

Blue Mountains Forest Partners  
Full Group Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2007

*Present: Alden Boetsch, Tim Lillebo, Brooks Smith, King Williams, Bill Toop, Dave Traylor, Brian Nelson, Mark Bagett, Dave Hannible, Jeff Mabin, Art Andrews, Zack Williams, Rick Brown, Eric Wunz, Mike Billman, George Meredith, Diane Browning, Mat Carter, James Johnston, Tom Muzzy, Emily Platt, Stan Benes, Rene Mabe, Walt Gentis, Alex Phillips, Charlie O'Rorke, Mark Webb, Andy Daniels, Karen Steer.*

**Opening**

After opening the meeting with a Welcome and Introduction, Karen Steer asked for approval to shorten the full group meeting so that the Dad's Creek Subcommittee could continue working on the project recommendations that they ran out of time to finish earlier that day. The group agreed that this would be the best use of time.

The minutes were reviewed and no corrections or additions were made. Meeting minutes are available on the BMFP website, [www.bluemountainsforestpartners.org](http://www.bluemountainsforestpartners.org)

**Science Forum**

Emily Platt provided an update on the upcoming Science Forum that she is coordinating with the Events subcommittee. All BMFP members are encouraged to attend – this will be a great opportunity to learn more about the science of forest restoration, thinning, etc.

Forum Objectives:

- Provide BMFP members with access to the same scientific information
- Learn and understand the scientific research behind different perspectives
- Present information on issues that are contentious (e.g. fire, soils) as well as issues where there is common ground; strive to augment zones of agreement.
- Identify what science can tell us and what we still do not know; seek resolution on how to move forward given the uncertainty in some science.

Schedule:

- Sunday Sept 23: Evening reception on Sunday (somewhere in John Day, TBD)
- Monday Sept 24: All day forum, including indoor presentations followed by field trip (starting at the Forest Service Juniper Conference Room)

The agenda will be sent out in the next few weeks and will also be put on the website. There will also be a set of questions that the scientists will answer. These questions will be sent out along with the agenda.

Required reading:

All participants are asked to read background articles prior to the event. Articles can be found on the bmfj website.

Scientists:

Scientist information and bios will be sent with the agenda and also put on the website. c

## RSVP

All participants are asked to RSVP to Diane Browning ([roadhistorian@centurytel.net](mailto:roadhistorian@centurytel.net); 541-542-2484). An RSVP reminder will be sent with the agenda.

Bring your own lunch!

## ***Economics Forum***

Karen Steer discussed opportunities to also host an Economics Forum which would focus on the economics side of forest restoration: treatment costs, wood utilization opportunities, local jobs, community economic development, etc. Mike Billman is the lead on this event; please contact him with ideas for the forum or interest in participating.

## ***Dad's Creek Project Update***

James Johnston provided an update of the Dad's Creek project:

The subcommittee visited the project area several weeks ago (check out the bmf website for a summary of that visit) and developed a set of draft recommendations for the Forest Service to use as they begin project planning. The subcommittee met earlier on Aug 16<sup>th</sup> to review and finalize the recommendations, but did not get a chance to finish them. They plan to resume later that same evening, after the full group meeting.

Recommendations will be sent to the full group for approval over email – Aug 30 is the scheduled end date for comments and approval. Recommendations will then be given to the Forest Service to use as they begin drafting their Proposed Action with Mitigations. This information will be shared with the full group at the next full group meeting.

The Forest Service shared their project timeline with the group (a copy will be posted on the bmf website).

## ***Lower Shirttail Damon Project***

This subcommittee finalized the recommended PIL and gave it to the Forest Service. The FS has not yet had a chance to review, but will do so shortly and then share feedback with the group.

## ***Other Updates***

Mike Billman will be attending a National Forest Foundation workshop as a representative of BMFP. This will take place Sept 17-19 in Tucson, AZ and will include trainings related to collaboration, networking and information-sharing, etc.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Full group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>. From 4-7pm at the Forest Service building. An agenda will be sent out as the date approaches. Note, we are not meeting at our usually scheduled time (third Thursday of the month) to accommodate the Science Forum.

Thanks everyone, and see you next time!