

**MINUTES**  
**MFRC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
DNRC Conference Room, Missoula, MT.  
Aug. 13, 2008 @ 9:00 - 11:00 a

**PRESENT:**

**SC Members:** Gordy Sanders, William Geer, Chelsea Pennick, Marnie Criley, Mary Mitsos, Dave Bull, Bob Ekey (phone), Brian Kahn (phone), and Dale Harris (phone).

**Guests:** Melissa Hayes

**::Membership::**

Since we don't have bylaws it's important for us to revisit leadership issues and have some formality with the process.

With Julia's changing role, do we need different representation from industry? We should not expect Julia to be in that role - so how will we replace that on the SC? She did a great job representing the logging industry, but all of the other skills she brings should be the focus. As long as we want both Julia & Bob to weigh in, Bob would represent the DNRC and Julia would be here as an individual.

Having 2 members of the DNRC - can Julia act in the capacity of a citizen-at-large. Bob envisioned her playing an upper-level staff role - can she be a non-voting member, serving in a capacity like Brian?

Also Pam Gardiner has interest when she retires to be on the SC and the Lolo. Do we want to add someone? She would be a valuable resource - because she knows the workings of the FS, but is not constrained by it.

Additional Considerations: Should there be rotating leadership within the MFRC? How big should the SC get? Is Orville still participating? Do we need 2 FS retirees? Is there an optimal number for group dynamics?

We also need to visit with Rick & Orville and make sure they are on for next year. If Rick can't continue, Chuck Roady would be another choice. The way we frame participation, just showing up is not the most important thing, weighing in is important. DALE can meet with Orville, if needed and **GORDY will meet with Rick and Chuck.**

**::Defining Roles::**

MFRC/Steering Committee/RC's

We need to write something for each committee. When you are trying to write something, having 50 different editors is not efficient. But, we should have sent out the op-ed to the full group explaining why it's being sent out and how it got there.

Cameron on the MFRC. Even though he will be gone soon, he may come back after his Fulbright? We should send him an invitation anyway and allow him to decide whether he wants to participate. BOB & GORDY will send a letter to Cameron.

At the last full meeting we invited members of the Lolo & Bitterroot - so in what capacity do they serve during those meetings?

The By-Laws Committee could also write a 'defining the roles' document.

By-Laws Committee: Julia, Mary, Marnie, and Dale.

### **::Staff Availability & School Year::**

Melissa is back in school, so she will only be in the office Friday mornings until around 3p. Also, it may not be as efficient to send e-mails & projects through her, as she cannot regularly be in the office or check her e-mail. And, if you need to get a hold of her, it is probably best to call her call phone - 241-8050.

Steering Committee meetings: Fridays from 9-11.

Next meeting: Sept. 12, 9-11a

### **::Approval of Minutes::**

Approved

### **::Financial Report::**

Are we asking Tom Tidwell for more money in the meeting? We will address this in the annual report.

Report Approved.

### **::FRC Updates::**

#### **-Lolo FRC-**

Cameron's e-mail about defining roles & defining what we mean by 'restoration' in terms of vegetative treatments. Cameron looks at it in terms of fire and fire regimes. He wants a filter that would help us and the FS define the treatment. They felt we can't get too specific, and need to look at sites on a case-by-case basis. Discussion was given to looking at applying the New Mexico Principles to the South Fork Fish project.

The potential benefit of having a modified version of the NM principles or a change to Appendix B, is that we don't have to reinvent the wheel each time.

The scoping comments are in to Tim Love on the Auggie project.

### **-Bitterroot FRC-**

There was a field trip on Aug. 4 to Willow Gird. There was a great turnout. There will be another field trip on the 25<sup>th</sup>, which will go back to Willow Gird and have a deeper discussion. Darby Lumber lands tour is proposed for sometime in September. The next BFRC meeting will be Sept. 22.

There is also concern that there is not a member of the Full Committee on the BFRC.

The Lolo and Bitterroot committees have been discussing large landscape level projects and what opportunities and potential problems arise from this broad level management approach.

Ginny's contract is up for renewal the end of September. She feels progress is being made, would like to continue on, therefore; she is interested in discussing terms and renewing her contract.

### **-Helena FRC-**

Helena RC with a Lincoln Working Group  
The initial meeting is set for Sept. 18 from 9-11 a.

Brian & Gordy will be there for sure.

Is there someone who can take notes at this meeting? Amber?

### **::Presentation Principles::**

Marnie asked if it was okay to present the Principles at the Western Stewardship Conference, the development of the Principles and the Implementation Plan and the ongoing work of the MFRC and Forest Restoration Committees.

Also, there is scoping in Utah to see if they are ready for something like this, as well as N. Carolina.

### **::Funding Update::**

No action. Mary will try to organize the committee. Is there a need to discuss the next steps? We may want to include an operational budget in the Annual Report.

### **::Annual Report::**

Add Lincoln in the "Look Ahead"  
Draft something and send it to the SC.

### **::Wood Products Initiative::**

They want our feedback. But the concern is, if it went out to the public like this, it would be thrown out. Pam Gardiner suggested removing numbers from the report that were not needed.

This is basically a summary of all the different mills and their views and objectives. It could be a good opportunity for collaboration, but they may not want to collaborate. There should be a disclaimer because how this document is received by a broader readership may be controversial.

There are people motivated to help, but they don't seem to understand the complexity of timber sales or other aspects of the process.