

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes, 1.26.11, Pinetop, AZ

Welcome and Introductions

First Call to Public

- No comments during the first call

Previous Minutes

- Minutes for 11.17.11 are approved.

Forest Service Updates and presentations- Henry Provencio

- RFP development moving forward with significant process with April as the deadline.
- CFLRP funding not received yet; \$4 million draw proposed; \$7 mill available at end of Feb. is possible, pending a new federal budget.
- Proposed action published January 28th, with public comment opportunities on website
- Rim Lakes: Supervisor Chris Knopp; noted that Pat Jackson recommended that Rim Lakes is not ready for that presentation yet. WMS Industries dilemma is how to complete the last 3 yrs. of project. The possibility of only one stewardship contract for 300,000 acres may result in only one entity getting the contract. Available volume is primarily around Flagstaff, which may result in none of the industries in WMS getting volume from that contract. WMS decided to take CFLRP funding to mark timber to make available, and that the FS may generate 10 thousand extra acres to meet current demand through a timber sale, competitively bid, with no subsidy. Volume would be available this fiscal year offered in two separate contracts; one is the Rim Lakes 5000 acres, one is the Mineral C project 5000 acres.

Question: Would this be offered under IDIQ contracts or specific to acres? Answer: It would be specific to acres, short term (3 yrs); the Region is limited to \$5 million, 5000 acres under WMSC.

Clarification: prescriptions are restoration treatments as defined by FS, as WMS has defined over time; 20,000 acres would remain at Rim Lakes after this initial bid. A supply of NEPA cleared acres would not be an issue in the next 3 years. Almost all acres are aimed at stewardship.

Biomass may change outcome of Timber sale or service contracts. 4FRI can take credit for anything that moves ahead, but the genesis originated through WMS.

Question: How do we get this moving when NEPA is not ready until spring and activity will not happen for a couple of years, but action is needed sooner? The Forest Service anticipates that the Rim Lakes project will reveal where existing industries are able to go.

Marking will be assisted from Tonto. Marking by description would lower cost as opposed to leave tree marking. Bottom line: lower cost enabled doing more.

Flexibility exists to do Prescription by Description, or DxD. Depends on the Region or Washington office view, with proof of performance an important issue.

Rim Lakes prescriptions represent an evolution of WMS prescriptions. Latest iteration was a gradual shift to a more ecological based prescription.

The Rim Lakes project has been under NEPA review for a long time; the document is close to being completed, but whether it will be appealed is unknown.

Clarification on intentions behind Rim Lakes presentation with 4FRI: unique opportunity in that it is the first time a cap or no cap alternative will be evaluated in NEPA process. There will be a chance for 4FRI to evaluate this.

Not hitching 4FRI to the Rim Lakes project is wise. Rim Lakes will do a presentation in Feb. if 4FRI is interested. The group expressed interest in having the Landscape Strategy Group schedule a meeting before the next Stakeholder meeting in February, in order to respond to the sense of urgency on this project. Any presentation would be an open public meeting.

Documents for Stakeholder Review

- **Preliminary approval and/or release language=** No objections.
- **New Policy:** The release language is intended for draft products only. Once documents are approved and are final, the 4FRI logo will be placed on the document and preliminary approval/release language will be removed.
- **Economics and utilization report:** no comments. No objections. There is stakeholder agreement that this is an official document. **Final approval.**

MOU Update

- **Preliminary APPROVAL of MOU today with no objections.**
- **Formal approval and signatures at February meeting.** The supervisors are in agreement that the MOU is acceptable. There was unanimous support in the working group. The goal is for the stakeholders to give final approval by the February meeting. Final approval makes this an official document and initiates the signature gathering process.
- FS cannot sign MOU's with individuals, so there will be two attachments: Organization signatures and individual signatures showing support. The document will be finished with final formatting and grammatical check prior to the February meeting.
- Agency folks could express support for sections of MOU by providing a letter articulating what they support and what they don't support.
- Henry stated: Signature authority has been delegated by regional office to Sups. Signatures from Sups demonstrate approval not just from Sups, but from Region as well.
- There was a request for a letter from Corbin stating support
- Agencies without authority to sign now: State Forestry, Arizona Game and Fish Department. They will sign once approvals have been given from agency legal and management staff.
- Signatures and next steps. The assumption is that the stakeholders will provide final approval on February 23rd. We will try to determine by February 16th who will be able to sign the MOU on the 23rd. The signed document will be transmitted to to the Forest Sups on 23rd if they are not present at meeting. Modification for additional signatories: will occur at 90 days following the February 23rd signing and, then as part of annual review process in October.

- MOU drafting committee will describe signature process and get that back out to full stakeholder group next week.
- Ethan, as Chair of committee, and Henry P. will be responsible for final editing and formatting..

Large Tree Retention Policy Report

- Next steps are to address language, existing concerns, and criteria. There will be further discussions about data to make it work more efficiently, before generating maps, and conducting a beta test.
- Timeline for finalization: before 2/20, beta test by 3/15? Treatments based on field results ready March or April?
- Henry Provencio stated shifts may occur as a result of Feb. workshops
- Schedule for meeting mid-April with call-in access.
- A suggestion was made to get a draft to FS ASAP to make sure that policy already in place does not conflict with the strategy.
- The group delegated Steering Committee to speak on behalf of Stakeholder group on the issue as necessary before the next meeting.
- **Stakeholders should submit comments** to Diane and Steve to pull the information together for the next steering committee, Feb. 1 & Feb. 15. Compiled information will be brought to Stakeholder meeting.

Treatment Area Portfolio

- The TAP-- Firescape 3 document was sent out last week: comments are due from stakeholders by Friday (date?). Firescape 1 next. Current document has addressed comments and feedback from stakeholders already. Further specific recommendations are welcome now prior to workshops starting the week of January 31.
- Draft form will be working document at workshop due to time restrictions.
- Stakeholders with special skill sets are encouraged to participate.
- FS is now looking at doing channel restoration in some circumstances.

Working Group Updates

Communications: 4FRI website is now public. Steering Committee now needs to identify who should manage that site. Communications group will provide recommendations.

- News Release: get PR out by 1/31, demonstrate support for FS, explain possible impacts to public
- Send ideas to Bonnie. Communications group will work it up, send it to Steering Committee for approval, then submit to Stakeholder group for comment. Quick turnaround for public release (same day).
- FS has requested their own stand alone website (as opposed to Kaibab National Forest based),. It is in the approval process through chain of command in regional office. May include a CFLRP page.

Science and Monitoring: Process for submitting recommendation of projects; draft is out to WG now and in a week a final process will be submitted to basecamp for stakeholder comment

- Seeking topical presenters at workshops
- Smoke modelers from ADEQ requested

Landscape Strategy: LTR and TAP ongoing projects

Work plan : Documented matrix presented by Ethan: intended to be a tool to for use by working groups or steering committee.

- Will post on Basecamp for feedback.
- Finalized form will be brought back to February meeting.
- Timeline is a concern for group: when will next EIS be started, etc.
- Discuss in Steering committee when to start next EIS and long term EIS development series
- In reviewing the work plan, see where the need exists for assistance

Fiscal Committee: New workgroup; short term solution to business and financial needs; move forward to identify fiscal sponsor who could manage 4FRI financial matters.

- Fiscal committee recommends Navajo County due to experience, involvement in 4FRI, no cost, and transparency of being a gov entity.
- Process needs to be established on how to make financial decisions
- Develop a formal agreement with County, who have developed a first draft agreement
- County would hold DBA and 4FRI logo rights
- Mailing address/ PO Box to be discussed
- NO OBJECTIONS ON NAVAJO COUNTY/ finalize next month at Stakeholder meeting
- Preliminary approval of process next month
- Marcus will work up an organizational approach to be reviewed on Basecamp for comments, steering committee, final stakeholder approval
- There is a need to track all money that has moved through the organization from stakeholders, with a report at the end of each month available for updating in-kind contributions

Additional facilitation options: Dennis will be assisting with NEPA public meetings; need to determine what extra meetings his facilitation will be needed up to 3 times outside of Stakeholder meetings. Any additional meetings or workshops scheduled in concert with already scheduled trips are not included as extra meetings.

- Considerations could include Adaptive mgt workshop in the summer
- Agreed upon that Dennis will likely be needed 3 times

Announcements

- Release of 4FRI list of members came up recently: Wilderness Society requested a list of stakeholder and contact info. The Wilderness Society is forming a coalition including TNC, Wilderness Society, etc to support continued CFLRP funding. They would like 4FRI Stakeholder info for participation in coalition

- The group concluded that the Wilderness Society contact information will be sent to the 4FRI Distribution list. Stakeholders can decide individually if they want to join. The existing list will not be shared outside the group.
- **Changing of the guards:** Diane will finish her term on the 16th, with Steve Gatewood assuming her duties. Ethan will begin as co-chair on Feb 16 for 6 mos, and another cochair will be selected to start in April

Proposed Action to treat tornado damaged areas has been put out by Earl Stewart. Comment time is 30 days. Anyone who has a comment should contact FS Erin Phelps.

Round Table discussion:

- Agenda for next month: include smoke issues
- FHC: Large scale NEPA discussion: need to decide who will be representing 4FRI on this.

SUMMARY

Action Items:

- **Rim Lakes:** Interest in scheduled presentation with LS Strategy before next Stakeholder meeting February to meet the sense of urgency. Open public meeting.
- **MOU** drafting committee will describe signature process and get that back out to full stakeholder group next week.
 - Ethan, as Chair of committee, and Henry P. will be responsible for final review of signature process.
- **February workshops And Proposed Action:** The 4FRI will write a letter in response to the Proposed Action. Work groups should forward very specific comments to steering committee. Diane and Steve G will draft a letter to be reviewed/approved by stakeholders at next meeting before submission, including statement that organizations will be submitting their comments as well.
- **TAP:** submit comments on Firescape 3 to Marcus by Friday, 1/28/11.
- **4FRI Website management:** Communications group will provide recommendations to the Steering Committee as to who should manage 4FRI Website.

Approved:

- **New Document Policy:** This approval statement is intended for draft products only: This language will appear on draft status documents. Once documents are approved for Final Draft

status, the 4FRI logo will be placed on the document and preliminary approval/release language will be removed.

- **Economics and Utilization Report** is approved as official 4FRI document.
- **MOU: Preliminary approval** today with no objections.

Confirmed that facilitation will be required 3 times outside of regular meeting commitments.

Next meeting February 23, 2011. Flagstaff, AZ