

## **Clearwater Basin Collaborative**

### **Working Group Meeting**

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Grangeville Senior Center

**Attendees:** Dale Harris, Alex Irby, Skip Brandt, Orville Daniels, Ron Aldrich, Dave Cadwallader, Bill Higgins, Robyn Miller, Holly Endersby, Larry Jakub, Jonathan Oppenheimer, Joyce Dearstyne, Don Ebert, Randy Doman, Dave Galantuomini, Aaron Miles

**Liaisons:** Rick Brazell (US Forest Service), Elayne Murphy (US Forest Service), Mike Hanna (US Senator James Risch's Office), Mitch Silvers (US Senator Mike Crapo's Office), Peter Stegner (US Senator Mike Crapo's Office), and Mark Williams (US Representative Walt Minnick's Office)

**Visitors:** Laura Smith (US Forest Service), Jim Rader (Idaho County Commissioner), Greg Stahl (Idaho County), Jim Gorges (Idaho County Sheriff), Janet Hohle (Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation), Jerry Nevus (Forest Service, Red River District)

The first order of business is Greg Danley and his membership to the Clearwater Basin Collaborative. The Steering Committee recommends this decision to the Working Group: thumbs up from all. Welcome to Greg.

Scott Stouder is in DC today testifying for the Secure Rural Schools reauthorization. We wish him our best in his testimony.

There was a brief review by the Co-Chair of the CBC Ground Rules for Greg's benefit. Thumbs up from all.

### **Notes from the June 23, 2010 Meeting**

There are minor modifications that Jonathan will forward to Kelli for incorporation.

### **Action Items from June 23, 2010 Meeting**

Almost all are complete, but with all travel commitments there are a few things still to be done. Elayne Murphy extends credit for help on the FLRA handout to Joe Hudson.

*Not completed: Operating Protocols, Communication Plan*

A big thanks to Dale, Skip, Robyn, Rick and Mitch Silvers for their efforts in Washington DC, the group is grateful. *Round of thanks.*

## **Idaho County Presentation**

Skip Brandt extends his welcome to all CBC members to Grangeville. Our visitor Jim Rader is the Treasurer for Idaho County and sits on the National Assoc. of Counties for Public Lands Committee working for Schools and Counties. Laura Smith joins us as our Forest Service representative for the North Central RAC committee, and Jim Georges from our Sheriff's Department. Gentlemen, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us.

We are prepared for a general discussion of our County needs, since this has not been completely through the Rural Economies Subcommittee.

Idaho County is 8,500 square miles, which is a substantial area to provide services to - from roads to schools. We are mandated to provide search and rescue and fire mitigation. Our airport is a key component to supporting fire support and the runway is currently falling apart. We've done a surface rehabilitation to extend its life for another 5 years. But, now according to the FAA, the runway is to close to the taxi way and needs to be expanded. This involves a land purchase, which is also running into issues. A clever developer spent \$300,000 to purchase the land the county needs and they now want \$1.5 million. We are trying to bring in a substantial funding source. SRS is a lifeline and we need them, but they are very dedicated funds, which cannot be diverted to needs.

### **Jim Gorges, Under Sheriff**

Of the 8,500 square miles in Idaho County 85% is on Federal Lands. Mr. Gorges is responsible for Search and Rescue. They are responsible for any lost or injured person. People have nowhere else to turn but the Sheriff's office. From 2007-2009 they had 60 calls of this nature. Some are river or extended searches, which can go on for days and weeks. Currently, they have 75 volunteers, and no designated search and rescue Deputy. This is a problem with the Sheriff's office as they do not have overtime, they work on salary. There are 18 deputies on the road at any one time. One main challenge they face is that they must not only cover their shift, but the search and rescue effort as well. Stan Denim is coordinating Search and Rescue. Any questions normally go to him. He has some help with Team Leaders in Riggins and Kooskia. Stan is from Elk City. They have 6 ATV's, 2 snowmobiles, and a Command Trailer. They have some other miscellaneous tools available. The county is responsible for the costs associated with rescue. They must call Hillcrest Aviation (\$900/hr or \$1,500/hr) for backcountry rescue efforts. By horseback is several days, which is not acceptable when rescue is involved. They also rely on personal contributions of equipment. They have \$70,000 for helicopter, boats, (from other counties and Fish and Game) etc. but this does not cover labor. Depreciation costs are not included in these numbers. A wish list (with approximate costs) for a proper search and rescue program is:

- Storage facility for equipment, 10,000 SF structure with training rooms, offices, networking \$600,000
- Additional sub-station facilities for equipment (30x30 unit) at each location - \$30-45,000 each with or without insulation, which is an issue
- Jet boat for rescue operations \$100,000
- ¾ ton Search and Rescue Pickups to pull command trailer \$30,000 each

- Dive equipment (tanks and equipment are outdated) \$40,000
- Most needed is a full time Search and Rescue Deputy – current dispatcher is currently pulling double duty \$40,000, which provides:
  - Accountability
  - Manage Equipment
- Total for all items: \$920,000 includes \$70,000 per year for operating expenses

For one deputy, with vehicle, insurance, benefits, everything (excluding equipment) brings a cost of \$108,000 per year.

*Could you prepare a map of where incidents?* Yes. There is a lot of interplay between Clearwater and Idaho Counties. If Clearwater comes to assist, they are obligated to assist in the expense.

*The relationship with the FS, is that good?* Yes, they've offered their assistance, but for example the helicopter must be ready for fire response. They are limited in what they can do. Most of their search season is in the summer and fall. When it's here, it has to be ready for fire, and during the fall it is not here for hunter rescue.

*Is the relationship with Hillcrest long-term?* Hillcrest Aviation is a Lewiston based company, and this has been a long-term relationship.

*Regarding wages, if deputy is salary and they go on search, what happens with the extra hours?* There is a formula used. They receive graduated half-time. Sometimes they receive hours for their time on a rescue, and an example was given. When a rescue call comes in, they respond and if this extends beyond their shift they will continue until the search is over

*People rescued, are they ever charged?* We would like to see it happen, but it isn't really realistic. Unlike forest fires (usually caused by people) people that get lost do not do so intentionally. It's an accident, and the costs are so large they cannot come up with those monies. It's difficult to force a family to sell their assets. One search that went on for a week and the helicopter costs were \$20k

*Perhaps County Commissioners should consider banding with Western States Rescue type operations? Is there something at a federal level that could be inclusive of these costs?* It's a great idea, but the reality of the number of people in the nation who find themselves in the National Forests – it wouldn't work.  
*Perhaps a type of insurance?* It's a necessary function of government, to rescue lost people.

*Does Idaho County bill rescues? Yes. Do they pay?* Sometimes. Back in the 80's we remember someone who did.

Counties share significant borders and cooperate very well with each other. The Sheriff is being very modest in his accomplishments and his needs. There is a lot of burden in simply existing. Sometimes homeowners will pick up the cost. One guy didn't know he was lost until the helicopter was flying overhead looking for him; it was a miscommunication from his residence. It's a complicated issue of trying to charge people. Admirably, public servants take on these efforts and it should be noted that their situation could be difficult when they arrive.

*How often are you performing river searches?* Last month they had 4 people they were looking for. Snake River (several months ago) lasted a week. People go into the Snake River and they end up in Oregon. It's about 5 hours to drive from one end of the county to the other. So, without substations the response time is not acceptable.

*Can you prepare a narrative of previous search and rescue along with some financial projections of costs?* Additionally, as a Collaborative we have an opportunity to make this part of our Legislative ask, and it would help us to forward our recommendation if we had a map with some pinpoints and facts about some rescues that have occurred.

Remember, 85% of the searches occur on National Forest Service Land.

*Certified jet boats require a captain, and require licenses and certifications. Be sure to include those types of costs in your projections.* Currently, there isn't time to perform training and they are behind on training, as they do not have time or a designated individual to help.

*Let's be careful and concentrate on the basic problem. This is the same presentation that Clearwater County made – what we have is inadequate funding to protect human life. We have people trying to perform their jobs with inadequate resources. We should have our own resources; we do not want to turn over to the National Parks.*

*Can you give an estimate of roughly how many searches are on public lands?* 95%. A few are on rivers surrounded by private land. *Clearwater County has more resources?* They have a jet boat, personal watercraft, designated search and rescue vehicles, and storage facilities.

*Clearwater County has a pretty good "water ways program" due to the number of vessels licensed in the County. They had a Sheriff that developed their program and it was specifically due to one individual's efforts.* We have a few search and rescue dogs, and they are free, but on a river search would require a boat.

*Is the tribe engaged in any search and rescue operations?* With their command trailer only, other than that, no.

Back to Skip – we also have EMT service to contend with. Any transport for wrecks on the highway comes from Kooskia. The paperwork that the Sheriff's office has to go through every time there is a rescue that they are required to jump through many hoops to get refunded. 50% search and rescue, 50% paperwork. It adds to the overall cost.

*In Boise, they are facing issues of lawsuits associated with rescues if they result in further injury. Have you been in contact with anyone on current legislation?* There is Good Samaritan Legislation, but it does not cover these types of injuries. The difference is that when you are walking down the street and just help someone injured and you do your best, but when you are actively volunteering to go out and search for people and provide medical assistance you are not covered by Good Samaritan laws. Basic first aid is covered, but putting on a neck brace and putting someone on a backboard is a different situation.

What you are hearing is that counties need consistent, reliable assistance financially. We are not in favor of a one-time shot of assistance; we need something on a regular basis. Up until 20-30 years ago, we had industries that supported this type of income: timber and mining.

With SRS and County funding, Idaho County gets roughly \$12M right now. It's coming down 10% per year after it's reauthorization in 07. They get \$1.4 PILT, this is County money to put where they like. This expires 2012, and directly after that PILT expires.

Skip presented the various issues associated with Title II and III funding and the issues associated with divvying up the money and how they can spend it on various issues. The biggest issue that faces the county is their need for flexible funding and the ability to spend money where they need it, not to have their funds tied specifically to one type of project. Idaho County is actually very supportive of reauthorizing SRS funding. The current political environment is dictating that the formula will be changing in the near future.

*Why are the RAC's configured as they are?* It is not clear how they were originally formed. It may have been from the forest – Clearwater/Nez Perce.

*After being in Washington DC it became clear that the vehicle to make these two counties whole (for a period of time) is not going to be SRS. There are other ways, examples across the country, such as Minnesota who had 10 years of appropriation. It was made clear not to mess with SRS, and there are other avenues to pursue.*

*So, what is the doorway and how do we get there? Is there a value for Land types?* As we move forward, come up with a compensation program for Idaho and Clearwater Counties as a demonstration project.

*We would like to know what this County in Minnesota has done. Is there some way the Economies Subcommittee can research this?* Congressional Research Services (CRS) is coming out in the next two weeks to discuss and help with research.

*What about the inequality of SRS distribution?* Oregon State receives \$208 million, and Idaho State receives \$34 million, which goes back to the peak years of logging from the 1980's. There are 7 steps in calculating the payment, which is complicated. *The National Association of Counties is preparing Oregon State for a reduction in their distributions as it is becoming very clear that they are at an advantage.*

Idaho County is the 25<sup>th</sup> largest out of 3,068 in the country of parishes, counties and boroughs. There are about 1,200 miles of road to maintain. \$2,355,000 was received by Idaho County; it used to be \$1.4M.

*Please talk more about the airport, would expansion bring more opportunities?* It's a big deal on two fronts: one, we could build some bunkhouses and get more Forest Service people because if we can hub this airport to the region it could alleviate the noise problems McCall is complaining about; and two, Anderson Aeromotive is the only outfit in America that rebuilds bigger, older engines and their facility is off the airport. They have to ship engines for rebuild. There is a group of investors wanting to build a

new hangar in Idaho County. There is another outfit out of Alaska that would be interested in coming south "if" there were facilities.

*Break*

## **Subcommittee Progress Reports**

### **Rural Economies Subcommittee**

We had meeting last week which was well attended. Out of that meeting, two recommendations are brought today.

**Recommendation:** The Rural Economies Subcommittee recommends that the CBC engage with the University of Idaho in the development of a program with a focus on the Clearwater Basin.

The programs and benefits were discussed. The cost would be approximately \$10,000, which would cover travel and production costs.

**Resolution:** The CBC shall actively pursue efforts to develop a program in conjunction with the Building Sustainable communities Initiative at the University of Idaho. The CBC will work with University of Idaho to identify specific products that will benefit the CBC. The CBC will also work to negotiate reasonable costs and to secure funding to support this program.

*Comments:*

- *How does your committee see this as help legislatively and/or administratively?* A good portion of Asset Mapping will help us ascertain whether what we are doing will work for the community. Having some professional services at a reduced cost will benefit projects we may be undertaking, such as bike trails, rails to trails, etc. *In the CFLRA proposal that we would use the U of I in monitoring, is there any way they can assist with other committee work like that?* Probably not, that would go through the College of Natural Resources, but through a different avenue. This is focused on economic development.
- *Would this group be able to assist developing around the airport? Or is that a more entrepreneurial effort?* Yes, they could designate the airport as an asset, which would host smokejumpers and bring support to the county for what they are doing.
- *This is a tool to provide consultation?* Yes, we would work with them to specify avenues of interest. We will seek to keep them focused on our Subcommittee's items. They will be working with multiple people throughout the region, it's just a question if we want to be one of them.
- *How would this be different than what they are already doing with Sustainable Communities?* They will focus on the Clearwater Basin, rather than just working with other groups. It would give us input on what we receive as a product. *I had trouble finding tangible benefits from the presentation that was given to us last month. I am hoping if we engage in this, we get real practical information that we can utilize. The presentation was academic and not realistic.* The Rural Economies Subcommittee shares this concern, and the area of what we want to focus on

will be of discussion. Trail ways and pathways are of interest, and another interest is surveys and interviews.

- I would be supportive if it didn't have the last sentence. They have been very persistent and we should try to work with the University. Shared is the concern of the previous note. This really isn't our biggest focus at the moment for fundraising.
- The ending statement does not really commit us. Their indirect cost of 48.5% is extremely steep and not affordable for this group. This type of fundraising is not a priority for the group at this time.
- Working relationships with the University of Idaho is high on our list of priorities.
- Modify the resolution to "identify the specific products" before committing.

**Resolution:** The CBC shall actively pursue development of a RAC funding request to support the Youth Conservation Corps summer program on both the Clearwater and Nez Perce NF's for FY2011.

- The program has been around a long time. A lot of people started their careers with this program. For kids 14-18 to do trail cleaning building maintenance, and they get great experience of being in the woods and they learn about the Forest Service.
- Where are the kids lodged? They do not stay overnight, they go home. They meet in the morning, go out and work, come back and go home at night.
- As a member of the RAC, they get several a year. But, we should try to be sure that we don't override someone else's proposal.
- We had 8-10 kids and they turned more than that away and there was no advertising for this, it was strictly word of mouth. The interest is definitely out there. Summer jobs for kids are not there as their parents are now doing them.
- Current proposals in with the State of Idaho has not been funded as it was requested July of this year.
- We do not want to conflict with our other RAC proposals.

CBC support existing efforts to solidify funding opportunities and work with the Forest Service to find funding. Thumbs up.

Other Rural economies reporting: Monica Walker has been providing great information about the railroad line between Orofino and Jaype. She will be providing a report on "novel" information and other facts. In a very short period of time she mined a great deal of information that other groups have been unable to do.

### **Land Allocation Subcommittee**

Holly will give report

We had the Meadow Creek Field trip and went in from two different directions covering more ground. Compared notes around the campfire. There was an extremely unique ecosystem of plants that are typically found on the coast. Old growth cedar standing shoulders to shoulder with old growth pine. Once you drop off, it pretty steep and there wouldn't be a lot of use in there. It wouldn't be good for the

landscape. The other route in was very brushy. The concern is that the trail system is degraded. It's impossible to get down the creek side trails. It has not had much attention in the last decade. There are tons of the fish in the creek; it's a very good aquatic habitat. The main trail up the bottom is in good shape. They came off of Indian Hill which required a great deal of cutting, other than that 16 miles to the main camp is pretty good to Slims Campground. Large portions of the trail have slumped and not been repaired, there would be no access by horseback and not by backpack either. The area from the trailhead for 23 miles is a narrow canyon where the creek flows quite rapidly; there are very few bars or wide spots. It should be an easy area to control in terms of traffic.

**There should be a botanical survey as the plants in the area are very unusual.**

*Did you see any evidence of ATV's on closed trails?* No, we did not go on any trails that are closed to ATVs.

The Land allocation Subcommittee has met and focused on Meadow Creek. We focused on how to avoid the issue of having support withdrawn by Senators, by keeping them informed and by having stakeholders heard and keeping the dialogue open and with liaisons. That was an older collaborative and we are definitely different and hopefully we will avoid those issues.

Dave Cadwallader: In terms of a wild stream, we at Fish and Game wished they all looked like that. It was interesting that there were so many and you can't tell by looking just what kind of fish it was. Fish that were seen were fat. There were two different age classes, indicating two age classes of rainbows. For the most part those are wild steelhead. The outfitter had an interesting question, "Where is the Forest Service?" It was just a scheduling problem, not a direct exclusion. They had an awakening about chainsaws, where it was not wilderness and they could use chainsaws and the trails were still in terrible condition.

Bill Mullins took photos and those will be shared.

It will be interesting to get information from the Tribe on the condition of the fish population. After the Lewiston Dam there were no fish, and every fish you saw was one that was reintroduced by the tribe. After the dam was removed the fish populations have increased.

Aaron Miles: The trip into Meadow Creek was beneficial. The Tribe have been putting Chinook back into that tributary. We were hoping to see some salmon, but there were none. It seemed like a dry, low elevation area - it's easy to see why different bands of the Nez Perce would stay there, as there was good thermal cover, like down Indian Hills.

## **Recreation Subcommittee**

### **North South Trail**

Large scale maps were distributed to the group and the Subcommittee described the trail in detail.



It was suggested that at some point it be color coded to show what is new roads, what is existing, what will require permits and easements, etc. It would help to show needs. The Subcommittee needs to have a Feasibility Study performed. Funding sources have been identified for the Subcommittee to submit grant applications to. Dan Jones with Potlatch Corporation agrees that they would like to see a feasibility study. Northwest Management has been suggested, or a firm of their type. Additionally, discussions will be forthcoming with communities.

There is no new trail development required. The two items needed are easements and money to secure those easements. We have also asked the Forest Service to give us trail standards so that we know what to expect. But, our ultimate goal is to connect the communities – there is no one part more important than the other. Even if it all fell apart, we have a system in place that actually can get you to Pierce, Sheep Mountain and possibly dropping down to Aquarius Bridge which would be a short connection to other communities.

#### *Lunch*

We have also met with the Forest Service regarding quiet recreation. They will get us information on existing equestrian destinations, specifics about mountain biking loops and trails, identifying potential family friendly hiking opportunities, additional ADA fishing locations. In September we will work with Parks and Recreation. Potlatch will need a month or two to get their new people settled.

#### ***Elk City ATV Trip***

Dave G and Bill Higgins went with Alex on this trip. Joyce set up the opportunity to ride two different areas in Elk City. Locals said not to continue on to Dixie. In August they have a trip that interlinks Dixie and Elk City and people come for 106-mile ride per day. They start from both destinations and pass each other, have lunch in the opposite city, and then ride back.

This group met on a Saturday morning; there were two Dave's, two Darryl's, Bill and Alex. They passed the Red River Ranger Station, went up to the 505 Trail. Their club has posted a lot of signage (some even on picking up after yourself). The idea was to become more familiar with the landscape. The trail from the 541 (controversial trail) is a good trail, on flat ridges, etc.

The 505 trail, as an example, has 2-2.5 miles where it doesn't connect. There is a gap that has never been connected up to the 504. Someone has attempted on the 504 to connect, but this group didn't pass. They went through nearly 5 miles of fire areas that even the locals didn't realize it was that extensive. This was actually the result of two fires, not just one.

They met with very nice people, stayed in a lodge and had a nice dinner with the group. They saw between 50-100 head of elk with calves. They saw them the next morning as well.

The 541 trail was not able to be traveled. One of the ATV club members used to ride that road quite extensively. The damage that was documented was by Mudder Creek and in the meadows themselves. It was closed to motorized use just over two years ago.

## Forest Landscape Health Subcommittee

Celebrate that our outcome last week that our CFLRP was recommended for funding. The recommendation came from the FACA committee along with 9 other proposals. It's not the final decision yet; the Secretary of Agriculture will make it. A sincere thanks to Elayne for her work on the overviews and summaries (which were passed around to all). Joe Hudson and Mike Ward have put a tremendous amount of work and recommended the work needed. This would not have happened without them. Rick Brazell, thank you for the support you've given the collaboration and the project. We are very fortunate to have the support that we do, and this is not the case across the country.

*Typically when committee's meet, they have a list of negatives and positives, is there one for us?* Yes, I'll give an overview of the week. Some of the strengths and weaknesses were universal across all proposals. 10 projects were recommended. The FY10 asks, in total, were just under \$10M, which is what will be appropriated. The discussion was robust; there was a pre-ranking before they even met. Not all members read all proposals; some read and then discussed every single project. That lasted about half an hour. At the end of that, they ranked among each member. That's how they got the top 10. We ranked #6. In Region 6, they had 4 proposals and the Act only allows 2 per Region. At the end, we felt very confident that the 10 best proposals were picked, but it appeared that at any time things could change direction completely.

It made a difference that we were there. Skip did a great job with his talk given the time he was given. *Did other regions or projects have a committee there like we were?* It was generally rare; there was one other County Commissioner that came from Oregon. There were a couple that came in and out, but only 2-3 projects represented at any one time. They made a decision not to allow any additional information to be considered other than what was contained in the proposal.

*Strengths: **our greatest strength was our collaboration*** and there was a lot of emphasis on collaboration across all proposals. Some were eliminated because they did not have a collaborative effort. The section written on our collaboration's strength set us apart and this was recognized. They like our large landscape that includes private and public lands, including the wilderness portion. There were questions regarding the regen cuts and there wasn't enough discussion on that practice. They wanted to be sure there was a shift in fundamental treatment on the land. They said the proposal was well written, very mature, told a compelling story. It was one of the best jobs describing a social and local community impact and they responded to the case we made. They really liked our monitoring; but, we could have done a better job detailing the monitoring. They liked the 11% commitment to monitoring, as some others came in at 2%. We knew this was an issue. They wanted "restoration" defined better as to what forest types we are treating.

*We ranked #6 to start with, and ended up at 7?* It's really hard to say why it changed. They were all viewed as strong proposals, they all had strengths and weaknesses. It was really up to the Committee. Some felt it was more important to focus on those communities who had lost their infrastructure, and some who wanted to focus on ones that still had their community and didn't want to lose it. Our presenter had a real heartburn with restoration type, and was very concerned with any clear cutting.

Right out of the gate she had problems, and we had to step up and say we took exception to that. It was stated that if these groups came to the conclusion that it was needed, then it was probably valid.

They spent a lot of time defining what could be improved.

The discussion wasn't focused on fire, but the Alaska project dropped off immediately because fire wasn't a critical component for that landscape.

*How does the money flow?* We were recommended for the full fiscal year '10, \$1 million, this year. They came to the agreement that this meant a firm commitment to these 10 projects. We will not have to necessarily compete every year, however, they cannot guarantee future appropriations. If it's appropriated in future years, they will have a strong commitment to these 10 proposals selected this year. They will have checkpoints to ensure progress, which doesn't promise continued funding if we don't perform. If we do perform well, we would be in very good standing to receive continued funding.

Any position they take has to be signed off on by the secretary of Agriculture. There was not a project selected from Region 5 (California), but Region 5 will have a lot of influence on that final decision.

Dale: In the end, Joyce and Jonathan, your help and relationships with individuals were critical to our success. Some of the members had personal ties to some of the projects. You could see the tension around the room.

*Were there any projects less than 10 years?* They thought ours was. Then it was clarified. There was one that only identified 6 years and it was disqualified because of that. The Act required a 10-year project plan. Those funded were all 10-year projects.

*Was there a timeline for the Secretary to sign?* We asked, and the response was there is no timeline established but they realized that it needed to happen quickly. We aren't sure what "quick" is to the Dept of Agriculture.

*You were there and could not say anything? How were you able to influence the process?* Because we met with them in the evening. It was extremely difficult to remain quiet. For that reason, in the future the committee wants a process to involve and allow comments in order to fix the process. The fact that we were there had an influence on our proposal. There were strategic discussions that really helped.

It was a positive note that we would be assisting the Tribe. After it is approved we will have 180 days to put together a work plan.

There was a decision today that Mike Ward will be assigned 100% of the time to this project. *Applause.*

The Southwest Crown of the continent was also selected and we should acknowledge that our Region is supporting two of these proposals, and that means they will be required to come up with the match. They should be commended for this effort.

Other outcomes from the trip to Washington DC:

We were packed with meetings, and thanks to everyone for making everything happen.

We met with Senator Crapo, who is ecstatic with our success. He was very happy about that. Met with Senator Risch, which was a very animated meeting. Met with Dept of Agriculture, Jay Jenson, had dinner with Harris Sherman. Merryl Harrell said to say hello to everyone. She was very enthusiastic about her trip and now includes collaboration in everything she does. We met with Tom Tidwell and he is very supportive of the proposal. Scott Miller, Mark Rey and Frank Gladdix, all met and talked about Secure Rural Schools. There is strong support for the CBC and our approach. They like our listening efforts. There was valuable feedback on schools.

### **Legislative Ask**

One point, to be discussed, is the timelines for our legislative ask. There were strong recommendations to return in December with our Legislative principles. The concept was that it doesn't have to be specific - it can be general. What they want to see are the components that are outside wilderness. What else are we asking for? They really want to see more detail on economics, recreation and forest health. They want to start the dialogue sooner than later. Sooner is December, nothing in 2012 because of an election year, and later it would be 2013.

If we are to have something for 2011, they want it by the first two weeks in January. When you have a new session of Congress, you have a new seniority in Congress. You'll have different committees and staff gets moved around. We should go in December. We have a 180-day work plan in front of us, and things can change. *So, what are the real parameters that we need? What do they mean in terms of economics?* We have already started asking the FS for what their needs will be for X and for Y, and that we don't need specifics we just want an idea of what they want.

They do not want a defined image – they don't care about the names, addresses and specifics, they just want to know that we will want: wilderness; a 180-mile North/south trail, etc. We don't need to have final determination. We need to know what the components are.

We've worked very hard to establish relationships in DC with committee members and staffers and to ask them to "hang in there" until 2013 is too long. We should move on this quicker rather than later. If we can come up with the principles, not the specifics, but where we're headed – that's a major component with the trust building in WDC.

*Agree with principles, but how are we going to be different than anyone else? What do we want to roll out that is different than other regions? What is it that we want to do to move this basin forward? It's easy to argue about Meadow Creek and wilderness, but what are we going to do that's different?*

There was general agreement with moving forward sooner than later. We should deal with this today. By August the Steering Committee, along with the subcommittees, should provide some guidance on what they would like to see as principles. Then the subcommittee's can come back with their principles. Initially this caused some concern, but after hearing that we just need generalities, the concern is alleviated.

Do we have commitment on moving forward? Thumbs up from all.

### **August 3-4 RAC/CBC field trip**

Laura Smith gave an overview of the fieldtrip.

The RAC support has been fundamental to our success, so it would be great if you could make the trip. If some of you want to be there one day, just let us know.

### **Blueprint/MOU**

Bill and Jonathan have been working on the Levels of Support document, which is basically a support document outlining a specific process to review forest service projects. They have tied our existing system of voting to the levels. We will finalize at the August meeting.

They are getting requests from other forests to consider landscape scale projects. People are picking up on our success and they are eager to work on equal type projects. FLRA is one tool, and we should be sensitive that there are other types of funding opportunities out there.

At some point, we are going to have to consider restructuring how our collaboration is established. We could not support more projects in the current structure that we have. We may have people in subcommittees that are available, but not all of us are. We should think about how we grow.

There is a good chance that we might increase our future funding to build our capacity for our group.

The IDL application for \$200,000 is due August 1, and Ree has routed some of the ideas through appropriate ideas. We have given her our approval to move forward with this. She will apply for this and if we are accepted we will work with the committee and there are some U of I requests in that. The draft has gone out to the Forest Landscape Health. It includes at some firebreak potential to build on FLRA work, it includes on small wood utilization, and it will come from the RC&D not the collaborative. It will go to them. We've talked with IDL and we are trying to get them to move towards strategic fire planning.

### **Steering Committee Report**

We have 20 applications for the Facilitation position. They are from all over the country. We are working on the selection process to start narrowing down to 5 applications and then we need a Task Force to make a recommendation to the Steering Committee. There are some very qualified people. The price range was from \$23,000 – 30,000.

Idaho Office of Species Conservation wants to come and visit with us. Tom Perry is on the list for Recreation to come and talk with Recreation. He would like to talk about the Idaho Roadless Rule. We could brainstorm some other discussions to occur at that time.

## **Public Comment:**

Last week in DC was great. It was enjoyable. With people from the CBC and people we met with and seeing the cohesion, it's really gratifying to see that N Central Idaho is being recognized by both sides of the aisle. Most people know the history, and to see that pushed aside and see people working together is really refreshing. – Mitch

Congratulations on the FLRA proposal, and the whole effort. I sat in on the call with Senator Risch; I've never heard the Senator so excited and animated. Dale did a great job. Congratulations. Our office is on board and we are very supportive. Darrin is looking forward to coming out in November. Mike Hanna

Congratulations. My boss is excited about the project. He had an opportunity to talk at length and he's very excited – Mark Williams

I appreciate you going back to WDC. We watched for updates and finally got our updates, we were cautiously optimistic. – Mike Ward

We spent a day in the FLRA area wondering what was happening, and we waited for updates. You guys did a great job and we were lucky to have you. Joe Hudson

Really proud that such a fine group of people represent the FS – Laura Smith

Sometimes I feel overwhelmed, but I feel like I'm making a difference – Elayne Murphy

## **Round Robin**

Wow, what a full agenda. Congratulations on the work completed on the FLRA project. I'm very impressed. The bombshell from Robyn was a big one, but with direction from our leadership we can accomplish it – Larry

Great meeting! Kudos to everyone working on the FLRA project. It impressed me that everyone back there knew who CBC was. Dale was amazing. Heads up for the group, our travel planning will come out the next few months and there will be some contention. Putting personal touches on it. It will affect everyone – Rick Brazell

Great meeting! Every item on Agenda talked about tangible results and talked about our accomplishments. There were no abstract ideas. We are getting down to measurable results. Welcome to Greg, hopefully he sees this as a worthwhile effort – Bill Higgins

Wow, I feel a little like an outsider, I have a lot to catch up on. I am usually pretty talkative. I look forward to more project discussions; the political stuff is bit beyond me. Greg Danley

Welcome Greg, it's good to see you. What a dearth of funding that the NP has for trails maintenance and aside from the chainsaw issue, and what the real issue is that there isn't enough maintenance being

done. That's something we should do differently. Skips presentation, one thing Title II was supposed to do was to restructure economies and when U of I was discussed, they talked about restructuring our economy. We are going to protect the land, but we also need to help the people so they can live here. Kudos to all those that worked on the FLRA project and all the efforts, and now you get to work harder!  
Randy Doman

Randy said it all. Thank you for the FLRA project. Ron Aldrich

I feel proud. I felt so proud to represent the work of this group and the FS last week. It's a really special moment for me to see this translate – all the talk, the trust to translate into tangible results. It's a great success and we want to talk time to discuss that. We are making tangible progress – Robyn

We need to celebrate our successes. Latest books oh how we grow, build on your successes and we are doing that. Don, when you wrote the email congratulating the group – stating the work is ahead of us, and you were very accurate. It was good – Orville

Elayne you made a difference and I appreciate the work you do. Rick, you too, your involvement and appointing Mike for the work is that you've appointed a good man. He's a hard worker, and I appreciate that. Greg welcome to the table. It's important that we maintain diversity. – Dave C

I appreciate being able to come here. It sounds like a lot of successes. Appreciate going to Meadow Creek, and my role is to be more focused with the Tribe. I appreciate being involved. I didn't realize there were more pilgrims that need to be led! – Aaron

Greg, welcome, I've known Greg for a while and he'll do a great job. I think we've done well, I appreciate the accomplishments we've made. As I read the Tribune and Brad/Jonathan being bashed, it donned on me the position that they are in, I see that others are criticizing them. When I see that people accuse us of abandoning principles, it made me mad – I will stick up for these guys, they have not abandoned their principles. I cannot tolerate that type of accusation, because it's not true. I appreciate the work we've done, pause, take credit – we still need to look ahead – now we have to drive for the goal line. I'm proud to be with this. – Don Ebert

For those of you who haven't seen it, there has been some back and forth in the Lewiston Tribune about our 40 million dollar project. For anyone who knows, we all know that we're not going to log Meadow Creek. We attempted to clarify that. We're done responding publicly, but it will get worse for all of us. Everyone will come under pressure that you're selling out, but we recognize that we'll move forward by coming together and moving forward. We won't shy away because of criticism. I remember saying when we did the FLRA proposal, but the challenge will be if we are selected – it looks good. Let's continue to hope for the best and use our contacts and keep the heat up. Greg, I look forward to working with you.  
– JDO

Welcome Greg. I think frequently, when a group like this is put together it is of dreamers, but at this table we have dreamers and DOERS. The level of credibility we have and the fact that people back in DC

know who we are, I just want to say that it is good to know that everyone here is as much a workaholic as I am! We truly are, otherwise we wouldn't have reached this success- Joyce

Add to Robyn, it was good to get to know everyone. Last week was a proud moment. JDO, your letter has caused calls of good comments about the group. It's good to be part of the group. It was good to see group not dependent on warm fuzzy meetings, it was based on getting work done. We all worked independently, but as a team. – Skip

I am very happy that those who went did so. It was a great accomplishment. To the FS, you are incredible professionals and I am very gratified that you are on my team. I am amazed at the level of expertise. I haven't recovered from WDC as it takes a toll. The highlight, Robyn and I spent times on pins and needles. The level of trust is phenomenal. What's the coolest is that I really feel like I am an Idaho Ambassador. We are really looking out for the interests of this basin. I also feel overwhelmed. There is a lot on our plate, and we will do our best to accomplish stuff. We do need to amend our operating protocols, Jonathan. We have the list of applicants for Facilitators, and you can look and leave comments. – Dale

Thank you for all for allowing me to be part of such a unique organization. It dawned on me when you returned; I had just committed myself to 10 more years of work! Do you know how old I'll be? There are some good things beginning to happen. It will be awhile before the basin flourishes again. 3 Rivers will be operating again. Empire Lumber, whose mill burned down 2 years ago, is moving right along building a second mill again. Those are all positive things from the industry point of view. I see some highlights beginning to materialize and things that make me feel good about the future. I've seen things with the CLF/NPF that I've not seen in years. We have a prime opportunity. Every comment you've made today is vibrant because we are making accomplishments. So far, we have not made a lot of mistakes, and as long as we have trust, we can accomplish - Alex