



### **4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting**

Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 9AM-12:30PM  
Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office  
1824 Thompson St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Teleconference line: (712) 775-7031, code: 439290611#

**In Attendance:** Paul Summerfelt, Scott Russell, Tom Mackin, Travis Woolley, Steve Gatewood, Amy Waltz, Matt Fidler, Jerry Payne, Katherine Sanchez Meador, Neil Chapman, Sue Sitko, Pascal Berlioux, Wendy Jo Haskins, Annette Fredette, Steve Best, Bruce Greco, Anne Mottek, Ann De Marco, Dick Fleishman, Henry Provencio, Greg Smith, Tiffany Woods, Laura Jo West, Keith Watkins, Erick Walker, John Hamill, Steve la Falce, Aaron Green, Monti Hancock, Bryan Zebrowski, Patrick Rappold, Tom Torres, Michele Ralston, Joe Miller, Mark Nigrelli, Stephen Flora

**On the Phone:** Steve Rosenstock, Jason Whiting, Paul Watson, Linda Lind, Randy Fuller, and Todd Schulke

#### **Co-Chair Updates:**

1. Tommie Martin is unable to serve as a co-chair due to personal reasons. Paul Watson will be replacing Tommie for her entire rotation as co-Chair. Tommie will take Paul's upcoming rotation.
2. The next co-Chair stepping up when Greg steps down is Brad Worsley.
3. Navajo County is in a state of emergency due to the Cedar fire. As of the morning of (6/22) 48,802 acres have burned and there were 950 personnel working to contain the fire.

#### **9:05 Approve minutes from the May 25<sup>th</sup> SHG meeting** — Greg Smith

Joe Miller would like to have his comment regarding broadening the scope of other endangered species to be reflected in the section of the May minutes for Shaula Hedwall's presentation. Otherwise, the minutes are approved.

#### **9:10 Review action items from the May 25<sup>th</sup> SHG meeting** — Greg Smith

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Identify items that need facilitation at the June SC call	SC	Complete
2. SC discussion on co-hosting scoping meetings	SC	Complete
3. Post Dashboard Presentation on BASECAMP	Horner/Woods	Complete
4. Revise Dashboard based on SHG feedback and present at a future SHG meeting	IWG	Address at next SC Call
5. Industry Economics around Restoration Presentation to IWG	USFS/AZSF/IWG	Address at next SC call

#### **9:15 Call to the Public**

Monte Hancock from Hancock Levin Insurance: Monte has served as the insurance agent for Good Earth Power AZ (GEP AZ) and he has some concerns about how the contractor is conducting business. GEP AZ has outstanding invoices that are up to 10 months old and Monte is here to request assistance to have GEP pay their insurance premiums and balances that are owed to his agency. Another concern is how they treat their employees in regard to their sawmill operations because these are not being paid.

The FS will pass this information on to the contracting officer.

### **9:20 USFS Update – 4FRI Board, Coordinators**

There is a bunch of good stuff going on and they are looking at how they do business. There is a level of uncertainty. Every day we are on the verge of greatness and failure, there is a balance. We need to be aware of our challenges.

Planning: The notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) has been sent and will be published in the Federal Register on Friday (6/24). Once it is published it will start the 45 day formal scoping period. The FS will distribute it this afternoon or tomorrow. In regard to Dewhurst's litigation, there was a response and it is in the court's hands.

Henry Provencio: They are working to stabilize eastern industry and will have a lot of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter offerings coming up. Outside of this, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has helped supply industry and Apache County has been working with private landowners to also supplement supply. The FS is still exploring other opportunities such as the good neighbor authority and stewardship agreements.

Operations: The 4FRI monthly update is available online, however, there are two reporting errors on the update. One of the errors is concerning GEP, they have treated 2000 acres which is more than what was listed. About 80000 acres of managed and prescribed burns occurred and while smoke is a major concern it is something they are working on. Dick Fleishman will serve a detail at the Washington Office and Patrick Rappold will take assume his responsibilities until he returns. The FS will be distributing the match documentation requests later this month.

Mixed Conifer Field Trip Update: There was a great turnout (approx. 38) and discussions were led by Andrew Sanchez Meador, David Huffman, Shaula Hedwall, and Jim Youtz. There are a lot of complexities in mixed conifer and the field trip provided an opportunity to see these complexities in the field.

Upcoming Field Trip: Stakeholders have requested another field trip to see first EIS implementation and they are thinking of going out to the Fort Valley timber sale before it is harvested in September. More information will be coming at a later date.

### **9:35 Pre-Scoping Meeting Feedback on USFS Proposed Action – Annette Fredette/Katherine Sanchez Meador**

The layout of the scoping document that includes the proposed action is as follows:

1. Introduction (background information)
2. Purpose and Need

3. Existing Conditions
4. Desired Conditions
5. Proposed Action (includes a section on proposed treatments)
6. Design Features
7. Forest Plan Amendments
8. Possible Alternatives
9. Your Involvement (gives information on the type of comments they would like to see, time periods, and NEPA requirements on notifying the public)

What they heard and what they did with it:

*Note: Not all feedback was addressed at this stage because some of the feedback will be addressed later in the process. Example: more details on specific restoration methods, these will be developed and included later.*

1. Define/Clarify: They provided more information on what is included or excluded in the second EIS; Explained why the Travel Management Rule (TMR) is being included; Better addressed that they are including all requirements of the NEPA process; Defined terminology; Added a narrative on the target cover types.
2. Add Detail: For the Long Valley Experimental Forest they added the needs for that area, for facilitated operations they added detailed descriptions of what they mean, for the reforestation activity they modified the statement and added detail, they added the proposed treatments section, and they added a narrative to address the feedback from ECO concerning Industry.

They will be posting a table on BASECAMP that includes the feedback they received and how it was addressed.

**Action Item:** Post table on the feedback that was provided and how the FS addressed the feedback

- **Discussion on approach to USFS proposed action** – Pascal Berlioux

The PWG will review and evaluate the document then they will engage the SHG in a broader discussion to develop a formal recommendation. Stakeholders can still provide individual feedback.

There will be two Open Houses in July (7/14 & 7/21), they will kick-off the formal scoping process. Stakeholders discussed the possibility of having a third Open House on the west side of the second EIS footprint, such as at the Mogollon Ranger District, but it would require a time commitment from the group and the last day for the public to comment is August 8<sup>th</sup>.

In regard to the comment period, it was asked if there was an opportunity to extend the formal timeframe. It is not possible to extend the comment period, but there will be another formal comment period after the FS releases the draft EIS. Comments drive the issues that develop alternatives and stakeholders can, technically, comment at any time, but to have standing they will need to comment during the formal comment period. The FS can share these documents (Proposed Action and draft EIS) with the SHG when they send it to the Federal Register to be published.

### **10:15 Working Group Updates – All**

- Planning Work Group – Pascal Berlioux

The PWG is waiting for the release of the proposed action so that they can work on a recommendation and bring it to the SHG for review. Until then, they have been focusing on the shortcomings of the first EIS. They want to resolve issues in the second EIS issues within the collaborative as opposed to the issues that were resolved outside of the collaborative for the first EIS. Their main focus has been to run GIS models on the preponderance of large young trees (PLYT), they would like to have a field trip to look at the stands so that they can hopefully refine the criteria.

- Industry Work Group – Pascal Berlioux

The first EIS did not include any socio-economic purpose and need and the FS did not work with industry professionals. The IWG has been working to produce material that could be important for the FS to consider, such as where in the process industry could be used. A statement of socio-economic purpose and need has been included in the Proposed Action as the result of the input of the IWG and the IWG believes the information will be used in the alternatives and the analysis.

- Communications Working Group – Sue Sitko

The CWG distributed the draft newsletter, the final version will be released at the next SHG meeting. The lead story will be on the Proposed Action and the 2<sup>nd</sup> page highlight will focus on James Perkins celebrating 50 years in the forestry industry. Joe Miller will provide information on Trout Unlimited for the stakeholder spotlight and there will be a briefing on volunteer days. Additional articles include the importance of fire from different perspectives and a review of the mixed conifer field trip.

The SHG recommended that information be included on Dick's special detail in Washington and focus on the GCT stream monitoring. Please send any additional comments to Sue Sitko.

Joe, Sue, and Brie had a meeting on how to more readily send information to their groups' information managers because it isn't possible to forward BASECAMP emails. They prepared a document with directions on how to prepare a forward friendly email for BASECAMP.

**Action Item:** Post CWG How To Create A Basecamp E-Mail To Be "Forward-Friendly" To Non-Basecamp Recipients

- MPMB – Anne Mottek

Data entry for the ground plots has begun and they have been working on an economic monitoring form and completed a written survey. They plan to develop a factsheet and they should have their deliverables completed by the end of this month. They continue to work on planning and have discussed using LiDAR, invasive and post treatment surveys, district level coordination for implementation, and the use of tablet technology to digitally mark tree groups. The tablet technology has been tested on state land, but now they need to test if on FS land. The MPMB has asked Dick and Henry to join their group to see where it is important to monitor and they also made a formal call to stakeholder members to participate in the MPMB.

### **11:00 Camp Navajo Biomass Plant Study – Brian Zebrowski**

The Arizona Army National Guard – Camp Navajo has received a \$60,000 grant to complete a biomass feasibility study. 20% of the energy used at Camp Navajo comes from renewable energy and they are investigating all renewable energy options. Research indicates that they could produce 6.7 megawatts annually and the biomass they would be thinning would be incorporated in their long term management plan.

They will be able to meet all of the requirements from a NEPA section 6 and the proposed scope is to determine what the return on investment (ROI) would be, how long it will take to pay the plant off, and where the market is for the materials that are generated in the thinning process. In regard to the ROI, they would also be considering the ROI for the FS and the 4FRI activity. The study would allow them to determine if they have the infrastructure needed to support the movement of materials and if the ideal location is within the boundaries of Camp Navajo. Essentially, they want to consider what is best for the community and if the study recommends that the plant be installed elsewhere, then they will support that finding.

To complete the study, they will need assistance in the form of hard or in-kind donations. No one in their office is an expert on the biomass wood to energy activities and a major opportunity for in-kind donations would be in the development of the scope of work. They will consider any additional opportunities for in-kind contributions. Any contributions will be reported in the budget and for soft funding they will need to know what is being done, the salary of the employee completing the contribution, and the number of hours.

If a plant were to be built it would belong to the organization that pays for it. Camp Navajo does have memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with other organizations and they do not currently have a set ideology on how they would want to pay for a plant. First they need the information (from the study) to convince the leadership that it is something they would want to pursue.

Stakeholders provided feedback on the study: Pascal Berlioux recommended that they consider a plant that could produce 20-30 megawatts because there is enough material to supply the plant for the next 20 years and because the economic viability of a 5 megawatt plant is extremely challenging. Another issue would be the difficulty of incentivizing an investor as many biomass plants are currently shutting down. They should contact Brad Worsley as he has the only biomass plant in the state. There was also concern about the outcome of the study, if the study determines that the plant would not be beneficial to Camp Navajo would they abandon the possibility of moving forward with its development? The return on investment could be a constraint.

Stakeholder interest/potential contributions: The FS is very interested in engaging in this and would provide in-kind expertise. Coconino County will be able to contribute \$10,000. Other stakeholder agencies that are interested in contributing to the study should contact Bryan Zebrowski and Dorenda Coleman with the Arizona Army National Guard at Camp Navajo.

**Action Item:** Post Contact Information for Camp Navajo Employees

The timeframe of the grant is 2 years. They recognize that there are a lot of people they need to include and they want stakeholder participation. First they will develop the scope of work, followed by establishing MOUs and MOAs, then they will work on the answers.

## 12:00 Stakeholder Disclosures – All

Joe Miller (Trout Unlimited): TU has a set of 5 strategic objects, one of which is stepping up their activities because of the Rim Country EIS. They look forward to the release of the formal scoping documents so that they can start their detailed comment process and they will focus on watersheds and stream restoration. They have also started on defining a broad stream temperature monitoring project. They continue to see the connection between 4FRI, TMP, and the Forest Plans and they want to help clear the way for EA and NEPA work. They will be bringing on a staff person with the appropriate credentials to help them achieve their objectives.

Keith Watkins (Arizona Commerce Authority): ACA is looking to grow the job base in AZ, including sectors in rural Arizona and in the forest industry. They hope to be more involved going forward.

Pascal (ECO): ECO has started a series of discussions with TNC to implement tablet technology in a stewardship project. They are also looking to work with AZSF concerning the good neighbor authority.

John Hamill (TRCP): The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a wildlife conservation and sportsman group. They will have a team provide comments on the Rim Country EIS and they would like to work with similar groups so that they can all communicate in one voice because forest restoration and catastrophic wildfire are major concerns for each organization.

Jerry Payne (ASFD): Legislation passed this session and Arizona State Forestry will become the Department of Forestry and Fire Management on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Their processes will not change as a result of the legislation. A wood energy documentary has been approved and will be completed with the School of Communication at NAU.

## 12:15 Review Action Items/Adjourn

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Post table on the feedback that was provided and how it was addressed	Fredette	
2. Post CWG How To Create A Basecamp E-Mail To Be "Forward-Friendly" To Non-Basecamp Recipients	Sitko	
3. Review 4FRI newsletter at the SC Call	SC/Sitko	
4. Update May SHG minutes with Joe Miller's revisions.	Woods	
5. Post Camp Navajo Contact Information concerning hard and soft funding for the Biomass Plant Study	Woods	
6. PA Recommendations at the July SHG meeting	PWG	