

Findings/Suggestions from Pilot Thompson Neighborhood meetings April 25, 2012 and May 2, 2012 compiled by Rikki Pritzlaff:

- The consensus at the meetings **of those who spoke** was fairly supportive of the project-they were looking for reassurance of how the process would actually look on the ground, both during the work and afterwards.
 - Not everyone at the meetings spoke-they may have dissenting opinions they do not want to share in a “public” forum.
 - There was mention of neighbors with misconceptions about the project or with other issues who did not attend the meetings.
 - An anonymous mailed survey could help to capture a more accurate picture of what a broader spectrum of people think to help better address concerns that could become problems in the future.
 - “Jo’s List”-a subscription email forum run by Jo Larsen of Williams is a possible source of information to gauge opinions from a wider audience.
- Most people seemed to understand the economic component of the issue but wanted to make sure any economic benefits would accrue to locals and not to far-off entities.
 - Make clear exactly who is doing the projects, how the bidding process works, and where the money is going.
 - Participants were not aware that timber from public lands could not be exported.
 - Suggested was some sort of “local” certification that would identify the origin and possibly entice buyers to want to support the products.
 - There were concerns over how this timber extraction would affect local small mills.

- Much of the concern was over ambiguities of the details of the project.
 - What does a 150 year old tree look like?
 - How will the project look in stands that have a large portion of trees less than 150 years old?
 - What do the skips and gaps actually look like?
 - Exactly which roads will be closed and when?
 - Provide examples of the work being done in Pilot Joe- photographs/slideshows/fieldtrips- so people have real examples to look at.
- Specifically at the second meeting there were mentions of past projects that may help with the current Pilot Projects.
 - Dave Russell-looking at the response of remaining trees on past cuts
 - Mike Amaranthus and Dave Steinfield-landslide studies of roads due to lack of maintenance and overflowing culverts
- There was concern for things specific to personal circumstances.
 - Specific old growth stands people walk through
 - Creeks that run through properties
 - How increased truck traffic will impact the safety of the roads (especially after the speed limit was recently increased on Thompson Creek Rd.)
- People want to make sure their concerns are “heard”.
 - Consistency in how the BLM responds to any issue is important, even if it is unrelated to a Pilot project.
- Start taking “before” pictures now!