

Collaborative Effort to Implement Forestry & Fuels Projects in the Judith and Moccasin Mountains
Following JMLA-EA Approval

Meeting Notes
Bureau of Land Management
Lewistown Field Office
920 NE Main St., Lewistown
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Bold text lines are agenda items

Welcome and General Information (Bruce)

- Introductions around the room (13 people present)
- Agenda
- Surveys for Lauren Pidot, a graduate student at the University of Michigan. She is studying collaboration efforts, and the Judith and Moccasin Mountains Forestry and Fuels Collaboration was selected as a case study. Please fill out her surveys and return them to the BLM office or mail them to Lauren. There is more information and more copies of the surveys at the back of the room.

1. Recap of last two meetings (Bruce)

- We had a project field trip meeting in June; a weed evening in July; and another field trip in September to look at the Park Place timber sale.
 - Talked about forest health, silvicultural prescriptions, and how our forest stands fit or don't fit into the prescriptions. Some stands are so far off we need to start from scratch
 - Reached a consensus that our forests are unhealthy and need treatments.
 - We're moving ahead with the projects we identified early in this collaboration process
 - Talked about scheduling: field work and when we would be able to offer the projects for contract
- Sadly, Brad is leaving - we'll miss him. (Brad addresses group and explains he has taken a job with the forest service in Cody, WY). Bruce again: we credit Brad with the beginning of and the success of this effort. We will be getting another forester, but we expect it to take 6 months before someone is on board.
- So, we need to reevaluate our schedule and make short-term adjustments.
 - Park Place timber sale will be about another 6 weeks
 - Maiden Stewardship – may have to separate some areas to get something done on schedule while continuing to lay out and mark the main areas of the project. For example in the fuelbreak area where it will be handwork only, we could go ahead and get a service contract going. And in the southern area where we need access across private, we'll wait, and work with those folks to mesh our work with anything they might do.

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- Questions:
 - What treatments will you do in the southern area?
 - Along the south areas of BLM where it is steep, it would be similar to the handwork in the fuelbreak area.
 - Is the Park Place timber sale near where LP already logged?
 - (looking at map) No, Park Place is just north of Warm Spring Road, and adjacent to the southwest corner of the state section.

2. Presentation on Forest Insects and Diseases (Amy)

3. Presentation on Fire Ecology (Jennifer)

4. Monitoring and public participation (Brad)

We have run over time, so we will cover monitoring in more detail at the next meeting.

Just briefly, there are two basic types of monitoring:

- Treatment – where we monitor the work while it is being done
- Effectiveness – where we monitor the results and determine if we met our objectives

For example, Park Place Timber Sale:

- During operations, we must monitor to see if the work is meeting the specifications in the contract.
- After the contract is complete, what and how shall we monitor to see if we accomplished our goals and objectives? How soon will we know?

The collaboration group could help in a big way with either of these types of monitoring. We will visit further about this at the next meeting. If you would be interested in helping, we would do a volunteer agreement.

5. What's next? (Bruce)

a. How a private landowner may develop a forest management plan

Group discusses interest in learning more about private landowner contracts.

b. Cooperation in Judith Project layout

No discussion

c. Next meeting date?

Group agrees that we should wait until January for the next meeting.

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County Commissioners request to be kept informed about contracts, and that we need to discuss roads. Group agrees we need to discuss roads, impacts, who pays – how does all that work.

Discussion leads to “logging ethics”, and occasional lack of, such as trucks speeding on county roads. Group thinks about ways to include this in contracts as a performance item. Discussion leads to enforcing things like speeding tickets.

- 6. Suggestions or concerns from anyone at this point on anything? (Bruce)**
No discussion