



## 4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 9 am – Noon  
ZOOM Audio Meeting

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

MEETING WAS RECORDED

### ZOOM meeting protocols:

- **PLEASE ANNOUNCE YOURSELF IN CHAT BOX OR ON THE PHONE**
- Co-chairs will manage participant engagement
- No video please
- Keep speaker on MUTE
- Use chat box to communicate your questions or comments to the group.
- Please refrain from private messaging as it becomes part of the official transcript.

**In attendance:** Jaelyn Belcher, Jeremy Kruger, Eli Jensen, Jay Smith, Rochelle Lacapa, Melanie Colavito, Andrew Sánchez Meador, Robbin Bundrock, Tom Mackin, John Souther, Anne Mottek, Patrick Moore, Adam Cooley, Han Sup Han, Henry Provencio, Art Babbott, Brad Worsley, Travis Wooley, Mark Nigrelli, Greg Smith, Randy Fuller, Damon Vaughn, Todd Schulke, Tom Osterday, Dave Dorum, Wade Ward, Cerissa Hoglander, Joe Miller, and Carol Covington taking minutes.

**Approve minutes from the October 28, 2020 Stakeholder Group meeting** — Jay Smith – approved as presented.

**Review action items from the October 28, 2020 Stakeholder Group meeting** — Jay Smith

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Update on Mexican Spotted Owl habitat monitoring to 4FRI Stakeholder Group – future meeting	Berlioux, Kruger, Hedwall, Miller, Rosenstock, Schofer, Waltz	Ongoing
2. Notify Stakeholder Group of change of venue (to Zoom) for October meeting.	Carol Covington	Complete

**Call to the Public** – Jay Smith - none

**USFS Update** – Jeremy Kruger

- *RFP* – The USFS has moved into more detailed negotiations with offerors. Following these negotiations, the contract officer will ask for final clarifications.
- *Wood for Life, USDA Rural Development Loan Initiative* -Henry Provencio provided updates on Wood for Life Program, USDA rural development group would like to present information on their loan initiative program to the Stakeholder group in January. This could take 30 minutes.
- Update on [New Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project](#), Alaska – John Souther presented a summary of the biggest deficiencies identified by the court as part of litigation about lack of specificity in the environmental impact statement (EIS), and how that compares with the work in Rim Country. He noted the types of vagaries of assumptions in that EIS that were identified by the court. By contrast, the Rim

Country EIS makes assumptions that are more comprehensive and specific. In addition, the locations and treatments have been provided with alternatives. He reviewed a handful of additional violations regarding planned treatments in the New Wales project.

**Forest Operations Training Center EDA Grant** – Han-Sup Han offered a report on a Forest Operations Training Center under development. He described wood utilization processes and employment impacts. He noted that with a goal of 50,000 acres treated in Rim Country, there would need to be 800-1,000 people employed in the industry. The training center is geared towards specific demographic groups. Economic Development Administration of US Department of Commerce has awarded \$350,000 over two years to develop this training program. In order to offer training programs starting in 2022, they are seeking additional grants to support this work including developing strategies that the training center remains financially sustainable. This is anticipated to be located at Camp Navajo.

**LiDAR Applications** – Andrew Sánchez Meador presented an overview of what LiDAR is and how it is used. He summarized how remote sensing works. LiDAR is an active sensor, reflections of pulses of light are measured. He described four different types of LiDAR, and how they are used. He reviewed some of the organizations for which they are using this application, and the types of information they are gathering.

**Arizona Corporation Commission Update** – Art Babbott offered some insights into why 4FRI needs to make the value proposition of biomass utilization to the Arizona Corporation Commission. He reported on the newly elected commissioners. He then summarized what he believes are the sensitivities and areas of interest of each commissioner strongly urging that these be kept in mind when interacting with each. He underscored the importance of educating ACC staff as well. He suggested that there may be benefit for the Stakeholder Group to form a sub group to focus on education of and relationship building with the ACC. He noted that he will no longer be serving as an elected official as his term on the Coconino Board of Supervisors is ending, but he will continue as an interested citizen.

#### **Industry Updates – Jay Smith**

- Brad Worsley, Novo Power – expressed concern about continued advocacy for biomass with the ACC. They are awaiting feedback from partners to extend contracts for power. Forty days of fuel are in the queue and he anticipates a better winter than the one just past.
- Adam Cooley, NewLife Forest Products – Extra logging equipment is arriving soon which will help with processing. Heber facility had an upgrade to the kiln. The Williams facility is running smoothly. End of October they closed on a new facility in Bellemont which is 425,000-square-feet. It is the former facility of SCA tissue.

#### **Working Group Updates – Jay Smith**

- Final Environmental Impact Statement WG – None
- Industry/Biomass WG – None
- Communication WG – None
- Multi-Party Monitoring Board WG – None
- Stakeholder Engagement WG – Melanie Colavito offered that the group has recently met with other groups to learn how they are working with stakeholders. They anticipate working on revisions to the 4FRI MOU in the coming year.
- Comprehensive Implementation WG – Hannah Griscom noted that they have identified six springs that they are targeting for restoration in the next few years.

#### **Stakeholder Disclosures – All**

- Joe Miller – reported that he has been working with the mayor of Payson and others on a project in the Craigin Watershed area. He announced that they have proposed a partnership meeting in December,

between the town, county, SRP, and USFS, to work on how to advance the work of forestry management in that area.

- Brad Worsley – Would like to see Novo Power participate with the Craigin Watershed project as they can in the forestry management of the area.
- Jay Smith noted that Art Babbott will be testifying before the senate sub committee on biomass utilization. Art Babbott described the [bill](#) in short. He described the Forest Biomass [legislation](#) pertaining to high hazard areas, which creates a funding mechanism for remediation.

**Review Action Items**

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. USDA Rural Development - Summary of Loan Initiative program (Request for 30 min at January Stakeholder Group Meeting – add to January Steering Committee agenda)	Henry Provencio	
2. Potential Work Group regarding ACC (add to January Steering Committee agenda)	Anne Mottek	
3.		
4.		

**Reminder – No Stakeholder Group meeting in December, and January 27, 2021 meeting will be held via Zoom.**

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

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

- Zoom - 1/27/2021, 2/24/2021, 3/24/2021, 5/26/2021, 6/23/2021
- Coconino NF Supervisor’s office - 4/28/2021, 7/28/2021

March meeting hot and cold chairs rotate:

March	A Mottek	M Colavito
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