

Blue Mountains Forest Partners May 2008 Meeting Notes

Participants

Eric Wunz, George Meredith, Curt Qual, Charlie Ororke, Art Andrews, Dave Traylor, Irene Jerome, King Williams, Ryan Falk, Dan Bishop, Brooks Smith, Jack Southworth, Bryan Nelson, Jeff Fields, Mike Billman, Emily Platt Tim Lillibo, Mark Webb, Dave Hannibal, James Johnston (via phone), and Diane Browning.

Next Meetings

Full Group: July 17th

Damon Committee Field Days: tentatively June 18th and 19th.

Operations Committee Meeting Update

Mike Billman summarized the operations committee meeting:

- The operations committee is putting out an add for the coordinator position and looking for office space.
- A suggestion was made for a resolution when the group is unable to reach consensus and the following proposal will be discussed and voted on/ consented on at the next full group meeting: as before, all effort will be made to reach consensus on all issues. If consensus is not attainable on a particular issues, that issue will be tabled until the next regular meeting. At the next regular meeting, the issue will be discussed again and any additional information that is needed will be brought to bear; time in the field may be a part of the meeting. After a full discussion, a vote will be held and action will require a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of voting members present. If timing is an issue, a special meeting to resolve the issue in question may be called.
- Diane will coordinate an open house potentially with a BBQ to be held sometime this summer. She will try to coordinate it with the Forest Service's Dad's Creek announcement. King, Eric and Patty will help.

Dad's Creek Lessons Learned

- Get an earlier start on temporary roads and other big issues like old growth, access plans and basal area.
- The road issue on Dad's creek should be used as a catalyst to try to resolve issues in the future. Those opposed to the road felt that they were steam rolled and that their backs were against the wall. Other members of the group felt that due to the state of the mills and lack of foreseeable timber they were also up against a wall.
- Memorialize zones of agreement a little better – one idea to put ongoing project agreements on a projector at beginning of each meeting so everyone can see all past agreements. We could also have these typed up and ready for distribution at the beginning of each meeting.
- Took too long – at every meeting we would go back to step 1 because people missed a meeting – two years for a 3 mmbf project is too long; we need to act with more urgency and pick up the pace.
- Need to figure out a way that we're not going back all the time
 - o Might not have recorded agreements in field as well as we should have.
 - o Recorded agreements better later.

- Nice to have two note-takers.
- First ten minutes of inside meeting after field meeting, take first ten minutes to review specific agreements.
- We could use a recording device that we could go back to after the meeting so important things don't get missed.
- Create parallel timelines for the ID team and the collaborative group. The Forest Service drafted just such a timeline for the Damon Project.
- Selecting an area where little or no data had been collected made the project more difficult for the FS.
- Inclusion of restoration work is important and was difficult with Dad's because of HFRA. This was from several people – restoration needs to be included up front and from the start.
 - If whole group wants to include some restoration, can probably tag on to HFRA but the problem is straying too far from the original intent of HFRA. For instance, on Dad's including hardwoods made sense = healthy forests. Direction FS has been given is to keep it streamlined. Regular NEPA process doesn't have these same limitations. Could also do a parallel timeframe CE for restoration work.
- Sample marking earlier on would have been helpful; basal area: putting ribbon up can really help with this; look at other projects that have been implemented to see if we like a particular prescription.
- Would like to see a streamlined process; Damon project is a great timeline. If we can stick to it, it will take 1/2 as long.
- Science is an important foundation, but there is a range even within the science.
- Personal attacks no good.
- When people dissent, try to not make them feel pushed against a wall or marginalized.
- People being pushed up against a wall – respect/ recognize that people are at their bottom line/ organizational positions, etc. Need to acknowledge this and work to move forward.
- Respect organizational limits, and individual has a responsibility if they think something is a good idea to go back and work to change organization's position.
- Collaborative can also bring opportunity for organizational change; we all need to be taking ideas we agree to back to our organizations to push for change.
- Need to leave hard and fast restrictions at the door; supposed to be coming up with consensus, the right prescription for that particular area; shouldn't end up with a middle prescription that you could basically draw up with a computer.
- Always meeting in the middle but we're not starting from the edge of both side – one side gives 3/4 and one side gives 1/4.
- Community back against wall because community is dying. Community has had the hard and fast perspective of “we're not going to go beyond this”, but we've come a long way; we're only talking about the 30% of the forest that is eligible for timber harvest. There is more room here than we're getting.
- FS is headed in the direction of larger, say 100,000 acre projects. We will have to be involved in this scale project.
- Volume per acre – will have to move past this paradigm; environmentalists will have to change the way they address some traditional issues too – i.e. can't get every creature on every acre – need focus down more for particular areas.

Dad's Creek Lessons Learned Follow Up Items

- *We did a good job fleshing out what areas are likely to be controversial: we should now make a list of these and bring them up at front end of future projects. Emily will do this.*
- *Would be helpful to have a think-piece on old growth development for Damon project. James will do this.*
- *Should be thinking and planning on a landscape scale; have to be addressing things at a landscape level to be sufficiently impactful – we're at a difficult learning curve now but if we can't put this all in the overall objective/ context then we won't achieve our goals.*
- *Maybe we create a subgroup that sets some general guidelines for restoration and amount treated. Could give more clarity as we scale it out. Graphic display of wilderness, wild and scenic, WUI – scale out into general forest different vision there.*
- *Incorporate science forum learnings and prioritize particular areas.*
- *Important to see some projects and evaluate how cost effective they are for future projects for the contractor, county and restoration's sake. Need contractor feedback on this piece.*
- *Come up with agreed-upon names for certain types of prescriptions that people are comfortable with.*

Forest Service Update on Damon Project

- The ID team established and has created a rough project initiation letter (PIL) that doesn't yet incorporate specifics. There will be another iteration of the PIL and the Forest Service is waiting for recommendations from the group on it.
- FS created draft parallel FS and BMFP timelines and the FS would like feedback on their timeline.
- FS would like revised initial recommendations after some time in the field; the area is already pretty accessible.
- FS is getting databases up to date and is now ready to make a big push to collect field data including bird and goshawk surveys.

Damon Project Action

- Group will work with Forest Service at beginning of project to agree on way to include restoration projects as FS is planning to HFRA again.
- Group agreed to take the shrub removal bullet out of our original project initiation letter.
- Group agreed we will talk about dedicated old growth and old growth areas early on.
- Group would like preliminary treatments maps early so we can see temporary roads and/ or road reconstruction early.
- Group has not made decision about Siwick old growth area yet and its inclusion in the planning area. There were specific objections to this in the past.
- Damon committee will plan a field trip as soon as possible and review the PIL and timeline to see if there need to be changes or new recommendations.

- Group proposed field dates of the 18th and 19th with the 18th being to look at the 16 road stewardship project and the 19th to look at the Damon project.
- On first field tour, we will focus on these issues:
 - Old growth
 - Conifer removal around aspen stands
 - Eric's "after" stand
 - Riparian/ stream work, grazing and hydrology

Other Discussion

- Is it time to start thinking about a third project? Need to start thinking about one of these larger-scale projects. Download new LIDAR in December for whole 100,000 acre FS project.
- Ed should come in and make a presentation the BMFP on what LIDAR is.