

Meeting Notes
Lolo Restoration Committee
April 14, 2009—6:00 -8:30 pm
MonTEC Building, 1121 E. Broadway

Members present - Larry Westcott, Bev Dupree, Julia Altemus, Scott Brennan, Brian Kahn, Marnie Criley, Mark Vander Meer, Matt Arno, Jake Kreilick, Eric Norris, Earl Reinsel, Hank Goetz, Al Christopherson.

Guests – Debbie Austin, Tim Love, Bob Harrington, Jim Burchfield, Chris Partyka, Sharon Sweeney, Tom DeLuca.

--Report from Westside Group—

The South Fork of Fish EA should be out the week of May 4. The group met with the Ninemile Ranger and ID team to discuss the project and monitoring. They also hope to meet with area landowners regarding monitoring.

Wood Gulch field trip in the works. Bev, Jake and Bob L. met with the Woods Gulch ID team to identify the project area boundaries and restoration opportunities.

--Report from Eastside Group—

Discussion & vote on Auggie EA comment letter:

p. 5 – possibility of replacing the term “improvement cutting” with something that would better fit in or be more consistent with the principles, such as “selection process.”

Vote on the letter: all “thumbs up.” – approved. Auggie is now the first project out. This is a significant step for the group and provides a good template for future projects to establish detail and communication to the FS.

--Agenda Addition: Bob H.--

Bob Harrington met earlier with the EWG to discuss other efforts going on in the state that could have an impact on LRC/EWG or enable participation.

3 current/on-going efforts:

* State & Private Forestry: Redesign Competitive grants. States compete for the grants. Montana has done well competing with different western states, and there is an annual process to get those funds. <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/>

Link to the informational booklet Bob passed around during the meeting:

http://www.stateforesters.org/2008_Redesign_Report_Card

*National Fire Plan – fuels reduction. Montana received \$2million from the FS emergency fire supplemental bill.

*Stimulus funds – Fuels is a big area that we are competing for.

--Review and vote on LRC Charter—

Pending 2 changes – the conflict of interest statement from the MFRC charter and moving #1 under membership down, the charter vote was: thumbs-up. **We have a charter!**

--Report from Executive Committee/adding Jake as a member—

Media – If and when anyone from the committee sees anything “newsworthy” on the horizon, regarding the MFRC or RC’s, bring it to the attention of the executive committee. We want to have as much lead time as possible before an event takes place – so once you know of something, contact the Exec. Committee to let them know, with as much detail as possible, what you want to say or do and who should be contacted, so it can then be circulated to the group. We don’t want media to get in the way of our collaborative process. So, “take-home” messages of media are: *As much lead time as possible. *nothing without consensus. *best spokesperson to speak for the issue as possible. *Keep FS in the “loop” and let them know that media will be coming out on an LRC issue.

Auggie – one area that we can begin to think about in terms of media.

Jake – submitted his statement and the Executive Committee gave an all thumbs up as well as the LRC – *Welcome Jake!*

--Discussion about Auggie monitoring with Jim Burchfield, Univ. of Montana--

Monitoring – bringing in students to work on the monitoring will enable the LRC to utilize the resources at the University to get meaningful results/data to see if the treatments are actually working as well as being able to reduce costs in the process. It will also be a great opportunity/experience for the students.

There are about 600 undergrad students in the forestry program – so pending their various stages within the program and taking pre-requisites, there would be about 100 students able to participate in the monitoring at a given time. There is also the forestry camp during the summer and there has been some discussion at the university of making Fridays free from classes to allow students to participate in field work and off-campus opportunities (but if this does happen, it may not be for a while).

There is also an opportunity to involve the Recreation students. They are getting involved in middle schools to get kids outside, but there could be interest for recreation impact monitoring.

The University is also able to host the data – to store it as well as make it available to be accessed – such as a webpage that can hold maps, data, images, etc.

--Cedar Thom Presentation – Sharon Sweeney--

Sharon gave a power point presentation on the Cedar Thom project.

****Next Meeting:** June 9 ~ 6-8:30p ~ MAEDC building.