

Montana Forest Restoration Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
March 17, 2009

Members Present: Julia Altemus, Orville Daniels, Mary Mitsos, Gordy Sanders, Marnie Criley, Chelsea, Bill Grasser, Adam Rissien, Rick Franke, Dale Harris, Paul Roos

Guests: Debbie Austin, Steve Kratville, Scott Brennan

Staff/Facilitators: Chelsea Pennick, Julia Altemus, Brian Kahn

1. Approve Minutes from 2/18/09:

- Page 1, 5th bullet: should be “she” not “the”.
- Under BRC, 3rd bullet, delete last sentence.
- Approved with above changes.

2. Financial Report

- Steve announced that the Forest Service can now submit the modification to release the additional \$34,061 committed to the MFRC, as the spending bill was signed by Obama.
 - There will be increased match obligations along with these additional funds, on a pro rata basis.
 - The in-kind and cash contributions will also increase.
- Volunteer/Paid hours accounting:
 - Marci has broken out paid vs. unpaid hours on the financial report. The main reason for accounting this way is to make sure that the FS portion of the CCS Agreement does not exceed 50%, because then they have to “procure the services” themselves.
 - In-kind leadership and facilitation from S/C members will be captured in the staff support in-kind.
- The financial report was approved.

4. Lolo Restoration Committee Update:

- Draft EAs have been delayed but are scheduled to be released in March and April.
- Both the Eastside and Westside WG’s have chosen from-scratch projects.
- Westside WG:
 - Woods Gulch project because of its proximity to town and offers education and public engagement opportunities.
 - It is a section of land the USFS received from Plum Creek a few years ago.
- Eastside WG:
 - Working on setting up pre-and post-project monitoring with Tom DeLuca and Jim Burchfield. Burchfield has committed his students to helping with the data collection late summer ‘09.
 - Media: once project is out the chute, they want to do some press releases, which they will work with FS on.

- **Monitoring WG:**
 - Chelsea and Marnie are still working on monitoring template.
 - Scott Spaulding came to last meeting and it was very productive, helped committee prioritize where they can add value to what the FS is already doing.
 - Mark VanderMeer and Vince are putting together a monitoring “tool kit” of supplies.
 - WG is planning on incorporating both implementation and effectiveness monitoring based on principles. They are encouraged by the Forest Service’s willingness to do “real time” adaptive management.

- **Westside Update:**
 - Jake and Denley are still engaged with Cedar Thom project on Superior District.
 - Marnie, Julia and other LRC folks will make a presentation to Sanders Mineral County group on what the LRC is up to and how they might be able to get involved, if they chose to.
 - Marnie reported that the Sanders Mineral Co. group is looking to add more environmental rep’s to balance things out.
 - Dale reported that Bob Clark from the Sierra Club will now be working on projects in this area, and might be able to engage with group.
 - Debbie brought up an effort called the Mineral County Challenge and said that she would discuss these issues and goals when she meets with them on Friday.

- The LRC approved a change to their meeting schedule at the last meeting. Beginning in April, they will move to meeting every two months.

5. Bitterroot Restoration Committee Update:

- **Working on Butterfly Creek project**
 - The group reached consensus on using the existing access road along the creek, but is hung up on how the road will be used after the project.
 - Julia will gather information on use of roads in stream management zones for the BRC.
 - Travel mgmt. goals for the area are not known at this time.
 - The group is not meeting in March, next meeting in April.
- The BRC submitted a request to the RAC for \$11,000 to do inventory of Darby Lumber Lands, which could happen as soon as this summer depending upon how soon they hear back.

6. Lincoln Working Group Update:

- The group did not have a quorum at the last meeting but spent some good time discussing the principles in depth.
 - The group has selected an area to work and has asked Amber Kamps to put together a proposal for what a project might look like there.
- Brian voiced his early concern that the principles might not be implemented fully, but the presence of Scott Brennan and Paul Roos is a great help.
- Gordy pointed out that the Helena NF just received \$1 million for planning to deal with the beetle kill.

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- The brought up the question of whether it might be helpful to lend out support to get some extra planning money to the Lincoln RD.
- Also brought up need to clarify difference between beetle kill salvage and restoration.

7. Legacy Project Letter

- TWS presented draft letter.
- There was consensus to remove reference to the House Bill and make it more general to focus on the concept.
- Julia will revise and send to S/C for approval and then on the MFRC for comment.
- The letter will be signed from the S/C.

8. Strategy Committee Update

- Mary provided final draft of coordinator job description.
- The S/C approved the JD and job announcement.
- Selection Committee: Mary, Dale, Gordy, Julia
- Mary will post the announcement in the Missoulian and on the montanarestoration.org website. Deadline will be April 10th.
- Resume's will go to Gordy and Pyramid Mountain Lumber.

9. Media Plan Discussion:

- The topic will be moved to next meeting, due to time constraints.
- Will also be made high priority for coordinator to develop media strategy.

10. MFRC Annual Meeting:

- Lubrecht and Heritage Hall are the two venues being looked at.
- Melissa will send out a doodle to select a date.
- Idea is to have meeting in morning and BBQ in afternoon.

11. Next Meeting:

- Third Tuesday of the month from 2-4 pm at the DNRC conference room.
- April 21st from 2-4 pm.