

BITTERROOT RESTORATION COMMITTEE (BRC)

July 27, 2009

Session Summary

SESSION OBJECTIVES

1. Review the draft annual Report article.
2. Review and move forward with ongoing Committee work.
3. Identify next steps related to the Darby Lumber Lands project.
4. Affirm the calendar.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Wayne Hedman Mike Jeffords Gary Milner Paul Moore
Ron Porter Adam Rissien Kirk Thompson
Virginia Tribe - Facilitator

TECHNICAL ADVISORS/OBSERVERS

Dave Bull Dave Campbell Julie King
Dan Ritter Ed Snook Ruth Wooding

COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS

“Ratifying” the June 2009 Meeting Summary:

Restoration Committee members approved the June 22 meeting summary with the following edits and caveats:

- On page 1, “Report from Committee Co-Chairs” first paragraph, second sentence should read:
“Another local Restoration Committee may be added in the Flathead Swan area – bringing the total to 4 with the Bitterroot, Lincoln, and Lolo.”
- The Committee recognizes that future discussion about access options will take place as the Forest Service gathers additional on-the-ground data and moves closer to the actual project.

Report from Committee Co-Chairs

Adam did not have items to report beyond the earlier discussion regarding the BRC’s new’s release. Bill is still in Alaska.

Ongoing Committee Work

- Committee members approved the Butterfly Creek Project news release drafted by Adam. Based on the discussion, he will include Committee member names where appropriate. Adam will distribute the news release and report any response at the next meeting.
- The Committee approved the BRC information drafted by the facilitator to be forwarded to the MFRC for their 2009 Annual Report.
- Wayne presented the draft bio-mass paper he drafted for the Committee review. After discussion, the Committee decided that they were not ready at this point to weigh in on the bio-mass issue – nor did they consider the bio-mass issue fleshed out enough to lead to a consensus statement by the BRC. The Committee stated their appreciation for Wayne's efforts and agreed to monitor the issue and revisit it when it seems appropriate.
- Adam reported that the MFRC's request regarding mixed conifer/mixed severity fire regimes was connected to their own efforts.

Next Steps for the Darby Lumber Lands; Other Potential Project Areas

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the following:

- Steve and Paul will work with Dave and Chuck to draft a Committee letter in support of Regional funding for Darby Lumber Lands projects.
- The Committee affirmed their desire to work with the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team on a Darby Lumber Lands project.
- The Committee identified the following as next steps regarding the Darby Lumber Lands:
 - Help evolve a management concept for the Darby Lumber lands area.
 - Identify potential project areas within those lands and develop a collaborative framework that supports the suggested management concept.
 - Start to think about treatments and products to support the concept.
- Kirk volunteered to evaluate other possible project areas on the Forest that the Committee could work on following or in concurrence with the Darby Lumber Lands.

Where do we go from here?

- The facilitator reported that she is not able to attend the scheduled August Committee meeting. Committee members agreed to cancel the August meeting and scheduled their next session for Monday, September 21.
- It was suggested that the Committee invite Cindy Swanson from the Forest Service and a representative from the Wilderness Society to a future meeting to present mapping/prioritizing approaches and how they might assist this Committee.