

Sublette County Forest Collaborative Agenda

February 22, 2021

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82188745111>

Meeting ID: 821 8874 5111

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), Jennifer Hayward (NRCS), Julie Kraft (SCWP), Larry Dennis (Industry), Shari Meeks (SCCD), Dave Bell (Non-motorized rec), Richard Stem (consultant), Terry Pollard (Outfitter), Matthew Gaffney (SC Administrator Commissioners), Kim Bright (Permittee), Scott Kosiba (Friends of the BT), Floyd Roadifer (Back Country Horsemen), Paul Swenson (USFS Fuels Management), Austin Mansell (Sublette Trails Association), Darren Hull (Sublette Chamber), Sandy Sletten (Motorized Recreation), Dan Stroud (Back Country Horsemen), Trisha O'Connor (BTNF Forest Supervisor)

Getting Resources into Region 4 (Joel Bousman, Rich Stem, & Trisha O'Connor)

A 10-year plan is the best strategy to getting resources into Region 4 to help with efforts of the collaborative on the BTNF. Joint Chiefs & Great American Outdoor Act can produce funding for projects. Shared Stewardship may also enable future projects. Trish O'Connor would like to take a broader look at the BTNF to have a meeting with Lincoln County Collaborative to work together to develop a strategy for the BTNF. This will help industry be able to meet the demand of the future forest projects.

Joint meeting with Greys River Forest Collaborative (Trisha O'Connor)

Next phase of forest collaboratives will be to work into a 10-year plan to give industry the ability to plan ahead as well.

Jessica added that when bringing the groups together, the groups could understand reasonable expectations for the group coming together, and what are the larger objectives across the landscape. Then the collaboratives could within their own groups identify projects that support those larger objectives.

This could roll into a full-time coordinator position if funding was available to coordinate the landscape-scale effort. Barry Tye added that the State Forestry does have someone like this in place.

Good Neighbor Authority – An agreement is in place with State Forestry, but another SPA would be necessary to fund the position. Trisha would add that **Kevin (Assistant Forest Supervisor)** would be a key player to getting this going.

BLM – Mark Randall is the contact.

No action was taken.



Blowdown Update (Rob Hoelscher)

The USFS has met with GIS experts to delineate blowdown areas using geospatial technology. The BT will deploy personnel this summer to QA the information to make sure that it is accurate.

Money has been set in place for this year to put crews on the ground to clear existing trails, based on priority use. The BT will be following the current regulations in place regarding chainsaw use.

Action Items:

- 1) Friends of the BT, Scott Kosiba could organize the volunteers from various groups to assist with blowdown. Rob indicated that he would be working with (Patrick – USFS Recreation Manager) to move forward with this effort. *Action Item: Rob will report back to the group regarding this effort.*
- 2) Volunteers are willing to assist with cleanup of trails within the blowdown. *Action Item: Charter members are to identify specific trail areas that have been impacted by the blowdown by the next meeting if possible.*
- 3) Rob requested georeferenced photos from collaborative members to assist the USFS with their efforts to verify geospatial assessment of blowdown extent and impacts. *Action Item: Collaborative members with blowdown documentation are to provide that information to Rob by the next meeting if possible.*

Forest Lab Update (Rich Stem)

The USFS Forest Lab is a subset of the USFS that is a science-based lab located in Madison, Wisconsin that looks at different options for uses of wood. Their input will help the collaborative merge marketing and forest products as we develop project ideas. Has made contacts to bring the “right people” on board to attend a future tour for forest projects.

Phone call this week to identify regional reps with state and forest that can bring ideas, options and resources to the table.

Emphasized its important to have the right people on the ground. He is gaining support. Group is interested in draft acreage estimates and materials.

Should have more to report in the near future.

Action Item: Update from Rich at the next meeting.

Roadless Rule Update (Rich Stem)

The changes have “passed the mustard”. The focus is to adjust technical boundary issues, not increase roadless areas. Boundary adjustments include Moose-Gyp road, Greys River, and areas within Jackson Ranger District. These were logical changes. Coming out in a week or two.



Action Item: No action needed.

CWPP Update (Shad Cooper)

Shared document regarding Community Wildfire Protection Plan required by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Shad feels the Collaborative and the CWPP should complement and coordinate what is happening on the Collaborative.

Action Item: Shad will continue to explore funding options and report back to the group.

Breakout Group Results

Jessica split the breakout groups and asked the groups to identify:

- 1) Projects
- 2) Location
- 3) Objectives related to the project.

Julie Kraft – Group 1

- 1) Blowdown mitigation
 - a. Recreation access, trail opening 2021
 - b. System and non-system trails
 - c. Reduce fire potential of laid-down fuel
 - d. Using trails for fuel breaks
 - e. Impacts to grazing permittees (livestock trails, boundary fences)
 - f. BMP's for weeds, funding
- 2) Big sandy openings
 - a. Parking
 - b. Bridge
 - c. Timber harvest (Muddy Ridge area)
- 3) Continued Invasive Species
 - a. Cheatgrass in Wilderness
 - b. Funding for maintenance
- 4) East Rim
 - a. Trails recreation and grazing
 - b. Weeds
- 5) Apperson and Shoberg Creek follow up
- 6) Roosevelt follow up
 - a. Salvage projects

Shad Cooper – Group 2

- 1) Union Pass, East Rim, Upper Green, Big Sandy, Big Piney Ranger District
- 2) Blowdown areas (Forestwide)
 - a. Chainsaws to reduce impact
- 3) Opportunities in Fontennell, Horse Creek, Roosevelt, etc,
 - a. Salvage projects
- 4) overlap to address wildlife values



- 5) Define project areas (review maps, overlapping polygons for wildlife values)
Wyoming Range Mule Deer Project overlap with Fontenelle Fire
- 6) Aquatic management – may benefit
- 7) Elk Feedgrounds - need for enhanced access hunters, anglers and winter range for elk
- 8) Access to UG, boat launches; rivers and high elevation lakes
- 9) Timber Mgmt – roadway corridors, egress corridors, migration corridors, weed mgmt.
- 10)WUI areas overlap
- 11)Trails and roads (improvements)

Jennifer Lamb– Group 3

- 1) Enhance recreation & simultaneously address blowdown
 - a. List of designated trails to evaluate access
 - b. Create a “task force” to determine priorities within & systematic approach
- 2) Big Sandy and Elkhart Park – find a strategy to reduce/minimize impact in these areas
- 3) CWPP – important lever in the County unified support
 - a. Collaborative provide seed money to push the plan forward?
- 4) Chainsaws in wilderness to maximize efficiency

Shari Meeks - Group 4

- 1) Healthy Forests Projects
 - a. Blowdown top priority
 - i. Strategic and tactical plan to deal with the blowdown.
 1. Chainsaws in wilderness – Regional Forester can assist with this issue.
 2. Logging treatments- if there is enough timber sales and is profitable in size, timber sale improvement funds can help to fund recreation efforts.
 3. Trails and recreation being a part of this effort.
 4. Pursue industry options like in Evanston; firewood processing plant (or other)
- 2) Trail maintenance and recreation Projects/Coordination
 - a. Subcommittee of the Collaborative?
 - b.**



Public Comment

The Sublette Chamber provides information to visitors regarding recreation opportunities. Sublette Chamber would like to be a part of understanding available areas they can send folks that would be not hazardous.

Back Country Horsemen are willing and able to assist with blowdown clearing of trails.

Next Meeting Identified Agenda Items

GIS support for projects
Troy Wildlife Layers
List of priority areas
Blowdown

Next Meetings March 9, April 8, April 20 9am-12pm

Adjourn 12:03pm

Current Interest Statements:

To maintain and enhance a resilient and ecologically healthy forest in order to:

- To maintain and enhance economic opportunities.
- To instill trust in public land management.
- To maintain multiple uses of a forest as an integral part of the custom and culture of the community.
- To maintain and enhance recreation infrastructure.
- To protect private and public property and lives.
- To maintain and enhance scientific learning.
- To maintain our sense of home.
- To maintain and enhance habitat for wildlife.

Information and Ideas Needed (from Jan. 12 meeting)

- 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

