

National Forest Advisory Board NFAB MEETING-

West River Agricultural Center, 1905 Plaza Drive, Rapid City, SD July 20, 2005, 1:00 pm

Members Present: Bob Kloss, Acting Chair, Karl Burke (Johnsen), John Culberson (Heinert), Aaron Everett, Doug Hofer, Everett Hoyt, Nancy Kile (Margadant), Bob Paulson, James Scherrer, Nels Smith, Linda Tokarczyk, and Paul Valandra (Colombe) Forest Service representatives, Craig Bobzien, Frank Carroll, Brad Exton, Jeff Ulrich, and Lonnie Arthur, recorder.

Members Absent: Tom Blair, Charles Colombe, James Heinert, Ron Johnsen, Jim Margadant, Pat McElgunn, and Theresa Two Bulls.

Welcome and Roll Call:

Chairman Kloss: Quorum present

Comments to the Chair:

Carroll: Introductions of Craig Bobzien, Black Hills National Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Officer also Karl Burke, Board Alternate for Ron Johnsen. Bobzien and Burke made self-introductions.

Approve Minutes:

Chairman Kloss: If there are no comments, the minutes will stand as written.

Agenda:

Chairman Kloss: If there are no changes, the printed agenda will stand.

Housekeeping items:

Carroll: We need to replenish supplies for coffee, cups, etc. Please make a donation for the coffee fund.

A thank you to the Boxelder Job Corps for providing the treats.

Meeting Protocols – Issues:

No additional meeting protocols or issues, move onto Hot Topics

Hot Topics:

Chairman Kloss: Pardon the pun, but the most recent hot topic was the Ricco Fire. I am asking Pam Brown, District Ranger on the Northern Hills District to give a review of the fire.

Brown presented a comprehensive, informative review of fire utilizing various maps, the efforts that brought the fire under control and the additional effort to protect Stagebarn Canyon. Brown fielded various questions from the group.

Scherrer: Is there funding available for travel for subcommittee members to attend distant meetings?

Chairman Kloss: We will consult the Forest Service to see if there are funds available.

Carroll: Next month is our Summer Tour, which coincides with our August 17th meeting.

Craig and Brad would like suggestions so they may make plans.

Smith: Let's look at multiple use synergism and energy for a particular project.

Paulson: I suggest that we look at grassland and OHV use near the airport. We can spend an hour there and the remainder of our meeting hours elsewhere.

Chairman Kloss: Do you District Rangers have projects that come to mind?

Scherrer: The Prairie Project in Thompson's district may be a good example.

Thompson: I can provide brief update of the project relating to wild land-urban interface, OHV travel and cross county restrictions. This needs to be considered a work in progress, and is not completed.

Carroll: We will put together a tour.

Kile: Where is the Yellow Thunder Camp in proximity to Prairie Project?
There is interest from the National Native Americans.

Chairman Kloss: Thank you Nancy and we can put this on our September agenda.

Regular Agenda:

Phase II Board Findings and Resolutions on the Phase II Amendment

Dave Thom provided the board with the document – [“Findings and Recommendations on the Phase II Forest Plan Amendment, dated June 15, 2005.”](#)

Chairman Kloss: As a committee member, I make a motion to accept the resolution with changes.

Scherrer: 2nd

Chairman Kloss: The June 15 version is the revised version that we are recommending.

Tokarczyk: I would suggest that we change the wording of “proposed” to “general.”

Scherrer: What is the value of this document?

Thom: 1) The committee has reviewed many provisions and material, and asked questions that were useful in the environmental analysis. In essence there is general

agreement of the public with the direction the board is taking even though it is coming from diverse segments.

2) Supported general direction and emphasis areas the Forest Service is taking on Phase II

Chairman Kloss: Are there any more comments?

Thom: What we have is a general agreement comprising the board and public comments.

Smith: We have not gotten to the recommendation.

Everett: It is in the title of the document, Findings and Recommendations; however, there are no specific recommendations or technical information.

Chairman Kloss: If we do not have recommendations, then remove wording from the title.

Everett: I agree that we are not making a specific set of recommendations.

Paulson: Take the wording also from the 1st sentence.

Chairman Kloss: Is there a motion to delete?

Everett: Motion to delete

Smith: 2nd

Hoyt: Please refer to handouts that Jeff Ulrich presented to a new-member group from the board. This information is useful as we look at the document that is being discussed. Thom and Ulrich distributed copies of Ulrich's presentation to the board.

Chairman Kloss: I am asking for a vote to accept this document with the changes noted.

Motion carried.

Kile: Opposed

The July 20th approval date will now become the recommendation to Forest Supervisor. (NOTE: The revised version dated July 20, 2005 is attached to the minutes)

Break 2:15 pm

Chairman Kloss: The next item on the agenda is forest recommendation on Research Natural Areas in SD and WY.

Thom: There are three major topics in Phase II. We have just discussed the first two and we are presenting information to the board and to let them know where the team stands in terms of the planning which includes the next major topic which is Research Natural Areas in SD and WY. We are not looking for board action, but we will take your comments today or you may send those to me by e-mail by July 29. Jeff Ulrich is here to provide a Power Point presentation on the **Phase II Amendment, Candidate Research Natural Areas.**

During and after Jeff's presentation, Dave Thom will be collecting various comments.

Questions and comments.

Smith: What about RNA dollars for changes that are recommended?

Scherrer: What do you want from us?

Ulrich: We are looking for your comments, and you may send comments to Dave Thom, preferably by e-mail, [Send your comments to Dave Thom.](#)

Hofer: To clarify your four recommendations, are three sites are in SD, and one WY?

Ulrich: Yes

Smith: I commend the Forest Service on their responsiveness to comments and for their work in selecting and reviewing the candidate sites. You may need to take a look at the screening process you are using.

Chairman Kloss: Cost effectiveness is a concern with public's request for inclusion in RNA.

Ulrich: Dollars are the smallest of resources and they do add to decisions in creating boundaries.

Chairman Kloss: What about adopting RNA from the public, if at their request?

Ulrich: We are trying to be as inclusive as possible for the greatest number of various species.

Thom: The recommendation is based on 260,000 acres from the forest service selections and from the public recommendation. We are attempting to achieve the best representation, so the selected boundaries are close to the plant communities, and those are the communities that were considered.

Kloss: Craig (Bobzien) do you wish to comment on Phase II?

Bobzien: This has been a long process for many people putting in lots of hard work. As you can discern from all of the information that has been presented, we are working to finalize this process on recommendations to Phase II.

Chairman Kloss: Are there other comments?

Paulson: The Sandcreek area seems unenforceable for OHV use. Was it a major factor in not selecting this area?

Ulrich: That was an issue but there were also many others.

Thom: We are looking at plant community representation, if we could get it somewhere else or the allocation was contained in what the public had requested as being available, we would use these criteria in making a recommendation.

Kozel: OHV's, established mining claims, and defensibility in rugged country are additional factors that are considerations in the selection process.

Break: 3:00 pm

Travel Management Subcommittee Report:

Scherrer: The oral presentation of the report of the subcommittee from their meeting held July 11, 2005.

Since Bob Thompson has an exhaustive list of regular duties and the travel management duties are over and above the others, a facilitator for this group is requested. This may be in addition to an administrative assistant. Tom Willems has been suggested to fill the role. Willems is an archeologist on the Hell Canyon Ranger District and aside from his career duties, he is also involved with OHV travel. We understand there is the possibility that there might be Forest Service money for a travel management coordinator.

We are anticipating the delivery of the Travel Management Maps and a press release notifying the public when they are available.

Hofer: There is an outdoors recreation day at the SD State Fair, so that is a venue to distribute the Travel Management Maps.

Carroll: The maps are currently available on the Internet.

Chairman Kloss: Will the Forest Service Public Affairs Office handle the SD State Fair?

Scherrer: We have a number of representatives from the subcommittee who can handle distribution at the State Fair.

Hofer: There has been mention of gathering statistics regarding forest use from a broad spectrum of users and no survey materials seem to fit what you are looking for. I have a statistician in Pierre that I can make available in creating a survey that will meet the necessary criteria for a sound, and valid report. Let me know when the group will be meeting in Pierre and I will make arrangements.

Paulson: As I understand it, there are 50,000 Travel Management Maps that are ordered for OHV use in SD. That is a separate inventory from the WY map.

Tokarczyk: I have asked the question before about having representation from Wyoming on the Travel Management sub committee. Has there been any consideration given to this?

Scherrer: We have not been able to deal with the addition of a representative from Wyoming to an already existing representative on the committee. Send me an e-mail making a recommendation and if another person brings additional value, then I will bring it to the sub-committee.

Smith: What is the request?

Tokarczyk: Having more involvement from parties representing Wyoming.

Smith: We have a multi-state forest so we need multi-state representation.

Hofer: Linda, who would you recommend?

Tokarczyk: Someone from Wyoming motorized recreation.

Scherrer: We do not need another representative from a biased group.

Hofer: Since there are designated trails in Wyoming, maybe a Wyoming Trail Coordinator?

Invasive Species:

Tokarczyk/Teupel: [Presentation of the final report on Invasive Species dated July 20, 2005.](#)

Smith: I move to accept the report

Valandra: 2nd

A unanimous vote to adopt this report as board recommendation.

(NOTE: The report on Invasive Species dated July 20, 2005 is attached to the minutes)

Paulson: Just a comment about finding some of our best practices.

Carroll: I recommend the National Forest Invasive Species Act. That would be helpful.

Bobzien: Thanks for the report; we will take this back and work on it. Just a point of clarification, the funding for or creating line items is not our call, i.e. the Black Hills National Forest.

Culberson: From my work perspective, counties have problems with the Forest Service regarding weeds and many other issues. I think we need to get to the basics, let's focus our common resources.

Bobzien: There are goals and objectives where we have common interests. Certainly, sharing resources, focusing on goals and how we can get there are areas we all can work towards. We need to fine tune what we have in place.

Thom: To be sure that everyone is on the same page regarding weed issues. We (Forest Service) spend approximately one million dollars, each district hires 4-15 people to treat weeds, have treated over 10,000 acres in 2004, have cooperative agreements with the counties, and operate under a weed management plan approved about 2 years ago.
Thank you for the good recommendations from sub committee to help focus and coordinate our efforts as we move forward.

Chairman Kloss: We must get on the budget trail of the Forest Service.

Hofer: I extend my compliments to sub committee. They have done a great job. Tying into national agenda, what about K-V funding? Is there the possibility of tying that funding to invasive species?

Thom: There are two different sources of funding for weed treatment, congressional funding and K-V.

Exton: We must understand there is limited flexibility.

Everett: Further comments on discretionary use of K-V dollars will need forest-wide coordination.

Hoyt: For you on the Invasive Species subcommittee, are there items missing or items that are giving you heartburn.

Teupel: If anything is missing, biomass might be one item.

Bobzien: In all of this discussion, there are limitations for treatments, so establishing priorities, are a means where can we be most effective.

Thompson: On various projects, use of dollars and their effectiveness, fuels vs. weeds are often a trade off.

Kile: Are we addressing the harvesting of plants and weed control poisons (treatments) that may adversely affect plants and herbs that people may utilize?

Brown: When we treat, we are very specific in designated areas vs. broad aerial spraying, which we do not employ.

Smith: We may need to look at changing the Phase II to create a designation for Invasive Species.

Chairman Kloss: Are there any other changes?

Paulson: There are no deadlines mentioned, should they be included?

Culberson: Your (Forest Service) management model doesn't make sense to me. I feel frustrated at the speed at which things move or don't move.

Chairman Kloss: I need a motion to approve

Paulson: So moved

Everett: 2nd

Motion approved

Kile: opposed.

Public comments:

Paulson: Thank you for the work on the travel management map

Hilding: Regarding comments on RNA, can this come from the general public?

Carroll: If you wish to comment you may do so, as well as others from the general public.

Paterson: Thank you Forest Service for your work on the Travel Management map. This is a good first step, but just a first step. Signage is confusing in the forest. Does general public understand it? What about botanical areas? Are mining claims able to be staked on botanical areas?

Thom: Yes (re: mining claims on botanical areas)

Chairman Kloss: Are there other comments?

Rowe: Thank you to the people who are heroes in saving Botany Canyon and for fighting the fire.

Meeting adjourned: 4:45 pm