4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting
Wednesday, June 27th, 2018 9am-12:40pm
Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office
1824 South Thompson Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Teleconference line: (712) 775-7031, code: 439290611#

Attendance: Tom Mackin, Pascal Berlioux, Adam Cooley, Paul Summerfelt, Matt Millar, Dick Fleishman, Jay Smith, Sue Sitko, Greg Smith, Diane Vosick, Heather Provencio, Tayloe Dubay, Michelle Ralston, John Souther, Henry Provencio, Annette Fredette, Brienne Pettit, Art Babbott, Travis Bruner, Aaron Green, Steve Rosenstock, Wade Ward, Brad Cooper, Elaine Corman, Cliff Dils, Steven Flanagan, Amy Wing, Joe Trudeau, Justin Schofer, Kevin Warner, Scott Lear, Jim Parks, Chip Davis, Ann Anderson, Patrick Moore, Heath Norton, Brad Worsley, Steve Horner, Joe Miller, Allan Reidhead, Laura Jo West

Phone: Todd Schulke, Paul Watson, Andrew Vaulkmer

9:00 Introductions

9:05 Approve minutes from the May 23rd SHG meeting — Smith – Approved with edits from Mackin and Vosick

9:10 Review action items from the May 23rd SHG meeting — Smith

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. When the FS receives interpretation language from Dep. of Agriculture on the Omnibus Bill they will then report the interpretations to the SHG on what the new language enables them to do	Fleishman	Pending – Language will come out in the form of Manual Guidance which is in process
2. Email Chip Davis / Keith Brekhus regarding letter to the Secretary of Agriculture from Congressman O'Halleran on efficient implementation of provisions in the Omnibus Bill	Berlioux	Complete - O'Halleran sent the letter to Sec. Purdue; the letter was posted on BC.
3. Post update on Omnibus interpretations on BC when received from the CFLR Washington Office	Fleishman	Pending - Fleishman will follow up wit CFLR folks
4. Assemble a group of folks to draft a 'Thank you'/review letter to our Congressional delegation (DRAFT by June SHG meeting)	Sitko	Pending – Draft letter was developed, passed through the SC, and is available for SHs today.
5. Krigbaum to send Pinetop event information to Allison who will then post it on BC	Krigbaum, Jourden	Complete
6. Finalize and sign Industry Perspective letter and send it to John Crockett	Berlioux, Smith	Complete
7. Post letter regarding CFLRP reauthorization and funding scenario template on BC	Fleishman	Complete
8. Post call for volunteers for future funding scenario development group	Fleishman	Complete
9. Review 1st EIS monitoring plan and new water questions from the MPMB to provide feedback to	SHG	The MPMB is asking for more time on the water questions. Pending.

the MPMB at the June SHG meeting regarding monitoring plan for 2nd EIS		
10. Send ideas to newsletter to Wolff within the next 2 weeks	SHG	Complete
11. Send out information regarding Fiesta Celebration / Sitko retirement party	Fiesta Working Group	Complete

9:15 Call to the Public - None

9:20 4FRI.org Website Update – Norton/Sitko/Dubay/CWG

The CWG has been working to update/streamline the 4FRI.org website. Heath Norton with the ERI has been the webmaster behind the website redesign.

The CWG with Heath Norton unveils the new 4FRI.org website which embodies a clean refined aesthetic while continuing to provide a lot of information:

The "Resources" header provides access to all 4FRI documents in a streamlined and less bulky fashion. Visitors on the website can also access 4FRI maps by accessing the "Resources" link.

The "About Us" section provides access to information regarding who 4FRI is, what the working groups are comprised of, and how website visitors can get involved.

"Restoration in Action" is a page that presents different activities 4FRI has completed and been involved in and will be a living page that will grow as more activities are completed.

The "Get Involved" page presents links to various volunteer pages from different organizations that website visitors can use to find current volunteer activities.

The new calendar on the site will present upcoming events. Visitors to the website can download the calendar into their outlook calendars.

The email icon on the navigation bar links website visitors to the FS 4FRI email.

Questions:

- Can maps be downloaded from the website? Not at this time; however the maps on the website are high resolution images that can be saved as .jpegs.
- Do the images present a 'zoom' function? No.
- Is there a communication process to get the information/suggestions to the website to Heath? Send information to Kelly Wolff or Steve Rosenstock. Stakeholders can also present suggestions at any SHG meeting.

Any suggestions to the website should be sent to Kelly Wolff, the new chair of the CWG. Sitko urges stakeholders to always take pictures whenever involved in restoration activities so that they can be applied to the website.

9:40 USFS Update - 4FRI Coordinators

Warner – Kevin Warner is the new 4FRI Chief Executive. He comes from the White River National forest in Colorado and was a district ranger prior to that. The FS has been working on the RFP and an MOU with a group of five different partners. They've decided they want to put out another RFI. This RFI will have a quick turn around and the purpose is to get the information back to the group in an expedited fashion. There were some questions that weren't

asked in the first RFI that could clarify some issues that have been identified. Also, the first RFI was aimed at industry and the FS would like additional information from a more varied set of stakeholders. This will most likely come out during the first week of July. The FS plans for a two-week turn around. The intent is to obtain additional information without holding up the RFP process. Anyone who responds to the RFI will be held under a NDA in order to keep contributors of this information confidential.

Rosenstock – What types of non-industry information is the FS looking for with this second RFI? The FS has heard from different entities that there is a belief that the FS doesn't have all of the information needed in order to adequately craft an effective RFP. The FS would like to fill in these holes of missing information.

Bruner – Will the other entities that are involved in the MOU be involved with the RFI process? Are they helping draft the questions in the RFI? At some point, it is likely that the partners will provide input to the questions, once the FS receives signed NDAs from them. The five partners will not have a substantive role in the gathering of this information but they would be privy to the summaries of the information gathered. Why is this new RFI process confidential and not subject to FoIA? This is subjective information and a non-confidential process could limit the amount of information they receive. This is to make more entities comfortable to share as much as they can.

Reidhead (Alan) – What is the scope of the RFI? Essentially the same scope as before – the FS would like to validate what they heard on the first RFI and emphasize that they are not only looking for information from industry but other perspectives as well. The FS wants to ensure they're giving everyone an opportunity to have an input to the process and to be as inclusive as possible.

Berlioux – The purpose of this partnership is to better attract a large-scale investment in the upcoming RFP. What do these partners bring to the table that make this more achievable? Berlioux wants highly technical partners involved in the partnership. Is there a decision regarding under which authority the RFP will be produced? This is still TBD.

Warner – The FS still has the ability to look into more technical partners and this is something they are working on. There is legal work going on to determine who can be involved with FS operations. It is not exactly clear yet which roles these partners can play in FS activities.

Worsley – How does this RFI help/deter the timeline of meeting the APS RFP deadline? Provencio's reaction is that it does not impact the timeline – these are two separate processes.

Cooley – The will results of the RFI be presented to the SHG in a summary format without disclosed contributors? Yes.

Pettit will post the RFI on Basecamp once it's released.

For the August 22nd meeting, the FS received a request from Blue Forest Restoration Bonds to present on Forest Restoration conservation bonds. They would like to spend the first 1.5 hours of the meeting talking about forest conservation. Henry will post some drafted questions on BC.

Leslie Weldon would also like time at that meeting (30 minutes) to talk about these forest restoration bonds and intent with those.

Operations –
The monthly update was posted on BC. There was no fire activity and just under 900 acres harvested last month. The FS anticipates industry to begin harvesting soon, once clean-up is finished.

CFLRP Scenario Planning – Fleishman is to schedule a meeting with FS and SHs to go through the funding scenario planning options.

Babbott – What is the primary reason for the delay in operations? FS capacity to move forward with offerings is the main contributor to the delay. They are starting to receive the needed abilities to fill their open positions.

Corman – Elaine is the New Deputy Regional Forester replacing Jim Upchurch. She is working on coming up to speed on all efforts related to 4FRI. Prior to this role she was the forest supervisor on the Cibola in New Mexico. Her primary role is to work on behalf of Cal Joyner and to support the Forest Supervisors. She does have a background in economics and hopes to bring these skills to the table.

Planning Update – The planning team is busy analyzing the alternatives and continuing their work with the PWG to answer questions on the FTA and the 58,100acres in the Proposed Action, where they are proposing raising the intensity of restoration activities. There is the opportunity to comment on the CEQs proposal in the Federal Register to update NEPA regulations. There are some good questions in there to guide comments.

West (Laura Jo) - The forest closures in effect in order to prevent human caused fires have been very effective and West thanks all SHs involved in efforts to implement those closures.

Information on the Environmental Analysis Decision-Making Process - Corman – They're looking at the innovative framework around the use of LiDAR and what the ERI is doing with that and how it might fit with FS actions. They're trying to identify the top priorities for streamlining their processes and use of data in environmental analysis.

Vosick – Andrew Sanchez Meador has a great deal of expertise with remote sensing tools. He is working on advancing the analyses and technical issues related to getting LiDAR into a state of wider-application in this region. The ERI will help to facilitate the learning for the FS as that moves forward.

10:10 CC Cragin Watershed Protection Project Overview - Dechter

Mike Dechter is the NEPA coordinator on the Coconino National Forest. He presents on the CC Cragin Watershed project, its motivations, and inception, progress and future prospects. The project falls completely within the 4FRI footprint.

This project intends to thin 37,000 acres and burn 64,000 acres in order to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and post-fire effects to the Wildland Urban Interface, drinking water watersheds, and MSO habitats.

When transportation was identified as a large contributor to the cost of restoration, the CWPP researched potential sites with minimal ecological impact but potential ability to support log processing sites. They identified 8 potential sites.

CWPP took a hard look at prioritizing treatment areas to avoid MSO breeding seasons. This was determined to be a difficult thing to accomplish so the project decided that mechanical treatments within .25 mile of PACS would be allowed to occur during breeding seasons.

Project effects are seeing significant reduction in crown-fire risks. The CWPP put out the final EA in May and just completed their objection filing period and received one objection from CBD with a focus on large and old tree implementation plans. This objection is available on the CWPP website and basecamp. The project is preparing for implementation via timber sale in FY 19.

The presentation can be viewed on Basecamp.

QUESTIONS:

Mackin – The southern end of this area receives large public use. From a planning perspective, will there be a public information effort to let people know these operations are on their way? This project includes the same measures as the FWPP and 4FRI regarding how to interact with the public to avoid confusion. There will be information released to alert the public that these projects are coming. In addition, they hope to minimize treatments in areas close to people. Do you envision a whole group of individual smaller sales, or one large group? This depends on which route will hold the best opportunity for success. There is nothing in the NEPA that will force them to do it one way or another.

Babbott – Can you describe the proposal regarding those processing sites? The CWPP left it open to not restrict certain types of processing activities. There were discussions regarding how this will be managed, and it was determined that it would be decided via which proposals come to them. There were no limits created with regards to where the processing sites are located with respects to the treatment sites.

Berlioux – Does the NEPA require the removal of biomass? It is not required in the NEPA but proposals including these practices will be strongly considered. It depends on how those agreements are framed.

Ward recommends getting mechanical thinning done prior to Rx fire in order to reduce risks to power lines.

Worsley – Is there any insight into how the project will incite bids on their available acres? In that sense, CWPP shares the same challenge as 4FRI.

Berlioux – Transportation costs on this project will be much higher than usual which gives the impression this project will be more difficult to sell. Is the FS / CWPP looking at actively trying to help with the transportation costs or will these be on industry?

Should the sale not sell, the FS is looking at the potential for a stewardship agreement. There are opportunities for partnerships here and the FS invites them.

Lear – The value of this project is the conservation of water resources. The timber is not a value, but a liability. We must stop thinking about timber as the value here when water is the commodity. How much is it worth to keep the watershed healthy vs what it will cost if access to water is compromised?

Miller – Is not happy with the amount of support Payson has provided to this project and Miller has expressed this to the Mayor. If this is offered as a timber sale, will the time requirements be very restrictive or will they extend this project significantly? They are hoping to make the terms more restrictive but this increases their risk of not receiving as many bidders.

Berlioux – On behalf of the Eastern Arizona Counties (EAC) and Gila County, wants to point out that two years ago the EAC offered the FS a stewardship agreement at no cost to the FS in order to put together a package of economic value but the FS had to decline the offer because GEP was already promised those acres. Recently, the EAC had a detailed discussion with SRP to put together a stewardship agreement for the entire CC Cragin project area at no cost to the FS but that articulation involves strategic activity from SRP in terms of biomass removal and SRP as no voiced interest in moving forward with the project.

Provencio – Welcomes a proposal for a stewardship agreement from all involved counties/entities that the Cragin project affects.

11:10 BREAK

11:20 Industry Update – Attending Industry Members

GEP / NewLife - Cooley – They're continuing to haul product from the forest before operations start back up. They are moving approximately 6-8 loads a day. Regarding sawmill operations, they are continuing to process logs. They will soon start chipping in Williams.

Novo Power - Worsley – The plant is running well. They are actively working with APS on a PPA extension. Novo is not far from being able to bid on the APS RFP. They are hopeful SRP will soon engage on that as well. They are trying to determine which plant they will go with but they are still ready to respond to the RFP.

TriStar - Reidhead – TriStar is harvesting in the forests and is selling logs to NewLife. Their facility is running close to 2 million board feet per month.

Campbell Global / TNC - Horner – Both of the treatment areas are within closed areas so their activities have ceased. Before the closure, the small diameter wood was almost completely removed from both areas.

11:35 Working Group Updates

- Planning WG (10 min) – Berlioux

The FS is moving ahead analyzing the modified alternative 2 which includes 58,000 acres of high intensity treatment. There is confusion in the PWG regarding why this analysis is taking place, in terms of EDR. One narrative was that treatments with higher intensity was necessary to increase the pace of restoration. The second narrative was that this was necessary as the only way to reach a full range of desired conditions. There are questions regarding these desired conditions and how they apply to the rim country as they were developed with respects to the west side. There is not an answer regarding 'how long' 'Extended Duration' signifies. Some members of the PWG are in support of higher intensity treatments and some are very opposed and some are still trying to reach an understanding on the issue.

The PWG will meet at a time alternative to their normally scheduled meeting time, which has yet to be scheduled. At their next meeting, the FS will give a presentation to explain EDR.

- Industry WG (10 min) – Worsley

None

- Communications WG (10 min) – Sitko

CFLRP Draft Letter – This letter was passed through the SC thanking congressional representatives for their support of this project over the years, and to insert a plug to request future support, should future legislation come about. The letter was distributed to the SHG via basecamp last Friday and the CWG moves to approve it at this meeting.

The most important aspect of this is for congressional authorities to support reauthorization of this project.

The letter is accepted and will be prepped by the ERI to be distributed to congressional representatives, and will then be given to the co-chairs to send out.

If anyone wants to join the CWG, Sitko encourages folks to let Kelly Wolff know.

- MPMB WG (10 min) – Anderson

The article from the MB will be split between Ann and Hannah. RECORDING. Regarding the review of the water questions, Ann hasn't received any feedback and encourages folks to send that. The board is looking for input from water specialist folks because the board must come up with triggers and ways to monitor changes. At the next SHG meeting, there will be a vote one whether or not the MPMB will move forward with their monitoring plan.

- Comprehensive Implementation WG (10 min) – Bruner

The WG is planning to do work on Rosilda Spring in November and at the last meeting, Coleman identified a number of potential NEPA cleared project areas that the WG may be able to address in coming seasons.

12:30 Stakeholder Disclosures – All

Davis – There was an article in the Clarksdale newspaper regarding prescribed burns and living with wildfire which reached everyone in the Verde Valley so information on this topic is starting to spread

Parks – The Tinder fire in Parks' district has been cleaned up quite a bit and crews will be back in mid-July to do some more work.

Summerfelt – This past week they hosted the screening of the film Era of Mega-fire which was well received by the community. Vosick was on the expert panel. They received some really good questions. Also, this week the bid packages for the FWPP helicopter cable steep-slope stuff will be on the street. Announcements regarding what occurred in that will be released in later August/September. Base of Mt. Elden work will begin once the area comes out of closure.

Provencio – Thanks the SHG for showing up since 2009 and is grateful for the engagement.

Green – Expresses appreciate to the Coconino NF. Laura Jo and Green signed a programmatic burn plan for broadcast burning that can go across multiple jurisdictional lines. They are planning for one of those burns to occur this fall down woody mountain road which will give them the opportunity to include state trust land, private land, and FS land in cooperation.

Anderson – The LiDAR Consortium recently voted to join the Arizona Geographic information Center who houses all of the GIS data and resource planning data for everyone in the state. One of this WGs first items is a symposium happening on August 15th. Anyone looking for information on this should contact Ann Anderson.

Anderson – Is no longer with Campbell Global.

12:35 Review Action Items

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Smith send letter from FTPC to Allison who will post to BC.	Jourden/Smith	Complete
2. ERI to prepare CFLRP letters to congressional delegation and send to co-chairs	ERI/Co-Chairs	Complete
3. Post RFI on Basecamp once released	Pettit	
4. Fleishman is to schedule a meeting with FS and SHs to go through the funding scenario planning options.	Fleishman	

12:40 Adjourn

07/25/18 SHG meeting information:
Wednesday, July 25th, 2018, 9am-TBD
Arizona Game & Fish Region 1 Office (Pinetop)
2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ 85935
Teleconference line: (712) 775-7031, code: 439290611