



### 4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting

Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 9AM-11:30AM

Arizona Game and Fish Department Region I Office

2878 E. Mountain Blvd, Pinetop, AZ 85935

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

**In attendance:** Ethan Aumack, Pascal Berlioux, Debbie Cress, David Dorum, Jerry Drury, Annette Fredette, Randy Fuller, Brue Greco, Aaron Green, Steve Horner, Royce Kincanon, Lynn Krigbaum, Brienne Pettit, Patrick Rappold, Sue Sitko, Greg Smith, Diane Vosick, Paul Watson, Travis Woolley, Bob Vahle, Todd Richardson, Tom Torres, Oliver Curtis, Wade Ward, Travis Bruer, Matt Fidler, Steven Rosenstock, Andy Cuevas, Brad Worsley, Wendy Jo Haskins, Scott Russell, Laura Jo West, Steve Best.

**On the phone:** Bob Seidler, Sharon Adams, Anne Mottek-Lucas, Audrey Owens, Joe Miller, Garrett Hanks, Steve Gatewood, Dorothy Holasek, Paul Summerfelt, Jason Whiting

**9:05 Approve minutes from the June 22<sup>nd</sup> SHG meeting** — Greg Smith

Approved with changes provided by Pascal.

**9:10 Review action items from the June 22<sup>nd</sup> SHG meeting** — Greg Smith

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Revise Dashboard based on SHG feedback and present at a future SHG meeting	IWG	In Progress
2. Industry Economics around Restoration Presentation to IWG	USFS/AZSF/IWG	Scott Russell provided an update: *see below
3. Develop and present PWG recommendation on the Proposed Action at the July SHG meeting	PWG	In Progress
4. TNC Tablet Technology Presentation	TNC	August SHG Meeting
5. SRP Presentation	Stephen Flora	August SHG Meeting

\*Scott reminded the group that this conversation started with the State Forester and the desire to conduct a wood supply economic analysis. They are changing direction on the project and will be soliciting information from the Industry Work Group (IWG) directly to find out how to make the economics of forest restoration work.

⇒ Russell will be requesting a meeting with the IWG to follow up to collect input.

## 9:15 Call to the Public

Ethan Aumack announced that GCT is increasing its capacity to participate in 4FRI. He introduced Travis Bruner, a new GCT employee. Travis was born in Montana and most recently worked at the Western Watersheds Project in Haley, Idaho. He is a graduate of the University of CO law school.

## 9:20 Steering Committee Updates

- **Camp Navajo Biomass Plant Update** – Paul Summerfelt was asked to give the report by Bryan Zebrowski.
  - (1) The biomass feasibility workgroup includes: Ching-Hsun Huang and Diane Vosick (NAU), Steve Gatewood (GFFP), Matt Millar (City of Flagstaff), Patrick Rappold (AZ State Forestry) and a couple folks from Camp Navajo.
  - (2) If possible, Bryan would like to add someone from Coconino County and possibly APS and/or SRP.
  - (3) Bryan will draft an initial SOW and send to the group for feedback, hopefully by August 6th.

- **Facilitation Update** – Diane Vosick  
Facilitation has been a topic of discussion since the Forest Service announced that it would not be issuing a new RFP for a facilitator. The SHG believes that we are capable of self-facilitation most of the time but would like to be able to request facilitation for difficult issues. Scott Russell indicated that the USFS can use facilitators from the Udall Institute for Conflict Resolution on an as needed basis. In order to formalize this understanding Russell requested that the SHG write a letter articulating this request and understanding. Draft language was offered and edited. ECO has officially stated that it believes 4FRI is doing a good job at self-facilitation and agrees with the decision to have the potential for facilitation in some circumstances. Edits included using “we” in the first sentence and dropping the last sentence.

⇒ Vosick will prepare the letter for the co-chairs and see that it is emailed to the Forest Service.

- **First EIS Implementation Work Group (new item)** Diane Vosick

Several stakeholders have recognized the need for a new work group that would work on implementation of the first 4FRI EIS. Several possible activities include: Working with the Forest Service to translate the first EIS into treatments; Networking to ensure that everyone working on implementation is coordinating-especially with the MPMB; Advocating for, coordinating and implementing non-thinning and burning restoration activities; and other activities as identified in a charter.

Berlioux asked for clarification of the objectives and outcomes. He raised concern about overlap with other existing working groups. He also expressed concern about the capacity of the SHG to absorb another WG.

The ERI and GCT are both going to direct capacity to implementation. There may be some overlap but this group will focus on implementation of the first EIS. Industry will be encouraged

to be involved. One outcome could focus on learning. For example, we can examine what we said we wanted (via the EIS), seeing what happens on the ground, and then determining if it is what we envisioned. This information and learning can be used to inform the Rim Country project. Rosenstock, agreed with the need to increase attention on the "other" restoration goals as an additional outcome.

⇒ The SHG agreed that a First EIS Implementation Working Group is a good idea. Vosick will send out a doodle poll to identify a meeting time in August. The first task will be to produce charter that includes objectives and outcomes.

The following people asked to receive information for the meeting: Vosick, Summerfelt, Berlioux, Rosenstock, Mottek Lucas (potential for integration with MPMB), Travis Bruner, Gatewood, Horner, Flora, Tom Mackin (volunteered by Bob Vahle), Team TNC-Wooley/Sitko.

### **9:35 USFS Update** – 4FRI Board, Coordinators

Scott Russell presented an overview of 4FRI Activity. - What's going right in 4FRI?

1. Great conversations underway on Rim Country PA.
2. USFS is having a great year getting fire on the ground. Juniper fire is a good example.

Challenges:

The large contract is not where it needs to be in terms of ramping up. The goal for the GEP contract is to restore 300K but the contract didn't explicitly require it. Alternatively, the USFS didn't provide a guarantee for those acres either. The FS is constrained in how much leverage they have over GEP. However, they can make sure that contractors do good work. The USFS is happy with the job Wirta logging is doing. USFS and GEP made a contract modification that limits the number of acres the USFS awards annually to GEP to a number equivalent to the acres treated that year, up to 30,000 acres per year (i.e. acre for acre modification).

The USFS is seeking better understanding of the economics of the wood sector and what steps are needed to make this work. They will be discussing this with the IWG.

The FS has made an offer to a candidate for the administrative officer position (budget/contracts) they hope to have the position filled in Mid-September.

The CC Cragin project is going well. It provides insight on how to do restoration in a difficult place. They hope to learn from the economic analysis underway by Campbell Global and use it to inform other 4FRI contract design.

Russell likes the idea of an EIS Implementation Work Group. He feels it is important to help the Forest Service Learn.

Q&A for Russell

- ✓ Are Wirta and GEP linked? Yes.
- ✓ What will the contract be like for the second EIS? No decisions have been made. Contract decisions will be based on what the Forest Service learns. Russell stated that

they need to listen and learn from industry. Do we need processing sites, drying before hauling? What else can we do?

- ✓ Will there be minimal requirements for thinning in next contract? Russell- Can't say yet.
- ✓ Berlioux. The USFS is acting appropriately in their contract management decisions. Objectively the contract is FUBAR (Fouled Up Beyond All Repairs) and apparently it cannot be fixed. ECO's perspective is that it is what it is, so let's move on. Eastside industry doing exponentially more than GEP; let us concentrate on feeding success and providing acres to those who actually cut them.
- ✓ Increase acres on the eastside. It is recognized that USFS has committed to 15,000 acres but the eastside industry can do more. Russell- we are already focusing on producing acres outside of the first contract.
- ✓ What GEP acres can be re-awarded to other industry partners? Russell- 600 to 700K cleared for mechanical thinning across the 4FRI. The USFS can provide acres up to 30K per year. They can redeploy other acres.
- ✓ Sitko. Has there been a change in the contract? How do you explain the complexity of the contract to the public? Aren't they mandated to do 30K in 10 years? Russell- No. Contract talked about a "goal". We all assumed that would happen. Contract year corresponds to when the contract was issued going back to the Pioneer contract.
- ✓ Berlioux- Was the acre for acre modification agreed verbally by USFS and GEP or was an official contract modification actually signed by both parties. Russell- It was signed.
- ✓ Berlioux. If the acre for acre up to 30,000 acres per year contract modification was actually signed, this means that a new opportunity exists to reset implementation on the west side. Up to now USFS already issued ~55,000 acres to GEP. The contract was issued in 2012; we are in 2016; it therefore has another 5 years to run. Under the contract modification, USFS can hypothetically issue a maximum of 150,000 additional acres (5 year x 30,000 acres, assuming GEP actually cuts 30,000 acres/year). Therefore, in total, USFS has approximately 200,000 acres committed/reserved for the first contract out of the 500,000 to 600,000 acres cleared for thinning on the West side. The obvious question is: even if GEP were to somehow start cutting 30,000 acres/year, what do we do about the 300,000 to 400,000 acres that are not going to GEP? Russell- USFS is currently focused on getting contracts out the door. Plans are to continue to get smarter.
- ✓ There is no commitment for a second large contract.
- ✓ Involve industry in design of next contract and include minimum standards.

Planning Report- Fredette- Two successful public scoping meetings. Thanks to SHG for co-hosting the meetings. Format was good. In Payson there were over 50 people. Scoping period ends August 11. The Rim Country ID Team is working on a process to review and address comments on the Proposed Action, as well as continuing to work on existing conditions and other parts of the EIS.

Brie Pettit- Communications- Briefings have occurred with USDA and Congressional Reps during the last month. Lots of understanding and support. Senator McCain is interested in meeting with SHG in August, date unclear.

It is important to get our terminology correct- There is the first 4FRI EIS. The second multi-forest analysis is the Rim Country Project. Don't use phase, or 2<sup>nd</sup> EIS—there are other EIS projects underway too. "4FRI Phase One Stewardship Contract" is the official name for the GEP

contract. There is no such thing as a Phase 2 contract. Keep contracts and NEPA separate. Even though we have 600K acres cleared through NEPA it can take up to 2 years to prep. 4FRI USFS communications will be pushing prescribed burning and raising the visibility of the importance of that activity. Our Message is that forests should be able to support low intensity fire.

Rappold – Operations--Report on BASECAMP.

Additional Q&A for USFS

- ✓ Any information on the Dewhurst Suit? No info.
  
- ✓ Is there detail available on the Fort Valley field trip? TNC and USFS will work together to put it together. It is likely to be coordinated with the regular SHG meeting in August.

### **9:50 Proposed Action Recommendation Presentation – PWG**

Berlioux- The planning group met twice and worked via email on comments. Good and diverse participation. They produced a draft letter that was posted on BASECAMP last Friday. Support by PWG was unanimous. Since posting some editing occurred. There was a discussion about whether or not the letter should represent the views of public at large or focus solely on the views of the SHG. In addition, there was a discussion on the old growth language. The statement was made that the letter should only speak on behalf of the SHG.

⇒ SHG endorsed letter as written. Have Watson and Smith sign and send to FS.

### **10:20 Break**

### **10:35 Working Group Updates – All**

- Industry Work Group – Steve Horner
  - Revised Dashboard Presentation

Horner presented a power point slide with the current gauges. He stated they are still in draft form. They are striving for a standardized look and modified the presentation to bundle acres. He recognized that they need to change the labels to comport with preferred USFS nomenclature for the contracts. They added state trust land, city land, but may add an "other" category is needed.

Novo plans to invest in kiln and planer. Worsley drew attention to what has been issued versus accomplished. He needs more acres to justify investment.

Aumack- Normalize the x axis across the gauges so that you can compare them at a glance. That will help readers interpret what is going on.

Berlioux-Don't lump GEP acres with "other contractors" acres. Produce two graphs that show GEP performance and "other contractors" performance. Merging both performances undermines the success of "other contractors" and removes the justification for focusing resources to prepare acres for the "other contractors". Horner, it can be teased out in the existing graphs.

- Communications Working Group (10 min) – Sue Sitko

Sitko acknowledged the work USFS did for the public meetings. Also acknowledged Joe Miller's work to turn out people in Payson. Low turnout in Show Low.

SHG has an opportunity to comment on the final draft of the newsletter before it is posted on BASECAMP.

- MPMB (10 min) – Anne Mottek Lucas

Last MPMB meeting dovetails with the Implementation WG discussion. The MPMB discussed the intent of the first 4FRI EIS. Asked Provencio and Fleishman how the document is being interpreted/implemented.

- Site specific, not much wiggle room
- There's flexibility in interpreting evidences
- Level of openness is less flexible
- Multiple entries of cutting and burning are needed to get us to restoration
- Option exists to implement less intense treatments but not more intense treatments
- In prepping treatments, the Forests are finding the data are proving to be not too far off.
- The density of the Rx and the DCs don't necessarily align w/pre-settlement conditions
- ID'd key differences to 4FRI ID Team/SHG intent. If EIS doesn't have what is needed the Forest Plan DCs is the reference.
- What is the connection between prescriptions and EIS? Where should plots be implemented? Where will tablet technology be used? These are potential Qs to answer.
- What can MPMB offer to increase capacity for implementation monitoring? There will be a demo mark for the Dx/D and the use of the tablet technology.
- Where do treatments fall in the allowable range? High, low middle? Is there enough variation to promote heterogeneity across the landscape? There are steps between prescription development and application. How can that be evaluated? This may constitute an evaluation of many factors – EIS, Rx, contract, operations, outcomes
- When and how do we do AM and at what scale? Suggestion: use resource photography

Potential next steps: 1) Implementation Field Trip - Plan with District Staff and/or 2) Hold workshop on how interpretation occurs; ID variables from Rx that should be tracked, etc.  
Next meeting: August 17 from 10 to 12. Regular meeting is held second Wednesday of month; 10am-12pm.

### **11:15 Stakeholder Disclosures – All**

- An individual volunteered for MPMB at the Payson open house.
- August 24<sup>th</sup>. FS meeting at local Nature Center to explain introduction of fire into Big Springs.
- 10 Year Final Report for the WMSC is going to print this week.
- Next meeting August 24 in Flagstaff. Lead co-chair will be Paul Watson with Brad Worsley as second co-chair.

## 11:25 Review Action Items

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Follow up on economic analysis with the Industry Work Group.	Russell	
2. TNC will give a tablet technology presentation followed by a field visit at the August SHG Meeting. Confirm during SC Call	TNC and FS- Wooley and Pettit	
3. Put SRP presentation on August Agenda. Confirm during SC Call	Flora	
4. Include a Camp Navajo Update on August Agenda. Confirm with Bryan Zebrowski and discuss on SC Call.	Summerfelt/Zebrowski	
5. Organize a meeting to form an implementation Working Group for the 1 <sup>st</sup> EIS	Vosick	
6. Send facilitation request to Scott Russell. Prepare letter for Co-chairs and send	Vosick / Berlioux	Done
7. Put in final form and send SHG approved Proposed Action Comments to the USFS. Prepare letter for Co-chairs and send	Berlioux	Done

## 11:30 Adjourn

### 08/24/16 SHG meeting information:

Wednesday, August 24, 2016, 9AM-TBD  
Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office  
1824 Thompson St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Teleconference line: (712) 775-7031, code: 439290611#

### Future Agenda Items:

1. Industry Economics around Restoration USFS & AZSF