

**Draft Meeting Summary**  
**4FRI Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 27, 2009**

Meeting Objectives:

1. Discuss MOU and charter
2. Discuss Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities and Selection Process
3. Discuss Roles and Responsibilities of Working Groups/Select Working Groups
4. Facilitator Discussion

Announcement:

Gene told the group that and the Secretary of Agriculture will visit Arizona with Congresswoman Kirkpatrick. They will spend time in Payson area, discuss 4FRI and visit the Resolution Copper Mine.

Action Items, Agreements and Next Steps:

1. Wally, Sarah, Steve, Ann, Larry, Ethan will revise the Path Forward by February 5
2. Sarah, Ethan, Todd, Ed, Ann, Shaula, Courtney, Bruce, Pascal will participate in an interim steering committee. They will develop the agenda for the next meeting
3. Volunteers for Steering Committee by January 29 – contact Ethan
4. Project Planning and Landscape Assessment – Forest Service Team Lead will call meeting with Taylor, Ed, Steve G, Ethan, Larry, Bruce, Sarah, Pascal (planning), ForestERA (for some), contracting specialist (RO) and Shaula Hedwall
5. U.S. Institute will facilitate the February meeting and begin looking for another facilitator while the 4FRI finishes work on the Path Forward and Charter

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## **I. Path Forward Discussion**

The discussion uncovered ongoing concerns with the current version. These include scientific/technical concerns related to the cap and to other content and concerns about the requirement that consensus is necessary to change the document. The consensus-related concerns are exacerbated by the draft protocol's references to both the Path Forward and to the 4FRI's consensus-seeking ground rules.

Others are concerned that the 4FRI seems to conclude discussions about the Path Forward in the meeting and then after the meeting participants raise reservations and seek to change the document.

Finally, the discussion indicated that there is not a clear process for 4FRI participants to take the Path Forward to their organizations for ratification.

Wally, Sarah, Steve, Ann, Larry, Ethan will revise the Path Forward by 2/5

## **II. Forest Service Update**

- The Forest Service has started the hiring process for both a 4FRI team lead and a fire ecologist.
- The Service has decided not to sign on to a 4FRI charter or protocol and will create a Memorandum of Understanding instead. A small group has been working on the MOU language (the 4FRI received the current draft). The Service hopes to complete work on the MOU by March. It is not clear at present who will sign the document.
- The FLRA application is due to the regional office by February 8. This will make it unlikely that the 4FRI will be able to have a full deliberation on the content. The Service staff will do what they can to meet the deadline and be as transparent as possible with the 4FRI participants. Courtney reiterated that despite the

less-than-ideal timing, it is important that the 4FRI submit a proposal and compete for FLRA funding and, if possible, include the White Mountain Stewardship Contract in the proposal.

- The Service is prepared to begin a NEPA process at the scale the 4FRI has been discussing – 750,000 acres. The agency staff recognize that this is an unprecedented effort. The goal: DEIS Jan-Feb 2013, FEIS and ROD by May-June 2013
- Contracting would be timed 12-14 months ahead of the FEIS so that the contracting process is aligned with the timing for the Record of Decision

### **III. 4FRI Charter/Protocol**

The participants discussed the draft's definition of consensus and offered the following options/ideas for a decision-making protocol:

- Begin with the Path Forward and review the agreements annually
- Address changes to the Path Forward as they arise (if they arise) and conduct a full review in five years
- In the interim, live with the decisions the group has already made
- Consensus should be the aspiration; forward disagreements to the Forest Service and report majority and minority views
- Majority rule, note areas of disagreement and continue to work
- If no consensus, the Path Forward is the safety net
- For less essential items (such as revising the agenda) don't look for consensus; for important, substantive issues (the proposed action in the NEPA document) seek consensus
- For decisions that will come to the forest supervisors, the 4FRI should strive for consensus understanding that the supervisors will still have to decide
- Discussions should be time limited, with the amount of time set for each decision, with a fall-back rule if the group doesn't reach consensus (majority or super majority)
- Do everything possible to reach consensus – fall-back to a supermajority – (two-third or three-quarter); this requires that the group set a trigger for ending the consensus-seeking effort
- Agree for one year and revisit each year to monitor agreements and to take up those items the group has not been able to resolve; stretch this to five years over time
- Efficiency needs to become more a important part of the 4FRI; accountability requires setting deadlines for major decisions then creating incentives for consensus

### **IV. Steering Committee**

The group discussed possible selection criteria for a steering committee:

- Five participants who cover these areas of expertise or affiliation: science, environment, local government, industry, one at large member and Forest Service
- Geographic diversity
- Add social sciences/economics
- Value in duplication in case someone can't attend a steering committee call
- The committee should take on programmatic oversight role and organizational role
- Add to or subtract from the interim steering committee

- The responsibility is substantial and people should be ready to spend hours in the group
- The duties should include:
  - o create agenda
  - o create working groups
  - o coordinate between working groups
  - o coordination with FS interface
  - o create a strategic plan (timelines, when working groups come into existence)
  - o identify key decisions
  - o recruitment new members (tribal representatives, for example)
- One year assignment (no term limits, assure continuity)
- Work by conference call.
- Identify a willingness to serve list, check against the “what’s” above
- Straw poll – who might be willing to consider serving: Ethan, Todd, Ed, Sarah, Wally (Diane Vosek), Don/Molly/Pascal
- Volunteer by January 29 – Ethan will collect
- Interim Steering Committee to review the names, and recruit other members; the slate will be presented at next meeting.

#### **V. Project Planning Process/Landscape Assessment**

- Project Planning would help inform the EIS process
- Landscape Strategy: content
- These may converge eventually
- Forest Service Team Lead will call meeting with Taylor, Ed, Steve G, Ethan, Larry, Bruce, Sarah, Pascal (planning), ForestERA (for some), contracting specialist (RO) and Shaula Hedwall

#### **VI. Other Working Groups**

The discussion ranged from the Industry Working Group to the Science Advisory Committee and the Communications Committee. The concluded that the steering committee should reconstitute these working groups including articulating a goal/purpose for each group.

#### **VII. Facilitation**

The discussion concluded with these decisions:

- The Steering Committee will finalize an agenda that may include these items:
  - o Decision making rules and charter
  - o Path Forward
  - o Steering Committee Update
  - o FLRA proposal
  - o MOU progress
  - o Landscape Strategy
- The group will finalize the Charter and Path Forward while the Institute looks for a new facilitator – Ed will coordinate with the Institute staff re: facilitator
- The Institute will provide someone for the Feb 24 meeting – ARD Building, 9-3:30

Attendees:

- Tommie Martin –Gila County
- Vickey Christensen – AZ State Forestry
- Steve Rosenstock – AZGFD
- Shaula Hedwall – Fish & Wildlife Service
- Cortney Shultz – 4FRI Acting IDT Leader
- Gene Blankenbaker – Tonto NF Supervisor
- Richard Lunt – Greenlee County
- Larry Stephenson – ECO
- Mike Williams – Kaibab NF Supervisor
- Steve Gatewood – Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership
- Anne Mottek Lucas – Mottek Consulting
- Pascal Berlioux – Arizona Forest Restoration Products
- Sarah Reif – AZ Game and Fish Department
- Edward Smith – The Nature Conservancy
- Joe Stringer – Coconino NF Acting Supervisor
- Todd Schulke – Center for Biological Diversity
- Ethan Aumack – Grand Canyon Trust
- Chris Knopp – Apache-Sitgreaves NF Supervisor
- Molly Pitts – Northern Arizona Wood Products Assn
- Bob Taylor – Apache-Sitgreaves NF
- Don Berry – Navajo County
- Wally Covington – Ecological
- Bruce Greco – Ecological Restoration Institute
- Mike Elson – Flagstaff Center District Ranger
- Martie Schramm – Williams District Ranger
- Marlin Johnson – Pioneer Forest Products
- Michael Cooley – Pioneer/Cooley Forest Products
- Stacey Hamburg – Sierra Club
- Steven Sesnie – NAU ForestERA
- Taylor McKinnon – Center for Biological Diversity
- Harmony Hall – Coconino NF
- Sharon Masek Lopez – NAU
- Pat Graham – The Nature Conservancy
- Bonnie Stevens – Ecological Restoration Institute
- Neil McCusker – 4FRI IDT
- Carolyn Hullseig – Rocky Mountain Research Stn
- Bill Noble - 4FRI IDT
- Vicki Stephens – Detailed on 4FRI IDT
- Larry Fisher – USIECR
- Maggie McCaffrey-USIECR
- Charlotte Minor – Kaibab NF
- Mark Shiery – Flagstaff Fire Department
- Joanne Keene (Coconino County Governmental Relationships Director
- John Grahame (Coconino County Sustainable Economic Development Initiative

To be added to email list:

- John Grahame (Coconino County Sustainable Economic Development Initiative  
[jgrahame@coconino.az.gov](mailto:jgrahame@coconino.az.gov))
- Joanne Keene (Coconino County Governmental Relationships Director [jkeene@coconino.az.gov](mailto:jkeene@coconino.az.gov))
- Richard Lunt (Greenlee County Supervisor [rlunt@co.greenlee.az.us](mailto:rlunt@co.greenlee.az.us) )