



**4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting**

Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 9am-12:30

Arizona Game & Fish Region 1 Office (Pinetop)

2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ 85935

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

**Attendance:** Diane Vosick, Greg Smith, Robbin Redman, Amy Waltz, Aaron Green, Lynn Krigbaum, Rochelle Lacapa, Bob Seidler, Tom Mackin, Henry Provencio, Jeremy Kruger, Pascal Berlioux, Steve Best, Brad Worsley, Samantha Flores, Eric Hoskins, David Danker, Keith Johnson, Steven Flora, Tom Holl, Wade Ward, Randy Fuller, Dave Dorum, Steve Rosenstock, Neil Chapman, Art Babbott, Leslie Yen, Todd Schulke, Rob Nelson, Tabi Bolton, Tom Austry, John Souther, Mark Nigrelli, Dick Fleishman, Justin Schofer, Jay Smith, Ann Mottek, Jim Parks, Joe Miller

**9:05 Approve minutes from the June 26<sup>th</sup> SHG meeting** — Vosick - Approved

**9:10 Review action items from the June 26<sup>th</sup> SHG meeting** — Vosick

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Post approved CFLRP WG Charter on BC	Vosick	Complete
2. Send suggestions for the next newsletter to Kelly Wolfe or Tayloe Dubay	SHG	Ongoing
3. Post low-value wood letter on BC	Fleishman	Complete

**9:15 Call to the Public** - None

**9:20 Co-Chair Rotation, Members in good standing**— Vosick

Smith – The July meeting was cancelled due to lack of content. We would like to make it a standing rule that hot chairs remain hot chair until they have served 3-meetings. No objections.

Vosick – A vote is required when it comes to making decisions or providing formal endorsements on behalf of the SHG. Only stakeholders who have attended 4 or more meetings in the last year are defined as being in good standing and therefore have the authority to vote. Organizations in good standing are only allotted one vote in a decision, regardless of how many representatives that organization may have in attendance to the vote. The ERI will review attendance back to January 2018 to determine which organizations have the authority to vote on the upcoming DEIS endorsement and the CFLRP reauthorization process. Diane encourages folks to review the charter and to sign if anyone has interest in becoming a stakeholder who is eligible to vote. The charter can be viewed on the 4FRI.org website at: [https://4fri.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/4FRI\\_charter\\_amended\\_022713.pdf](https://4fri.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/4FRI_charter_amended_022713.pdf)

Charter Excerpt:

"4. **Member eligibility to participate in 4FRI decision-making.** Individual stakeholders or one individual representing a stakeholder organization are eligible to participate in 4FRI decisions: a. At the next general meeting after joining as a member, if the individual or an organization is in good standing (see section 5 below); or b. A

member in good standing who is unable to attend a stakeholder meeting may send an alternate to represent them during decision making. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that their alternate is well informed on the matter before the group.

**5. Member or organization in good standing.** During their first year, an Individual or Organizational member will be considered in “good standing” if they have attended at least half of the stakeholder meetings since joining. After the first year, an Individual or Organizational member will be considered in good standing if they have attended at least four stakeholder meetings during the previous twelve months. Attendance at a meeting can be either physical or electronic (i.e. teleconference or webinar). As per X.A.4.b, an alternate attending in place of a member will be considered equivalent to the actual member attending.”

### **9:30 USFS Update** –4FRI Coordinators

The FS is currently trying to figure out who owns the Cameron mill and what some potential uses for that mill might be. They are in the process of setting up a series of meetings with the tribe to discuss the potential future of that facility. ERI is involved in this process.

The Coconino National Forest is working on a SPA for General Springs as part of the CC Cragin Project. They’re working closely with the National Wild Turkey Federation and they’re close to finalizing that agreement.

The FS is seeking out consultation on their internal processes in efforts to improve FS efficiency and effectiveness.

- Operations Update –

The monthly operations report for August was posted on Basecamp and since the last report the FS has seen approximately 25,000 acres of treatment including Rx Fire, thinning, wildfire, and mechanical harvest.

- RFP Update -

The RFP did not come out on August 12<sup>th</sup> as was hoped. The FS intends to release it by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September. The size and scope of the endeavor has impacted the RFP’s release date.

- DEIS Timeline -

The NOA is intended for release on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> so the comment period will begin on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a little over 100 days for comment. The FS has been meeting with the DEIS working group and collaboration has been effective.

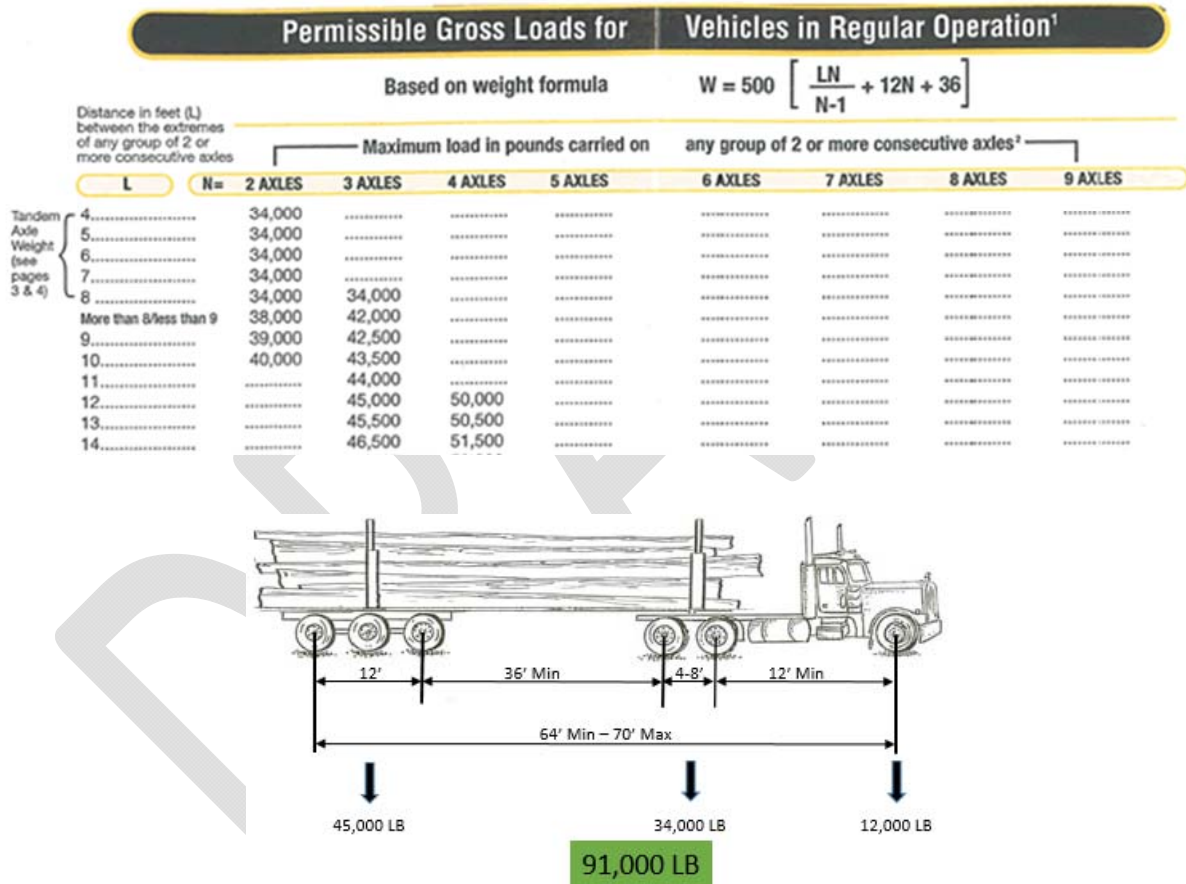
- CFLRP Tier 1 approval, planning for Tier 2 -

Flores – The Tier 1 pre-proposal packet was submitted last Friday and the CFLRP WG is waiting for feedback. The FS and WG is working on Tier 2 now which is due in early November.

- Update on axel configuration -

The FS is working with ADOT to determine exactly how the updated Forest Health Initiative will effect truck weight limits. They are very close to having full buy-in and approval.

“Federal Bridge Formula” – A mathematical formula is used to determine maximum gross weight for commercial motor vehicles based on the number of axles and their spacing. These standards are consistent across the nation and national bridges are constructed based on this standard. This is necessary to prevent heavy vehicles from damaging roads and bridges. It is estimated that one 80,000lb. truck has the same impact on roads and bridges as 750 standard 3,800lb. Vehicles.



There are many possible truck configurations that stay consistent with the bridge standards. Henry presented a graphic depicting a tri-dem configuration for trucks (see above).

Berlioux –ADOT is looking at a 91000 lb. maximum and not a 97,000 lb. double tri-dem configuration. Henry clarified that nothing has been approved, not the 91,000 lb. maximum and not the 97,000 lb. maximum. Henry presented what the federal bridge formula allows. There is a desire to remain consistent with the federal bridge formula.

Berlioux – He believes it will have to be a tri-dem configuration and Henry believes that still remains to be determined as a decision has not yet been signed. Berlioux is confident that a tri-dem configuration and 91,000 lb. maximum will be approved and doubts that a double tri-dem configuration and 97,000 lb. maximum will be allowed.

Worsley – In an attempt to get out in front of this, Novo ordered trailers a month ago which they expect to be delivered in January. Operators would be very behind if they had to wait until a January decision in order to purchase their trailers.

Berlioux – ADOT has the authority to grant permits for these types of loads. The FS operates only as technical advisor to ADOT. ADOT plans on being flexible in issuing temporary variance to organizations in good standing to continue operating as they have been until their new capital equipment is delivered.

Cooley – When might this be presented to the governor? It's in process. Provencio will post the PowerPoint on Basecamp.

Miller –He would like to see a lot more detail on the CC Cragin project at the meeting in September and potentially a presentation to the SHG. Miller also suggested a presentation to the mayor and town of Payson on the status of the implementation of that project.

### **10:00 Rim-Country DEIS Working Group Update – Waltz**

The working group is responsible for the DEIS delay because they asked to see some items incorporated into the DEIS that were important to stakeholder values and the original 4FRI Charter. The document contained intense treatment allocations classified until 55-70% interspace which was an area that made stakeholders uncomfortable to the point that they wouldn't feel comfortable providing comment on the document. The FS agreed to pull the document from the editor with the commitment to readdress those 18,000 treatment acres. The WG felt great about how their concerns were received.

The WG has a list of 8-15 issues with the document that they are working through. Three or four of those are in regards to honoring stakeholder's language concerning large trees that was included in the first EIS. They'd like to see it carried forward. The rest of the issues were more in-depth content-related issues. Vegetation types, interspace treatments, and the use of the flexible toolbox are examples of the working group's deep-dive items. In this EIS, the working group wants to see stakeholder values from the inception of 4FRI and lessons-learned from the first EIS.

Another deep-dive issue is implementation and NEPA planning. They are also addressing the role of the collaboration in that effort. SPLYT conversations with Todd Schulke are also under way in regard to this DEIS.

Amy believes the working group should set a cut-off date for folks to be allowed to join the WG.

Vosick asks Waltz to recap the timeline for planning purposes. The new timeline is that comments are due in January. Proposes that the DEIS WG talks about meeting dates that the DEIS WG can present their intended comments to the SHG. Wonders if we should hold a special SH meeting in mid-December or in early January?

Berlioux – Expects that the product of the WG will already encompass stakeholder preferences and ideas. He does not believe it will be challenged by the SHG. Recommends we distribute the product ahead of any special meeting that is scheduled. Berlioux supports the idea of holding a special meeting.

Miller – Does not agree with Berlioux that the acceptance of the comments will go over without a hitch. He anticipates the discovery of some surprises. He thinks there needs to be a meeting in December for preliminary presentation of the comments and then another meeting in very early January to solidify them.

Smith – Proposes a special meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> and one on January 8<sup>th</sup>. **ERI will reserve a meeting venue.**

Reddman – Requests assistance from the SHG in regards to logistics to the public forums they plan to hold. The meetings would likely be between late October – mid-December. They won't take place until after the comment period starts. **DEIS to decide whether or not the SHG will be involved with the public forums.**

### **10:30 Stakeholder Comments on proposed NEPA Changes – Miller**

Vosick – The Steering Committee discussed the proposed NEPA changes and decided that rather than develop a stakeholder position on these proposed changes, the SC asks people to share their individual letters to the FS on Basecamp.

Miller – At the previous SC meeting, Miller requested that the SHG consider submitting a comments letter on the USFS proposed rule to revise its National Environmental Policy Act regulations, docket #FS 2019-0010. The deadline to post was August 26<sup>th</sup>. The FS received over 30,000 comments. This is a huge effort involving all FS operations across the nation. The FS said that in January or February, there will be another phase of public comments invited on revisions to FS Manual 1950 and FS handbook 1909.15. Some of the elements of this rule making are in effect to reduce public awareness, public comment capability, scoping and collaboration. Around 93% is an estimate of FS projects that will no longer be subject to public scoping or comment. The comments that were submitted focus on the ability to keep scoping on all levels of projects, the ability to provide public comments, there are sections that address determination of NEPA adequacy, and there is an expanded list of categorical exclusions for items that would not require public scoping. The responses by in large say keep the process much as it is now with scoping, public comments, and collaboration. Miller requests that the SHG review these proposed changes and the comments and be ready in the next comment period to provide your thoughts. It has been said that those new rules will likely go into effect in mid-2020.

Berlioux – The proposals do not change NEPA. They change how the FS complies with NEPA. In terms of scoping, the proposals do not eliminate scoping for NEPA, they remove a mandatory process for scoping regarding the categorical exclusion and environmental assessment which means the line officers continue to be mandated to do scoping but they can do scoping they believe as appropriate for the situation.

Miller – Apologizes if he sounded alarmist. Their interpretation of it is that there would be more CE's which wouldn't be subject to scoping.

### **10:40 BREAK**

Flores – To meet reporting requirements, Samantha requests data from stakeholders for information on their various achievements and figures to include in her report.

### **10:55 ACC Update & Establishing a Biomass Working Group – Miller**

Berlioux – The ACC has decided not to allow APS to make a formal application. The ACC has been convinced by some stakeholders that no move should be made until we have the results of the FS RFP. There exists the notion that the FS RFP will bring clarity to what industry can accomplish regarding the RFP. ACC will make no action in terms of decision making until the results of the RFP are shown.

Miller – Trout Unlimited got involved in this biomass question late. They were invested in the issue. Miller has heard that the biomass question is a showstopper for 4FRI. If we don't have a way to handle biomass, the forest won't be thinned. Miller doesn't believe we should do nothing for 6-months and that the route through the ACC is the only avenue to address this issue. Miller proposes the formation of a Biomass Working Group. He believes it is necessary and appropriate in order to address this issue.

Kruger – States that the decision to form a working group is not up to the FS but he believes it is important for this group to continue to be engaged with the ACC on this issue. The question of who pays for the retrofitting of these facilities came up, whether it's the rate payers or the facility-owners themselves. The impression Jeremy got was that the ACC did not want to be the only entity bearing the responsibility for biomass disposal.

Worsley – He doesn't believe a separate working group is necessary, he would support it being a subgroup of the industry working group. Believes the window for the ACC to act has passed. They needed to signal to a bidder that this could be done and that failed.

Berlioux – Berlioux agrees that the IWG should take on the task of establishing a Biomass WG as an arm of their group.

Miller – Agrees that addressing the ACC requires strategy but points out that this has been attempted and failed. Requests frequent reporting back to the stakeholder's group.

### **11:10 Industry Update – Attending Industry Members**

Holl – They're working on the reservation and will be moving elsewhere soon. They will be bringing wood to Worsley. They are hoping to have a good winter.

Worsley – Novo is burning a ton of wood and they have stayed relatively static June-August. They're buying logs to help build their winter inventory.

Cooley – The Heber site is running great and they’re continuing to deliver their biomass to Worsley and elsewhere. They’ve closed out some task orders recently. The new sawmill in Garland Prairie will be going to two shifts soon. The Williams mill construction has begun.

Bolton – Campbell Global will be soliciting bids on a 4000 acre project near Parks, AZ so encourages folks to keep an eye out for that.

Berlioux – the IWG commits to having a biomass meeting and to post it on BC.

### **11:25 Working Group Updates**

- Industry WG (5 min) – Worsley

The IWG will schedule a meeting to talk about Biomass.

- Communications WG (5 min) – Wolff

No update.

- MPMB WG (5 min) – Flora

All of the agreements for this FY have been completed. There’s been analysis of the pre-treatment and some of the first post-treatment monitoring data. They are continuing songbird species determinations. This year they started an extensive agreement with SSI on monitoring approximately 56 springs throughout the 4FRI footprint. They’re questioning how all of this data will be tracked and managed in one concise place. They are going to start talking about some effectiveness monitoring and how it can be used for adaptive management. Lastly, they are currently working on a letter in support of getting Dan Kippervaser’s monitoring coordinator position filled. Their letter will express the importance of that position. The letter will be put out on BC in early Sept.

Kruger – At the end of the FY the FS will have a detailer coming in to take on Dan’s responsibilities. This is a great opportunity to have more folks exposed to these efforts. At the Sept. board meeting, Kruger will be presenting a plan moving forward and there will be a vote on filling the vacancy.

Krigbaum – Didn’t hear citizen science mentioned in these reports and requests to keep this item in mind.

Flora – The MPMB is discussing how they can incorporate citizen science into their monitoring goals.

- Comprehensive Implementation WG (5 min) – Mackin

The CIWG has been working on their 5-year plan for identifying next projects. Last Saturday, friends of the forests were out at t-six installing a logworm fence. GCT is out there today looking at the plant communities and monitoring the spring flows for that location. They have visits to 7 of the possible highest-regarded spring sites to help formulate their 5-year plan.

## 11:45 Stakeholder Disclosures – All

Kruger – The FS was asked to update their contact list of all FS 4FRI personal. Kruger has brought 20 copies and will post it on Basecamp.

Best – Wendy Jo Haskins is the new Director of Ecosystem Analysis, Litigation, Planning. Rob Gump is a detailer coming from Montana with a lot of leadership skills and strategic planning. The Deputy Forest Supervisor job has been announced.

Krigbaum – As Vice President of Save our Park, Lynn announces that they are raising \$1.635 million to buy 107 acres of Woodland Lake Park. They are taking donations. 1-sq. foot costs \$0.35.

Provencio – Suggests the next SHG be held at a county park with food? He suggests Ft. Tuthill?

Miller – Regarding Biomass, Fleishman posted a biomass challenge on basecamp calling for proposals concerning the issues of transporting biomass.

Vosick – On August 9<sup>th</sup>, ERI in collaboration with partners successfully shipped 58 containers of biomass chips to South Korea. Vosick is grateful to partners at AZDFFM and the FS and TNC. Dr. Han-Sup Han and his team are now crunching numbers on that and it has generated a ton of national and international interest.

## 12:00 Review Action Items

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Post Axel Weight presentation on Basecamp	Provencio	Complete
2. Compile attendance and determine stakeholders in "good standing"	Jourden	In-process
3. Reserve meeting location for Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> and Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup> meeting	Jourden	Complete
4. Decide whether or not the SHG will be involved in the DEIS public forums	DEIS WG	In-process
5. Submit information on various 4FRI achievements and contributions to Samantha Flores	SHG	In-process
6. Schedule IWG Biomass meeting and post logistics to Basecamp	IWG	Complete
7. Post updated FS contact list to Basecamp	Kruger	
8. Post letter in support of hiring a new FS MPMB coordinator to Basecamp	Flora	Complete

## 12:15 Adjourn

### 09/25/19 SHG meeting information:

Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9am-TBD  
Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office



1824 South Thompson St., Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Teleconference line: (712) 775-7031, code: 439290611#

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