

**Montana Forest Restoration Committee**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
April 21, 2009

**Members Present:** Gordy, Marnie, Julia, Bob H, Dale, Bill Grasser, Adam Rissien, Paul Roos,  
(by proxy: Bob Ekey, Orville Daniels and Will Geer)

**Staff:** Julia, Chelsea

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**1. Approve Minutes from 3/17/09:**

- Approved with one grammatical edit.

**2. Financial Report**

- The supplemental from the FS has been delayed until May 1<sup>st</sup> or soon thereafter.
- The financial report was approved.

**4. Lolo Restoration Committee Update:**

- The LRC has approved their charter.
- Jake Kreilick was officially added as a member of the LRC.
- Eastside WG:
  - Comments on the Auggie EA were approved by the group.
  - Jim Burchfield did a presentation regarding student engagement w/ committee on monitoring.
- Westside WG:
  - There was a presentation by Sharon on Cedar Thom project and discussion. Marnie was impressed with what the group has come up with. She felt they have come a long way in terms of including significant restoration components.
    - Still uncertain how LRC will engage with that project and area.
  - S. Fork Fish EA has been pushed back to early May.
    - Garry invited LRC folks to attend a prescribed burn as an educational opportunity.
  - Westside WG also working on project in Woods Gulch/Marshall Mtn. area.

**5. Bitterroot Restoration Committee Update:**

- Group did not meet last month
- Next meeting is April 29<sup>th</sup>
- Julia is working on follow up on the guidelines regarding stream management zones and how they will or will not affect decisions made on the road in question on the Butterfly project area.
- RAC meeting to pitch Darby Lumber Lands project is next Tuesday. Bill Grasser will present.
  - Money would go back to USFS to complete road analysis.
  - Total \$ in RAC budget is around \$300,000

- Ginny's contract is up at the end of June. Dale suggested the steering committee talk to her. Julia said she plans to attend the April BRC meeting and will also visit with Ginny regarding her contract.

#### **6. Lincoln Working Group Update:**

- There is some concern amongst the group that the decisions that have been made did not take into account all information available and the group is reassessing.
- The group has requested the Lincoln RD to provide more data in a more understandable, usable format.
- Helena Forest is also busy with Travel Planning, which is a factor.
- Group is committed to a good project, may take a fair amount of effort and time for FS to provide needed data and for group to climb the learning curve.
- The level of information is not the same as that for the Lolo, which has caused some difficulty to TWS and the development of their prioritization tool.
  - In addition, or because of this, their results did not jive with the FS in terms of prioritizing projects on the landscape.
  - This has caused some tension between TWS and the FS, also between data and on-the-ground knowledge
- Next meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs of May.
- Group continues to reach out to Michael Garrity and Sara Jane Johnson.

#### **7. MFRC Meeting Agenda**

- Dale requested that the S/C spend some time analyzing the process and how things are going before the full MFRC meeting and again at the full meeting.
- Marnie relayed a conversation she had with a FS staffer who has concerns that the Principles are still not well accepted by line officers and other, i.e. staffers don't know or understand what this effort is all about, and its importance/significance.
- Julia proposed providing a "gate-system" flow chart for FS staff working on collaborative projects. She will draft for S/C to be presented at full meeting.
- Bob H. suggested that Marnie provide a synopsis of lessons learned on Auggie.
- RC chairs should encourage RC members to attend.

#### **8. S/C Communication:**

- Need to refine the process so that there isn't a backlash every time something is released to public/press.
- S/C does not have complete buy-in from MFRC for: political, media, fundraising work
- Need to clarify S/C role
- Possible to create ad hoc committee's for each of above and include MFRC/RC members

#### **9. Chelsea's Contract**

- Chelsea reported that she needs to begin phasing out of her role because her plate is becoming too full to handle the additional duties of supporting the MFRC. She still has interest and desire to remain involved, but it may end up looking different.

#### **10. MFRC Coordinator**

## MFRC Steering Committee Meeting 4-21-09

- Selection Committee has decided to offer job the Marnie Criley.
- 9 candidates in total applied; 4 were interviewed.
- Coordinator will report to co-chairs; will work out of own office.
- Need to develop work plan
- Schedule orientation with S/C.
- The recommendation to hire Marnie was approved.
- Marnie will start prior to the May 20 meeting.

### **11. Next Meeting:**

- May 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm