

Minutes from the 10.27.2010 4FRI Stakeholder Meeting

Previous Minutes:

- The FS provided the following clarification on comments made in the previous meeting:
 - The FS highlighted treatments in remote locations and/or established over a broader landscape are more expensive, due to an increased distance from industry.
 - It was noted by the FS, that owl PAC's can be treated with mechanical equipment.
- No further objections were offered, and the meeting minutes were approved from 9.22.10.

Next Meeting:

- The next 4FRI Stakeholder meeting will be in Flagstaff on November 17. Location: TBD
- The December Stakeholder meeting is tentatively canceled, pending discussion at the November meeting.

Review of Landscape Strategy:

- The current version of the Landscape Strategy can be seen on BASECAMP
- In the previous Stakeholder meeting, there was a debate over the "weight" applied to various maps layers in prioritizing treatments across the landscape. After running several scenarios, it was decided to assign all layers a "weight" of one, with the exception of active crown fire, which received a three.
- Forest ERA utilized 97th percentile weather conditions (during the middle of June) for modeling fire activity.
- There are areas of PIPO within the 4FRI landscape that do not have spatial data. These areas are designated as "matrix". Matrix areas may be available for treatment, but have not been selected as priority landscapes.
- The discussion highlighted the importance of analyzing how the landscape strategy process can be folded into NEPA, and the importance of developing products that are in-line with FS goals and objectives.
- The FS highlighted that deadlines are approaching, which will require rapidly sequencing numerous deliverables, including: developing the purpose and need, processing the landscape strategy, integrating data sets, characterizing treatment areas, identifying transportation needs, developing the adaptive monitoring framework, and developing the proposed action.
- A tentative schedule for completing the NEPA is as follows: Dec/Jan proposed action; Sept. 2011 draft EIS; April 2012 record of decision.
- The FS will be working through a Continuing Resolution to complete the NEPA, and contracting/operations tasks.

- A Stakeholder highlighted that Forest ERA (current GIS Science Support for the 4FRI) needs on-going funding to continue providing services to the 4FRI.
- It was acknowledged by the Stakeholders that further discussion is needed to strategize capacity development. The FS commented they are investigating “value added” resource options to develop additional funding, i.e., ecosystem services valuations.

Annual Evaluation:

- “Section 1. The stakeholder group will set aside time at least once a year (early October) to systematically evaluate the 4FRI program and actions to ensure regular adaptation and improvement; during the annual evaluation, the stakeholder group will also consider changes to foundation documents, including the Charter and Structure of the 4FRI.”
- In accordance with the above directive, the Stakeholders and FS brainstormed the following ideas:

Pluses (things that are working in 4FRI):

- Working Group process
- Steering Committee and regular vetting
- Amount of work accomplished to date (Path Forward; Charter; Landscape Strategy, etc.)
- Developed work methods, such as with the Landscape Strategy
- The Landscape Strategy has created a transferable methodology for future projects
- Good opportunities for discussion
- Active stakeholder involvement
- CFLRP application
- CFLRP award
- White Mountain Stewardship award
- Amount of ability and experience within the group
- Providing an important asset for the USFS
- Positive, active progress
- Working Groups and other sub-groups
- Expressed common vision
- Decision making rules and process
- Basecamp
- East-West integration
- Combining diverse interests
- Process and methods for short-term work
- Support from USFS line personnel
- Structured learning system at a landscape scale
- Economics and Utilization development process

Deltas (things to improve):

- Seek alternatives to holding a large number of in-person meetings
- Explore spacing and timing of in-person meetings
- Investigate the USFS “E-Collaboration” system

- Improve project management
- Establish and meet interim deadlines for work products
- Identify accountability lines for work
- Strengthen working methods, such as with the Landscape Strategy
- More timely interaction of members with work underway (to lessen last minute interventions and hurried adjustments)
- Better information management
- Expand the distribution of workload and accountability
- Identify and improve clear areas of responsibility to help build trust
- Increase outreach to the general public, including with products and services
- Finish and sign the MOU with the USFS
- Develop a Web presence
- Celebrate successes (CFLRP; White Mountain; Charter, etc.)
- Increase reliability among the group
- Streamline and better define the decision making process for selecting co-chairs and Steering Committee leadership
- Clarify processes to improve the timeliness and amount of information
- Seek greater numbers and involvement of new members
- Improve the accessibility and use of Basecamp (or equivalent)
- Strengthen the integration of East and West
- Develop a clear plan for the long term, including processes, methods and timelines
- Better define industry needs
- Seek more active involvement from industry to help define economic needs and issues in advance of necessary actions
- Widen support among USFS line personnel
- Expand and improve continual learning
- Urge greater pre-meeting preparation among members
- Create a work plan specifically with the USFS
- Clarify and publicize key objectives of and within 4FRI
- Better process for reconciling differences
- Improve & identify clear areas of responsibility (more trust)-Willingness to hand off to FS
- Stakeholders holding each other accountable
- Learn more about treatments on the ground
- The Stakeholders attempted systematically to organize the topics into strategic categories, and develop solutions for improving 4FRI activities and processes. However, it was decided the Stakeholders were not prepared, and time was too limited to complete the exercise. The Steering Committee is tasked with drafting a document that completes this portion of the Annual Review.

Draft Work Plan (amended to the agenda):

- The Stakeholders developed the following list of items to be considered in a draft work plan to be developed by the Steering Committee and volunteers:
 - Industry Action Plan
 - High quality collaboration through the NEPA process
 - Work task to complete a long term plan for 2.4 million acres

- Implementation of Landscape Strategy
- More efficient product development
- Increasing Capacity; expanding partnerships, and seeking funding
- Schedule of Deliverables-timelines
- Communications & Outreach to the general public
- Capacity Development within the Stakeholder group
- A draft will be produced by Dec 3, 2010.
- The work plan will take effect January 1, 2011 & ratified January 26, 2011.

Charter Revisions:

- No Objections. Changes will be added to the Charter that captures changes.
- The following questions were raised during the Charter revision discussion:
 - How do we implement changes on the Charter?
 - Approval by Stakeholders
 - How do you become a SC chair member?
 - Volunteer.
 - What is the process if two people volunteer to be one the SC? Developing a process will be developed as part of the work plan

Forest Service Updates:

- There will be a 20% overhead surcharge by the FS Washington Office on the total project award to the 4FRI through the CFLRP.
- The amount of money 4FRI has been selected to receive from the CFLRP grant can change yearly and could be performance based.
- The FS has hired archeology and tribal staff to work on the 4FRI. They are advertising internally for an assistant team lead.
- The FS provided the tentative timeline for the 4FRI: RFP “release sometime this winter (before March 21), first contract summer 2011, and first task order September 2011. It was indicated the biggest likely hold up to implementing treatments will be the Washington Officer review.
- The FS stipulated they will not provide any details received from the RFI to the Stakeholders.
- The FS is attempting to make a broad RFP to reflect various industry needs.

MOU Report:

- A meeting was held between several Stakeholders to finish the MOU that stipulates how the 4FRI and FS interact. The MOU is based on direct language from the Charter and the CEQ Handbook on Collaboration in the NEPA Process ([https://ffri.basecampHQ.com/projects/3692864/file/58571249/Collaboration in NEPA Oct 2007.pdf](https://ffri.basecampHQ.com/projects/3692864/file/58571249/Collaboration%20in%20NEPA%20Oct%202007.pdf))
- The 4FRI will bring the document directly to the FS for mutual review prior to vetting with entire Stakeholder group for efficiency purposes. All Stakeholders are welcome to review the document posted on Basecamp.

- Comments will not be directly integrated into the current version, but will be used as additional information at the upcoming meeting between FS and Stakeholders to finalize the MOU. **All Comments should be sent to Ethan by Friday November 5, 2010.**
- The MOU discussion between FS & Stakeholders will be organized by the facilitator within the next 30 days.
- Several Stakeholders (AZ Game & Fish; Industry) highlighted potential legal and policy problems with signing a collective MOU with the FS.
- The following options were suggested for the signing the MOU: individual signatures; signatures will reflect the charter; or form an incorporated entity that signs the MOU on behalf of all Stakeholders.

Workgroup Reports:

Fiscal WG:

- A questionnaire was sent to 14 entities investigating their ability and willingness to act as a 1) fiscal sponsor and/or 2) fiduciary agent for the 4FRI; each having its own legal nuances.
 - **Fiscal sponsorship** is a formal arrangement in which a 501(c)(3) public charity sponsors a project that may lack exempt status. This alternative to starting your own nonprofit allows you to seek grants and solicit tax-deductible donations under your sponsor's exempt status. Source Foundation Center: http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/faqs/html/fiscal_agent.html
 - **Fiscal Sponsorship vs. Fiscal Agency—see following links:** <http://charitylawyerblog.com/2010/09/17/fiscal-sponsorship-vs-fiscal-agency/> & <http://www.foundationnews.org/CME/article.cfm?ID=3069>
- The following entities expressed interest in the questionnaire: Apache NRCO, Navajo County, Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D; Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership; Environmental Eco Communities Organization; and USFS.
- The Fiscal working group was asked to hold interviews with each organization to assess their viability to handle the 4FRI fiscal needs.
 - Fiscal Working Group consists of: Marcus Selig, Scott Harger & Pascal Berlioux.
 - Steve Gatewood is to recuse himself from the Fiscal working group, due to a conflict of interest.
- Several Stakeholders, who are members/employees of nonprofit organizations, have indicated a desire to apply for grants to work on the 4FRI.
 - Concern was raised regarding the process of soliciting funds on behalf of the 4FRI, but keeping the money within outside organizations.
- It was suggested to incorporate and register 4FRI and Four Forest Restoration Initiative as trademarked names, across the United States.
- The Steering Committee will send a letter to GFFP authorizing them to purchase the 4FRI copyright and the DBA-Trade name pending time for the Center for Biological

Diversity to examine the proposal. Feedback from the Center is to occur no later than November 5, 2010.

Communications WG:

- ERI has purchased the following web domain names on behalf of the 4FRI: 4FRI.org; 4FRI.net; & 4FRI.com.
 - 4FRI.org will be the official web address for the 4FRI.
 - It was requested that ERI also purchase Four Forest Restoration Initiative.com; .net & .org to secure branding rights.
 - ERI will submit a letter to the Steering Committee relinquishing rights to the web domain names when an alternate host is determined.
- Grand Canyon Trust will submit a letter to the Steering Committee relinquishing rights to the 4FRI logo design, should 4FRI become an entity able to receive ownership.

Science & Monitoring WG:

- The Science and Monitoring WG chair is Matt Williamson (GCT), and co-chair is Pete Fule' (ERI).
- Concern was expressed by some Stakeholder on the lack of productivity of the SMWG.
- The Steering Committee will discuss these issues at their next meeting.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Ed Smith (TNC) has volunteered/expressed interest in drafting a paper detailing the 4FRI collaborative process to provide input on FS policy formation.
 - The SC will review the paper for approval.
- The thank you letter to Anne Kirkpatrick has been put on hold until after Congressional elections. Regardless, of the election outcome, the Stakeholder agreed to send the thank you letter.
- The FS is seeking partnerships/funding development for the 4FI, but doesn't know if they can handle the work load. The FS hopes the Stakeholders can create a strategy to solicit additional funding.
 - State Forestry and & FS indicated that the Arizona Department of Transportation is interested in partnering on treatments along highway right of ways.
- The SC has been tasked with investigating options for solidifying a mailing address for the 4FRI.

Next Meeting: November 17 –Flagstaff. Location: TBD.