

Lolo Restoration Committee
January 14, 2008
5:30-8:00 PM
Holiday Inn-Parkside

Present: Larry Jakub, Julia Altemus, Len Broberg, Jeff Juel, Mark Vander Meer, Marnie Criley, Cameron Naficy, Beverly Dupree, Denley Loge, Scott Brennan, Larry Westcott, Debbie Austin, Gary Edson, Tim Love, John Manz, Matt Arno, Larry Anderson, Bob Lamley, Earl Reinsel, Hank Goetz, Brian Kahn, Chelsea Pennick

Consensus agreements highlighted in bold.

1. Role of Scientists
 - a. Value in having representation of various/conflicting science
 - b. Proposal to call on scientists as needed, but not sit on committee was approved by consensus**
2. Adequacy of composition of committee
 - a. Possible lack of sportsman/angler interests
 - i. Al Christophersen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was suggested
 - ii. Ray Rugg, chair of Mule Deer Foundation also from west end of Mineral Co. was suggested
 - b. Additional representation from Mineral Co.
3. Process for invitation of additional members
 - a. Denley, Scott, Marnie and Cameron will form subcommittee to evaluate potential members which will be recommended to Committee via email.**
4. Guest participation (invited and not)
 - a. The Committee agreed that guests should be introduced at beginning of meeting, sit outside of "circle" and will be welcome to comment at end of meeting.**
5. USFS project updates, developments
 - a. Garry had a public meeting with landowners in the Fish Creek area, FS came out with a proposed action. Embarking on NEPA analysis, scoping.
 - b. Scoping comment period ends January 23rd.
 - c. Interface of this group and the FS process currently in motion
 - i. FS is concerned with adding components into analysis after NEPA writers begin working on it.
 - ii. However, there is an open window up until then as long as proposal is not too complex or far out of scope.
 - d. Questions from Fish Creek landowners re: who is the MFRC, Lolo RC etc.
 - i. Question/concern was referred to Steering Committee who will be contacting the homeowners association.
6. Subcommittee Caucus Report-out:
 - a. "Scratch Committee":

- i. Thompson Falls/Plains RD: Cube Iron-Silcox and Tepee-Spring (see handout)
- ii. Ninemile RD: S. Fork Petty Creek (see handout)
- iii. Superior RD: Cedar Tom
 - 1. Adjacent to Superior
 - 2. Priority 1 under USFS IRS
 - 3. Watershed scale restoration
 - 4. Six miles of cedar creek recently acquired
 - 5. Write mgmt plan for this area
 - 6. Fish/wildlife habitat
 - 7. Whitebark pine restoration
 - 8. Mining restoration
 - 9. Weeds work
 - 10. Interpretive work
 - 11. Thinning
 - 12. Large project area (40,000 acre analysis area) with a lot of diversity
 - 13. Potential partners: FWP, Historical society, TU
 - 14. Beverly will send email write-up to committee
- iv. Seeley Lake RD: Horseshoe Hills
 - 1. Newly acquired by FS from Plum Creek.
 - 2. Road work
 - 3. Culverts
 - 4. Weeds
 - 5. Thinning
 - 6. Likely large zone of agreement-low hanging fruit
- v. There was considerable discussion about what referral to the Forest Service meant, with the sense of the group being that it is simply identification of areas—not projects or specific goals—that appear to hold the promise of significant restoration opportunities.
- vi. All four areas were approved to propose to the Forest Service by consensus.**
- b. Center Ridge/Auggie:
 - i. Both potentially viable and worth exploring.
- c. S. Fork Fish Creek (Bob, Beverly, Denley, Len, Larry Jakub):
 - i. Strong support for this project, critical locally and regionally for wildlife.
 - ii. Diverse
 - iii. Holds a lot of potential, even given challenges, i.e. Homeowners association, scoping by USFS, etc.
- d. Post-NEPA:
 - i. Upper Lolo
 - ii. Frenchtown/Ninemile
 - iii. Primarily road decommissioning and weed work.

- iv. Exchange of information on post-NEPA projects is not yet complete, and as a result no recommendations for LRC potential action were put forward.
 - e. Rating System
 - i. Larry Anderson developed a rating system which was shared.
 - ii. Jeff suggested a similar alternative rating system that included the ability to rate individual components of a project against a principle.
 - iii. There was concern that there was not enough data to rate these projects.
 - iv. Rating system will be on agenda for next meeting.**
 - v. Jeff will send out his revised rating system.
- 7. Next Steps:
 - a. Auggie, Center Ridge and S. Fork Fish Creek were all approved as initial LRC work efforts. Formation of an Eastside and Westside project working group was approved by consensus.**
 - b. Westside Working Group:** Bob Lamley, Matt, Denley, Beverly, Cameron, Marnie, Mark, Len, Julia, Larry Jakub.
 - c. Eastside Working Group:** Earl, John, Hank, Larry W., Scott, Jeff, Eric?, Larry A.?
- 8. Other:
 - a. Given expressed concerns by LRC members about the impacts of potential restoration efforts on available USFS funding, it was suggested that the MFRC Steering Committee make a presentation to the LRC on their fundraising plans.
 - b. TWS has capability to do a GIS presentation on available data layers on projects, to use in doing project analysis. Scott offered to do a presentation for anyone interested next Wednesday, Jan. 23 in Missoula at RMEF, 12 PM. Scott will send out information to group.
- 9. Next Meeting:
 - a. Doodle for February 11-15