

Meeting Notes
Lolo Restoration Committee
March 10, 2009—6:00 -8:30 pm
MonTEC Building, 1121 E. Broadway

☞ Introductions ☞

Marnie Criley, Brian Kahn, Eric Norris, Bill Nolan, Randy Hojem, Shane Hendrickson, Tim Love, Scott Brennan, Bev Dupree, Earl Reinsel, Hank Goetz, Chris Partyka, Bob Lamley, Julia Riber, Matt Arno, & Melissa Hayes.

☞ Announcement or Agenda Additions ☞

Larry Anderson was at the EWG meeting, but had to leave early. Given his new position as Denny Rehberg's Field Representative, his involvement with the LRC may change. He wants to remain fully engaged, but just may have to recuse himself from some votes/issues. But with this new position, he will also be able to be an advocate.

Attendance - There are 17 voting members on this committee, so we may need to reach out and talk with some members.

New Members – Jake was never officially invited as a member of the Lolo. If the Charter were approved, Jake would write a statement to the Executive Committee on why he wants to be a member of the Lolo. The Exec. Committee would then take that statement and decide if he should be a part of the Lolo and then it would be put to a vote by the full group.

We should go through this whole process with Jake. Bev made a motion to put his application through.

The understanding of Jake's membership is that if Cameron came back and wanted to be on the committee, then Jake would not be – it is either one or the other, not both.

Voted and approved for Jake's membership to go to the Executive Committee for consideration.

☞ Report from Westside Group ☞

The South Fork ESA will be out in Mid-April.

The group also narrowed down the Missoula scratch project – to Woods Gulch,/Marshall Area. It's on the Missoula District and was a former Plum Creek timber area. In the future it may be managed with the National Rec. area that it borders.

Meeting Notes
Lolo Restoration Committee
March 10, 2009—6:00 -8:30 pm
MonTEC Building, 1121 E. Broadway

Next Step – purpose and need statement for the project.

☞ Report from the Eastside Working Group ☞

The Auggie EA/FONSI will be published March 23. The EWG will take that information and look at their last evaluation. Prior to the next meeting, the group will circulate the final round of comments, the evaluation form, and cover letter.

The group will need about 20 minutes at the next meeting to discuss the evaluation, and LRC members will be asked to look at the docs before that meeting.

The group got a commitment from UM Prof. Jim Burchfield, who will help with pre-treatment monitoring with the Forestry Camp students.

Center Ridge will be the next focus after Auggie and the EWG's from-scratch project is called Horse Cotton.

Since it looks like Auggie might be the first project out, the next meeting should have a media agenda item – to let the media know what the group is doing.

There will be a presentation at the next EWG meeting on the Statewide Interagency Working Group.

- Media -

It would be a good idea to wait through the decision and appeals process before contacting the media, but it would be a good opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the group and mark the milestone. Toward the end of May would be a good opportunity for a media piece. The Executive Committee will discuss a media plan and present it at the next LRC meeting.

☞ Intro. to Sanders County Guests ☞

Randy Hojem (Plains/Thompson Falls District Ranger) and Bill Nolan

Started trying to pull together a collaborative about 3 years ago based off of the Kootenai group, which was doing well. But, they are still looking for something that will work for Sanders Co. There was an initial meeting held in Plains with over 100 people in attendance, but it seemed that over time people became frustrated with the management tasks and wanted to do actual projects. Since what the LRC terms the "Westside group" partially overlaps with their

Meeting Notes
Lolo Restoration Committee
March 10, 2009—6:00 -8:30 pm
MonTEC Building, 1121 E. Broadway

group, Randy & Bill wanted to come see what our group was working on. Julia had presented the principles to their group early on, so they were familiar with what the LRC/MFRC is doing. They have not yet been able to bring a project from beginning all the way through to the end, but they did adopt by-laws, have an executive committee, and meet quarterly. Another issue they are facing is one of balance – there are more resource development representatives than there are environmental reps, so another piece of the capacity issue of the group is to find more people that would balance out the representation.

When Julia presented the principles to the group, it was too soon, so it might be beneficial to have a re-examination or presentation of the principles. Tim could come to the meeting and get people thinking about the principles and how they have helped with projects in the Lolo as well as advocating for consistency across the forest – to get the principles to the west end and get projects through the process.

The next Sanders/Mineral Co. meeting will be May 26.

Action: present the accomplishments of the Lolo RC at the May meeting.

🌀 Future Structure of Lolo 🌀

Where there is genuine local interest, there should be a working group – both to engage that interest and gain local support for projects in that area.

The group considered whether other WG's would become members of the LRC or would just act as an affiliate group? Would they need to have projects approved through the full group?

The first criteria should be at least a thumbs-sideways on the Principles – it is a condition of accepting membership – and projects would be governed throughout the Lolo NF by the principles.

There is a need to develop criteria for membership of people from outside groups, the project review process, what a person/WG needs to do to become a formal part of the LRC. Or, an outside group can decide to just go through the principles and use them as a type of checklist – without actually taking the project through the LRC.

In terms of the LRC, project review for any WG's should still go through the full group. In terms of collaboration, the range of how each committee has been involved differs, but each project is still being designed through the principles.

Meeting Notes

Lolo Restoration Committee
March 10, 2009—6:00 -8:30 pm
MonTEC Building, 1121 E. Broadway

In terms of establishing a true Westside working group, we will present our effort to the Mineral/Sanders Co. group and go from there. For now, the EWG will continue to focus on Seeley District, the "Westside" group will focus on Missoula and Ninemile, but will continue to engage with Cedar Thom.

The full LRC decided to begin meeting every 2 months – so we will meet in April and then in June.

🔗 Request from FireSafe Montana 🔗

FireSafe Montana is a new organization with a 2-fold mission – to work with landowners in the WUI and to work with contractors, community planning organizations, and the public to involve them in learning about fire. The group is looking to create local fire safe councils around the state – with the goal of having a council in each county in Montana. There will be a meeting in Missoula, and the organization is looking for co-sponsors – one of which could be the LRC?

Because the LRC has never sponsored anything before and there are not many people at this meeting to vote, and the sensitivity with using the LRC name, the group decided that it was not a good idea to use the LRC as a co-sponsor.

🔗 Report from Monitoring WG & OHV WG 🔗

- Monitoring -

The monitoring group met last week – they are working on a broad monitoring document that provides guidelines and suggestions based on the principles that restoration committees can use as a template. There is an acknowledgement that each project will have different monitoring pieces but this document can provide overarching ideas and questions to think about. Hopefully, they will have something to present to the full LRC at the next meeting.

- OHV -

Having a project just based on OHV is a lot easier than having it tied to a larger project. The current projects are Miller Creek and Summer Trails. Local businesses have agreed to host a staging area.

- Next meeting -

The FS would like to give a presentation in April on various projects – Cedar Thom, Summer Trails, and Cutoff.

Next Meeting: April 14 ~ 6-8:30p