

Lolo Restoration Committee  
November 12, 2008  
MonTEC Bldg.

**Present:** Earl Reinsel, Hank Goetz, Larry Anderson, Denley Loge, Cameron Naficy, Matt Arno, Marnie Criley, Brian Kahn, Larry Jakub, Scott Brennan, Beverly Dupree, John Manz, Bob Lamley, Len Broberg,

**USFS:** Julia Riber, Debbie Austin, Tim Love, Chris Partyka, Sharon Sweeney

**Guests:** Jake Kreilick,

**I. Announcements**

- a. Denley requested that the meeting time move back to better accommodate his schedule.
- b. The Committee agreed to move the time to 6 PM-8:30 PM.
- c. Jake Kreilick announced that he is attending this meeting to possibly begin the transition for WildWest Institute's representation on the Committee. He is also engaged in other collaboratives, has some other commitments, and wants to make sure the Committee is comfortable with him joining the group.
- d. The new Executive Committee will meet to discuss the issue of new members.

**II. Report from MFRC Meeting**

- a. Tom Tidwell attended the entire meeting, which was significant. He also responded to Brian's concerns, stated in the LRC report, regarding the amount of time it takes to get from planning to implementation of projects as a deterrent to these kinds of efforts.
- b. He felt that collaboration up front in the NEPA process, should be able to make it more efficient. He takes this process very seriously.

**III. Report from NFF Workshop**

- a. Marnie attended an NFF workshop as part of the grant the LRC received.
- b. She shared that it was really great, she met other folks working on similar work, and got some new ideas.
- c. Marnie offered to do a write-up for the Committee that will cover some of the new ideas that she thought were applicable, and will distribute in the next week.

#### **IV. Report form Eastside Group**

- a. Draft EA should be released for the Auggie Fuels project in January.
- b. Tim has offered to let the Working Group see the draft before it goes to the public.
- c. There may be a field trip planned for early in the New Year.
- d. A list of questions has been developed for the USFS on the Center Ridge project. Chris and his team will put together a self-evaluation using the Eval. Form by next week. By the next meeting, the WG plans to have a preliminary evaluation of the Center Ridge project.
- e. Question for LRC: how valuable would an hour presentation on the EA process from the USFS be? Most felt this would be useful.
- f. Another question that came up was how this Committee wants to define success? The committee discussed their various feelings on the issue.
  - i. Less litigation
  - ii. Better relationships between the players
  - iii. Avoiding things you don't want to do.
  - iv. Better outcomes
  - v. Working from interests not positions
  - vi. Does the public see this process as valuable/successful?
  - vii. Common understanding of what restoration means
  - viii. Interest from other areas in process
  - ix. Quality of all work going up
  - x. Quantity of good restoration work increasing
- g. Debbie felt that one benefit is the feeling of releasing a project that has community support.
- h. Executive Committee should think about a formalized performance assessment on an annual basis.**

#### **V. Report from Westside Group**

- a. Cedar Thom meeting in Superior tomorrow night at 6 PM. Denley will be there representing the LRC.
- b. Beverly sent out a set of documents on the S. Fork Fish Creek project, in response to the discussion that took place at the last meeting.
- c. Bob also has a meeting set up with Al Byrd to discuss opportunities on the Superior District.

- d. The Committee approved the *draft* letter to Garry Edson re: the S. Fork Fish Creek Project preliminary evaluation.
- e. The Committee has until noon Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to provide feedback on the revised project evaluation form.
- f. Scott requested that everyone take it upon themselves to read the documents and come to meetings prepared to give feedback. Chairs should send out documents to the LRC by the end of the Friday before the meeting.
- g. The Working Group's letter with project recommendations was discussed by the group.
  - i. There is disagreement over a few of the recommendations among the WG. Debbie suggested that the WG submit the pieces they do have agreement upon and be clear about the pieces where they don't have agreement, and note that the WG would like the analysis to be done.
  - ii. The other issue had to do with recommendations to decommission some roads. These roads are currently proposed for storage. While this difference may only be on paper, it has future implications for how the area is managed.
  - iii. Chris shared that this might be creating a process dilemma for the USFS in terms of their timelines. The difference between decommissioning and storage is not great, in terms of analysis, but could require at least some new analysis.
  - iv. The result of including new options or work in the project could require that the USFS put it back out to the public.
  - v. The WG will redraft the letter including their recommendations as requests for further analysis with language that the WG understands that there may be implications to the USFS process, and ask that the USFS respond and clarify any implications. The LRC approved the letter based on these changes.

## VI. Report from OHV Group

- a. Bob met with Maggie and Garry about the OHV routes. They responded that the only thing they can do right now is to maintain the existing routes.
- b. They also have a date set to go look at their proposed route with Andy Kuhla. Garry is also interested in taking a look at a route near Petty Creek.

**VII. Presentation from Cameron**

- a. The Committee was interested in the presentation and the possibility of implementing some of Cameron's recommendations on an appropriate site on the Lolo NF.
- b. Debbie thought that the USFS likely has the historical Ponderosa Pine sites mapped.
- c. Chris guessed that between 20% and 25% of the land base of the Lolo are in this habitat type.

**VIII. Next Meeting:**

- a. Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 PM