

**MT Forest Restoration Committee
Steering Committee**

June 16, 2009

Members Present: William Geer, Dale Harris, Adam Rissien, Gordy Sanders (Rick Franke, Bob Harrington and Julia Altemus proxies carried by Gordy Sanders)

Staff: Marnie Criley, Chelsea Pennick

1. MFRC Minutes from 5-19-09

- Dale asked that his name be added as present.
- Gordy asked that in the future action items and decisions be highlighted.

2. Financial Report

- William had a question about the addition of \$17,500 + \$20,000 moved from office space line item that was added to the Salary line item with the new modification.
- The total for the new modification was \$34,061.
- Gordy pointed out that Brian's invoices will be going up as a result of his work with the Lincoln WG.
- Brian informed the Committee that he does not feel that he is needed as a facilitator for the LRC, and Marnie agreed that this was an acceptable change. They are hoping to bring on Pam Gardiner as not only a member of the LRC but also as a co-chair.
- Dale requested that the Committee develop a cash flow projection for the rest of the year, so that a case can be made with the RF on growing the effort.
 - Need to start putting together the Annual Report, showing accomplishments over the last year, and set the stage for where the Committee would like to be.
- Gordy and Dale to sit down with Regional Forester in August re: new modification. Also need to sit down with Steve.
- Approved.

3. Lolo Restoration Committee Update (Marnie):

- Developed a list of names for potential new members of the Committee.
 - LRC process: members can submit suggestions to Committee, if suggestion is approved, then they

are asked to submit a letter of interest which is reviewed by the Steering Committee of the LRC.

- Approved suggestion of Pam Gardner, Jim Burchfield and Rob Roberts.
- They are hoping that Pam Gardiner will be willing to also serve as co-chair.
- Marnie felt the value of adding Jim is the ability to engage University students in monitoring and other aspects of the RC work.
- Scott Brennan was approved as a co-chair. He was clear with the Committee that he is funded to work on the Seeley/Swan area, but not other areas, so he has to be careful how he spends his time.
- Marnie reminded the group that she will still be available to support the group.
- The EA for S. Fork Fish Creek is out and the Westside WG is working on comments.

4. Bitterroot Restoration Committee Update (Adam):

- Next meeting is Monday, June 22nd.
- Funding from the RAC was approved. \$11,000 will be used to assess the Darby Lumber Lands, which will be used by the Forest Service.
- Matthew Koehler has not attended a meeting since he was approved to join the group.
- Bob Clark has been contacted and does not have approval to work on these kinds of issues.
 - Dale asked whether a letter should be sent to the Sierra Club from the MFRC. Adam thought that if a letter was sent, it should go to Steve Thomas, Regional Director.
 - Adam felt that the inclusion of Bob would benefit the BRC more than any other person at this time.
 - The local Chapter is interested in having him involved.
 - Gordy and Dale will follow up with Len, and Adam will send Steve's info to Gordy to follow up.
- Gordy asked how much time Adam thought he was spending on the effort. Adam estimated about 5 hours/month.
- The BRC is interested in working on a biomass policy or statement.
 - Add to next month's agenda.

5. Lincoln Working Group Update (Brian):

- The issues discussed at the last meeting have largely been resolved as a result of a couple of field trips.
- Amber (FS) and Tom DeLuca (TWS) have agreed on a project area in the Lincoln Gulch area. Approximately 12 mixed-severity project areas were approved for the Committee to look into, without committing to work on all sites.
- There was a discussion about restoration, the various priorities among the group and definitions of restoration.
 - There is strong interest among the local members to utilize the dead trees they see around their community.
 - Presents a challenge and an opportunity for the principles and Working Group.
- Adam reflected that the Bitterroot RC dealt with a similar issue, and they found that getting out on the ground and talking about what a "healthy" forest looks like and how the principles should be utilized on the ground. Provided a great venue for discussing disagreements as part of an organic process.
 - Gordy felt that it also helps to clarify the language that people use.
- Dale suggested that it might be helpful to get the District Rangers together to discuss experiences and lessons, and possibly other District Rangers that are interested in getting engaged with an RC.
- Chelsea suggested that Marnie or Beverly utilize the assistance of Karen DiBari at NFF to walk through the handover member process with Gerry Edson who is leaving Ninemile RD to move to the Regional Office.

6. Resignation of Bob Ekey (TWS):

- Bob is too busy to remain engaged any longer in the Steering Committee.
- Now that Scott is co-chair of the LRC, he is now a member of the Steering Committee.
- Gordy wondered if Dale would be willing to step back up as co-chair.
 - He is interested, but is also completely consumed with CBC stuff.
- Need to look at By-Laws to see what the process is.
- Gordy nominated Dale to assume the co-chair role, which was approved by those present and represented by proxy.

7. Communications Sub-Committee
 - Deferred to next meeting since the minutes from the MFRC Annual Meeting had not been circulated.
8. Mixed Severity Sub-Committee:
 - Meeting June 25th from 1-4 at DNRC.
 - Members: Len, Jake, Scott, Gordy, Pam, Mark, Mary Mitsos, Julia Altemus, Amber Kamps, Steve Slaughter and Chris Partyka represent FS information providers.
 - Agenda: Steps for moving forward. Brian will facilitate.
9. MFRC Support for FLRA Projects
 - Craft communication to USFS to show support for FLRA projects in general.
 - Survey to assess potential applicants in western MT.
 - Marnie was on call about how money will be spent. Discussion on call was discussing a landscape of up to 500,000 acres including the Lincoln district, Swan District and Seeley District.
 - Put as major agenda item for next SC meeting.
 - Dale, Marnie and Gordy will visit to talk about how to structure conversation at next meeting.
10. MFRC Project Timeline Update
 - Tabled.
11. RMEF Stewardship Agreement Potential (Marnie)
 - Marnie had meeting with Al Christofferson at RMEF and possibilities for them to engage in restoration projects that the RCs are working on.
 - He was interested, as long as it fit their criteria.
 - They are looking for NEPA ready projects—but could include pieces of projects.
 - Auggie is a potentially good fit.
 - Benefits: funding resources, communication of wildlife values, innovative implementation and contracting, adding local benefit.
12. Flathead RC, Swan Working Group
 - Gordy has not had discussion with Steve Brady yet.
 - Marnie had meeting with Anne Dahl, Melanie Parker, Mo Hartmann, Steve Brady and Mike Paladini.

- Steve Brady expressed some hesitation since things do seem to be changing in the Swan and projects seem to be moving forward without appeals.
 - He is concerned about the burden of added process.
- This could just get woven into existing efforts going on.
- Marnie felt that having an RC could help with getting some projects done on the Westside that is more mixed-severity and has been contentious to date.
- Marnie felt that buy in into the principles would not be a problem, and provides an opportunity to broaden the engagement in efforts in the area.
- Gordy and Dale will talk to Steve Brady about his hesitation re: staff time that would need to be devoted to the effort.
- Dave Bull was asked to visit with Cathy Barbouletos. Dale and Gordy will follow up with her as well.

Next Meeting - July 21st 2:00 - 5:00 DNRC Conference Room