



4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 9 am – Noon

ZOOM Audio Meeting

MEETING WAS RECORDED

In attendance: Anne Mottek, Greg Smith, Joe Miller, Rob Nelson, Jeremy Kruger, Mike Hannemann, Evan Travis Woolley, Justin Schofer, Michele Ralston, Steve Rosenstock, Randy Fuller, Brett Crary, Tabi Bolton, Emily Johnson, Bob Seidler, John Richardson, Cerissa Hoglander, Elvy Barton, Jay Smith, Joe Trudeau, Pascal Berlioux, Melanie Colavito, Amy Waltz, Brad Worsley, Tracy Bazelman, David Dorum, Art Babbott, Todd Schulke, Kara Kirkpatrick, Alicyn Gitlin, Judy Palmer, Wendy Jo Haskins, Eli Jensen, Ethan Aumack, Charles Smith, Eli Jensen, Hannah Griscom, Paul Chapman, Chuck Smith, and Carol Covington taking minutes.

Approve minutes from the April 28, 2021 Stakeholder Group meeting — Three minor wording edits were offered. Minutes approved as corrected.

Review action items from the April 28, 2021 Stakeholder Group meeting — Anne Mottek

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Co-chairs send draft objectives for N Kaibab site visit to Steering Committee for comment	Melanie Colavito, Anne Mottek	Complete
2. Coordinate dates of N Kaibab site visit with Forest Service	Anne Mottek	Complete
3. Steering Committee to offer thoughts on time allotment, dates, agenda, sites	Steering Committee and co-chairs	Complete
4. Plan field trip logistics	Steering Committee/USFS	Complete
5. Invite Stakeholder Group to attend field trip	Melanie Colavito, Anne Mottek	Complete
6. Schedule a Nature Conservancy/Campbell Global presentation to Stakeholder Group on their work to date	Travis Wooley, Tabi Bolton	Ongoing
7. Stakeholder Engagement Working Group poll scheduled for June Stakeholder Group meeting	Melanie Colavito, Steve Rosenstock	Included on agenda below
8. Contact Jeff Robbins from Payson	Anne Mottek	Complete

Call to the Public – None

USFS Update – Jeremy Kruger offered a brief update from the Forest Service.

RFP – Still evaluating proposals with no change to the target award date in June. Joe Miller asked when information would be made available about specific plots that will be made available for the successful contractor to work.

FEIS Rim Country – Kara Richardson offered that progress is moving ahead, but no specific updates at this time.

Brett Crary noted that he had posted an update to Basecamp, and provided some brief highlights.

Kaibab National Forest Field Tour w Forest Service Update – next steps – Anne Mottek summarized the process to date. She noted that the small working group who had originally worked out the objectives of the field tour, had been tasked with identifying learning bullets. She invited all those who participated to engage in a round robin to share their brief take-aways from the tour. Then the Small Group findings will be shared, the Center for Biological Diversity will then be invited to share, and representative from North Kaibab NF will be invited to share thoughts.

- Rob Nelson – Field trip was informative and there was broad representation from stakeholders. He noted that there were a lot of large trees on the N Kaibab. The dialogue focused on solutions to concerns raised by CBD.
- Joe Miller – Expressed how impressed he was by the number of large trees in the area. He suggested that there may need to be clearer criteria for determining which trees are defined as “old” or “pre-settlement”. He noted that there seemed to be consensus that communication between stakeholders could be enhanced. Ability to react to fire should be improved. The Mangum fire produced a large number of large trees that are now dead. He learned that the trees could be valuable now, but after six months or so, they are worth nothing. He urged a change in process to address such timing issues.
- Alicyn Gitlin observed that consistently the largest oldest trees were marked for harvest. She expressed concern that old growth is being cut to make way for future old growth trees. She is also concerned about the remaining ladder fuels and dog hair thickets. She was frustrated by the lack of industry changes being made to anticipate the future. Concern about what she heard as the need to cut the large trees to save them from bark beetles.
- Ethan Aumack – This is a critically important issue for the Grand Canyon Trust, ecologically, socially, politically. There is very strong and unambiguous rationale for leaving old trees as they stand, and the rationale for cutting these trees across the region is incredibly weak. He asserted that there is no sound reason to cut the large, old trees. He believes that resolving this issue is paramount. He is surprised and disheartened that this issue continues to need discussion at this level. He believes that resolution should reach across all of region 3. He encouraged the 4FRI Stakeholder Group to take a strong and unambiguous stance on this issue. We need resolution even if it involves a public campaign.
- Steve Rosenstock – expressed gratitude to those who facilitated and participated.
- Pascal Berlioux – He was unable to attend the field tour. He endorses what Ethan Aumack stated and hopes that the minutes will reflect precisely what was said. He offered that there needs to be a clear understanding between the Forest Service and 4FRI and stakeholders about how to treat the forests. There cannot be two sets of science guiding approaches to forest management. He offered that all of the four forests should be treated the same way, not “in the 4FRI footprint” vs “outside the 4FRI footprint” in order to protect and preserve the social capital that has been earned. He suggested that a systematic approach to resolving this across the entirety of the four forests is needed.
- Todd Schulke – Very useful trip and it was extremely well run. He clarified that the bark beetle issue was in reference to cutting the dead trees. He suggested that a quick change to salvage log cutting is unlikely.
- Melanie Colavito – Noted that there is concern about cutting old trees and that the small group has captured areas of agreement. She would like to hear more about the learning bullets from the small group.
- Travis Wooley – Noted that there was a lot of learning on the tour. There seems to be a silviculture vs ecological approach in that area. In conclusion, there is a lot of work to do.
- Joe Miller – Suggested that there are mechanisms to address the salvage issue. He would encourage use of a rapid response system. Better criteria would help. Why was the N Kaibab left out of the 4FRI footprint? Perhaps the 4FRI concept should be applied to a wider area, with a focus on saving the large old trees which do a better job of carbon sequestration.
- Small Group Findings – Amy Waltz offered an overview of the [learning bullets](#) put together by the small group, formatted in a way that may translate to a letter. The primary statement is:
The 4FRI SHG strongly supports that Stakeholder groups, like the 4FRI and others found throughout Region 3 forests, are an effective way to advance multiple values for federal projects. These groups work closely with the forest service managers and multiple partners to identify a path forward to

implement best practices for restored and sustainable public lands. We recommend a collaborative group is developed that is inclusive of the N. Kaibab community and stakeholders, to advance these conversations on current and upcoming N. Kaibab planning projects (~~Burnt Corral and KPERP~~) (include in revised letter introduction, paragraph 2, as the revised recommendation).

In summary, there was agreement that there was support for a long-term collaborative model with the Forest Service.

- Eli Jensen recommended that collaboration with Duke Reidhead on what to include in the letter would be important, as it includes area industry input. Reidhead Forest Management has more at stake than anyone.
- CBD, Todd Schulke – offered that there were re-learned lessons about past silvicultural practices, and how approaches have evolved over time. He noted that from the start of this discussion CBD has suggested that there could be a volume trade. This is an option written into all of the contracts in the Jacob Ryan project but doesn't happen often. There could be a section 18 update. Shelf Stock Sales approach might be explored. He described that he believes there is room for agreement about the size of tree that might be considered old, but remarking trees already marked, or covering the marks on trees that would be saved, is a necessary task. The trees in the tracts that are under contract are owned by those who own the contracts. They have the right to cut them. They do not have to consider a volume trade. He was heartened by industry willingness to discuss volume trade.
- Mottek outlined the steps moving forward. The small group will use this information to draft a letter, then send it to Steering Committee for review, then post to basecamp for SHG approval, then letter finalized and signed on behalf of SHG by co-chairs Mottek and Colavito. Target date to post to Basecamp by the middle of June.
- Joe Miller – Managing this process is a huge challenge. Perhaps we need to take a step back to look at the approach to ensure clarity for the entire Stakeholder Group. He believes that the social license/contract with the public and stakeholders, could be further jeopardized if this process is less than transparent.
- CBD, Joe Trudeau – reminded the group that the tables referenced earlier were posted to Basecamp tallying all of the trees to be cut, dated April 29, 2021.
- N Kaibab NF, Mike Hannemann – Remarked that his impression of the field trip was very positive. He encouraged everyone to visit the N Kaibab National Forest area for its beauty and serenity. Meeting notes for the field trip are almost ready to distribute. They are reviewing details of current Jacob Ryan contracts, with an eye to making changes to contracts in place. Changes to existing contracts are very difficult, but they are looking at options for doing so. He stated that the Forest Service would really like to see specific requests for changes to the treatment strategies under discussion which he has high hopes will be articulated in the letter under development from the Stakeholder Group. He requested support for the Mangum fire tree CE regarding the hazard trees. He requested 4FRI help with the best path forward in the Mangum fire restoration efforts. He underscored the desire for input on Burnt Corral management plan. The Forest Service would like to discuss updates on Jacob Ryan, Burnt Corral, and Mangum Fire at the June 23 Stakeholder Group meeting.
- The role of the Stakeholder group moving forward on negotiations relative to Jacob Ryan treatments, is to receive updates from Grand Canyon Trust and Center for Biological Diversity which will be more intensively involved in the details. The SHG will not be commenting on the specific changes to treatment strategies, as that will be left to the discussions between CBD, GCT and the Forest Service.

Burnt Corral Field Tour – schedule a date, define objectives, logistics, etc. – Mike Hanneman offered that they would like to plan a field trip of this site for early August, and would include the Stakeholder Group.

Industry Updates

Tabi Bolton – Log demand remains strong. Need for additional log hauling capacity. Nationwide log prices remain stagnant. Nature Conservancy continues to accelerate treatments on the Parks West and Clover sites.

Brad Worsley – All is well at Novo Power. Being just a few days away from their two-year mark, they are very anxious

to hear how the RFP unfolds.

Working Group Updates

- Final Environmental Impact Statement WG – No update
- Industry/Biomass WG – No update
- Communication WG – Melanie reported that Tayloe seeks ideas for a summer newsletter by June 25.
- Multi-Party Monitoring Board WG – Hannah Griscom reported that funding was received to continue work on a limited basis. They are working on a feasibility study to use citizen science to collect songbird data. They continue to work on getting data integrated into a GIS system.
- Stakeholder Engagement WG - Melanie Colavito and Steve Rosenstock reported that they plan to roll out an interactive survey of the Stakeholder group in June or July at the latest. Joe Miller offered that one of the groups with whom the WG had consulted, had strongly recommended a capable and independent advisory board which could challenge decisions of the Forest Service before they are put into practice. This is an approach that may indeed be useful here.
- Comprehensive Implementation WG – Hannah Griscom noted that there are two big projects this summer. One is on Kaibab National Forest McDougal Spring, where they will install rock to forestall erosion. The second is restoring aquatic areas in Lockwood Draw. Grand Canyon Trust and their volunteers have been instrumental in this work.

Stakeholder Disclosures – None

Review Action Items

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Small group develops draft letter to Forest Service re Kaibab National Forest	Amy Waltz	
2. Draft letter vetted through the Steering Committee at June meeting	Anne Mottek	
3. Draft letter posted to Basecamp for review and approval by Stakeholder Group	Melanie Colavito	
4. Finalize letter signed by co-chairs (Anne and Melanie) send to Kaibab National Forest leadership and copied to Stakeholder Group. Target date mid-June.	Melanie Colavito, Anne Mottek	
5. Update at Stakeholder Group meeting update June 23 on N Kaibab projects	Mike Hanneman	
6. Schedule early August Burnt Corral field trip	Mike Hanneman	
7. Expanded RFP update from Forest Service – schedule for July SHG	Jeremy Kruger	

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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

- Zoom - 6/23/2021, 8/25/2021, 9/22/2021, 12/17/2021
- Coconino NF Supervisor’s office (tentative) - 7/28/2021, 10/27/2021

	Hot Chair	Cold Chair
January	Jay Smith	A Mottek
February	Jay Smith	A Mottek
March	A Mottek	M Colavito
April	A Mottek	M Colavito
May	A Mottek	M Colavito
June	M Colavito	P Berlioux
July	M Colavito	P Berlioux
August	M Colavito	P Berlioux
September	P Berlioux	N Chapman
October	P Berlioux	N Chapman
November	P Berlioux	N Chapman
December	NO SHG MTG	NO SHG MTG