

LINCOLN DISTRICT WORKING GROUP

November 13, 2008

9:00-11:00 AM

Ponderosa's

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Becky Garland-Lincoln, Amber Kamps - USFS, Brian, Al Christopherson - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Scott Brennon - The Wilderness Society, Phil Henault- Rancher, Ken Pearson - PML, Brent Anderson - MLA - Logging, John Goroch - Newmont Mining, Mike Grimes-Lincoln, Jim Paris - Lincoln Community Council, Laurie Maughan - Lincoln, Brian Kahn - facilitator, Debbie Cuyle -Note taker

Introductions were made.

Brian Kahn explained his role as facilitator and informed the group that he uses a goal oriented approach in facilitation.

Principles and Implementation Guidelines: There was discussion of the Montana Restoration Committee Principles and Implementation Guidelines and confirmation of personal support for and comfort with the principles. Principles are intended to be additive and focused to expand the scope of the Forest Service to get work done on the ground and represent a zone of agreement between everyone's individual principles. The question was asked of the group; do you support Restoring Montana's National Forest Lands restorative committee and the booklet of principles? **Everyone agreed they could live with the principles.**

Establishment of Group's Ground rules and code of conduct:

Brian reviewed some ground rules for the group and explained several options for decision methods. **After discussion everyone in the group agreed to use the Consensus decision method of thumbs up, down, and sideways. The group also agreed to the ground rules and code of conduct discussed.**

Principle #10 in the booklet was reviewed. The question was asked; were the groups that oppose pretty much everything the Forest Services does invited to join this collaborative group? Brian stated that they were invited but declined to participate. Scott added in his experience, the presence of multiple organizations brought discussion and understanding and hold more leverage than one agency. A collaborative effort will help the Forest Service put forth a less controversial project and conflicts can be identified early in the process. Politics of a project are different if a collaborative effort has taken place; it is easier to attack one agency versus a diverse group.

Members of the group were asked if they were comfortable with acting as individuals vs. their organizational representation. **Everyone in the group was comfortable with being action as individuals.**

Discussion regarding having a Chairperson or Co-chairs was discussed. It was agreed that the group would like co-chairs. KD Feeback was nominated as co-chair and will be asked if he would agree to it. Gabe Furshong was also nominated as a co-chair; if Gabe declines, Scott will consider it. The Co-Chair discussion will continue at the next meeting after Gabe and KD have been asked. Co-chairs will need to work together and provide sequential leadership for the group. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Visitors/guests: There were no concerns with having visitors or guests at these meetings at this time. **The group agreed that the co-chairs would be the appropriate contacts to talk with the media.**

Brian suggested the group use their "trap-line" (people they respect in their circle of contacts) to share the issues being discussed by the Working Group, and get their impressions and thoughts, and share those with the Working Group.

Minutes? Notes? (This was not discussed and will be brought up at the next meeting)

Is this group balanced and sufficiently diverse? Brian asked the group if they felt the group was balanced and sufficiently diverse. If not, what should be the qualifications for potential invitees and who should be considered for participation? The group was asked to think about this question to be discussed at the next meeting. The list of people who were not in attendance was reviewed. It was decided to discuss whether absent members should be allowed to continue as part of the working group after a determined number of absences. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Qualifications for potential invitees: honest, don't think they know everything, can listen, honorable people.

Meeting time and date of meetings: These meetings currently are scheduled for each 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:00, the next one being **December 11th at 8:00 AM** in Lincoln, (place to be determined later). The group will discuss meeting time and dates at the next meeting.

Discussion of project development and selection process:

Montana restoration committee met last week, Amber stated that the Regional Forester stated that when this group gets a project, he wants to fund it. Scott explained a scoring sheet used on the Lolo for projects. He will e-mail this scoring sheet to the group to use for future projects. Amber was asked to use these scoring sheets for any potential projects she may have in the pipeline. Can those projects legitimately fit MT Restoration Guidelines? Are they restoration projects? Scott stated that the easier projects are in a community protection zone, are in a visible corridor and the best projects are ones that fit the principles.

Brent Anderson suggested a road trip for the next meeting December 11th, the first half of the day will be a road trip of areas agreed to by the committee via e-mail between now and then, and the second half of the day will be discussion. Brent and Mike will organize the field trip.

Homework for the group:

- Communication will start by e-mail where each person on the committee will suggest areas of concern for a project
- Scott will e-mail the scoring sheet for projects to the group.
- The group will look at the sheet Scott will e-mail out to determine if the project fits the criteria.
- Brent and Mike will coordinate a field trip for the next meeting starting at 8:00 A.M. of the areas that overlapped in the e-mails.
- Scott will e-mail the two Helena IR articles along with the criteria scoring sheet to the group.
- Scott will talk to Gabe regarding being a co-chair – (I spoke with Gabriel Furshong regarding the co-chair question and he said that he would **not** be able to serve.)
- Brian will talk with KD Feedback regarding being a co-chair
- The group is to think about more diverse individuals that would be good for this group and discuss at the next meeting.

Draft Agenda for December 11, 2008 8:00 A.M. meeting

- **Project areas field trip**
- **Co-chairs**
- **Minutes? Notes?**
- **Is this group balanced and sufficiently diverse? Suggestions**
- **Meeting time and date of meetings**
- **Absent participants - How many meetings absent before taken off the group list?**

Adjourned 11:20