

Meeting Notes
Lolo Restoration Committee
June 9, 2009—6:00 -8:30 pm
MonTEC Building, 1121 E. Broadway

Introductions -

Members – John Manz, Earl Reinsel, Denley Loge, Scott Brennan, Jake Kreilick, Eric Norris, Matt Arno, Bev Dupree, Bob Lamley, & Marnie Criley

Guests – Julia Riber, Debbie Austin, Chelsea Pennick, Garry Edson, Tim Love, Chris Partyka.

Staff – Brian Kahn, Melissa Hayes

Announcements or agenda additions

None.

Facilitated discussion

A. New member proposals

It is a good idea to keep bringing new people into the effort.

New member protocol –

Suggest a potential member. If groups agrees to consider that person, then it goes to Executive Committee (EC). To get a letter from the person stating why they would like to be on the committee and that they are at least thumbs side-ways on the principles. The committee then decides, and brings the decision to the full group.

::Potential New Members::

Jim Burchfield – he has expressed interest in being a member of the group and is actively engaged on the Auggie project. Having him would also be a great opportunity to engage/involve the University. Jim is currently the acting Dean of the School of Forestry and Conservation and would bring a social forestry perspective to the group. He would be a key link and would bring balanced view on a variety of issues – social, environmental, forestry, collaboration, etc.

The group gave Jim a “thumbs-up” – so he will write a letter of interest to the EC.

Rob Roberts – is with Trout Unlimited and has also expressed an interest in joining the LRC. He is active in Westside projects and would bring a fisheries perspective, which is something the group is currently lacking. He also works with the FS and is active in a variety of restoration projects as well as being instrumental in the Cedar Creek project.

Pam Gardiner – Since she retired from the FS, she would be a citizen-at-large, but it would be a great opportunity for her to continue to engage with the group. She is still a member of the MFRC, so to have her on the LRC would add a FS perspective as well as some gender balance.

Since Jim, Rob and Pam have already expressed interest in the LRC, the group gave a “thumbs-up” to have all of them write letters of interest to the EC.

::Additional Member Suggestions::

The group was not opposed to approaching the following people to gauge their interest in the LRC and write a letter to the EC, if they are interested in membership.

Angelo Viveras – from Tri-Con – could represent the logging perspective and he would also build the Westside group. **Denley will talk to him** about his interest in the LRC.

Chuck Keegan – recently retired. Economics background. **Gordy will approach him** about his interest in membership.

Marcie Allen – Executive Director of the Bitterroot Economic Development District and is working on the Mineral County Challenge. She would be a good fit for the group. **Bev will talk to her** about her interest in the LRC.

B. Report from Westside Group

The South Fork of Fish EA is out. Here is the link to the EA:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/projects/index-s-fk-fish-ea.shtml> Comment deadline is July 1. But since the LRC won't meet until Aug., the WWG will write a letter, get consensus and then send to the full LRC for comments/consensus. It will all have to be done through the e-mail – so **make sure to check your e-mail regularly in the coming weeks.**

Public Meeting - June 23 - 6p @ the ranger station to take comments and answer questions. This meeting is 3 weeks into the comments period and 10 days before the close of it.

Woods Marshall project – There have been 2 field trips to date, the boundary has been ID'd, and bullet points have been started for the purpose & need.

Rennick Stark project – located on the west side of the 9-mile valley. This project is in the pre-NEPA stage and is looking to the needs and opportunities in the area then the FS will formulate a proposal and proposed action that will be scoped. A public meeting will be held before the proposed action is announced to gain input. This is a larger project and is partially in the WUI. Economically, bigger projects make more sense and this project had a good transportation system in place and other infrastructure that would help with the cost aspect. Possibility for a field trip in the fall.

The group needs to discuss how many projects it wants to be involved in at one time and how we would be involved in each. We are at the point where the FS is finishing the projects that were in the pipeline when the group was just forming, so from here on out all projects are going to be new and go forward regardless of how involved we decide to be in them.

C. Report from Eastside Group

Good & Bad news to report.

BAD – (which is really not so bad) – Center Ridge is being deferred after looking at funding, workforce, economic viability, etc. Now, Rennick Stark is in its place.

GOOD - The Forest Landscape Restoration Act authorizes appropriations for 10 large scale restoration projects across the country. The Act defines 'restoration' consistent with our principles. So, there is an opportunity to secure a 10 year/\$40 million commitment for restoration projects. 2 projects are selected in each region and the finding comes from the Omnibus. Potential project would be along the southern Crown of the Continent (Seeley, Helena, Swan, etc.). The goal is to link the EWG, Lincoln WG and possibly a group in the Swan to create a proposal to secure funding for projects. In the short term, there is an Ad Hoc group discussing the creation of a proposal.

There is no exact proposal deadline date yet, but starting it now and getting it in early would be a good idea. The proposals are nominated through the Regional Forester, and Tom has already supported the group developing a proposal.

The Wilderness Society signed on to a letter with State Foresters to ensure that this is new money, and not being taken from other areas. The MFRC SC is also going to draft a letter.
Scott - send Brian a copy of the letter.

Auggie - prep is on-going and Jim Birchfield is meeting with the FS about monitoring. The decision notice should be out by the end of the month.

D. Marnie's new role with MFRC/New Chairs for Lolo RC/New Committees

Marnie is the new MFRC Coordinator - which is a ½ time position that looks to the SC & co-chairs for direction. Funding comes from the MFRC Region 1 money and the DNRC is the fiscal agent. Marnie will not be a voting member, but will still be involved, so we are not losing her, just her vote.

New Committees -

The MFRC is looking to form new committees - in the Swan for example. So, as we keep adding FRC's, the Coordinator will be able to provide communication and consistency among the groups, which all function a little differently. Marnie will also be working on a media plan and monitoring (working on the plan that Chelsea started).

New LRC Co-Chairs -

The Executive Committee discussed the importance of having co-chairs for the LRC. Scott Brennan was proposed as one of the Co-chairs, and accepted. Matt Arno was proposed as the second chair, but he declined the offer. Since Scott focuses on the Eastside, it might be good to have a Westside rep. or someone from the Industry perspective. So, the second position is open at the moment. Pam Gardner was suggested as another possibility?

Scott has 2 constraints as a co-chair: first he is funded to work on restoration in areas connected to the S. end of the Bob Marshall, so he could not do work on the west end of the Lolo. So, Scott would not be able to attend Westside meetings, field trips, etc. That would have to fall on the other chair to do. Second, is time. He is willing to be a co-chair, but could not be a chair alone.

Bev will continue to be the chair of the WWG.

Vote on Scott as co-chair (with the idea that we will find a second person to be a co-chair): All Thumbs up (and twinkle fingers).

Group Action: think about who could be the other chair – someone in the room? Someone not here? A new member? We will discuss this further at the Aug. meeting. Some members expressed concern over a new member being a co-chair, but since Pam has been involved, she would be ok. **Marnie will talk to Pam about being a co-chair.**

E. Monitoring update & NFF grant update

We have \$6,000 left. If we don't spend it, we lose it (goes back to the NFF). Could use the money to get help with monitoring on Fish Creek, since there will not be student involvement, like on Auggie. Adam Switalski from Wildlands CPR would do some field monitoring with motion detector cameras – before and after road decommissioning to see the difference in wildlife. The cameras would then be available for other projects to use.

Monitoring is an essential component of restoration, but is underfunded. Marnie hopes to have the monitoring plan that Chelsea started done by the end of the summer. This would provide a larger template or framework for monitoring, which individual projects could tailor to its needs.

The money needs to be spent within the next month or two. July is the 1-year mark for the 2-year grant, and you have to use the first \$7500 before you get the next \$7500.

Other groups have used it to address issues that are barriers to engaging in a collaborative, such as reimbursement for travel, childcare, etc. The intent of the grant is to keep collaboratives going – and enable participants to be fully engaged.

Marnie – will send out the original grant proposal as well as a new proposal for spending the remaining money.

Paying a co-chair – is it an impediment to the group not having a paid co-chair? Scott's time and travel are paid by TWS, so what if the other chair was paid? There are some concerns with that idea, such as once one person gets paid, others want to be paid as well. The dominant view of the SC has been that members don't get paid. Also, the NFF grant intended for the money to be used equitably – not just to fund one person or project. Debbie also read a study that when collaboratives are funded (ie., some members paid), the dynamics have changed and many collapsed. **Debbie will look for this report.**

Extra – Jack Gladstone performing in Mineral Co. on June 28th @ noon.

Next Meetings:

WWG – July 14 ~ 4:30-6p ~ MAEDC Executive conference room.

EWG – Aug. 11 ~ 4:30-6p ~ MAEDC conference room.

LRC – Aug. 11 ~ 6-8:30p ~ MAEDC conference room.

***NOTE:** If you attend the WWG or EWG meetings or are early for a meeting (before 5pm), **please sign in at the front desk of the MAEDC.** Because it is a secured facility, they like to know who is there, & for what – so please sign in!! thank you!!