



## 4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 9 am – Noon  
ZOOM Audio Meeting

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/92771192452> password: 341419

**In attendance:** Anne Mottek, Jeremy Kruger, Tracy Bazelman, Matthew Scragg, Rob Nelson, Scott Buffon, Mike Hannemann, Steve Rosenstock, Steve Reiter, Adam Cooley, Aaron Green, Amy Waltz, D Magna, Melanie Colavito, Tabi Bolton, John Souther, Jay Smith, John Godfrey, Jessica Archibald, Eli Jensen, Joe Miller, Cerissa Hoglander, Justin Schofer, Mark Nigrelli, Joel Jurgens, Tom Osterday, Brad Worsley, D Dolecheck, Jennifer Ruyle, Laura Jo West, Patrick Moore, Elvy Barton, Henry Provencio, Art Babbott, Kelly Wolff, Paul Chapman, Chris Jones, Stephen Flora, Kevin McCully, Dave Dorum, Joe Loverich, Bryce Esch, Tom Mackin, Tom Holl, Peter Aleshire, Adam Reidhead, Jaelyn Belcher, and Carol Covington taking minutes.

**9:05 Approve minutes from the July 22, 2020 Stakeholder Group meeting** — Cooley - Approved as presented.

**9:07 Review action items from the July 22, 2020 Stakeholder Group meeting** — Cooley

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Standards of good biomass disposal information to ACC candidates	Berlioux, Worsley, Provencio, Fleishman	Steering Committee determined this was not the role of the Stakeholder Group.
2. Thank you to ACC candidates and Michele Ralston at Supervisor Babbott's office.	Babbott, Ralston	Report later in the meeting.

**9:10 Call to the Public** – Cooley - None

**9:20 USFS Update** – Kruger

*Wood For Life (WFL) - Henry Provencio*

The program is intended to leverage stewardship agreements to get low value, small diameter wood delivered to the reservations that can be used for traditional, cultural uses. These include home heating, cooking, and in some cases ceremonies. There is a big need on the reservations for firewood, and they hope this program will take off and need financial partners to make it happen. So far, the University of Arizona Tribal Extension service and the National Forest Foundation have paid for the delivery of approximately 50 cords of wood to the Navajo and Hopi reservations. The individual forests, through their respective tribal affairs and small sale programs, have delivered or made available over 200 cords of wood. The Mangum fire on the north rim will deliver approximately 300 cords to the San Juan Piute who will work with the Navajo and Hopi on distribution.

*Digital Timber Sale Manager (DTSM)- Henry Provencio*

The development of DTSM is a partnership between 4FRI, the national forest products modernization effort, and TNC to digitize and modernize components of the Forest Service "Gate" System. The USFS is about to sign an agreement with TNC to provide technical support in this effort.

### *Conservation Finance - Henry Provencio*

Our National Partnership Office, 4FRI and NFF have been drafting a conservation finance strategy based on geographic areas. USFS is in the process of segmenting the 4FRI footprint by 12<sup>th</sup> code watershed boundaries and then using the work done with stakeholders to identify potential benefactors (Payors) and partners who might be able to secure loans. They hope to have a product they can share with stakeholders soon. Additionally, they are looking at opportunities for a pilot program on Bill Williams. Like many of the things they are doing right now, they need to see the result of the phase 2 RFP to get a better understanding of the need and opportunities.

*RFP* – Jeremy Kruger offered an update on the RFP. The goal is to award by the end of the year, but it may be that it will be awarded in the first half of 2021. They are working with offerors to determine who is in the competitive range. Art Babbott expressed dismay for the delay and frustration with yet another extension of the award date. In response to a question by Paul Chapman, Kruger articulated that the next step is to determine who is in the competitive range, and after that they will then enter into negotiations. Brad Worsley expressed his extreme disappointment in the additional delay. Jay Smith asked if no negotiations are at play, what has been going on for the past four months. Jeremy Kruger noted the unprecedented scale and length of contract. Additional disappointment and frustration were expressed across the board.

- 9:30 Formation of New Working Group: Developing a Framework for Stakeholder Engagement in 4FRI Implementation** – Steve Rosenstock explained the intent of the formation of this working group. He indicated the desire to engage in a process to allow and encourage involvement in assessing how treatments are performing compared to the initial vision for the work. The stated purpose is “Facilitate collaborative engagement in evaluating restoration work done under the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)”. He explained development of a draft charter for the working group and how the group is anticipated to work. Joe Miller expressed gratitude for the work done to lay the foundation for such a working group and expressed interest in being involved. Jay Smith expressed interest in participating in the group. Henry Provencio asked about the distinction between the proposed group and the Multi Party Monitoring Board. Rosenstock explained that this is more observational and less technical. *The charter creating this working group was approved by the Stakeholder Group.*
- 9:55 Review Thank You letter to ACC candidates** – Jay Smith read the draft thank you letter crafted by Michele Ralston and Art Babbott. Discussion focused on the desire to leave out any positions of stakeholders, rather, to focus on a minimal thanks from the Stakeholder Group for participation in the July meeting. Individual stakeholders are urged to correspond with candidates with their information and positions. *Approval for simplified letter of thanks for participation to be signed by co-chairs of Stakeholder Group.*
- 10:00 JE Fuller Oak Creek Watershed Fire Modeling Study** – Jay Smith introduced Joe Loverich, JE Fuller Hydrology and Geomorphology Inc. Joe Loverich provided an overview of the study. It was designed to understand the flooding risk to Oak Creek in the event of a wildfire affecting the watershed. The other focus is looking at the watershed to determine which specific acres present the most risk for flooding downstream. Matt Scragg proceeded to [present](#) his research strategy and findings. He summarized the different models used to conduct the study. Jay Smith elaborated that the County has commissioned this study to help determine how best to focus remediation work, how to prioritize flood control funding.
- 11:00 Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Strategy presentation** – Jennifer Ruyle, Forest Service – [Website Link](#) Jennifer Ruyle offered an [overview](#) of the strategy, and emphasized the desire to work collaboratively. She highlighted accomplishments to date. Joe Miller asked if training could be made available to stakeholders. She would be glad to work with Stakeholder Group moving forward.
- 11:20 Industry updates**
- Tabi Bolton, Campbell Global - TNC is wrapping up chipping operations and road closeout in Chimney Springs. The Parks West SPA is progressing with one conventional logging side and one chipping side. Treating many

DxP acres and learning while adapting the Forest Service prescriptions to on the ground methods using tablet and GIS technology. Operations in the Clover SPA will be commencing next month.

- Brad Worsley, Novo Power – Running very well. Thirty days of inventory, and getting prepared for winter. Daily deliveries are more diversified. He underscored the urgency of RFP award to sustaining the viability of Novo Power. He is concerned about continuity of supply of biomass.
- Allen Reidhead, Tri Star – Overall a positive report from the operational standpoint. He echoed concern about the lack of predictability, and lack of faith with moving deadlines. The continued uncertainty of a timeline for the awarding of the RFP, exacerbates the sense of uncertainty all the way down the line.
- Adam Cooley – reported that they are seeing significant increase of production and increased quality of wood. Lumber prices are at an all time high and they are working to take advantage of that fact. Lots of collaborative efforts going on.

**11:30 Working Group Updates**

- Final Environmental Impact Statement WG – Amy Waltz reported that the group is working to finalize their comments to date.
- Industry/Biomass WG – no update
- Communication WG – Tayloe Dubay – please send ideas for fall newsletter to Tayloe Dubay.
- Multi-Party Monitoring Board WG – Cerissa Hoglander reported that the group is compiling edits for the EIS which will be their primary focus for the coming weeks. Chimney Springs project area data collection is complete. They are conducting several other monitoring projects.
- Comprehensive Implementation WG – no update

**11:50 Stakeholder Disclosures – All**

- Aaron Green 4FRI three different task orders have been issued. More acres are being prepped for RFP when awarded. He reported that he is leaving the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and will no longer be a part of the Stakeholder Group.
- Joe Miller, Trout Unlimited, received an update on the Cragin watershed protection area project status which will be shared at the September Stakeholder Group meeting.

**11:55 Review Action Items**

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Complete and send thank you note to ACC candidates	Jay Smith, Adam Cooley, Michele Ralston	
2. Stakeholder Engagement Working Group – next step to convene a working group	Steve Rosenstock, Jay Smith, Joe Miller, Dave Dorum, Adam Cooley, Jeremy Kruger	
3. Post Fire Modeling Study and Riparian PowerPoints to Basecamp	Carol Covington	

**Adjourned at 11:38 am**

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**2020 Meeting Schedule** – these dates are posted on the 4FRI website.

- Zoom - 9/23/20, 11/18/20, 2/24/21, 3/24/21, 4/28/21
- Coconino NF Supervisor’s office - 10/28/20, 1/27/21,