

Pilot Thompson IDT Meeting Notes – September 18, 2012

ATTENDEES: Stephanie Kelleher, John Gerritsma, Jen Smith, Dennis Glover, Amy Meredith, Steve Godwin, John McNeel, Chris Jensen, Mike Derrig, Armand Rebishcke, Dennis Byrd, Lisa Rice, Cheryl Foster-Curly, and Luke Ruediger.

AGENDA:

- ✓ **Check-in:** Does anyone have any issues that arose during the summer that the larger group needs to be aware of/to discuss?
- ✓ **Wildlife status update** – Steve to share any units that have been identified as RA-32 and need to be dropped.
- ✓ **Specialists update** – where is everyone at with their field work, surveys, analysis?
- ✓ **N/J Visit** – Summary of conversations and outcomes
- ✓ **Review Adjusted Timeline**
- ✓ **Review PDFs**

NOTES:

Review Timeline -

- Pilot Thompson timber sale is scheduled to be advertised in May 2013.
- Ch. 2 edits due by 9/28
- Ch. 2 available for public to view and comment on around October 8th
- Ch. 3 – specialist input (analysis) due 11/2
- EA out for public review mid-November for 45 day review
- Wildlife consultation- signed BO expected 3/1/13

Check-In –

- **Botany:**
 - Surveys are complete, buffers have been flagged in commercial units.
 - Maps and shapefiles of plant sites and buffers have been given to Chris (layout).
 - A Biological Assessment will be needed for informal consultation; to begin working on as soon as alternatives are locked in.
 - PDF's still need to be finalized; **will send to Stephanie by COB Wed. 9/19**
- **Hydro:**
 - As discussed in previous IDT meeting in May, road decommissioning will take place in nine mile area (Road 39-4-32.0) (NEPA completed under district programmatic EA, DNA completed). This action will be discussed under cumulative impacts in EA.

- Can we include a summary of past harvest actions (same as we did in Pilot Joe)? Yes
ACTION ITEM: Summarize past harvest actions in the planning area (Nate and Stephanie)
- Stream surveys are complete and all riparian area reserve widths are correct (in GIS)
- Road densities – much of the roads are in the valley bottoms on private lands, so while road densities are not high on BLM lands in the area, adding roads on private does increase the overall density of roads in the area.
- **Roads:**
 - Road Maintenance scheduled to occur in area September/October 2012 (to be included in EA under ongoing and foreseeable future actions) **ACTION ITEM:** John M. to detail out activities to occur and provide for Ch. 2 of EA.
 - Landings - 2 areas in Commercial – Density Management/ Intermediate Treatment units where the road to be used in timber sale is a driveway for a private individual; would like to develop small landings off road so as not to block road from use when loading timber. **ACTION ITEM:** Landing locations to GIS to be included on maps prior to 9/28.
 - Road tables need to be corrected. **ACTION ITEM:** John M. will get tables to Stephanie by 9/28 to include in CH. 2.
 - Need to notify County (per MOU) of proposed decommissioning. They have been notified of upcoming project in nine mile area, but not for roads proposed in upcoming EA.
- ★ **ACTION ITEM:** Disclaimer to be added to EA to explain how acres are sometimes off slightly due to rounding to the nearest acre and to the nearest 100th (0.00) of a mile for roads.
- **Cultural:**
 - All surveys are completed. There are 8 sites (mining related) in the planning area of which 4 are in proposed units.
 - Maid of the Mist mine: need to buffer (candidate for National Historic Register), already buffering 250 ft for bat (one adit), may need larger buffer to cover Cultural.
 - There are 2 options for approaching management of known sites:
 1. Flag and avoid (may affect ability to harvest specific units)
 2. Complete formal determination for eligibility, involves consultation with SHPO (SHPO gets a 30 day review period). (This is a longer process, but might clear up some units from having to flag and avoid.) **Decision made to:** complete formal determination process, our timeline easily allows for this and it would allow for better management of resources.
 - Tribal Consultation: In order to comply with Section 106, we will send a formal letter out with draft Ch. 2 of EA. **ACTION ITEM:** Cheryl to provide letter to Stephanie by COB 9/28.
 - Cheryl will be completing the analysis for EA, not Lisa.
- **Wildlife:**
 - Red tree vole surveys are complete

- Mollusks surveys to be completed this fall (pending weather)
- Great gray owl surveys are done
- Northern spotted owl habitat typing is almost complete (Friday 9/21).
- RA-32 – still needs to be verified by Steve, may have some pockets in units that will need to drop from proposal post-EA (in Decision Record).
- **Soils:**
 - Affected environment section done
 - No issues with meeting the input deadline.
- **Fisheries:**
 - Jen would like to know where final maps are/will be. **ACTION ITEM:** Dennis G. will clean up final folder to make it clearer what is final and what is older.
 - Jen, Nate, and Mike will be going out next week to mark riparian units.
 - No formal consultation needed with NOAA Fish as we are only proposing to treat in intermittent channels where there are no fish and no proposed roads through riparian. Jim Muck (NOAA) will be coming down to view riparian mark in the near future (He was unable to attend the last field trip with Norm and Jerry to riparian units).
- **Logging Systems:**
 - Met with Loren Kellogg, who provided suggestions for how to log (multi-span option) without building a temporary road; keep in mind every scenario is different and has its limitations. **ACTION ITEM:** Chris to report whether he will be able to drop the temp road and utilize the multi-span option by 9/28.
 - A reminder: no equipment will be used in Riparian Reserve units or corridors.
 - Chris has begun to work on the economic analysis for the EA.
- **Recreation:**
 - Need to add additional PDF's for public safety (post signs). **ACTION ITEM:** Dennis to provide PDF's by COB Monday, 9/24.
 - VRM – waiting for action alternatives to be finalized, then will complete.
- **John G. –**
 - N/J visits: during visit viewed a unit in the Pilot Thompson planning area that had been previously harvested (in 1990's) and saw what a corridor looks like post-treatment. N/J were impressed with the response, in particular, the black oak response and the diversity. As a result, they mentioned that it would be beneficial to not re-use these corridors, but to leave them alone, when possible. **ACTION ITEM:** add a pdf to avoid when possible using previous corridors, keeping overall objective of stand level in mind.
 - Field trip with adjacent landowners in S.25 units: we discussed the proposed road construction from BLM road 39-5-25.2 to the county road through unit 25-3. The individuals were concerned that such a road would create a connection between the county road and the existing BLM road, leading to more use, especially OHV, resulting in

noise and potential trespass to said individual's adjacent property. They also questioned the need to harvest. Nate explained the silvicultural objectives to reduce competition from the smaller trees on the larger trees, and maintain, enhance, and create the species diversity now lacking. We walked the proposed connector road and weighed our options for making it a temp road or a long skid road back to the 25.2 road where a landing could be constructed. It was noted the first third or so of the proposed road was on an existing old roadbed that was well overgrown. Based on the amount and kind of trees to be harvested, it appears as though the unit would likely become a stewardship unit, rather than part of the commercial timber sale. The adjacent landowners prefer the latter option and any option that does not leave a permanent road in place.

- ★ **ACTION ITEM:** Nate to review the boundaries of riparian reserve units for the potential to fall and leave some trees for riparian enhancement.
- **Monitoring:**
 - Luke brought up the recent issue that has come up with Pilot Joe; trees were not marked according to prescription and slipped through the cracks. In order to prevent this from happening in the future, the IDT developed a new PDF to be incorporated into Pilot Thompson project: **ACTION ITEM:** add PDF - There will be an adequate amount of time between marking and auctioning the sale to allow for internal and third party (collaborative) review of the mark.
 - Field trips will occur to review sample marks (this October – review riparian reserve thinning units and proposed new road locations) and once final marking is complete, additional field trips will be scheduled.
 - BLM will work on developing a better internal checking process to ensure more quality control – silviculture work with marking crews more closely (workload issues – Nate may need help).

Review PDFs – Minor corrections and additions:

- Change sale administrator to authorized officer (minor correction)
- Site contract specifications in PDF where applicable
- Avoid using previous corridors where possible (more details described above)
- No ground based equipment would be permitted **off roads** within Riparian Reserves.
- Take out PDF's regarding quarry development (N/A) and de-watering for in channel construction (N/A)
- Piles would not be **constructed** in channel bottoms.
- With underburns, no ignition would occur within the no cut buffer of Riparian Reserves.
- **Existing** landings within RR used during project implementation would be treated to reduce soil erosion.
- Take out excavated material from removing stream crossings PDF (N/A)

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