purcell Augmented Caribou Herd --- Canadian Efforts: An email was distributed regarding Canadian efforts to help augment a herd of caribou in East Kootenay.

Bear Safety Brochure: KVRI received a package of Bear Safety Brochures distributed by GBOP (Grizzly Bear Outreach Program).

KVRI on Facebook: KVRI now has a Facebook page. The page is very basic; however more information and documents will be uploaded soon.

RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) Funds Received: The final papers have been completed and signed for the transfer of \$20k from Idaho Panhandle RAC to Boundary County to help fund Facilitation/Technical Assistance for projects – including the proposed project in the Twenty Mile Creek area.

4.16.2012 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps): Kootenai Basin Water Supply Forecast & Libby Dam Operations Update --- Joel Fenolio, Seattle District Senior Water Manager: Joel Fenolio provided a power point presentation, complete with graphs, on water forecast out of Libby Dam. The full power point presentation will be available on the Kootenai Tribe's website, [HERE](#).

TNC/Forest Capital Partners: Forest Legacy Project Proposal --- Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy: Robyn presented information on a potential Forest Legacy Project with Forest Capital Partners for FY2014. TNC is putting together a Forest Legacy Application for funding. **The project area is in the Trail Creek area.** The land is currently private land owned by Forest Capital Partners. Total area is approximately 8,000 acres.

TMDL Committee --- Patty Perry: Bob Steed, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) IDEQ, presented information on the **TMDL's that are being prepared for stream listings.** [PNV TMDLs, Moyie --- Bob Steed, DEQ](#)

[PNV TMDLs, Kootenai --- Bob Steed, DEQ](#)

[Lower Kootenai Subbasin Temperature TMDLs --- Bob Steed, DEQ](#)

5.21.2012 U.S. Forest Service - Pacific NW Research Station - Wenatchee, WA --- Paul Hessburg, Research Landscape Ecologist: The discoveries they made have been developed and put into the power point presentation he provided for the KVRI group, and others. [HERE](#)

6.18.2012 Overview of Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act of 2012--- Aaron Calkins, Congressman Raul Labrador's Office: [LINK](#) Congressman Labrador's Office has been working with (5) counties in Idaho. The (5) counties had originally put together a proposal that was named the Community Forest Trust Proposal.

2012 Libby Dam Operations Update --- Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: [LINK](#) Greg provided a handout on the Kootenai River White Sturgeon BiOp Flow Augmentation/Flood Risk Management. The Corps began spill testing on June 4th and they were required to spill for 7 days.

TMDL Committee --- Patty Perry: The group discussed the Draft Integrated Report for 2012 and at the prior meeting the committee reviewed it and made corrections on the DEQ maps so that they would not be trying to address issue within the reports that didn't actually exist.

CFLRA - Washington, DC Trip --- Ron Abraham, Kootenai Tribal Council: Gary Aitken, Jr., Ron Abraham (Tribal Council), Sue Ireland and Billy Barquin (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho), went to Washington, DC and discussed CFLRA, KVRI, and the Kootenai River Habitat Project

Kennon McClintock The last 4-5 years they have been working **on changing requirements in the riparian zones for shade.** They made a decision, last month on new set back requirements. **The current 75% shade rule will be replaced by the following requirements.** **There will be two options when a person applies** for a permit:

1. 0' - 25' from high water mark will be a no cut no harvest zone, 25' - 50' will be a minimum amount of harvest to occur.

2. 75' zone where plots will have to be placed and relative stocking to be figured out (equates to shade).

7.16.2012 Kootenai River Habitat Project Update --- Sue Ireland, KTOI **Sue briefly described the 2012 projects.** [LINK](#) Over the last 100 years there have been a lot of changes to the Kootenai Basin and those changes have affected the fish and wildlife resources that historically were used by the Tribe and local community. Although Libby Dam provides great benefits to the community for flood control and power, it also affects fish and wildlife habitat **which is the purpose of this component of the Tribe's Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project (KRHRP).** Sue showed a YouTube video, **Putting Fish Back in the Rivers,** made by the BPA during last year's construction season. The Kootenai River White Sturgeon Recovery video may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvolyngpFgc> **A Goodfellow Brothers presentation of photos taken during last year's project construction was also shown.**

Libby Dam Update --- Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: **This is the third year of the planned three years of spill testing in response to requirements in the USFWS Biological Opinion for Kootenai River white sturgeon.**

CFLRP Projects - Linda McFadden [Link](#) Linda has a handout in the packet showing how they are progressing on the projects to be accomplished.

TMDL - Patty Perry and Dan Dinning The temporary monitors from DQ are placed and gathering temperature data.

Dan advised that the WAK committee met with Marcel from Western Transportation Institute. **The institute has looked at all the crash data from the south county line by Elmira to Bonners Ferry, and from Bonners Ferry north to the Canadian border and from Bonners Ferry via Hwy 2 east to the Montana line.** They have identified hot spots

9.17.2012 WAC: Ron introduced Marcel Huijser, from the Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University in Bozeman. Marcel presented the **Highway Mitigation Opportunities for Wildlife along Highway 1, 2 and 95 in Boundary County, Idaho.** **The Western Transportation Institute relied on data from Idaho DOT** which showed 290 reported wildlife - vehicle collisions, and 2,033 reported carcass removals for the highways in Boundary County (2003-2010, excluding 2007). Seasonally, September through March had the highest count of crashes. Hot spots (PP slides #30-32) were prioritized with the three most prevalent areas all located on Highway 95, and the highest priority area north of McArthur Lake 97% of reported crashes involved deer.

10.15.2012 Forestry Committee - Patty Perry: Patty advised that the Forestry Committee met to specifically look at the Twenty mile project. The Forest Service has done a lot of the work over the summer. They have gone from the original scoping of what we thought the project might be down now to being ready to look at some proposed alternatives

Idaho Department of Fish and Game – Michael Lucid – Regional Wildlife Biologist with the Panhandle Region: [Link](#) Michael works with the wildlife diversity program (the former non-game program) and will speak about wolverines.

11.19.2012 Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Program Director, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho: Sue Ireland presented an update on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program. The PowerPoint presentation may be viewed [HERE](#). Sue outlined the multiple projects of the eco-based restoration program in a 55-mile reach of the river. The master plan, developed in 2009, focuses on sturgeon, burbot, kokanee, bull trout, westslope cutthroat, and redband rainbow. Phase 1 of the plan was completed in 2011 and the 2012 Phase 2 was completed

Shawn Young, Fish Biologist, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho: Shawn Young presented an update on the Kootenai River Burbot Restoration Program discussing the history of burbot in the river and Kootenai Lake, the historical interviews and cultural importance of the burbot to the Tribe and the community, and the coordination with a KVRI Burbot Subcommittee in developing a conservation strategy. His presentation may be viewed [HERE](#).

Forestry Committee – Patty Perry: ,...distributed to the KVRI subcommittee a chart of the CFLRP Accomplishments for FY2012. She announced that the target goals for 2012 were accomplished with just a few exceptions. She praised the project leaders and staff that worked so hard to meet these targets. The CFLRP is a collaborative project with the Forest Service and KVRI to develop areas for forest management restoration treatments through 2019, over 10 years.

2013

1.14.2013 Presentation and Forestry Committee Update: District Ranger Linda McFaddan, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, USFS, reviewed the KVRI Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) accomplishments for FY2012. Except for a few targets the projects were completed. The FY2012 and FY2013 documents will be available on the Kootenai Tribe website [HERE](#).

Buckhorn Burn Project – Jennifer Anderson, USFS: Jennifer presented the Proposed Buckhorn Burn Project; the PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website [HERE](#) at KVRI – Documents.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Patty Perry: Bob Steed, DEQ, pulled together the citizen monitoring statistics for the past 5 years. He feels Long Canyon will be recognized as a reference stream in the next TMDL document and is moving ahead with potential national vegetation TMDL's

Correspondence: Idaho Restoration Partnership Collaborative group will host a meeting in Boise which involves reports, learning opportunities, and sharing of projects in Idaho. Dave, Patty, and Ron will attend.

2.13.2013 WAC Committee Update – Wayne Wakkinen, ‘McArthur’ Bear Study: Underpass data has been collected from the Copeland area, Canada, and Montana. The projects have good telemetry on highway crossings made by bear in those areas and the models may be available this fall. Identified so far is that bears use cover that is near the road when they cross, **the committee is considering signage, to include “book end signs”, perhaps down at the county line and at Bonners Ferry.** For hot spot areas the ITD put together a sample warning sign and lights design that could be used where hotspots have been identified

CFLRP Forestry committee, Kreist Project – Linda McFaddan and Shanna Kleinsmith: presented a map of the areas of opportunity (~1975 acres) within the Kreist Project Analysis area (11,000 acres). A review of the project findings included: botany, archaeology, aquatics, wildlife, recreation, and soils.

An invitation was received from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to attend an open house to announce their selection of the Lightning Creek area on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) as a *Treasured Landscapes* conservation site.

A proposed action from the Kootenai National Forest in Troy, MT was received on their Buckhorn Project.

3.18.2013 Forestry Committee – Linda McFaddan, U.S. Forest Service (FS) Presentations were given on the Kreist Creek and Hellroaring proposed CFLR projects. [Draft maps](#), [the proposed purpose and need](#), and [the PowerPoint presentations](#) for both projects are linked.

WAC Committee – Patty Perry: The National Fish & Wildlife grant is \$100,000 available to use with matching cash funds or in-kind match (dollar for dollar) until October 31st of this year.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Patty Perry: Also, discussion was held on the temperature monitoring results-based on the citizen monitoring effort the committee has taken on the past five years, and although the quality of information was not what they had hoped for they did get information they needed on reference streams. **DEQ will be providing new & updated monitoring equipment that will take year-round temperatures – they will be deployed this field season.**

4.15.2013 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Patty Perry & Bob Steed: Patty introduced Bob Steed, State of Idaho, Coeur d’Alene office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ-on phone), who has been working with the committee to put together the draft 2013 Addendum to the TMDL **(Assessment of Water Quality in the Kootenai River and Moyie River Subbasins).** Bob stated that the committee requested

several changes be made to the document, and they have been addressed & that DEQ would like to proceed with the 30 day public comment of the addendum.

Forestry Committee Update – Patty Perry and Linda McFaddan: The scoping letter for comment is out on the Idaho Buckhorn Project and the Twentymile Creek EA is out for a 30-day comment period as well. The scoping letter for the Kreist Project should go out by the end of this week.

Joel Fenolio, P.E., Upper Columbia Senior Water Manager, Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented a PowerPoint presentation of the forecast for the Kootenai Basin Runoff. The presentation will be made available [HERE](#)

Tony McDermott, Idaho Fish & Game Commission, advised that he will ask the Commission to take a position at their meeting in May on the north Idaho grizzly bears in the Selkirk and Cabinet populations, and they will be recommending that these populations be delisted at the same time as the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE).

Wolverine presentations have been held by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the possibility of listing the Wolverine as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in a part of their range within the ten western states.

Kennon McClintock, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), introduced the Hall Mountain FY15 Forestry Legacy Project which includes 4,271 acres and nine landowners

5.20.2013 Forestry Committee Update – Linda McFaddan and Doug Nishek: Linda introduced Doug Nishek, forester and project leader of Hellroaring. Doug discussed the development of this project through a PowerPoint presentation with pictures, maps and charts. The PowerPoint presentation will be made [HERE](#).

Regional Forester Meeting Update – Patty Perry: Last month KVRI board members, partners, congressional staff representatives, and Patty traveled to Missoula to meet with Faye Krueger, USFS, Region 1, Regional Forester, to give her an overview of KVRI CFLRA projects achievements in 2012 and to discuss the targets for this year and 2014

Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Committee – Patty Perry: The committee has been meeting to consider options for dealing with hot spot issues identified in the Western Transportation Institute report and on May 29 will meet for a demonstration of detection systems, and on June 11 will meet to consider the budget for signage and other options.

6.17.2013 Forestry Committee Update – Linda McFaddan, District Ranger, Bonners Ferry Ranger District (BFRD), USFS: Linda distributed a KVRI CFLRP Opportunities and Treatments FY2013 document available [HERE](#).

Washington D.C. Trip – Dan Dinning: Dan commented on a successful trip to Washington D.C. with Mary Farnsworth, Brad Smith, Sid Smith, and Jennifer Porter.

WAC Committee – Patty Perry: The committee members met last week and developed a work plan for the current grant funding. Plans include temporary and portable signs, and possibly a wildlife detection system (at a pilot test site)

Grizzly Bear Committee – Patty Perry: The TransCanada grant that KVRI received has some money remaining (\$2,100) that could be used to support the Kendall bear population study. The board approved Patty to pursue making a contribution to the DNA Population Study in the Cabinet/Yaak Recovery Area – being undertaken by Kate Kendall, USGS.

Patty advised that the FS has sent out the project letter for Hellroaring with a closing date in early July.

The Western Competitive Grant Project was finalized and sent in. KVRI is listed as a partner. This is an opportunity to help the private forest owners since private and public grounds are all part of the landscape.

A letter of KVRI support was approved via email & written for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and signed by the KVRI co-chairs, supporting the TNC's application for a matching funds grant for the WAC committee.

7.15.2013 On behalf of board members, Dan thanked Tony McDermott for his eight years of involvement, honesty, and commitment to KVRI during his tenure on the Idaho Fish & Game Commission.

Wildlife–Auto Collision (WAC) Committee Update – Robyn Miller

A draft work plan was presented. The six projects include: variable message signs, storage shed, innovative signing, 'bookend' corridor signing, wildlife detection system, and outreach.

8.12.2013 Fair Booth Set-Up

9.16.2013 Idaho Panhandle National Forest Update – Mary Farnsworth, Forest Supervisor
The Idaho Panhandle has been working on their Forest Plan revision, and due to changes in the planning rules and litigations it has taken a number of years to get to this point where the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and draft decision will be released to the public the week of September 23. It will be mailed out to those on the Forest Service mailing list and copies will also be available at the district offices. The plan is expected to be published in the Federal Register on September 27 which is also the beginning of a 60 day public objection pro

Aaron Calkins – U.S. Representative Labrador's office Aaron discussed the *Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act* bill introduced by Rep. Raúl Labrador last year which now has been combined with four other bills as the *Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act*. This bill was recently approved by the House Natural Resources Committee in July and they expect it to pass the Senate. The new bill is H.R. 1526cess.

The 2013 Summer Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem Report was received from Wayne Kasworm, USFWS, in regards to bears. A brief overview was given.

Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Director for the Kootenai Tribe, developed several handouts and updated information on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration projects, they were provided to the group. The documents will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website <http://www.kootenai.org/documents/Sue.HatcheryHandoutsforKVRI9.16.13.pdf>

10.21.2013 Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Sub-committee – Robyn Miller

Robyn reviewed the committee's work plan and advised the grant has received a one year extension for the completion of their planned projects. They continue to seek a cash match for the grant funds, will proceed with variable message signs, working with Sloan Security, and will plan for landowner outreach.

Forestry Sub-Committee – Kevin Knauth

The members attending the Hellroaring field trip on September 26.

Patty advised the new Tribal Chairman is Gary Aitken, Jr. and the Vice-Chair is Jennifer Porter. They will serve on KVRI as Tribal Representatives & Co-chair. Ron Abraham wishes to remain active on the forestry sub-committee.

11.18.2013 Presentation: Shanda Dekome, USFS, Idaho Panhandle National Forests' Ecosystem Staff Officer. Shanda explained what forest planning is about and what it means for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. See the Idaho Panhandle forest planning webpage for copies of the documents and information on the forest plan revision.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ipnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5436518>.

Board member and guest questions were answered by FS staff. Topics included: Non-conforming use, recommended wilderness, timber production, and the objection process. In some of the previous forest plans there were uses allowed in the "proposed wilderness" (term used in the 1987 plan) areas that are not ordinarily allowed in wilderness areas. For instance, some areas allowed snowmobiling within proposed wilderness areas, but in this new plan that activity would be considered a non-conforming use because it is a motorized use, which is not allowed in wilderness.

New Business:

Mitch Silvers, Sen. Crapo's Office, Natural Resource, visited with Faye Kruger and they both acknowledged the importance of KVRI and the CFLRP projects and opportunities.

2014

1.27.2014 Presentations:

TransCanada Corporation Funding Award - Steve McNulty, Land Supervisor

TransCanada's community grant program presented a \$5,000 donation to KVRI's Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) sub-committee as matching funds for a grant aimed at developing strategies to reduce wildlife conflicts with automobiles in the identified collision hot spots within Boundary County.

NRCS: Overview of Farm Bill Programs - Ree Brannon, District Conservationist

Ree discussed the current Farm Bill Programs and how they are administered in Boundary County. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implements the Farm Bill and NRCS is one of numerous agencies under the USDA. This program is voluntary; a landowner or producer contacts NRCS for technical or financial assistance, and time is spent on the ground developing a comprehensive plan based on the type of land uses (cropland, pasture, forest, stream bank and wildlife), the objective, and project resource concerns.

The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe Website [Here](#) at KVRI - Documents.

Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program Update - Sue Ireland, KTOI Fish & Wildlife Director

Sue's presentation updated KVRI on completed components of the restoration program and upcoming projects which are designed to help restore and enhance aquatic habitat conditions for native fish species in the Kootenai River. From concept to construction Sue reviewed the oversight and coordination that takes place for each component. During 2011 - 2013 six habitat restoration projects have been completed. Presentation [Link Here](#).

Forestry Committee - Patty Perry

The Forest Service has allocated an additional \$3.5 million to the Idaho Panhandle forests for this year to implement timber production and projects. Allocations have not yet been made to the Bonners Ferry District.

WAC Committee - Dan Dinning and Patty Perry

Last week a meeting was held with Sloan Security providing the sub-committee an overview of the wildlife detection system. The Idaho Transportation Department has been a good partner in this project, and the Bonners Ferry High School Robotics Team looks at the data from the system which helps to fine-tune the setup. In addition to this system we have additional signs to warn drivers of high wildlife use areas.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee - Patty Perry

Legal notice has been published for seeking comment on the proposed IDEQ plans to reduce temperatures in the Kootenai River and Moyie River sub-basins. The Assessment of

Water Quality in Kootenai River and Moyie River Sub-basins (Total Maximum Daily Load): 2014 Addendum was developed in coordination with the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) TMDL sub-committee.

Matt McGrath, Trail Administrator, USDA-FS Pacific Northwest Regional Office will be at the April 21 KVRI meeting. **The Pacific Northwest Trail begins near the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park and travels more than 1,200 miles** through Montana, Idaho, and Washington to the Pacific Ocean. Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League (ICL), has coordinated this opportunity for KVRI.

2.24.14 Presentation:

The group celebrated thirteen years of collaboration through the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI).

Forestry Committee Update – Kevin Knauth

The Twenty Mile and Kreist Creek projects are scheduled for timber sales this fiscal year. Comments were just received from USFWS and the Forest Service will review and resubmit. A brief discussion was held on the “Agricultural Act of 2014” (2014 Farm Bill) which broadens the good neighbor authority (piloted in Utah and Colorado) which allows state foresters to work directly with federal partner agencies to assist them in managing forest lands. Also included is a 3,000-acre categorical exclusion for **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program CFLRP proposals** that will help address severe forest health problems on a much timelier basis

Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Committee – Kennon McClintock

Three caution wildlife signs have been placed by Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) north of Three Mile and are working well. The test of the wildlife detection system in the Moose Valley Farms area on Highway 95 is on-going, and in March the equipment will be moved north on Highway 95 to a second test location.

New Business:

Fish and Wildlife: Chip Corsi, IF&G, shared that a female lynx has been GPS collared in the Trail Creek area which will help provide information on her travels. Also, a big game rule open house will be held February 27, 2014, in Coeur d’Alene. Liberalizing bear and lion season is being looked at (except on the Priest Lake side of Unit 1), they will enter in to negotiated rulemaking on a proposal to allow baiting for wolf hunting, discuss extra doe tag availability in Unit 1, and use a collaborative effort to look at areas used for trapping and pet use.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to implement the Kootenai River Restoration at Bonners Ferry Project in Boundary County, Idaho. A public meeting will be held February 26, 2014. BPA is accepting comments on the proposal through March 10, 2014.

3.17.2014 Presentation: Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Project 2011-2013.

Kate Kendall, USGS-Emeritus scientist, presented preliminary results from her study to estimate the total size of the grizzly bear population in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem (CYE). The results will be preliminary until it is peer reviewed and accepted for publication in a scientific journal. Kate thanked the project staff, co-authors, and contributors to the study.

Forestry Committee Update – Patty Perry

The committee met March 10 to discuss the Boulder Project. The committee and FS staff discussed the potential and the purpose and need for the project. It is the committee's role is to provide the community perspective to the FS's technical aspect on projects.

Comments/Meeting Announcements:

Robyn Miller shared the news that two Idaho projects ranked very well in the Forest Legacy Conservation Easement Program. The Hall Mountain Forest Legacy project ranked second nationally, and the Clagstone project in Bonner County ranked sixth. Proposed funding is less than requested and further information will be provided. The goal of the Forest Legacy program is to keep those forests working and continued harvest on those properties as well as protect some of the fish and wildlife habitat.

4.21.2014 Presentations

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail – Matt McGrath, Trail Administrator, USFS [Link Here](#)

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail is one of eleven National Scenic Trails (five administered by the Forest Service and six administered by the Park Service). Planning requirements of the Act include management, development and use of the trail along with integrating the trail in other agencies plans. To write the management plan an interdisciplinary team will involve local agencies, partners, resource specialists, an advisory council, communities and the public. Thirteen seats will be open for non-government participants – the planning commitment is scheduled to begin April of 2015

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Joel Fenolio, Upper Columbia Senior Water Manager, Seattle District

Joel presented his fourth annual Kootenai Basin Operations discussion with a map of the above average mountain snowpack as of April 1, 2014,

Forest Legacy Program Proposal – Kennon McClintock, TNC

Kennon presented information on The Nature Conservancy's Selkirk Hall – Kootenai Bench Forest Legacy Project for 2014. Kennon gave an overview of the voluntary private landowner conservation program which is funded by the USFS and in partnership with the State of Idaho administered by the Idaho Department of Lands.

Forestry Committee Update – Patty Perry

The forestry committee held a public meeting on April 7th, and talked about the Boulder Creek Project and different options for roads pertaining to Grizzly Bear Management and the Access Amendment.

Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Committee – Patty Perry

The contract with Sloan Security expires at the end of April, and an extension to the contract date is being considered. The wildlife detection system that was located along Highway 95 near Moose Valley Farms is now up by Camp Nine. A full report on how the system is working will be made available to the sub-committee.

New Business:

Chip Corsi, Panhandle Regional Supervisor – IDFG, discussed British Columbia, Canada, leaning toward **control action on a wolf pack potentially affecting the Woodland Caribou population**. IDFG would authorize B.C. crossing into Idaho on that detail.

5.19.2014 Presentations

2014 Sturgeon Flows: Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Libby Dam

The 2014 sturgeon operations at Libby Dam will consist of two periods of peak flows. The Regional Team of Biologists determines the start of the first augmentation flow (began Friday, May 16, 2014 for a period of 5-7 days) utilizing many factors (one of which is the river stage at Bonners Ferry).

KVRI Update: Patty Perry, KVRI Coordinator

Patty reviewed the history of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) which was formed in 2001 under a Joint Powers Agreement between the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the City of Bonners Ferry, and Boundary County. The mission of KVRI is to act as a locally based effort to improve coordination on programs that can effectively maintain, enhance, and restore the social, cultural, and natural resource bases in the community. The board members and partners comprise the broad diversity of our community:

Committee Updates:

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Patty Perry

The committee met on May 14, 2014, and Bob Steed discussed making the monitoring more consistent and reliable so that the data can be utilized in a fashion that will be more meaningful. This includes official monitoring and quality assurance plans.

Correspondence:

A reminder of the comment period ending May 20, 2014, concerning earlier correspondence sent out from Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game for the state's proposed management plans.

Notice of the Kreist Creek Project environmental assessment and draft decision notice dated May 9, 2014, was received.

6.16.2014 Presentation**Sloan Security Technologies, Wildlife–Auto Collision (WAC) Animal Detection Project Update -**

Brice Sloan Brice gave an overview of the project to date. The animal detection system was tested in the Moose Valley area from December 7, 2013 to March 17, 2014. This mobile system is designed to look at any movement on the roadway which triggers a lighted warning sign using radar, day and night camera, thermal camera, and high speed cell transmission.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Idaho Field Office - Ben Conard Ben provided a brief update on the proposal to amend the listing of the caribou. This action arose from a petition to delist the caribou, which was submitted by Bonner County and the state snowmobile association under representation of the Pacific Legal Foundation. The proposal is to expand the boundary of protection to the Southern Mountain Caribou, not just the Selkirk Mountains, and to downgrade the status of the species from endangered to threatened.

Forestry Committee Update - Patty Perry The Decision Notice (DN) has been issued for the Twentymile Creek project. The sale package will be completed as soon as possible (estimate 15 mmbf).

The Idaho Buckhorn Burn Project has moved ahead – completing a spring burn, and looking at the fall for other burns to be completed.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements: Chip advised that the Decker Family of Leonia, together with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have negotiated a three year agreement (beginning July 1) for Private Land Fishing Access on the Decker Land Co. property.

7.21.2014 Presentation

Cow Creek Photo Monitoring Presentation - Brandon Glaza, Hydrologist, USFS Brandon shared the Cow Creek project he has been working on with the use of on the ground

photos (1998 and 2013) and USFS aerial photography (1935, 1967, 1968, 1983, and 2009). The project objectives include a qualitative look at the changes in the landscape and creek based on land management and natural disturbances.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Patty Perry Committee members have been actively downloading data from the logger units that had been placed in various streams. Bob Steed, Idaho Department of Environment Quality (IDEQ), is working on the Quality Assurance plan so the data gathered can be considered tier one data for IDEQ – which will allow the committee information to be utilized in assessing streams.

WAC Forestry Committee Update – Patty Perry The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been instrumental in leading the pilot project for the wildlife detection **system and at this time funding is not available to go forward**

10.20.2014 Committee Updates:

Forestry Committee – Patty Perry Kevin Knauth, District Ranger, was unable to attend this evening to give a full update on the forest projects. The forestry committee will continue to meet on the Deer Creek Project to provide thoughts on the project purpose & need as the Forest Service will develop the document for public scoping.

11.17.2014

U.S. Forest Service Region 1 – Award to KVRI Mary Farnsworth, Forest Supervisor nominated KVRI for the Sustaining Forests and Grasslands (Including Partnership and Collaboration) Regional Forest Honor Award....and we were fortunate to be chosen as the recipient.

Forestry Sub-committee Update – Kevin Knauth/Patty Perry [Link Here](#) It was noted that the CFLRA funding will end in 2019. Patty mentioned that in the past a spread sheet was provided that **allowed the group an overview** of [the CFLRA status](#) – covering targets accomplished. The group agreed it would be helpful to have this type of reporting again. Robyn Miller suggested a communication piece be developed as we are nearing the 5 year mark (and other CFLRA projects are doing this), in order to share the progress. Next Kevin gave a [Power Point presentation of the Deer Creek](#) project (on file with minutes); data collection on the project took place over the summer – it is slated for sale in FY 2016.

TMDL Committee Update: Patty told the group that the Citizen Volunteers have completed downloading data this fall from the loggers that are deployed – and have utilized cable to secure them for the spring runoff

2015

1.26.2015 Happy Birthday KVRI! 14 years old. The cake was not forgotten and a picture of the group was taken.

Forestry Sub-committee Update- Kevin Knauth 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

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.

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.**

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.**

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.**

2.23.15 Forestry Committee: The committee met in early February to go over the Annual CFLR Report, and the 5 year [Ecological Indicator Report](#) Kevin explained the difference between both reports. The Annual report is based on improvements that can easily be counted. The Ecological indicators show what the ecosystem looks like now, the desired state, and the collaboration's progress. According to our ecological indicators, our progress is "Fair."

WAC committee: **The animal detection station is now operating;** Brice Sloan will come up March 9th. The system will be moved to the other side of the highway, where it can be plugged in. Brice will install a new piece of equipment and realign the system. Brice has agreed to provide training to ITD and Tribal staff on the new equipment. The ITD has a \$73,000 grant with the Western Transportation Institute. They will be implementing the

3rd party validation to see if the system is doing what it should be doing. It's moving further towards credibility.

Norm gave an update on the Woodland Caribou Recovery Plan. The Fish and Wildlife Services decided to set up a technical committee, which will focus on the technical aspects of recovery. The first technical meeting was held on February 5th. The plan is to move forward in updating the recovery plan. The recovery plan will take 2 parts. The scientific basis portion, which would be updated on a 10 year basis, and an action plan portion, that would be updated annually.

BC- wolf control Ktunaxa Nation Council- initiated a maternal penning feasibility study. The study will look at the potential for building a pen that will provide protection to calving females. The Ktunaxa Nation Council is working with the federal government in Canada to start working on a feasibility study to see if this will work in the south Selkirks.

Patty brought a letter of support, to be approved by the Board, for an EPA grant opportunity that will go to the Boundary Soil Conservation District.

3.16.2015 Presentation: Kootenai Basin Operations for 2015- Joel Fenolio-USACE Joel gave a presentation on the Kootenai Basin Operations for 2015. The flood risk is low based on the snowpack being below average. June precipitation is the "wild card".

Columbia River and Pacific Coastal Basins Mountain Snowpack as of March 1, 2015:

- Below average snowpack
- About 85% average above Libby
- About 25-50% average in Boundary County

Forestry Sub-committee: Patty mentioned that Kevin Knauth did a good job of reminding everyone that the Eastern part of the Deer Creek Project is within a Bear Management Unit (BMU). The Access Amendment and Core Habitat are both currently being met. The trade-off with the project, if you want to open roads in order to get to the project sites, you have to store roads to offset the core loss and road density gain. There were questions, at the sub-committee meeting, about roads inside the BMU, outside the BMU and about the unclassified roads. The FS is analyzing the roads, and what should be done with each one, while meeting the BMU requirements.

WAC Committee: The radar unit has not been working correctly; the warning lights aren't operating. The Nature Conservancy is in the process of turning the unit over the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). ITD doesn't have it yet and the Nature Conservancy is relinquishing ownership, so it is in the middle of ownership. The Tribe agreed to pay up to \$750 to fund part of Bryce's trip to Bonners Ferry to look at the system, so he can determine why it is not working correctly.

New Business: Dianna Ellis, of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge requested letters of support from KVRI: one for Boundary County Road Improvement Project, and one for the Myrtle Creek bridge replacement. Patty read both letters of support to the collaborative; they were approved for signatures.

Wayne Wakkinen updated the group on the Caribou. They flew over with the fixed wing aircraft and also coordinated with B.C. to fly over with the helicopter. **The Caribou count was 14. Last year the count was 18.** During last year's survey, the B.C. team noticed a dead Caribou, with 3 wolves nearby. As part of the Caribou recovery efforts, collaring some of the wolves has been implemented. There are known packs around Boundary Lake, Bluebird Mountain, and a suspected pack on the west side near Wymer. The wolf-pack around Boundary Lake was removed by lethal control.

Gary Aitken Jr. - The Tribe is talking about possible open houses at the new hatchery.

4.20.2015 Forestry Sub-committee: The Forestry committee is scheduled to meet May 14th, 9:30 am, at the Kootenai Tribal Office. The committee will continue working on the Deer Creek Project. The USFS Deer Creek project team will bring the proposed action and alternatives before the Forestry committee. Discussion and input will be received so the team can move forward in producing a draft environmental assessment.

WAC Committee: **The animal detection system is up and running.** ITD has applied for a power drop through Northern Lights in order to run the system. ITD has a grant and is working with Western Transportation Institute to do the 3rd party validation.

Kootenai Tribe Operation Loss Project- Norm Merz: Norm gave a presentation on the Kootenai River Ecosystem Operational Loss Assessment. The Kootenai Tribe is heading up the project and has been working with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and is funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Legislative Framework:

- The Northwest Power Act of 1980 directed the Northwest Power and Conservation Council to develop a program to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife that are affected by the construction and operation of hydroelectric facilities. BPA was directed to fund the program.

USFS Fire Contracting Opportunities- Dan Muir/Kevin Knauth: Kevin updated everyone on prescribed burns. The USFS started burning Saturday evening, all day Sunday and Monday. Tuesday, there will be people out and about looking at what has been done already; make sure everything is contained and holding well. If so, there will be additional burning starting Tuesday. The FS will be burning up near Copper Falls. The crew has been in the Skin Creek Area by the Eileen Dam.

Correspondence: Patty read an email received from Mike Garrity, Alliance for the Wild Rockies. The Alliance does not want to participate in the collaborative process for

developing the Deer Creek Project. KVRI will continue to encourage them to join the planning.

5.18.15 An open house to discuss the Deer Creek Project was held on May 13th 5 – 6:30 p.m. Steve Oxford attended for Tom Oxford, who owns property on top of Placer Creek. Tim Narvaes, representing Moyie Springs city council and Scot Web, an interested citizen in recreation and roads. All 3 had valuable input for the Deer Creek project.

Correspondence: Patty announced that the Hellroaring Letter went out publically on May 9th; the comment period ends June 22nd.

Presentations: Kootenai Tribe Loon Monitoring- Norm Merz: [Link Here](#) Norm wanted to give an update on the Common Loon here in Boundary County. Norm worked on monitoring them in Montana before coming to Bonners Ferry.

2015 Libby Dam Sturgeon Flow and Flood Risk Management- Greg Hoffman: [Link Here](#) Greg gave a brief update on the water supply forecast and informed the group on 2015 Sturgeon Flow. This year's snow pack, in the entire Columbia River Basin, is dry compared to last May 2014

Sid Smith- the Jasper Mountain decision was signed today. This was the 1st categorical exclusion authority under the Farm Bill (passed last year) on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

6.04.15 Special Forestry Meeting Patty set the context. [Link Here](#) The collaboration, with recommendations from the Forestry sub-committee, has been working with the Forest Service (FS) on the Deer Creek Project for about a year. KVRI has communicated with the FS about the community's perspective and the needs the collaborative recognizes; the FS has started analysis. In this process, the environmental document that is needed to implement the project will be an Environmental Assessment (EA). The FS has the scoping documents and comments, including comments from KVRI. **Tonight's goal is for the FS to explain why the ID team feels it is important to analyze the Placer Creek 2540 road decommissioning separately.**

6.22.15 Forestry:

- Deer Creek analysis is moving forward
- Hellroaring objection period ends June 23rd; received 2 objections. Forest Service will be responding to the objections.

Norm Merz: Caribou- 1 collared mortality in late May. Caribou was a female with a full term calf. BC investigated, they had to chase Black Bears off the carcass, may have been a mountain lion, still investigating the cause of death. This brings the numbers to 4 collared Caribou and around 14 total.

Grizzly Bears- 3 known Mortalities in the Cabinet-Yaak. 2 natural causes and 1 under investigation

Restoring the Kootenai: A Tribal Approach to Restoration of a Large River in Idaho- Sue Ireland: Sue started with a Project flythrough in order to help visualize projects. The Kootenai River Sub-basin is about 9 million acres, 2nd largest tributary to Columbia River in terms of runoff volume. It is home to the Ktunaxa Nation; 2 Countries, 2 states, 1 Province. There are transboundary species, hydro power development, and a resource based economy. **2015-2016: Bonners Ferry Islands- Increase habitat complexity, increase area of vegetated floodplain (building islands), and increase distribution and abundance of deep pools. This project will start in July 2015.**

7.20.2015 Burbot Restoration Update- Shawn Young (KTOI):

Burbot program 2015-

- Moyie Lake- continues to be the Brood Stock Source.
- Twin Rivers Hatchery- Fully operational
 - 1st year of fish rearing: Staff are rearing burbot and sturgeon at designed capacities. Usually this takes a couple years to rear at designed capacities, Twin Rivers Hatchery is already there.
 - There are 3 water sources: Kootenai River, Moyie River and ground water.
 - 3 sections of the hatchery:
 - Sturgeon
 - Burbot- contains a mini-hatchery for live feed itself. Burbot require a live zooplankton diet for larvae phase
 - Administrative/Mechanical

TMDL Committee: Temperature monitors have been downloaded, the batteries have been checked, and deployed for this year.

Forestry Committee: The Washington and Regional Forest Service offices did an audit on and reviewed the Twenty Mile CFLRA project

9.21.2015 Forestry Sub-committee Monitoring Report- As a requirement of the CFLR project, KVRI is responsible for reporting on the socio-economic impacts of the project. The report will be going to Washington D.C.

Fire update- Dan expressed how impressed he was with how the fire suppression teams were ran, and the communication that was relayed to the community. He did not hear any ill reports against anyone, and that there were no serious injuries. \$3.8- \$3.9 million was spent on the Parker Ridge fire.

10.19.2015 Sue Ireland, Fish & Wildlife Director, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho – Provided an update on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program, Sue gave a very nice presentation on the project which included a brief background on the overall program, the scope of work for this season – which includes improving habitat by forming deep pools, adding river & bank structures and stabilizing the banks using wood /root wads and then planting to establish vegetation

Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game gave an update on the Blue Tongue disease affecting white tailed deer. He explained how the disease is transmitted by a biting gnat and is also found in domestic livestock but is not transferrable from one animal to another, and humans can't get it.

Doug Nishek, USFS gave an update on the fires and active timber sales. Twenty Mile, Mission Creek, Brush Lake and Hellroaring are moving along; Doug encouraged everyone to go check **out the new road @ Twenty Mile.**

Tower fire is still smoldering and they are looking at salvage opportunities. Once timber is burned, the harvest window is about a year. The fire was approximately 20,000+ acres.

Pacific Northwest Nation Scenic Trail Dan and Brad will work to come up with a proposed travel route that might be good for the portion of the trail in Idaho. Patty estimated this will be a 2 ½ - 3 year project.

11.16.2015 Presentations: Kevin Greenleaf, Kootenai Tribe (TMDL Citizen Monitoring) was introduced and Patty gave a little background on **how TMDL Committee began & what kicked off this whole project back in 2001. Until the last 2 years, we had relied on the IDEQ for data compilation, then Kevin brought new life to it by having the equipment** and began tracking and monitoring temperatures and processing the data for the committee – which allowed us to have it in a more timely manner.

Selkirk Cabinet Yaak Grizzly Bear Conservation Dan Dinning reported that the Committee met on November 4th at the Kalispel Tribal Center near Cusick, and he read updates from Wayne Kasworm – they are still collaring bears. There are 4 in the cabinets and 8 in the Yaak, 11 in the BC Selkirk's, 6 in the US Selkirk's and reported of a 2 year old male that moved from the Cabinets to the Coeur d' Alene's and that was subsequently shot during hunting season

WAC Sub-committee Patty reported that monitors up at Camp Nine are up and going. **ITDL has a \$75,000 grant and they are doing 3rd party monitoring and validation through a contract with the Western Transportation Institute. The contractor said this is by far the most sophisticated system he has seen.**

Pacific Northwest Trail Brad Smith and Dan Dinning are heading up the subcommittee for the northern part of Idaho; the first meeting will be on the 27th of January and they will be reviewing the route.

Dianna Ellis updated everyone on the Federal Lands Access Programs. One proposal was for the Myrtle Creek Bridge Replacement but that one fell out as they felt it was still in good condition. The second proposal was for the Riverside/Westside road and the proposal request was for \$3.78 million, but was approved for \$3.933 million – all contingent on the Transportation Bill currently in Congress. If all goes well, construction should be in 2018-2019.

2016

1.11.16 Everyone welcomed the new Co-chair, Mayor David Sims.

Grizzly Bear Conservation Committee Presentation We learned more about the active capturing program in the Cabinets, Yaak and the Selkirk's on both sides of the border and that British Columbia has a cooperating program. He provided a map that showed the travels of the bears that were collared and how the recent fire activity may have affected their path. They have released 18 bears (13 Females and 5 Males) into the Cabinet Mountains since 1990.

Caribou Technical Committee Norm Merz gave us a quick Caribou update; in 2015 they collared 5 animals and lost 2. A trail cam did produce several photos and 2 calves were in the photos. Norm will be flying next month to do the census and we will know how they did this year.

2.22.16 Presentations Kevin Knauth, District Ranger, Bonners Ferry was there to give a CFLR update. Handouts were distributed to all. Kevin also noted CFLR funds were affected by borrowing to pay fire suppression costs. If those funds become available again, they will likely be under a different budget line item. In trying to understand the funds allocated to the KVRI/CFLR projects, the targets, accomplishments & timelines the group had many questions. The CFLR funding allocations will end in 2019.

Lynx Update Chip Corsi, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, reported that a Boise judge issued an order that required state officials, the Governor and the Director of Idaho Department of Fish & Game to submit a plan to the court for the protection of Lynx for future incidental trapping in the Panhandle and the Clearwater Region by April 11, 2016.

Correspondence: KVRI received an invitation to participate in a 5 year action plan meeting that the Forest is going to be undertaking, that will be on the 29th

3.21.2016 Presentations Joel Fenolio with the USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers) gave a presentation/update on the Kootenai Basin Operations for [2016 Link Here](#)

TMDL Sub-committee The committee met on March 18, 2016 and discussed the 5 year review that is coming up and how

that might look, and DEQ shared with the group that most of the data collection and monitoring that they do every year is going to happen up here this year. They want 40 sites chosen to do what they call BURP (Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program) and they look at the stream segments they think are important based on the TMDL needs.

Caribou Recovery Norm Merz –We conducted the annual caribou census last week of February; we had 14 last year and we are down to 12 (includes 2 calves). We’re investigating, thorough the technical committee, ways we can try and bolster the herd.

Patty received a request from Donald Ulrich who is working with Dr. Emily Jane Davis and they are working in Idaho and Washington on a project with the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station. The Project is “Evaluating Collaborative’s as a Model for a Natural Resource Governance”, and they want to use KVRI as one of their case studies.

4.18.2016 TMDL Sub-committee Bob Steed will be talking about an opportunity to be involved in a project called “Climate Shield”. There is a new process that is called eDNA. It can be used to take a water sample to determine presence or absence of fish species and will only look for those species that you have set in your target or key indicators for that specific DNA. Patty shared that the Citizen Monitoring committee with the TMDL is still working as well.

Bob Steed, Surface Water Ecologist, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, joined us via phone conference for his PowerPoint presentation [LINK HERE](#) explaining the 5 year statute in Idaho and the rules about reevaluation of TMDLs. The end product is a report to give to our legislatures to keep track of where we are at in our TMDL programs.

Libby Dam Update

Greg Hoffman with USACE at Libby Dam gave a brief presentation on the Libby Dam's inflow and outflow as well as the projected elevations of Lake Kooconusa. [Link Here](#)

5.16.2016 Patty stated that the TMDL committee’s recommendation to the KVRI board was to add the eDNA collection as a standard part of the BURP testing this year. Tonight we need a decision so that Bob can move ahead with the quality assurance plan and make it so. After discussion, it was decided by the board to go ahead with the recommendation as it stands.

Libby Dam Operations Update Greg Hoffman, USACE, presented the Libby Dam update with Greg discussing the annual sturgeon operation and what goes into the planning for it, the water management update, and temperature information for the Kootenai River.

Forestry Sub-Committee Update: Kevin Knauth shared his update from the Forestry Committee meeting of 5-12-16, beginning with the Deer Creek project which is planned for 2 separate sales. Kevin explained that the Forest has a 5 year action plan working group working on the out-year projects coming out in 2021-2025, building the next 5 year action plan.

6.20.2016 Presentations Dustin Miller, Idaho Office of Species Conservation (OSC), gave a description of his office and a summary of the issues they are working on

Forestry Committee-Westside Project Patty Perry began with a description of the Westside Project. After the last KVRI Forestry Sub- Committee meeting, it was agreed upon that there was a **need to begin discussion with private landowners and the Forest Service as to what can be done to prevent the same type of fire damage as the Parker Ridge Fire in their area.** Although Kevin and his Forest Service staff caution us that the Forest Service process will take time, there is still a need to bring all parties together to discuss the opportunity of creating a Community Fire Protection Project together.

Forestry Committee Update Boulder Creek [Link Here](#)

Deer Creek The specialists are looking at the comments and will respond to them, then they will be ready to release that draft decision, and then go into objection period. It's progressing to do the 1st sale in 2017 and the 2nd sale in 2018 as projected.

WAC Update This system seems to be a better investment than building a stationary wildlife underpass. If the land around the underpass changes and animals move, this radar system can move with the animals. The Spokesman Review would like to do another news article about the system.

7.18.2016 Presentations Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program (KRHRP) Sue Ireland, KTOI [Link Here](#) Sue **also reported on the success of the Kootenai Tribe's Public Sturgeon Release on May 20th 2016. The Tribal Council extended an invitation** to the community to come release sturgeon at the Search & Rescue boat ramp.

Forestry Committee-Potential Westside Project Patty updated everyone on the potential for a Westside project that connected private landowners and the Forest Service. The County hosted a meeting with representatives from the County Fire Safe program, Forest Service fuel specialists, NRCS, and Idaho Dept. of lands

Ree Brannon- Joint Chief's Project Introduction shared with the Board an introduction to the Joint Chief's Project. This is an Initiative started in 2014 in response to recognizing the need to get proactive about management of forest lands, and public and private lands as well. The Chief of NRCS and the Chief of the Forest Service initiated this partnership to help target funding across the nation to address issues like the Westside slope, where there is the interface of Forest Service lands, public land and private land ownership.

Forestry Sub-Committee Update The Forest Service hosted a field trip to the Boulder Creek Project area on July 14, for approximately 25 committee and community members to the Ghost town, the bridge, road washout, meadows and over Twenty mile. They reviewed the TAPS analysis, (the Forest Service has until 2019 to meet Grizzly Bear access amendment), road closures to be considered and how can we meet Access Amendment guidelines while still retaining community access in the area.

Twenty Mile Field Tour Senator Jim Risch’s staff will be holding their annual retreat next week in BF. They have asked KVRI and the Forest Service to put together a field tour on July 28, of one of our CFLR projects, to help the staff understand what it takes to put together a project like that. Since the Twenty-Mile Project was the first CFLR (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration) project for KVRI, it was chosen for the tour

Fair Booth The fair booth planning is underway. We have ordered new sheets for backdrops for the booth and the banner updates are ordered. The theme this year is “Seasons of Scarecrows and Sunflowers”.

Mitch Silvers, Senator Mike Crapo Mitch Silvers stated he has worked for the senator for almost 14 years. KVRI was the very first collaborative project he was ever involved in. He added that KVRI is such a great example of a community with such diverse interests coming together for the betterment of all that he shares KVRI’s success with everyone he talks to.

9.19.2016 Presentations: Michael Lucid, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Multi-Species The Multi-Species Baseline Initiative (MBI) is a collaborative of organizations that monitor wildlife and microclimate across the Idaho Panhandle and adjoining mountain ranges. Michael explained that the Project was started to begin to address the issue of climate change and managing wildlife through these changing ecosystems in our region. According to Michael, there are two things to consider: the distribution and abundance of species and the micro-climate requirements for these species. [Link Here](#) The full report of Michael’s study is available at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/baseline>

Dan Dinning: Dan attended the Panhandle Forest Collaborative meeting in Sandpoint and a presentation by Peg Polichi, Idaho Department of Lands, on Good Neighbor Authority.

Good Neighbor Authority is an agreement with the Forest Service & Idaho Department of Lands. In a specific project there is a pool of funding, put forward by 3 timber mills, to be a revolving fund.

TMDL Committee Update Patty reported on last week’s meeting with Bob Steed, Idaho DEQ, who gave an overview of the monitoring done over the summer in Boundary County. The BURP crew was looking at 30-40 sites; Bob discussed the sites to be included, he talked about the new eDNA monitoring DEQ wanted to do in partnership with the FS Rocky Mountain Research station.....the monitoring could determine presence/absence of bull trout and help with updating the DEQ fish distribution mapping. The sample sites would be coordinated with BURP monitoring sites. As monitoring was undertaken, there were several additional sites – beyond the expected 30-40; approximately twice as many eDNA sites as the Board initially understood there would be.

A to Z Project The North Fork Mill Creek A to Z project forest health restoration project is a contract between the Forest Service and Vaagen Brothers Lumber that includes forest thinning and controlled burning to reduce forest fuels located in the Colville National Forest.

Wayne Waakinen -Underpass Cameras Update: Kara Campbell (IDFG) and Norm Merz installed cameras in the first two underpasses in late July. In about 7 weeks, they captured lots of deer of course, but also got black bear (with cub) mountain lion, bobcat, domestic cat, skunk, rabbit, coyote, and elk using the underpass. A camera was put in a third underpass this week.

KVRI has received a scoping letter from Sandpoint Ranger District: The Idaho Panhandle National Forests is proposing a project in the Grouse Bear management unit on National Forest Service lands in the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger districts: The Grouse BMU Compliance Project. The project will manage the road system to bring the bear management unit into compliance with the Forest Plan and the 2011 motorized access amendment.

Kennon McClintock- McArthur Lake Forest Legacy Update: 5500 Acres of Molpus forest will have the conservation easement in place this fall. The rest will hopefully close next year with Hancock

10.17.2016 Presentations: Kennon McClintock, Idaho Forest Products Commission- Annual Teacher's Tour Every year, for the last 5 years, Kennon has spent a week teaching high school teachers and counselors about the Idaho forests, forest management and the Idaho forest products industry. Their week consists of Forestry 101, a mill day, and a logging operations day.

Forestry Committee: Kevin Knauth The Forestry Committee met Oct 5: updated existing projects and discussed the 5 year plan (2021-2026). CFLR ends in 2019.

- Planning focused on North zone, Sandpoint and Priest Lake Districts.

Tower Fire Salvage Notice of intent to litigate by Alliance of the Wild Rockies.

Deer Creek Update Waiting on USF&WS response; then they can release the draft decision which opens the objection period

Boulder Update Scoping on that project, beginning of November.

Montana side; Three Rivers District, Starry Goat Project; on pace with our project; similar activities. Patty read details of a letter to Three Rivers District Ranger, stating the recreational opportunities proposed in the area and our support, listing roads #314 (Katka Road) & #4402 (South Side Road) as potential increased recreational traffic. **Both projects share the same road system and trail systems, and the cumulative effects need to be accounted for in both project designs.**

Westside Project The Forestry Committee watched Lee Colson's Google Fly over presentation. **The work pushed out 1 year; the question is what to plan first: The Forest Service lands or private landowners.**

TMDL Committee Update-Patty Perry At our last KVRI meeting we decided to send a letter to IDEQ, requesting information before they presented to the Basin Advisory Group. We received a letter from Tom Herron, IDEQ, stating they will add our recommendation regarding the hierarchy of presentations regarding dissemination of information coordinated and developed with Watershed Advisory Groups to their next meeting's agenda. That was not what we asked them to do. We just asked for the courtesy of knowing what they intended to share with the groups.

Caribou Update: Norm Merz U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service contracted with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to put together a technical team to work on updating the 1994 Recovery Plan for Caribou. They are also working at implementing actions that stave off extirpation of the herd. As of this date, no mortalities documented this year; 3 of 6 collars are still out there; battery has gone out of one collar. Collared male and female are together during rutting season. Reported one calf on a trail camera, they will know more in March.
Caribou Population - There are 12 animals as of last February, all in Canada.

Subject: IPNF North Zone Winter Travel Plan-Patty Perry Panhandle Forest Collaborative (PFC) offered to assist in this process. We have expressed our interest in the planning process and KVRI would like the opportunity to host the meetings regarding lands in Boundary County. We also sent a reminder to the facilitator of the PFC that we are interested in the winter travel planning.

Grouse Creek BMU- Comment Sheet-Patty Perry Comment sent: KVRI requests a meeting with the Project Leader to better understand the TAPS analysis & effects on open roads in Boundary County.

11.21.2016 Forestry Committee Update- Patty Perry/Kevin Knauth Kevin gave a quick overview of the Grouse Mountain Project. The purpose of that project is to address the road situation (Forest Plan Access Amendment) and manage the road storage to bring the BMU into compliance with the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment standards by 2019.

TMDL Committee Update: Kevin Greenleaf, Kootenai Tribe (TMDL Citizen Monitoring) Kevin presented the two charts that he shared with the TMDL Committee. One chart showing the compilation of the last 4 years of monitoring and one for the monitoring season of 2016. KVRI has monitored the following streams: Hell roaring Creek, Skin Creek, Snow Creek, Upper Mission Creek, Copper Creek, Trail Creek, Canyon Creek (Long Canyon), Boundary Creek, Myrtle Creek, Boulder Creek and Deep Creek. Copies of the results were distributed to the Board.

He reported that seldom do any of the creeks meet the temperature requirements set by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Bull Trout. We monitor Long Canyon (Canyon Creek) because it is our reference drainage, which means it has not had any management activity in the drainage. Canyon creek temperatures show it is in the middle of the pack for temperature of the creeks we monitor. Deep creek is the warmest creek followed by

Myrtle creek as the next warmest. The temperature TMDL's we have been writing with IDEQ are based on reducing stream temperatures by increasing (potential) natural vegetation. Using this method avoids having to meet the numeric temperatures that USFWS indicates.

Starry Goat Project Letter-Patty Perry KVRI agreed at the last meeting to send a letter that mentioned that our Boulder project was adjacent to that project and there were opportunities for partnering on recreation and other activities as the Troy District put together their project.

A to Z Project Court Decision- Patty Perry Patty reported on the status of the suit filed by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies Conservation Group. The 9th Circuit Court has ruled in favor of the Forest Service and Vaagen Brothers Lumber can continue work on the A to Z Project.

Presentation: Annual Burbot Recovery Update: Patty Perry Patty began the Burbot Annual Report with a slide presentation providing the history of the start of the program (2001) and its significance to the Tribe, local community and Canada and the steps it took to get the conservation strategy to where it is today. **Burbot Conservation Aquaculture at The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's Hatchery 2-Twin Rivers Hatchery: Nathan Jensen [Link Here](#)**

Kootenai Burbot Release Strategy - [Link Here](#) Restoring Burbot in the Kootenai River - [Link Here](#)

2017

1.9.2017 Forestry Committee-Boulder Creek Restoration Project (BCRP): Doug Nishek

The Boulder Creek Restoration Project (BCRP) area encompasses 40,612 acres which includes Boulder Creek and all of its tributaries. It drains into the Kootenai River by the Idaho/Montana state border. The Forest Service has been tasked to look at the entire watershed holistically, what is and what is not working in that ecosystem. [Link to Project Here.](#)

Another main focus for proposing the project is to achieve access management standards for the Boulder BMU (Bear Management Unit) located in the project area. This project will serve as the mechanism to achieve access management standards for the BMU by increasing grizzly bear core habitat and reducing the Total Motorized Route Density (TMRD) for this BMU by the 2019 deadline.

The other project in the area is the Starry Goat Project in the Three Rivers Ranger District. It is currently proposing a vegetation management project similar to the BCRP. The Bonners Ferry Ranger District is coordinating with them weekly.

Camp Dawson: There is a lot of accessible ground, with a WUI interface, community watershed, bits and pieces leftover from past treatment activity, and still a lot of area left to manage in this landscape. This area meets all the criteria to utilize a HFRA CE (Healthy Forest Restoration Act – Categorical Exclusion); already evaluating opportunities this winter; proposed action ready to go in late fall 2017.

Robin Hood:

Survey work would be completed this summer; NEPA completed over the winter of 2017-18.

Trout Ball Watershed: A lot of integrated treatments, White Bark Pine restoration; WUI Westside road, larger more comprehensive NEPA project; started some initial survey work; no activities anticipated to begin here until 2019 with a decision later 2020/21. This area includes road restoration opportunities, fuels, wildlife, and recreation.

We are waiting to enter this West side area because of the current activity in the Bluegrass BMU (Bear Management Unit). There is a need to have the Selkirk ecosystem in compliance first.

Caribou/Snow Creek drainage: This drainage was part of the Sundance fire event in 1967. There is a Larch component on this landscape and because of overstocking and overcrowding; there is a definite need to take care of it now before the stands start to collapse. There are road access needs; Decision FY2022, with a life expectancy of that NEPA being 10 years; those trees will be a perfect age and size class for thinning opportunities. It is also adjacent to private lands, with a risk of fire activity much like Parker Ridge.

Libby Dam Operations Review presentation, Greg Hoffman, USACE [2017 Report Link Here](#)

2.13.2017 Presentation: Overview of Annual CFLR Report-Kevin Knauth, USFS Kevin walked the group through the handout of the 2016 Annual CFLR Report [Link to report here](#)

Idaho Fish & Game-Chip Corsi reported We are proposing changes in elk hunting in the Panhandle. There hasn't been a general antlerless season in sometime. We are proposing to restore that or parts of that with two opportunities: controlled hunts and general hunts. Cow hunts in agriculture areas work well for the landowners but not for the sportsman. We would like to balance that for both groups.

3.20.2017 Presentation: Kootenai Basin Operations for 2017 - Joel Fenolio, USACE [Link to report here](#). The climate outlook shows that we have actually seen a natural winter for the first time in about 3 years.

Outlooks are for above average precipitation in the Columbia Basin in April, May, and June this year. The outlooks are not forecasts but potentially what's going to happen this spring.

Forestry Committee: Kevin Knauth Forest Service CFLRP Site Visit in July: The Washington Office of the Forest Service is going to do a site visit of the KVRI project area in July. It will include folks from the Washington, DC office as well as folks from the Regional Office in Missoula. They want to see how our CFLRP project has been implemented, compared with what we proposed initially and how well we've done

Letter of Support for the County: In 2015, KVRI wrote a Letter of Support for the County's Riverside and Westside Road projects for a grant that they were applying for through the Federal Land Access Program. They were originally awarded that grant. The County Road & Bridge Department has requested another letter of support from the KVRI Board. All agreed to sending the letter of support.

Letter of Support for the City: David Sims asked for the same support for the City of Bonners Ferry. The Board agreed and Patty will draft that letter as well and have the Board sign.

3.23.2017 Special Meeting Patty began the meeting stating that Kevin Knauth and Mary Farnsworth had asked to meet with the KVRI Board to have a work session to sort through the CFLRP Report; where we are currently with accomplishments, where there may be adjustments and how we will move forward.

4.17.2017 Committee Updates: Forestry Committee-Boulder Creek Restoration Project Doug Nishek, USFS, presented an overview of the updates given to the Forestry Committee regarding the Boulder Creek Restoration Project. Topics included a review of the Purpose and Need, Summary of Roads and Scoping Comments

[Link: Summary of Roads Under Proposed Action](#)

[Link: Purpose and Need Boulder Creek](#)

Letter of Support-IDFG : Patty Perry Idaho Department of Fish & Game is requesting a letter of support from KVRI for a grant proposal they are submitting to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation **to purchase bear-proof garbage cans for folks** living in close proximity to occupied grizzly bear habitat, as another tool to reduce potential bear-human interaction.

5.15.2017 CFLRP Program Review- Patty Perry and Mary Farnsworth [Link to CFLRP Drft here.](#) Patty began the CFLRP review explaining that the KVRI Board met with Mary Farnsworth, IPNF Forest Supervisor, on March 23rd to review the program and the targets in detail. **We've exceeded the trails target over 700%, those are some good things that have resulted from the partnership that KVRI has with the Forest Service and sticking to the schedules what we need to get accomplished.** There are far more positives than the few changes we need to tidy up.

There are those things that we haven't met the mark on, as Patty noted. The road storage is a unique thing.

BOG CREEK UPDATE-Mary Farnsworth Mary explained that Bog Creek Road was a project that the Forest Service was approached with by US Customs and Border Patrol eight years ago regarding access to the border. Five years ago the Forest Service and Border Patrol entered into agreement to do some environmental work associated with opening Bog Creek Road (It has been closed since 1988).

Boulder Creek Restoration Project Update- Mary Farnsworth The main change at this point, is the removal of the units that are in the Inventory Roadless Area, most but not all of that was helicopter logging. If she had the people, time and money, a different place in time where she was not facing 40 plus vacancies and a hiring freeze, it might be very different, but that is what today is. She just wanted to respond to Patty saying that her risk for these things is zero.

Deer Creek Update- Kevin Knauth The Deer Creek Project had 2 objectors; one had a single point, Goshawk, the other objected to everything (AWR). The Regional Office put together a review panel to look at those objection points, and we had a conference call last week to discuss them. After making the adjustments the review panel suggested we were given the go ahead to move forward with a final decision.

Forest Legacy Program Presentation -Kennon McClinton - The Nature Conservancy We are looking at about 2400 acres in this year's application in Boundary County, north of town in the north bench area. [Link to Presentation Here](#)

Kootenai Basin Water Supply Update and Sturgeon flow Augmentation- Greg Hoffman-USACE Greg reported that data through the month of April showed the percent of average precipitation is 139% of normal. The good news is that they are creating a lot of space in the reservoir to capture that water. [Link to Report Here](#)

Idaho Fish and Game Updates-Chip Corsi-IDFG IDFG would like to clear up the rumors circulating concerning MacArthur Lake that are saying **they are going to pull the dam.** **There has been no decision made to remove the dam at MacArthur Lake,** but removal is being considered as an option to improve wetlands for more ducks and to create better conditions for waterfowl hunting

Scotchman's Peak Update There has been controversy swirling around our Commissions current position of not favoring the Scotchman's Peak Proposed Wilderness bill. This has been largely due to their dissatisfaction with a court interpretation of what IDFG believe is the Wildlife Management Authority that they felt was granted in other wilderness acts.

6.19.2017 Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project (KRHRP) Update- Sue Ireland- KTOI

Sue began her multi-media presentation with a short video produced by Kyle and Rob Productions for the Kootenai Tribe. The documentary was made to describe the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program, some of its objectives and is used as an outreach tool to help the general public understand the project better.

The work for this project has been divided into two years due to short construction windows and annual construction budgets. Phase 1 (FY 17) will be upstream implementing pool forming structures and pools, and enhancing the islands and Phase 2 will be next year (FY18) in the area of the banks with the car bodies.

Western Transportation Institute Presentation-Marcel Huijser Patty explained that the WAC (Wildlife Auto Collision) Committee has been working with Marcel Huijser from Western Transportation Institute for over 5 years. He originally did a study that showed where the animal hotspots were, collated data from ITD and IDFG and found where we saw the most movements.

7.17.2017 Forestry Committee: In the discussion with the Tribe early today, Mary asked Patty to convey to the KVRI Board that she would reconsider approximately 350 acres that contained those units along the road, if there were a different silvicultural prescription. She could not consider a regeneration harvest prescription in that area. But she could consider something else if KVRI wanted to reopen that dialogue.

Caribou Update- Norm Merz, KTOI Norm reported the results of the Caribou spring survey:

- 11 Caribou were reported on the British Columbia side
- 1 radio collared animal has died from unknown causes, (adult bull)
- Total remaining caribou are estimated at 6 female, 2 calves, 2 bulls

IDFG-Wildlife Management Area Update- Chip Corsi, IDFG A letter of support was signed for a Grant application from the Wildlife Conservation Society (around \$250,000). Their focus is to buffer species believed to be at risk from climate change.

8.29.2017 Special Meeting – Senator Crapo Patty gave a brief history of KVRI and Senator Crapo's partnership. The City, County, and Tribe began discussions of forming KVRI in 2000 working toward developing a collaborative for Boundary County. At the same time Sen. Crapo and his staff were working with the folks putting together the Owyhee Initiative, encountering the same things we were. He directed his staff to come along side of us and help us grow this into something. Patty added that another thing we may need help with is that the Regional office is re-writing a draft white paper that guides what can be accomplished in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

9.18.2017 Fleming Creek Road Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Project-Cassie Olson, Boundary County Soil Conservation District Cassie presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Fleming Creek Road Project for the proposed 319 Grant Application. This is the first phase of what we hope will be 3 different projects on this road addressing a larger watershed. This project will be the lower part of the larger project.

Forestry Committee Update-Kevin Knauth Kevin K. shared the upcoming **North Zone Timber Sale Schedule** with the Board, and Updates for Fire Restrictions, Roads Repair and Checkpoint Meeting #4 for the Boulder Creek Project. Patty asked about Caribou and

Trout Ball projects in the future. Kevin explained they tie into the Westside Road Project. They have yet to line up interested landowners to get them on board with this project but anticipate 3 different project areas.

Boulder Creek Restoration Project Draft EA (Environmental Assessment)- Doug Nishek

10.23.2017 Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition Presentation- Robyn King, Jessie Grossman, Tim Dougherty Tim introduced Robyn King, Chair for the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition/Yaak Valley Forest Council, and Jessie Grossman, staff member. Their presentation will include the management guidelines they have developed as a collaborative, how they meet the challenges and hurdles they face, and to compare notes.

11.20.2017 Overview of Implementation of Aquatic Organism Passage Projects Presentation-Brandon Glaza, USFS-Bonnars Ferry District Brandon's PowerPoint presentation included examples of aquatic organisms, aquatic organism passages, and a history of the accomplishments from 2012 to the present.

Forestry Committee meeting update- Patty Perry Patty explained the November 9th Forestry Committee meeting included an update on Boulder Creek Project, Deer Creek sale status, and scoping information for the Camp Dawson/Robinhood Project.

WAC Committee Update- Patty Perry Patty reported that the WAC Committee met on November 9th to evaluate the system with Brice Sloan, who built the system. ITD had a list of what they needed as far as upgrades for them to look at purchasing another system. For now we are looking at keeping the system operable through the winter months with someone local who may be able to calibrate it for us.

TMDL Committee Update- Patty Perry We looked at the project pre-harvest and now post-harvest. Pictures were shared. Jonathan L. discussed the data compiled, the overview of the project and shared that they met the targets they had hoped for. A second project is planned for next year and we will follow that one as well.

Caribou Committee update- Norm Merz Norm gave a brief Caribou Committee update. They are moving forward on the Maternal penning project in British Columbia.

Correspondence - Support Letter Request for Forest Service Fish Passage Project- Canuck Creek Brandon Glaza, USFS, has requested a letter of support for the Forest Service Fish Passage Project on Canuck Creek that he discussed during the presentation.

12.12.2017 Special Forestry/KVRI Meeting Patty welcomed everyone and explained that the two meetings were combined to allow the Forest Service to explain the new components of the Camp Robin project in more detail to the Forestry Committee and there would be no other opportunity to inform the KVRI Board before the scoping information went out on December 19th. The focus of this meeting will be to look more at the Transportation Analysis and Recreation opportunities in this project.

2018

1.22.2018 The Nature Conservancy Update on Forest Legacy Projects Presentation- Kennon McClintock Kennon McClintock presented a brief update on the Forest Legacy Program sharing a map and location of two projects in Boundary County. One project, comprised of 2500 acres of forestland, is in the Trail Creek/Twenty-Mile area and the other is 2500 acres located in the Hall Mountain Area.

Camp Robin Project One thing they will be looking at in that project is the ATV Trail System in the Camp 9 area. They are looking for public input in terms of how they can manage a trail system that makes sense. Because the project is in a Bears Outside Recovery Zone (BORZ) they consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to consider how many miles of increased motorized access could be created.

Idaho Department of Lands Update-Jonathan Luhn

Jonathan Luhn reported that Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the Governor has requested in their budgets 8 new positions that will be distributed between 3 regions in the State under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). If approved in the legislature it may add 2 positions in this area in the future. He also reported that they have begun harvesting on the second TMDL Shade Rule Project Site in Twenty-Mile.

Fish and Wildlife Service Update- Chip Corsi Chip reported that the fish research crews have been doing their Burbot netting and it has resulted in the highest catch per unit effort they have ever seen so far. It is clearly due to the Tribe's hatchery program.

2.26.2018 Good Neighbor Authority Presentation- Jon Songster, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) 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. 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.

Forestry Committee Update- Doug Nishek, USFS Doug Nishek shared the Camp Robin Recreational Trails Map with the group and explained the ATV Trails Proposal.

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.

Forestry Committee Update- Doug Nishek,

New Forest Supervisor **Jeanne Higgins** has been selected as the New Forest Supervisor on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest starting mid-May 2018. Over-Snow Vehicle Travel

Planning-The analysis for this travel plan is continuing. The Team is working with representatives of user groups, local government, and interested public to help shape this project. This will effectively lead to a winter travel plan for the Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint, and Priest Lake Ranger Districts.

Fish & Game Commission Update- Chip Corsi The 2017 Big Game Season ended with the highest elk harvest in the Panhandle in the last 37 years. The Idaho Fish & Game Department and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho fish crews are talking and moving closer to having the Fish & Game Commission consider a Burbot Season for January 2019.

4.16.2018 2018 Forest Legacy Proposed Project- The Nature Conservancy- Kennon McClintock In the last 10 years approximately 10,000 acres have changed hands from Industrial to Small Woodland ownership. The total acres in the County that are in Conservation Easements are 20,000 acres in Industrial acres and 5,000 acres in small woodland. With all the forestlands in the County it still cannot supply the mills in the county alone.

Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail presentation -Doug Nishek USFS Doug reported that the Forest Service met last Friday with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) and staff, Dan D. (Boundary County Commissioner), representatives from Idaho Conservation League, the Yaak Valley Forest Council, and the Congressional staff to discuss routing alternatives to the Idaho portion of the Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail.

Caribou Update-Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe Wildlife Biologist, updated the Board with the Caribou Census. The annual caribou census only found 3 caribou, down from 11 caribou last year. They were in the Kootenay Peak area on the east side of the Selkirks in BC. , they are now radio collared and confirmed to be all female.

5.21.2018 WAC Committee Update-Patty Perry The WAC committee met with George Shutes, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on May 1st to discuss the future of the wildlife detection system. The system as it stands needs updating and maintenance to meet the needs of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD).

TMDL Committee Update-Patty Perry TMDL Committee met May 15 with Bob Steed and discussed the changes in the Shade Rules affecting Deep Creek and Boundary Creek TMDL's. They also reviewed the 2016 Addendum of the Assessment of Water Quality in Kootenai River and Moyie River Subbasins (TMDL).

Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail Update-Patty Perry Patty reported that the Tribe has spent time with partners in Montana and they have produced a map of the proposed reroute that joins with what the Idaho folks proposed..... Scott S. and Norm M. have created a complete re-route map for KVRI tonight. It became apparent that to be able to make any significant change to the trail route it would take a congressional effort.

6.18.2018 Kootenai/Moyie Subbasin TMDL Update Presentation: Robert Steed, IDEQ, Surface Water Ecologist Patty reported that Bob Steed of IDEQ and the TMDL Subcommittee have been working together to develop and review the 2018 Addendum pertaining to the lower Kootenai River TMDL for Boundary Creek and Deep Creek.

Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project Update- Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Fish & Wildlife this is a multi-year restoration program. Treatments are designed to restore habitat and the food web; Sue added that there are stations throughout the river that are monitoring stations for the sonic tagged fish that track from Kootenai Falls to Kootenay Lake. They get a good picture of what the fish are doing and their migratory pathways. She also reported that Idaho Fish & Game have been doing reference site monitoring and electrofishing for other species and rainbow trout have increased as well. Another exciting aspect that we've been seeing is Kokanee moving into the newly created/enhanced side channels. Most Burbot do not have sonic tags but the recapture information indicates that they are also using most of the habitat. Chip also added that the Kootenai River in the last ten years has really become a good trout fishery and the Habitat projects are a part of that as well as the nutrient restoration program.

2018 Kootenai River White Sturgeon, Libby Dam Operations, Greg Hoffman, USACE The USACE developed a Flow Plan Implementation Protocol (FPIP), and every spring the Tribe, Idaho, Montana, USFWS, BPA, US Temperature management uses selective withdrawal system (gates) and it is exciting to report that the temperature management is working. They are able to maximize temperature which will maximize growing season. GS, and Canada work together to plan flow operations for sturgeon spawning and rearing.

7.16.2018 City Wide Bike and Pedestrian Planning Effort Presentation: Lisa Ailport, AICP, City Administrator, City of Bonners Ferry Lisa addressed the subject of Mobility Planning in respect to transportation, biking and pedestrian facilities. Mobility, in all forms, increases opportunities and economic vitality of a community.

Trails and Walking Paths Boundary County Presentation: Dennis Weed, Director Boundary County Economic Development (BEDC) Dennis Weed, Director of Boundary County Economic Development gave his presentation on the Trails and Walking Paths of Boundary County. Dennis explained that 9B Trails initially started out under economic development as he saw the need in other communities and how trails fit into the overall economic development of a community. It became its own entity with Eric Anderson as president

Bog Creek Update- Rhonda Vogl shared that the Tribe, the City and the County put in a request for an extension of time for commenting and it was granted. We have until July 31 to submit comments.

Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail Update: Rhonda Vogl shared that there is ongoing discussion for a reroute of the trail. The concerns include; BMU, motorized access, and

high trail use. A southern route is being proposed and there is a lot of dialogue going on with a lot of parties involved.

Idaho Fish & Game Commission Update: Chip Corsi Idaho Department of Fish & Game has met with the Tribe and the Council **is supportive and voted to move ahead with plans for a Burbot fishery.** Rulemaking on that will occur at the F&G Commission's meeting in November.

9.17.2018 Fleming Creek Fire - A Cooperative Success-Ken Homik, Fire Warden , Idaho Department of Lands He explained the IDL Fire Policy is very clear. Objective is to maintain an effective and aggressive fire readiness organization to suppress fire in the incipient state. They are an aggressive initial attack fire agency. They like to put them out small. There being a lot of resources at risk aided in their ability to gain resources as needed as quickly as they did. He explained how they divided the fire into two divisions, created a structure protection group, and showed where the staging areas were established.

Update on Riverside Road Project- Dianna Ellis- Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Federal Lands Access Project

- Aug 8- they had 2 public meetings
- Biggest concern from the community is the 4 hour closures that could occur with this project
- 2020 construction year
- Federal Highways expects a 70 % design in December and another public meeting will take place

10.15.2018 Cabinet Mountains Grizzly Bear Augmentation Program Presentation (Current Bear Management News, Capture & Monitoring results from the Selkirk Mountains) : Wayne Kasworm, Grizzly Bear Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Genetics testing is providing useful information to support the efforts in the recovery plan. Hair samples from captures, rub trees and corrals with cameras result in species, sex individual genotype and parentage information. It helps to evaluate changes in genetic diversity over time, document gene flow and effective linkage in support of eventual delisting for both the Selkirks and the Cabinet -Yaak area.

Burbot Program Major Milestones, Shawn Young, Aquaculture Manager for KTOI Shawn explained that biologically the fish aren't mixing as readily as they had anticipated so they are going to treat them as two populations to rebuild through the hatchery program simultaneously. **The target in the Kootenai River is still 17,500 spawning adults and in the Lake will be 20,000 spawning adults. The hatchery operations will support both of those objectives simultaneously.**

WAC Committee Meeting update, Kennon McClintock Kennon M. reported that the committee agreed to sell the radar back to Bryce Sloan, the system has been taken down, and the money received will go to the ITD for maintenance on the signs they have

Boulder Creek Update, Kevin Knauth Kevin K. reported that one objection was received, it went through the panel at the Regional office, with no instruction to make any changes. A decision should be signed on Friday or early next week.

11.19.2018 Southern Mountain/South Selkirk Caribou Management Plan Overview Presentation : Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Discussion followed concerning the long term plan for genetic integrity; the need for human intervention in management, natural reproduction in maternal pens, herd and individual movement, the risk of capture without snowpack, and future funding. Norm stated that to get the animals captured and moved to Columbia North population is all funded at this time.

WAC Committee Update: Rhonda Vogl

- Signed purchase agreement for \$4000 for the Wildlife Detection Sign
- The sign made it to Boise but the radar and camera got left in ITD shop. She is working on getting those to Bryce Sloan.
- The Nature Conservancy will hold those funds and use them for maintenance and batteries on the existing wildlife warning signs.

Fish and Game Commission Update- Chip Corsi The Commission approved the Burbot Fishery Season to start Jan 1, 2019. Congrats to everyone.

2019

1.12.2019 Co-Chair, David Sims opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed. After introductions KVRI Happy Birthday Huckleberry Crunch was served.

Kennon McClintock, The Nature Conservancy, reviewed the goals of the Forestry Legacy Program and explained how Conservation Easements work:

The reasons that Conservation Easements are so important in Boundary County are:

Most of the logs (80%) that source our regional mills come from private forestlands. In Boundary County, we do not have a lot of private land and we are losing private forestland to rural subdivision and home sites.

Forestland drops out of the timber base once it becomes 10 acres or less.

Immigration into Idaho is at an all-time high.

Eric Anderson, President of 9B Trails Association, shared the update on the projects their group is focusing on at the present time.

Kootenai River Trail

Ultimate goal is to build a trail from Bonners Ferry along the Kootenai River to Moyie Springs

Farnsworth Property

Entered into a 30 year lease with 9B trails with Al Farnsworth to develop non-motorized trails on his property

North Hill Project

The vision for this piece is an introduction to Mountain Biking

Forestry Updates- Doug Nishek*Camp Robin*

- Objection period is closing Jan 15
- Will address objections as needed
- First Sale- Camp Stew - 15mmbf - Summer 2019
- Second Sale - Robin Hood - 6mmbf - Fall 2019

Boulder Creek

- Decision was signed in late October
- First sale is a GNA sale with the State, Black Boulder GNA - 5 mmbf - out in the spring.

Senator Crapo's Office Update-Karen Roetter

Karen R. shared her update on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) news.

Increased CFLR funding in the Farm Bill from 40 million to 80 million
Approved through FY2023

Idaho Department of Fish & Game Update - Chip Corsi

Chip C. reported that they have interviewed 80 anglers and **checked 24 fish since the opening of the Burbot Fishery on Jan. 1, 2019.** The largest fish was reported to be about 6-7 lbs, with most fish in the 16-20 inches range. North 40 in Ponderay has reported an increase in people stopping in to purchase Burbot gear for fishing as has Far North in Bonners Ferry.

2.25.2019

Fleming Creek Clean Water Act: Section 319 Grant Project- Cassie Olson, Boundary Soil Conservation Cassie Olson from Boundary Soil Conservation presented an update on the Fleming Creek Project.

- Located in District 5, Fleming Creek Road, 6 miles north of Bonners Ferry
- To restore fish passage, replace some culverts
- Broke ground on November 26 and it was completed in a week and a half

WAC Update-Rhonda Vogl Rhonda reported the sale of the animal detection sign that was on the highway and payment has been received from Sloan Security Group. Total received

was \$4000. The funds will be managed by The Nature Conservancy and used for maintenance and batteries on the warning signs used on the highway.

TMDL Update-Rhonda Vogl

- TMDL meeting on February 7 with Bob Steed and the committee
- Charlie Holderman, Ecosystem Project manager for the Tribe, gave a presentation of the nutrient program on the Kootenai River
- Bob Steed reported a call for data from EPA but it was determined we would not be giving additional data at the moment
- The 2016 Integrated Report as not yet been approved by EPA
- Spring Monitors will be going back out; Bob will be bringing monitors, cables and a laptop for use by the Citizens monitoring team

Kennon reported that Idaho is the 8th largest lumber producer in the country, Oregon is first and Washington is second. He also shared that Canadian forest product companies own about 60% of the lumber mills in the U.S.

Forestry Update-Kevin Knauth

- Camp Robin
- Bog Creek
- Grouse BMU
- Winter Travel Planning on North Zone-EIS
- Update on Timber sale offering in Bonners Ferry District
- Farm Bill/CFLRP update

McArthur Lake Update--- Norm Merz and Evan DeHamer

Norm began with a brief explanation to address the potential for misunderstanding about pending management actions at McArthur Lake. He stated Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) routinely draw down their wetlands to aerate the soil and allow vegetation treatments. McArthur Lake is in that rotation.

Fish and Game Commission Update- Norm Merz

Burbot update:

- IDFG have talked to about 550 anglers
- Calculated out about 1950 hours of fishing time for Burbot

- Satisfaction is high; success rate is low
- Data still coming in; no harvest rates or numbers, yet

Big Game Season Update:

National Wildlife Refuge-Alice Hanley

Construction work starting this summer to replace the Myrtle Creek Pump in July. Construction is expected to last through September.

3.18.2019

Email from Congressman Russ Fulcher-Rhonda Vogl

Rhonda read an email from the Congressman about the Camp Robin project decision congratulating KVRI and the Forest Service on their efforts to improve the forests, lands, and recreational areas.

4.15.2019 Sherrie's Retirement Cake was served.

Introduction to Stimson Lumber Company Presentation: Britt Madison, Idaho Manager for Stimson Lumber

Britt Madison began working for Stimson Lumber about 29 years ago. At that time Stimson had 75,000 acres and it has grown to approximately 580,000 acres located in Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Forestry Committee Update-Kevin Knauth

- Camp Robin Project
- Boulder Project
- Caribou/Snow Project
- Bog Creek
- Over Snow Vehicle Travel- Kevin Knauth
- Winter Travel Planning on North Zone
- Prescribed Burning
- Black Mountain Lookout Tower

CLFRP Update:

The project area will have 2 additional years of funding for FY20 and FY21

Correspondence:

Work is underway on replacing the Swinging Bridge at Kootenai Falls

5.20.2019 2019 Sturgeon Operations Review; Presented by Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers - Libby Dam

Discussions as to Sturgeon recovery with flow and temperature. How much relies upon Tribe's efforts? Fish from early 90s just getting to spawning age. We are no longer in the dark. It is not all about flow. It is about habitat too. Discussion of lifespan of Sturgeon - one hundred plus. Sturgeon only spawn every four years. Hatchery fish are making spawning movements.

TMDL Sub-committee Update- Rhonda Vogl

- Kootenai Tribe had Informal discussion with EPA about the Temperature TMDL for Lower Kootenai & Moyie River Subbasin. Discussed new shade curves and PNV. Sounds like it will be approved by EPA in the very near future.
- DEQ submitted the TMDL but it has not yet been received by EPA

7.15.2019 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project - Nutrient Program - Charlie Holderman, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Charlie, a Biologist with the Kootenai Tribe since 1999, presented on this project which began in 1994. Program is managed by the Kootenai Tribe Fish & Wildlife Department Discussion was had regarding the overly high levels of nutrients found in most rivers. Carol Kriebs, Environmental Director for the Kootenai Tribe, discussed the benefits that may be seen when/if the Libby Dam is able to begin releasing from the bottom door versus the top. It is hoped that current efforts to dredge the area around the door will result in its functionality and will reduce the amount of flushing of nutrients currently being seen.

Forestry Committee Update:

Kevin Knauth, USFS discussed ongoing projects

Westside Road Restoration project is in the planning stages. Data is being collected this summer with a possible November scoping and a draft decision by July 2020. Final Decision likely in

- Grouse BMU road project in objection period. Objections will be accepted until August 5th.
- Prescribed burn in the Buckskin project area may be implemented in late August this year.

TMDL update:

Rhonda Vogl KVRI Facilitator noted we received a letter from the EPA approving The TMDL for the lower Kootenai and Moyie Subbasins

Chip Corsi - Idaho Fish and Game

Reported 4 more animals out of Libby, MT tested positive Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Special Meeting 8.1.2019 Proposal Discussed: Collaboration with Panhandle Forest Collaborative and Shoshone-Benewah on the upcoming new CFLR funding opportunity via one application.

9.23.2019 Chronic Wasting Disease – Micah Ellstrom, Regional Wildlife Manager, Idaho Fish & Game

Moyie Dam – 2019 Silt removal Project – Mike Klaus, Engineer, City of Bonners Ferry. In 2017 it was noted that the penstock was blocked by accumulating silt.

Forestry: On August 14, there was a Field Trip for the Westside Restoration Project which was well attended by approximately 32 people and represented a cross section of stakeholders as the project area represents many landowners. The field trip covered areas for the project with an emphasis on overall resilience of water sheds, reducing fuel and recreational use of the areas. This is a CFLR project.

Rhonda Vogl discussed the WAC (Wildlife Auto Collision) Subcommittee meeting held on August 22nd. George Shutes provided input on the various road projects.

Merrit Horsmon provided information on underpass usage. Chart handouts reflect the high use of underpasses located north of Bonners Ferry.

Other efforts to reduce animal/auto collisions include wildlife warning signs that George Shutes was placing on our highways this month.

CFLR Tier One proposal was submitted and the information needed was more complex than was originally thought. The effort with Shoshone-Benewah and Panhandle Forest will include a MOA.

Christy Johnson-Hughes, US Fish and Wildlife Service stated that they had signed the final version of the White Sturgeon Revised Recovery Plan.

10.21.2019 Sue Ireland and several members of the project team presented on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project. Potential Future Projects: *Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge* – Upper Meander Reach/Deep Creek Area. *Boundary Smith Wildlife Area* – 3 potential project opportunities

Chip Corsi of IDFG: Chronic Wasting Disease sampling is in full swing with big game season. Check stations for Elk were done and next is Deer. It is requested that if the public sees a suspicious animal that they let Fish and Game know. Libby continues to find CWD positive animals.

11.18.2019 , Dan acknowledged the 11 years of support that Sid Smith of Senator Jim Risch's office has provided KVRI and offered appreciation on behalf of the KVRI board

Dan opened the meeting by letting the group know that the subcommittee for Grizzly Bear had met and that they saw the presentation by Wayne Kasworm. One of the topics the

committee will pursue, going forward, is a way they can work within agency guidelines to create a process to notify people when there is a bear that could get into trouble.

Wayne Kasworm, of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak **Grizzly Bear Monitoring** and Cabinet Mountain Augmentation

Scott Soultz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, presented information on the recent installation of animal-resistant heavy-duty trash receptacles at local boat ramps accomplished by the Kootenai Tribal Wildlife Program and Boundary County Waterways Board.

TMDL Subcommittee update provided by Rhonda Vogl. Overwhelmingly it was agreed that this historical data is very important especially as it pertains to climate change issues. DEQ has promised to preserve this data for future use.

Sid Smith of U.S. Senator Jim Risch's Office provided the information that last week the Senator signed on as a co-sponsor for Savannahs Act

2020

1.13.2020: John Ailport was introduced as the presenter. John is a consulting forester out of Sandpoint with Inland Forest Management (IFM). His presentation was on the Firesafe Program. When the program was first started in 2001 the focus was on defensible spaces for individual homes. The first grants were from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) & Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)

Kevin Knauth and Anita Hanson reviewed the annual Community Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) report as well as the report on ecological indicators. 10 years ago, the group applied for a twelve-million-dollar grant for use over a period of 10 years to help speed up the pace of restoration. The end of that period is approaching, but annual reports are still due that outline what was accomplished for the year towards the 10-year goal for each project.

She reviewed accomplishments in the following areas:

- Aquatic Organism Passages
- Forest Vegetative
- Non-Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) Fuels and Fuels Burning
- Noxious Weed Control
- Timber Sale Treated Areas
- Road Decommissioning

- Targets for Bioenergy and Firewood
- Timber Volume Sold
- Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)
- Trails and Recreation Improvement and Maintenance
- Stream Habitat
- Restoration around High Mountain Lakes

Kevin Knauth provided update on the following:

- Westside Road Restoration Project is in the scoping phase
- Bog Creek should have a decision signed by the end of this month
- Trout/Ball Creek has been delayed

Winter travel planning for the entire North Summit of the Idaho Panhandle is part of the Forest Service consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service. It is expected that the decision date will be FY2023. The delay in the finalization of this is attributed to the priority of bringing Bear Management Units into compliance.

Grizzly Bear Subcommittee Dan Dinning mentioned the need to discuss the phone tree and notification process at the Grizzly Bear Meeting. It was noted that it is less than three months before we may start seeing Bears.

2.10.2020: Presentations: Brandon Glaza presented on the 100-year climate review using data gathered from the Priest River Experimental Forest. This was one of the first places for predictive fire behavior models. The weather station has been in the same spot since 1916. This information is unique in that the data has been consistently gathered from the same place for 100 years and represents a significant opportunity to trend weather.

Kathleen Trever of Idaho's Attorney General's Office, attorney for The Department of Fish and Game, was introduced and presented information on the Grizzly bear status review and the upcoming recovery plan revision.

The current developments she shared are:

- The Greater Yellowstone Grizzly population has been delisted twice but it is back on the Endangered Species list by court order.
- There is an appeal pending and within the next year there should be a court decision.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife is required to review the status of listed species every 5 years.

- The last comment period for Grizzly was done in 2011, they expect this one to be complete no later than March, 2021.

Grizzly Bear Subcommittee meeting will be held with the sole purpose being to engage the public in the creation of a citizen's-based phone tree. It is hoped that the continued movement towards living safely with bears can help in the delisting. It was agreed that the issues our community faces with human/bear conflicts involve both black bear and grizzly.

3.16.2020 *Meeting Cancelled due to Covid*

4.20.2020 *Meeting Cancelled due to Covid*

5.18.2020 *Meeting Cancelled due to Covid*

6.15.2020: This meeting was held over a conference dial in line due to the in-person restrictions in place for Covid. There was no presentation but updates were given.

Forestry Subcommittee: Kevin Knauth provided an update on the Westside Restoration Project.

- Scoping was in December and was allowed to run through January.
- Specialists are now taking proposed actions and doing the analysis
- Scoping will help refine the proposed actions that are analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

TMDL: Rhonda Vogl updated that there was a meeting via telephone in April to address a consultation invitation by Idaho DEQ to change the status of the Kootenai and Moyie Subbasin TMDL.

EPA approved the shade rule largely, in part, due to the stellar job of our citizens monitoring group, the three amigos, Kevin Greenleaf, Dave Wattenbarger and Jerry Garten. Because KVRI is the watershed advisory group, Bob Steed brought the change of status to the subcommittee. Rhonda sent an email to run this by the KVRI board and is now wanting to make sure that this is in the minutes.

Grizzly Bear: Rhonda Vogl shared that there were 3 meetings held prior to the COVID shut down at which time we were trying to hammer out a good alert system for the community. The Nixle system alerted about a problem bear that was getting into unprotected bee boxes recently.

Sue Ireland brought information to the group regarding coal mining activity in the headwaters of the transboundary Kootenai River: As a result of coal mining activity by Teck Resources, which operates five large metallurgic coal mines in British Columbia in the headwaters of the Kootenai Basin, increasing amounts of contaminants are being detected downstream of the mines in the Kootenai River watershed. Elevated Selenium levels are of concern.

Idaho Fish & Game updated that collaring of deer, elk, moose, wolves, black bears and lions is ongoing for the purpose of gathering information about predator prey relationships

The mortality rate of collared moose is higher than we expected to see; appears parasites, to include ticks, a major factor.

CWD – Montana took a forensic look at the disease spread and estimated that it has been there approximately 10 years.

Johnathan Luhnaw of Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) was commended for the work on Peterson Hill by Dan Dinning.

New Business _ Rhonda Vogl stated that a KVRI website is in development by Karen Schumacher

Approval for this is being run by the KVRI board tonight. Currently the site for KVRI information is available to the public on the Kootenai Tribe site. It is starting to bog down a bit. This will also be brought to the Tribe council for approval.

9.21.2020: Virtual Meeting done via Zoom

Jeff Lau, Coordinator for North Idaho Shared Stewardship was introduced as the presenter. Jeff focused his presentation on the North Idaho landscape which is approximately two million acres in size. Approximately 51% is privately owned, 41% is publicly owned and 8% is combined Tribal and other. This highlights the need to coordinate with our cross-boundary partners for meaningful, measurable outcomes across the landscape.

Tim Dougherty supported the use of shared stewardship and gave the Westside Restoration Project that includes the Caribou and Snow Creek as a real good example for focus.

Forestry Update – Kevin Knauth Of note is the completion of the work done on 20-mile road up to Black Mountain and over to Boulder Meadows which is a vast improvement and all are encouraged to take a trip up to see.

10.19.2020: Mitch Doherty of Vital Ground was introduced as the presenter. Mitch explained that Vital Ground's mission is to protect and restore North America's grizzly bear populations by conserving wildlife habitat, and by supporting programs that reduce conflicts between bears and humans.

The project, called the Kootenai Valley Linkage Project, involving the Hubbard farmland of over 1000 acres, has several goals including:

- Secure habitat within a wildlife movement corridor between the Purcell, cabinet and Selkirk mountains for a wide range of wildlife species.
- Protect over 1,000 acres of prime agricultural soils.

- Protect and support restoration of over 8,000 feet of riparian area along the Kootenai river.

Mitch explained the benefits to landowners of utilizing the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE), designed to protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. It is thought the current project can act as a catalyst for other agricultural producers in the valley to take advantage of the money available through the Farm bill that supports the protection of ag land and puts money back in the pockets of the landowners.

W.A.C. (Wildlife Auto Collision) subcommittee met on September 29th via zoom. The McArthur Lake realignment project was discussed.

Grizzly bear subcommittee meeting was on October 13 via zoom at which the success of the Nixle alert system was reviewed and the development of a phone tree system was discussed.

Robert Akins, Idaho Fish & Game Shared yearly underpass totals show a high volume of white tail and elk in other underpasses and the belief is that the fencing for the third pass is too short and extending it will encourage the animals to use that third underpass more.