

Sublette County Forest Collaborative
Meeting Notes
January 12, 2021

Welcome and Introductions

Joel Bousman (County Commissioner), Jessica Western (Facilitator), Rob Hoelscher (Pinedale & Big Piney Ranger Districts), Barry Tye (WY State Forestry), Michael Henn (SCCD), Doug Linn (Pinedale BLM), Troy Fieseler (WGFD), Shad Cooper (SCUF), Jennifer Lamb (Nature Conservancy), Austin Mansell (Sublette Trails Assn.), Jennifer Hayward (NRCS), Julie Kraft (SCWP), Larry Dennis (Industry), Shari Meeks (SCCD), Ryan (Sublette Trails Assn), Kim Bright (Agriculture), Brian Goldberg (BTNF), Paul Swenson (Pinedale & Big Piney Ranger Districts), Andy Norman (Forest Fuels Specialist), Dave Bell (Non-motorized rec), Richard Stem (consultant)

USFS Updates

Management of Blowdown: Internal meeting in February to identify exact locations of greatest blowdown, using spatial analysis and assess impacts to infrastructure such as proximity roads.

Monument Trailhead: Project is moving forward; Fence and gates are completed, USFS looking for help to put in trail bridges, fencing and signage; project should be completed in 2021. Additional conversations need to happen regarding winter use, no decision at this time.

5-yr management plan map: Brian Goldberg, BTNF previewed a data management platform "BT Planning Dashboard" for use in BT project planning, (timber, fuels, weeds). Still developing, more information to come on January 25.

Review Charter

Members page 3: Jennifer Hayward jennifer.hayward@usda.gov
Austin Mansell (Sublette County Trails Association) is a 501c3 nonprofit with a mission to improve, maintain and develop non-motorized recreation trails in Sublette County. The group recommended both non-motorized groups work together. Dave Bell and Austin Mansell will decide who will serve as the point person for meetings, and who will be the alternate.

Add Sandi Slettner as Motorized representative.

Mark Randall as alternate for Doug Linn

Rob Hoelscher/Don Kranendonk as alternate for each other.

Joel Bousman alternate is Matt Gaffney or Tom Noble

Review Charter continued...

Shad Cooper alternate Wil Gay or ML Baxley

Jennifer Lamb alternate is Carli Kierstead

Section 6 page 4: Removal of the first sentence that names a specific facilitator; Removal of Richard Stem specific language. Barry Tye recommended the language “In addition, a consultant may aid the Forest Collaborative”

Page 5: Revisions to a decision-making scale, item number 4.

Review Collaboratives Interests

Item 1: remove

Item 3: move to #1

Remove numbers, add bullet points instead; no item is priority necessarily, all points are being taken into consideration by the Collaborative.

Item 4: remove “confidence” and replace with “trust”

Charter: Insert “Interest Statements” in the early sections of the Charter.

Geographic Areas of Current Interest

The purpose of geographic areas is for Jessica to share information. It does not necessarily indicate that these are the only areas for the Collaborative to consider for projects.

Upper Green/Union Pass

“Big Sandy” renamed South Winds

East Rim

The Blowdown added separately due to its widespread impacts to forest health, unrelated to timber sales or similar projects.

Issues to Address

Weed Treatment/Cheatgrass; Improving Wildlife Habitat (Conifer-encroached Aspen Stand treatments; weed treatments); Utilize maps to facilitate conversations; Alignment with other agencies projects and priorities such as BLM & State Forestry; Status update to prior-made list of projects; County looking into grant opportunities for community wildfire protection plan – WUI related, education & resources; excessive recreation use (trending upward) in Wind River backcountry causing resource concern (Bridger Wilderness);

What Will Inform the Collaborative to Provide Feedback?

- Status of NEPA requirements for projects
- Understand project benefits for different interest groups
- Feedback from Federal partners on capacity (or lack thereof) to get the projects done on the ground
- Earmarked funding opportunities
- Estimated user/visitor numbers (economic impacts) timber sale vs. user base
- Ideas how to disperse use on public lands
- Identify high-use recreation areas to plan for weeds, fires, resource concerns

- Look at natural resource features of certain areas once project areas are identified included, wildlife use, migration routes, habitat layers
- Sublette County Land Use Plan updates

Future Meeting Dates

January 25, February 22 & March 9 (9am – Noon)

Frequency of meetings is intended to help move the process forward so the planning can be mostly completed by field season (May 1).

Public Comment – none

Next Meeting – January 25 (9am-Noon)

Jessica – Adjusting charter and interest statements

Brian Goldberg, Doug Linn, Rob Hoelscher, and Barry Tye – presentations regarding current projects and priorities (provide simple visuals to enhance the conversation)

Recommendations from last iteration

February 22

Julie Kraft will provide a presentation on Sublette County Invasive Species February 22

Troy Fieseler will provide wildlife information February 22

Jennifer Hayward will present the final report for the Joint Chiefs Grant.

Adjourned 11:42am

Facilitated By:

Jessica Western, Ph.D., Principal

