

**Montana Forest Restoration Committee**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
February 18, 2009  
NFF

**Present:** Julia A., Orville, Mary, Gordy, Marnie, Chelsea, Bob E., Bill Grasser, Adam Rissien

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**1. Member Round-Robin**

- Mary was glad to see Bill and Adam attend the meeting representing the Bitterroot Restoration Committee but expressed concern that the Steering Committee was not informed of the addition before the meeting. Julia and Gordy felt that enough direction had been provided at the last meeting to allow their addition without additional approval or notice.
- Bob felt encouraged by everything that is occurring as a result of this effort.
- Julia continues to be challenged getting people to respond to emails and attend meetings. Gordy suggested that the Committee set a regular meeting date and stick to it. If a quorum cannot be reached then the meeting would be cancelled.
- Adam Rissien was glad to be representing the BRC at his first Steering Committee meeting.
- Marnie was also glad to see Bill and Adam at the meeting. She thought the media plan was important to be working on—even though it was tabled from this meeting. She also agreed with Gordy's suggestion regarding regular meetings.
- Bill was glad to be at the meeting and learn about what the Steering Committee does. He attended the meeting to ask the Committee for help to get the BRC moving and accomplish some tangible results.

**2. Approve 1/20/09 Steering Committee Minutes**

- Mary noted some grammatical errors—she will pass those on to Julia.
- Approved with above revisions.

**3. Approve Financial Report**

- Approved.
- Gordy suggested that the dates covered by the financial report be added for clarity.
- The Committee agreed to begin sending the financial report along with the minutes to all Restoration Committees and the full MFRC. If members of the MFRC or an RC have questions, they will be encouraged to contact either Julia or Gordy.

**4. Restoration Committee Updates:**

Lolo Restoration Committee:

- Draft EAs will be released March 1<sup>st</sup> for two projects that Committee is working on.
- Mary asked whether any of the Committee's projects were going to be on the Lolo's Economic Stimulus list. Julia responded that they were not because they are part of their '09 program of work.

## MFRC Steering Committee Meeting 2-18-09

- Marnie is still spending quite a bit of time on the Lolo, but feels things are going very well.
- The Committee discussed the possibility of breaking up into more Working Groups to distribute the work more evenly, or to break up according to the USFS' east zone and west zone. They plan to dedicate more time to this issue at the next meeting.
- Marnie plans to check in with each of the WG chairs to discuss burnout, time commitment, etc.
- Marnie also presented to Cara's Restoration class to get a student to help with implementing the monitoring plans. One student has contacted her and will attend the next Monitoring WG meeting.
- The LRC discussed the draft monitoring plan at the last meeting and will be reworking them to tie into the principles more closely. The Committee also agreed on the importance of working closely with the FS on monitoring.
- Westside WG is working on developing a "from scratch" larch restoration project on the Missoula RD.
- There was no update from the OHV WG, Marnie plans to follow up with them.

### Bitterroot Restoration Committee:

- The Committee is working on 2 projects currently.
- The Darby Lumber Lands area is large and needs quite a bit of work. There is a lot of agreement on the need for restoration in this area, but there is a need for funding. Adam is working on an application to the RAC for funds to inventory the area.
- The second project is the Butterfly Creek project. It includes about 250 acres if thinning, but has some access issues. The committee is not in agreement about how to best handle the roads issue, especially considering the precedent it might set as the first project out the door.
- Julia felt the Darby Lumber Lands were prime for the stimulus work. She encouraged the Committee to follow up with the Bitterroot Forest on this.
- There was discussion about Ginny's contract ending in June and Adam requested a commitment from the Steering Committee to continue to provide facilitation for this group.
- Bill impressed upon the committee the need to speed up the NEPA process to keep people engaged. The Steering Committee agreed and is working on this issue. They also have a strong commitment from the Regional Forester to prioritize collaboratively developed projects.
- The BRC is encouraged to contact the Steering Committee if they feel that their projects are not being pushed up on the priority list once they are ready for NEPA.

### Lincoln Working Group:

- The LWG has selected an area to work.
- The group has decided to reach out personally to Michael Garrity and Sara Jane Johnson on their work.
- The Steering Committee agreed that the co-chairs of the Lincoln WG should be invited to the SC meetings as well. Julia will follow up.

## 5. Legacy Project Letter

## MFRC Steering Committee Meeting 2-18-09

- Letter is being written by TWS and will be sent to SC for review.
- Once the SC has reviewed and provided comments, it will be sent to the MFRC for review/approval.

### **6. Charter Amendment**

- Gordy provided language to address the conflict of interest to include litigation.
- Everyone will review the language and comment to Gordy.
- Julia will clarify the language re: diversity, balance, gender.
- The Revisions will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### **7. Strategy Committee Update**

- Mary provided a draft Coordinator job descriptions.
- Comments should be directed to Mary and Dale by the end of February.
- Once comments are incorporated, they will send around again for approval and then move forward on advertising the position.

### **8. Regular Meeting Date**

- Third Tuesday of the month from 2-4 pm.
- Bob will set up the conference call line for Steering Committee meetings using Free Conference Call services.