

5B Restoration Coalition
Teleconference Meeting
December 10, 2015

Present: Jim Keating, Chip Deffe, Dani Mazzotta, Susan Gianettino, Holly Crawford, Erika Phillips, Deb Taylor

Guests: Sarah Michael (former Blaine County Commissioner), Robin Garwood (Sawtooth NRA)

National Forest Foundation: Karen DiBari, Dayle Wallien

Update on Deer Creek

- Levy Advisory Board has approved the Deer Creek restoration proposal for consideration by the Blaine County Commissioners in early 2016 to analyze and determine the funding request
- Forest Service scoping is beginning for the project (see attached information from Bobbi Filbert). FS has two announcements at the same time for the two different NEPA processes. Links are on the Schedule of Proposed Actions for Sawtooth NF; no documents have been shared yet because it is pre-project scoping; comments are encouraged.
- Next steps are 1) answering detailed questions about the restoration as a whole from the Levy Advisory Board; 2) breaking the budget into more detailed line items; 3) preparing for Blaine County Commissioners meeting
- Some community members are concerned about using county funds to build the road on a hillside, which they feel is in violation of the county's hillside ordinance. Suggestion to develop trailhead parking downstream; thinks it more appropriate to use the levy funds to buy minerals rights than do the restoration work.

Funding opportunities

- Two funding opportunities discussed: they can't be used on federal lands but can be used on private
- Landscape-Scale Restoration Grants – on private lands; would need to get organized
- CWPP – Community Wildfire Protection Plan program – opportunity for fuels reduction or protection zones around communities. Could be at a homeowners association or community level.

Travel plan activities – these are opportunities for 5BRC engagement

- Sawtooth NRA – Robin Garwood from SNRA talked about travel planning within the Big Wood River watershed; this process is focused on the upper Big Wood (not the Ketchum part); started data collection two field seasons ago. Inventoried non-system roads. Held several pre-scoping meetings; this past year the interdisciplinary team has been working to develop a proposed action; will be done soon. Kirk Flanagan, the area manager, has been proposing some removal, no re-routes, cleaning up special use roads that are not system; have a few segments they plan to convert to motorized and also non-motorized trail.

- How might the 5BRC be of assistance in this process? Answer: best thing to comment on the proposed action. Alternatives will be developed based on the proposed action.
- Suggestion to have a discussion at the 5BRC when the comment period begins to present the proposed action
- Proposed action map pre-review by Heritage – could be available in January
- Kirk Flanagan or Susan James are contacts at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Shoshone BLM Travel Planning

- Holly Crawford; doing some staff work this winter; evaluating routes that will go to a contractor this fall; more public scoping in fall 2016; that is the point to engage

Recreation Survey (see [ARTICLE](#))

- Longterm effort of the county; committee that includes John Kurtz, Kurt Nelson and Jim Keating; 1000 people responded to survey; no economic feasibility included; some chapters accompanying the survey data are helpful to review because they capture the themes.
- Send out the actual survey results – contact at Blaine County is Kathy Grotto

Communications

- Press release developed by Trails & Recreation Committee; Chip Deffe reported that he reached out to several reporters; The Weekly Sun wrote an article; got some good feedback.

Agenda items for the January 20 quarterly 5B Restoration Coalition meeting

- Discussion about future steps for the 5BRC and 2016 action plan
- Deer Creek
- Travel mgmt: BLM and SNRA
- Blaine County recreation survey

2016 In-person Meeting Schedule:

- Wednesday, January 20
- Wednesday, March 30
- Wednesday, June 22
- Wednesday, September 21