



4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting

Wednesday, November 28th, 2018 9am-1:05pm
 Arizona Game & Fish Region 1 Office (Pinetop)
 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ 85935

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

Attendance: Art Babbott, Trudy Balcom, Pascal Berlioux, Steve Best, Tabi Bolton, Travis Bruner, Deb Bumpus, Melanie Colavito, Stephanie Coleman, Adam Cooley, Kacy Ellsworth, Steve Flanagan, Randy Fuller, Bruce Greco, Shaula Hedwall, Stephen Horner, James Johnson, Lynn Krigbaum, Rochelle Lacapa, Tom Mackin, Matt Millar, Joe Miller, Patrick Moore, Anne Mottek Lucas, Rob Nelson, Mark Nigrelli, Jim Parks, Shay Peterson, Henry Provencio, Robbin Redman, Allen Reidhead, Steve Reiter, Justin Schofer, Todd Schulke, Bob Seidler, Greg Smith, Jay Smith, Paul Summerfelt, Alissa Tanner, Andrew Volkmer, Diane Vosick, Amy Waltz, Paul Watson, Jason Whiting, Marty Wicklund, Jon Word, Brad Worsley, James Daeschler

9:05 Approve minutes from the October 24th SHG meeting — Bruner - Approved

9:10 Review action items from the October 24th SHG meeting — Bruner

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. The steering committee will communicate with SWDR regarding their ability to provide facilitation to the DEIS WG	SC	Complete
2. The letter will be signed and sent to Steve Best	Rosenstock	Complete
3. The FS needs match and leverage data from partners by the end of next week	SHG	Complete

9:15 Call to the Public - None

9:20 USFS Update – 4FRI Coordinators

Deb Bumpus is the current acting Chief Executive. The FS will be making an announcement on Friday regarding her permanent replacement. It has been approved by the Washington Office.

The 4FRI team has discussed where they are on the Rim Country EIS and the RFP. Dick is out of the office this week but he updated Basecamp with the information.

Robbin Redman is the new 4FRI Planning Coordinator. She has been working on the draft EIS. The FS have several rough chapters drafted. They expect to have it cleaned up for an internal review to begin in December. The draft should be ready for publishing by the end of February. There is still significant work to be done on it. Robbin has come from the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan and has been an environmental coordinator on two other forests as well.

Provencio – The FS is continuing to work on the development of the RFP and the hope is to have that in for review by the end of 2018. It will likely be a 20-year authority which lies with the dept. of agriculture which extends the necessary review time.

Berlioux – Tom Torres testified last week to the AZ Corp. Commission that the FS intends to file a 30-day Notice of Intent by the end of January so the RFP may be ready in March.

Redman – Once the draft RFP is ready, the FS will hold office hours for those interested in updates.

Torres – The FS has received a letter from the SHG regarding what they would like to see in the RFP and the FS is taking those recommendations into serious consideration and incorporation. It's the FS' hope that this RFP can help get private industry in a position that will significantly increase actual acres treated per year.

10:00 Aquatics Flexible Toolbox Review – Coleman

This tool box is the result of two years' collaboration with partners, the SHG, etc. There was a field trip in June 2017 to see what heavy mechanical stream restoration looked like. One of the things determined at that field trips was that the toolbox implementation required a decision matrix to determine how to get from issue to implementation.

Decision Matrix – The first step in the matrix is to identify potential sites for restoration. The next is to understand the consequences of the existing conditions and opportunities to address those conditions. Third, one must identify and appraise options (what restoration treatments are possible). Table 1 in Stephanie's document shows considerations for prioritizing where and when treatments are implemented. Once it's determined how, when, and what will be done, implementation is possible. After implementation, analysis must be conducted to determine post-treatment effects.

Coleman provides a table she developed detailing potential existing conditions and their resource issues and concerns by habitat type (Springs, Wetlands, Montane Meadows, Unneeded roads and unauthorized routes and trails, Road / Stream / Wetland crossings, Streams (channels, floodplains and riparian))

Flexible toolbox – A workshop was held to develop the toolbox. She had attendees run scenarios through the use of the toolbox to attempt to find holes and pieces of missing information. Some questions came up regarding heavy mechanical stream restoration with regards to where and how often that would happen. Stream gradient plays a significant role in stream restoration treatment success.

Tools cannot be used universally across all project areas. To determine which streams would be viable for restoration they were separated into two categories: General stream restoration and heavy mechanical stream restoration.

Stroger - Regarding steep areas, where are the tools that address high flow/steep bank areas? You can do general stream restoration (restoration w/o heavy equipment). There aren't many examples of this because literature suggests these forms of restoration would not be very effective.

Miller – compliments the work Stephanie has done. There is an example in the Tonto where the East Verde River fits the criteria of varied slope restoration. It was agreed to that the work would be done by hand. This approach of the toolbox and decision matrix has worked out well and Miller is happy to see the progress. There is similar work going on in NM regarding stream restoration activity. Miller provides copies of an article that describes these efforts.

Coleman welcomes suggestions and feedback.

10:30 Strategic Plan Review – Colavito, Bumpus, Souther

John Souther, Melanie Colavito and Deb Bumpus have revisited the plan in order to conduct the annual review that was scheduled at the plan's inception. Their goals are to come up with a plan for how the SHG is going to maintain the plan so that it's useful, identify action items for 2019, and identify a best practice for keeping the plan current.

The Strategic Plan was developed in response to the implementation of Vision 2017. The organization of the plan consists of the mission, identified strategic goals that are meant to endure for the lifetime of the plan, and individual program components which completes the bridge from the strategic to the tactical. Each program component is paired with its potential outcomes. Within the program components are objectives and action items identified to achieve those objectives.

The Action Item Tracking spreadsheet was posted to Basecamp Monday, 11/25. This is a spreadsheet used to track and organize progress on near-term action items. The last column in the spreadsheet currently shows the method being used to track 2018 progress on the action items. The team is open to better tools to track what is being done.

This meeting is intended to get the big-picture discussion on how to handle this quantity of action items to provide focus for 2019. Ideally, by January SHG meeting, we will have final revisions and updates and determinations for action item focuses for 2019.

Jay Smith - The strategic plan seems to leave out industry action items and Jay believes they should be incorporated.

Vosick – There are too many action items. Diane suggests that each working group take this list and pick the most important item or items to accomplish in 2019; the SHG can focus their working group updates around those items. Diane suggests voting within working groups as an avenue in identifying the most important items to address.

Babbott – This plan needs to be broken down in a meaningful way. He likes the idea that working group updates can be tiered around these action items. In addition, attention is necessary to determine how monthly reports can be synched with strategic plan goals. He suggests this become a regular function of our regular meetings.

Summerfelt – Concerned that some action items may not be appropriately tasked to specific working groups.

Working groups are tasked to identify 3-5 items each that they believe are most important to further progress and to present them for discussion during their update at the January meeting. Stakeholders should be looking not at what they're most responsible for but what's most important to progress. Colavito will help identify the 3-5 items as most important for the SHG.

11:15 BREAK

11:25 A-S Response to SHG Letter on Little Creek TS and Escuidilla NEPA - Best, Haskins, Fuller

Best – The Little Timber Sale was a WUI sale and its prescription was aggressive. It was intended as a “bridging-the-gap” NEPA. This is a 4FRI sale so these targets go toward 4FRI. The bottom line is that quite a few large old trees were cut as part of the WUI/DMT treatments. It was Best’s expectation that it would be rare to cut large old trees but after several trips out there, many more were cut than expected. The FS is reevaluating and looking back at decisions that determined when and where they would cut large old trees. They are going to further restrict the decision indicators that allow for the cutting of old large trees. They feel pressures to increase target but Best tries to express to his staff that this isn’t an intention to increase volume. They want to manage for a healthy forest. The A-S also wants to do what’s necessary to maintain the amount of industry they have or increase it. Trees were cut that were not intended to be cut so the FS has tweaked the contract to attempt to address that and prevent it from happening again. Best suggests a workshop to sit down and determine what works and what doesn’t.

Torres – Steve mentioned that this project is considered within 4FRI. The board of supervisors met and talked about this issue in detail and there was unanimous support for revisiting the contract as well as the idea that this issue has the potential to happen in other places, so Torres agrees that a workshop to work through these issues and which exemptions allow for the removal of large old trees would be a good thing. Torres recommends that we revisit the language involved in the considerations regarding when it’s acceptable to remove large old trees.

Best – There is a lot of differences between the first 4FRI EIS and the Rim Country NEPA. The A-S has done 70 % of the mechanical treatments that have been done on 4FRI which means they’re accomplishing a lot.

Fuller – Asks that folks who are interested in a field trip contact him and let him know.

Bruner – Asks whether or not there will be a written letter in response to the stakeholder letter? Best confirms there will be.

Fuller – Kudos to the implementation crew that caught the mistake before acres of eagle habitat were cut.

11:55 Industry Update – Attending Industry Members

Worsley – After the last SHG meeting, Worsley was informed that the APS RFP was cancelled. The reason behind this is that, at the utility level, there is not enough interest nor support for

biomass energy. The 70% of the work done on the A-S wouldn't have been possible without the biomass facility. Worsley is currently considering whether or not he will continue investing in a potential future in biomass. Novo is nervous about whether or not there is enough supply to sustain the supply chain throughout the winter. Novo has opened the doors to supplier back-ups to bring Novo any quality fuels they have. The Arizona Corporation Commission has put forward an idea concerning a conditional mandate to say that yes, biomass power will be mandated but the state legislature has to fund the differential between the going price for renewables and the needed price.

Vosick – Asks for explanation about the ACC meeting – the general understanding was that NovoPower had been told they were the only RFP submitter and no one likes one bidder. Between the fact that it's expensive power and there were no more bidders, ACC lost their interest in biomass. The new commissioner Kennedy is expected to be favorable to this fight.

Worsley – Every person in this room should post their positions and thoughts to the docket. This is going back up for vote in December. There is an ACC meeting on December 10th and the vote is on December 17th.

Docket Control

Arizona Corporation Commission

1200 W Washington

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Inquiry to the Role of Forest Bioenergy in Arizona Docket No. E-00000Q-17-0138

*13 copies included

Reidhead – NovoStar/TriStar: They are currently dealing with the challenges of the wood industry. They're pushing over 100k per day. The markets are a little different now. They're still moving the wood. From their side of restoration, it's critical – it provides a way to get rid of slash but also gives a great residual source to mills. From all angles, a biomass facility is critical to this area.

Provencio – What is NovoStar/TriStar future if Novo closes? They would have to start working on outlets for their residuals etc. No restoration work would be happening.

Berlioux – Proposes that the 4FRI SHG, as a collaborative entity, gets on the docket. This needs to happen before December 10th. A draft response for the docket will be developed by the co-chairs (Whiting and Bruner), posted on BC for 48 hours for comment, and then submitted. Add letter to BC by Friday, 11/30, for comment until Monday COB, and submit to docket first thing Tuesday morning, 12/4.

Berlioux – It's better to submit many letters to the docket than for the SHG to send one letter listing multiple organizations' support.

Babbott – Each of these letters should consist of entities' personal stories with regards to forest restoration, forest health, and fire.

Coolley – the Heber sawmill production is steadily continuing. They're at roughly 70k board ft. / shift. They are supplying other industry in the area with residuals. They recently purchased 73

acres of land in Williams (an old NewPAC fiber parcel) to build their new sawmill which has begun. They'll be starting production hopefully in January. They currently move their biomass to Novo. They've yet to move forward with the composting facility in Valley.

12:05 Working Group Updates

- DEIS WG (10 min) – Berlioux

Waltz - The group spoke with SWDR regarding facilitation and the group is meeting next week to work on the process. Toni needs an approximate number of meetings at which her facilitation would be needed. There is a range of about \$8-15K available for facilitation that will need to be used for meetings. When the co-chairs meet next week they will take a final look at the meeting needs. As for as timeline, the group wants to pull the committee together in January so that in February the whole committee can meet to start confirming the issues. They will then work through the comment period. Waltz wants stakeholders to continue thinking about how they would like to participate in the group. She would like those who promised to contribute funding to work on confirming the amounts they're able to offer.

Vosick – We would need someone to handle the money and the ERI is available to do so. We need to figure out what other groups are willing to put forward.

Moore – what is the communication between the FS and the DEIS look like during this process? That is on Amy's agenda to determine. They would like to be in close communication with the FS. The goal is to get a project that the stakeholders are confident in and that is practical.

- Industry WG (10 min) – Worsley – None
- Communications WG (10 min) – Miller

The draft of the next newsletter has begun based on topics that were previously collected. Included will be the Blue Forest Restoration bond presentation, Cal Joyner's 4FRI presentation, other county projects. The CWG hopes to have something to show at the January Meeting.

- MPMB WG (10 min) – Woolley

The MPMB is continuing to work through planning for FY19 projects and budget items. They are hoping to have that resolved by January.

- Comprehensive Implementation WG (10 min) – Bruner

The next CIWG meeting is December 20th.

12:00 Stakeholder Disclosures – All

Miller – Trout Unlimited and AZGFD jointly sponsor a native and wild trout workshop every year; every year there has been a 4FRI component to that workshop. Last year there were 150 attendees from the southwestern states. Stephanie Coleman and Dick Fleishman have been present to represent 4FRI in the past. Two of the topics this year will be 4FRI broadly speaking and forest watershed and stream restoration activities. The workshop will be April 11th (Thursday) at AZGFD headquarters.

Vosick – The ERI and Coconino County partnered up to submit a grant request to the EDA for in-woods processing, air-curtain burners and ways to drive down costs in moving materials out of the woods. They're hoping to hear whether we receive the grant in December. Camp Navajo did an update on the biomass feasibility study. There is still movement to put some sort of facility on the west side. NAU has begun to reassess their carbon footprint and discussions have begun to potentially implement some smaller-capacity but wood-based biomass generation.

Krigbaum – Reports that the FS-certified appraisal has been completed on the Woodland Lake Park, 107 acres. They are supposed to hear from the FS by the end of 2018.

12:10 Review Action Items

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Working Groups are to identify 3-5 action items from the strategic plan that they feel are most important to accomplish in 2019. WGs will present these to the SHG via their updates at the January meeting	Working Groups	
2. Co-Chairs are to develop the letter to be submitted to the AZCC Docket on behalf of the 4FRI Stakeholder Group. This will be posted to BC by Friday, 11/30 for two days of comment before being submitted on Monday, 12/03 COB	Whiting, Bruner	Complete
3. Post letter in response to SHG letter concerning the Little Timber Sale to Basecamp	Best	

12:15 Adjourn

01/23/18 SHG meeting information:
 Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019, 9am-TBD
 Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office
 1824 South Thompson St., Flagstaff, AZ 86001
 Teleconference line: (712) 775-7031, code: 439290611#