

**Montana Forest Restoration Committee**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
September 10, 2008  
DNRC

**Present:** Julia A., Orville, Dale, Mary, Gordy, Marnie, Steve Kratville, Chelsea, Bob E., Bob H.

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**1. Approve 8/13 Steering Committee Minutes**

- Approved as amended.
- There was also a request that Action Items be highlighted somehow in the notes.

**2. Approve Financial Report**

- Approved.
- In the future, Bob E. requested that estimates be inserted for expenses that are unknown at the time of the report, to provide a better idea of the larger picture.

**3. Committee/Staff Roles:**

Melissa:

- Now that Melissa is in school she is only able to provide 5-6 hours per week.
- She will continue to attend Lolo RC meetings and take notes, distribute S/C notes and agendas and take MFRC notes and help with agendas.

Julia:

- Will keep herself apprised of agenda topics and attend RC meetings/field trips when needed or appropriate. Julia will attend the Helena RC kick-off.
- Her official role will be of a senior staff position for the S/C, which is non-voting.
- She will be devoting approx. 20% of her time to the S/C and MFRC.
- The Committee agreed to check back in one year to re-assess.

**4. Restoration Committee Updates:**

Lolo Restoration Committee:

- Next week: LRC meeting, Cedar Thom meeting and Center Ridge Field Trip
- Marnie stated that she can no longer commit as much time to the LRC and will be discussing the use of working groups and other strategies at the upcoming meeting.
- Debbie was planning to present the Lolo NF's five-year program of work. Since she is now on detail at the RO, Marnie has asked if Maggie would feel comfortable presenting in her place.

Bitterroot Restoration Committee:

- The Committee held two field trips in August that were very productive and resulted in one project area that the group felt there was common ground on.
- Committee has final field trip this month to visit the Darby Lumber Lands.
- Next meeting is Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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- It is the desire of the SC that the Bitterroot continue working on the development of restoration projects and that the current facilitator remain under contract to help them be successful.

### Helena Restoration Committee:

- Invite letters went out last week.
- The committee agreed that follow up calls would be a good idea.
- **ACTION**: Julia to send invite list to Steering Committee members who will look over and call those they know.
- **ACTION**: Melissa to work on finding phone numbers. Gordy suggested contacting Amber Kamps.

### 5. Meeting with Tom Tidwell:

- Meeting went well. Tom received the draft Annual Report. He is very pleased about the development of a Helena RC, and encouraged Committee to expand to a fourth RC.
- In terms of funding, it seems likely there will be a budget surplus. \$20,000 was committed at the meeting and Steve Kratville is working on the agreement.
- Tom was glad to receive honest feedback re: the long FS planning process and its challenges to processes like this. He wants to continue to hear from the Committee on this.
- The Committee is not confirmed to present to any leadership meetings, but Steve will work on getting Gordy and Bob on the agenda of the Regional Rangers Meeting in the spring and possibly others.

### 6. Contracts:

- Julia has contacted all contractors to begin discussing renewal. Everyone will likely renew their contract for the next year.
- Chelsea: contracted at 20% for flexibility, but will be closer to 10% in reality. Chelsea to pick up some work to help Marnie and the LRC: research, etc.
- Brian: has been asked to facilitate Helena.
- **ACTION**: Julia to send FY08 contracts as FYI, and FY09 contracts for approval. No response equals consent.
- The only wildcard is staff support for the Helena RC which has not been figured out.

### 7. Annual Report:

- **ACTION**: Chelsea to ask Melissa to send out current draft to S/C.
- Number of copies: 200-300.
- **ACTION**: Chelsea to price out Black & White, Full Color, and Color Cover & B&W and report to Committee by next S/C meeting.
- Bob suggested adding some quotes if space allows.
- Chelsea requested that the S/C provide some feedback on the "Look Ahead" piece, suggest additions, etc.

### 8. Next MFRC Meeting:

- Mary suggested that S/C look at another date.

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- Committee decided to doodle for the next meeting date.
- **ACTION**: Chelsea to set up doodle.

**Next Meeting: October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 AM**