



Montana Forest Restoration Committee Quarterly Newsletter Winter 2011

Welcome! to the MFRC Quarterly Newsletter

In an effort to keep everyone informed and updated in-between Full MFRC meetings, we are testing out an MFRC newsletter. It will arrive in your inbox every few months and will contain noteworthy events, announcements, committee updates, links to new and revised documents—and other things that might be of interest to the MFRC. Since this is a trial newsletter, please let me know if you like the idea of a periodic newsletter and also feel free to suggest topics you might like to see covered in a newsletter.

My goal is for this newsletter to be: informative, easy to read, user-friendly & in a format that is easy to open. So, please give me [feedback](#) on any and all of these topics—as well as suggestions for future newsletter topics. If you would like a PDF copy of the newsletter, there is a link at the very bottom of the email, but note that this format is not conducive to printing, as it is long and thin to fit an email message—so you might have to finagle with your print settings. Newsletters will also be archived on our website.

Happy Reading & Happy Holidays!!!
~melissa

MFRC Action Items

MFRC Charter

New Charter Language was adopted at the Full Committee meeting on Nov. 15, 2011 to allow for email voting on issues that arise between meetings. A similar revision was approved at the May 2011 meeting, but was an email vote for new members only.

New Language:

Consensus decisions that need to be made between scheduled meetings may occur via email. The matter to be decided shall be emailed to members with the opportunity for 15 days to respond and vote. For time-sensitive issues, members may be given less than 15 days to respond and vote, but shall be given no less than 48 hours to respond to a request and vote.

To view & save the newest version of the Charter (with this revision), please click [HERE](#). It is also available on the [MFRC Website](#).

MFRC Documents & Website

2011 MFRC Annual Report—is printed and also available on the [website](#). If you need copies of the Annual Report, let Melissa know!



MFRC Video

MFRC Video

The MFRC is working with the Forest Service to produce an 8-12 minute video that will highlight the history of the MFRC. It will feature interviews and on-the-ground projects and will tell the story of our collaborative effort. Updates on this project will be added to each newsletter. A subcommittee is working on the video content. The goal is to film on-the-ground projects this summer—and Melissa will work with the restoration committees to film field trips, meetings, and other footage as needed. The video should be out by Jan 2013.

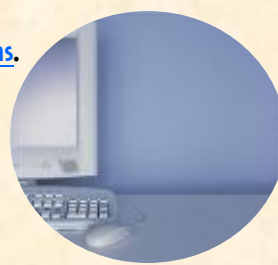
Webinars & Collaboration Resources

Resources

- [Collaborating with Diverse Interests](#)— At our Nov. Full MFRC meeting, the MFRC approved this guidance document. I also created a [companion worksheet](#) that can be used by committees when working through difficult issues or just as a periodic committee exercise. Both documents can be found on our [website](#).
- **National Forest Foundation** offers various [Collaboration Resources](#) that may be useful to committees.

Webinars

- **Mixed Severity Webinar**—To listen to the MFRC mixed conifer/mixed severity webinar with Dr. Jerry Franklin, please follow this [LINK](#). Or visit our website under the [education section](#).
 - **National Forest Foundation**—offers a variety of [peer learning sessions](#) and [archives old sessions](#).
 - **Other Webinars**—a list of past webinars that may be of interest to the MFRC.
- [Future Forests Webinar Series](#) (US Forest Service) - *this webinar series is continuing into 2012.*
To listen to the Oct. 2011 topic *Post outbreak fire risk & behavior*, click [HERE](#)
[Webinar Portal for Forestry & Natural Resources](#) (Southwestern Regional Extension Forestry)
[Forest Guild Webinars](#)



Committee Updates

Steering Committee

The MFRC is working on the next cost-share agreement. The current agreement expires in Aug. 2012. Melissa continues to engage with the [Forest For Every Classroom](#) project. At the Jan. meeting, the SC will be looking ahead into 2012 & will discuss goals for the coming year. One idea is to plan another webinar—possibly on the topic of temporary roads (or other topic of interest).

Meetings: Jan 12, Feb. 9, March 8

MFRC Full Committee

The Full Committee met Nov. 15. We honored Pam Gardiner & Dave Bull, for their leadership in the MFRC. Pam retired from the MFRC and Dave retired from the FS. New Charter language was approved. The guidance document & companion worksheet for collaborating with diverse interests was also approved. The committee discussed changing meeting dates to Oct. & April given that inclement weather & hunting season impact Nov. meeting attendance. If you are **interested in being on the Steering Committee**, please let Dale or Gordy know. A Doodle for our next meeting will go out in late Jan./early Feb.

Next meeting: April or May

Restoration Committees

- **Lolo**— the committee is looking to create a collaboration road map to define when and how the LRC will engage with the FS through all stages of projects.
- **Bitterroot**— The committee is working on various stages of their Three Saddles, Shirley Mountain, Darby Lumber Lands, and Westside projects and recently submitted comments to the Three Saddles project.
- **Lincoln**— may host a community discussion after the release of the Stonewall DEIS in Feb. The committee is also reaching out to the Upper Blackfoot Community Council for representation on the LRC.
- **Elkhorn**—The committee continues working on the Warm Springs project and are in the process of drafting recommendations that will be discussed further at the Jan. meeting.

Forest Products Retention Roundtable

The Roundtable sent the Biomass White Paper with a cover letter to Carlton Owen of the US Endowment. Carlton responded that he read the report and is looking to visit Montana at the beginning of the year to meet with the Roundtable. At the Jan meeting, the Roundtable will be looking ahead at 2012 and brainstorming goals, ideas, presentation topics and opportunities for the new year.

Meetings: Jan 13, Feb. 10, March 9



Looking back on this past year, the MFRC has grown - adding a new restoration committee on the Helena National Forest. We have seen projects go forward, have encountered obstacles and worked through them, and have seen challenges that we are still working through. But, each time we come together, it strengthens our relationships and gives meaning to the important work we are doing - and **we couldn't have done it without YOU!!** Everyone who volunteers their time for meetings, field trips, reading/editing documents, responding to emails, taking notes, coordinating meetings, interacting with the community and fostering relationships with each other is what makes the MFRC the dynamic and successful organization that it is! To date we have **logged almost 13,000 hours** of volunteer time!!!
So, THANK YOU for all that you do!!

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. ~Henry Ford



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