National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) Meeting
September 15, 2010
Mystic Ranger District Office, Rapid City

Members Present:

Jim Heinert, Chairman; Everett Hoyt, Bill Kohlbrand, Bob Paulson, Nels Smith, Donovin Sprague, Hugh Thompson, Craig Tieszen, Tom Troxel, Jeff Vonk., Sam Brannan, Colin Paterson, Terry Mayes

Forest Service Representatives:

Craig Bobzien, Tina Lanier, Frank Carroll, Randy Spiering (via phone conference), Bob Thompson, Lynn Kolund, Deanna Reyher, Steve Kozel, Marie Curtin, Les Gonyer, Claudia Hill, Twila Morris - Recorder.

Others:

Approximately 10 members of the public and four Congressional representatives; Chris Blair (Johnson – D, South Dakota), Rick Hanson (Herseth-Sandlin – D, South Dakota), Mark Haugen (Thune – R, South Dakota), and DeAnna Kay (Enzi – R, Wyoming)

Members Absent:

Tom Blair, Nancy Kile Pat McElgunn, Becci Jo Rowe, Jim Scherrer

Welcome:

Chair Heinert: Quorum present, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Approve Minutes:

Heinert: Do we have a motion to approve the minutes? Motion made by Terry Mayes, second by Hugh Thompson, motion carried.

Approve the September Agenda:

Heinert: Are there any changes to the September Agenda?

Smith: Is there any update on the planning process?

Bobzien: We can include that under hot topics.

Heinert: Planning process update added under hot topics.

Bobzien: I would also like to add an update on the Norbeck Project complaint under hot topics.

Heinert: Do we have a motion to approve the agenda? Motion made by Craig Tieszen, second by Donovin Sprague, motion carried.

Housekeeping:

Carroll: Explanation of facilities; treats thanks to the Boxelder Job Corps.

Meeting Protocols:

Heinert: No special consideration for today's meeting.

Comments to the Chair:

Bobzien: Thanks Jim. The first thing I would like to do is introduce Marie Curtin, Planning Assistant with the Planning Group at the Supervisor's Office. Marie was instrumental in completing the travel management plan. I would also like to introduce Tina Lanier, the Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor while Dennis is on detail in Denver as the Director of External Affairs.

Lanier: Thank you, it's good to be here. I'm from the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Central Montana. I'm a District Ranger there.

Introductions of the Board members made.

Hot Topics

Fire Situation Update

Carroll: The fire season in the Black Hills has been drowned for the most part. Some parts of the Hills are dry and some are wet. It is still possible to have fires. All in all it's been a very successful initial attack fire season. We are now transitioning into prescribed fire. There will be prescribed fire near Sturgis, Spearfish, etc. so you'll see smoke, and we'll keep you posted.

Hoyt: What is the back ground on the recent District Court ruling as it relates to the use of fire retardants?

Carroll: The Department of Agriculture and the Chief's office have reserved any public discussion of that matter to themselves.

Carroll: Planning Process: We do not have a date on when the proposal will be coming out. The latest information we have is that they are doing wrap up, and they will come back out for further comments, you can go to the Forest Service website to read the latest information.

Bobzien: Norbeck Complaint: Last week Dennis called from the Regional Office, he had received a copy of a complaint against Rick Cables, which had been filed in the District Court of Colorado, regarding Norbeck. This is a 50 page document which includes the items that were included in the appeal by Friends of the Norbeck and Native Ecosystems Council who are based in Montana. There were also additional issues regarding grazing listed. It's under review by the Forest Service attorneys. The appeal is asking that we stop the Norbeck Wildlife Project. The first project is being put up for bid with an expected award date of October 1. No Forest Service response has been given at this time.

Vonk: You've been asked to stop, by your superiors?

Bobzien: The plaintiffs have asked in their complaint.

Vonk: And because they've asked, does that mean you will stop? What's the process? Do you have to stop?

Bobzien: No, we will continue with our plans unless informed otherwise.

Paterson: The Norbeck Society is a much broader group focused on more than just the Norbeck Project. We are not the group known as the Friends of the Norbeck who filed the complaint.

Regular Agenda

Mountain Pine Beetle & Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act

Bobzien: We would like to give you an update on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CLRP), and the bark beetle issues today. Thanks to the Board for their support of our project that was developed in June. We submitted that for consideration, we did not get selected in 2010 for the project, but we were prepared to implement, and so we accomplished most of everything that was sent in – both in South Dakota & Wyoming. Steve, could you give us an update on what has been accomplished in the tornado area?

Kozel: We've accomplished a lot of work in the tornado area; which includes weed spraying, we've begun doing thinning of small stands that were damaged, cleaned all the roadsides of debris, and cleaned the culverts. We received assistance from the State of Wyoming and the Honor Crew out of Newcastle. We still have fencing to do.

Paterson: Did you open the area for firewood gathering?

Kozel: We had one area last year where folks could collect firewood. We had free firewood areas as well.

Paterson: Will you continue to offer firewood?

Kozel: We're in the process of looking at the slash piles we have, and working through some pile removal projects. Depending upon the outcome of that contract, we may or may not have free firewood.

Heinert: I would like to compliment the Forest Service and Steve Kozel on the August field trip. Steve and his staff did an excellent job, and it was a very enlightening experience. I appreciate all the efforts.

I would also like to inform the Board that, as the Chairman, I was able to attend a special listening session regarding the mountain pine beetle (MPB). Representative Herseth Sandlin accompanied by the Deputy Under Secretary, Jay Jensen, held this special session. We had a round table discussions and the purpose of the session was to talk about the MPB epidemic. The message I tried to carry, based on the information we receive from the Forest Service, is that this crisis has reached epidemic proportions, and is intensifying. I asked them to accelerate their efforts to help us treat this better. I felt that what we had to say was well received. I hope it will produce some result. It frustrates me when the bureaucratic process is so obsessed with doing things right that we are incapable of doing the right thing.

Smith: As massive as this infestation is, we'll get the same effect that we get with a forest fire. I hope the Forest will consider getting the fuel utilized; there are provisions for transitory forage and that should be used.

Bobzien: Randy Spiering, our Acting Natural Resources Staff Office (vice Dave Thom), is on the phone line. Randy is on detail here from Cody Wyoming. Randy and Tina Lanier will be working with the Board and the Subcommittee as we develop the 2011 response on the bark beetle issue. My goal is to present some information, and some updates and ask the Subcommittee to have a recommended strategy, as to what the Board would like to sponsor for 2011, at our November NFAB meeting. This project matters to the Forest, and I know it matters to you. This MPB epidemic is in its 13th year; we've come out of the drought, and it still persists. The Forest Service, Bill with the State of Wyoming, the South Dakota Foresters, and the Forest Products Industry all are really accelerating our efforts this year. Right now I will tell you that we have already initiated our request for a full timber program in 2011 which is 9.7 million along with an additional 5 million dollars for this epidemic.

Carroll: What we'll show you next is a video clip of aerial photos taken last week. You'll see photos of the trees that died last year, but the trees that were hit this year are still green. So we've done some aggressive work; we've spent three days in a helicopter taking pictures so that the Board, Congress, and the public can see the same thing we are seeing. We have just taken the pictures, and it takes time to process, so they will be available soon. We grabbed a few clips

to give you an idea of the scope of what we are seeing. You'll also see some broad stretches that have been managed, thinned, and what it looks like.

Bobzien: We have a PowerPoint presentation for you next with an update on the MPB strategy. We're in our 13th year of this infestation. We should have some additional information from our scientist soon. We know that the thinning we do works, but it's a matter of the beetles being at a scale that we are beyond our regular work. It's clear that we have a lot of people that are aware of this issue.

PowerPoint Discussion/Questions

Bobzien: For FY11 the Black Hills will do 25,000 acres of thinning, 194,000 ccf of timber and 187,000 green tons of additional removal. Sanitation with commercial timber sales to remove fresh hit trees before beetles fly again.

Invitation sent to Conservation Leaders in the Black Hills, Wyoming & South Dakota, for a meeting at the Mystic office on September 24th. We'll look at ways that we can get more work done together.

Tieszen: I have a question for Tom. What is the capacity of the Forest Products Industry, do the crews, trucks, sawmills, etc. have the capacity of this extra work?

Troxel: So far yes. There is a lot of volume under contract. The trick is to make sure that our crews are getting into the highest priority areas. The critical time is between now and March 15th before spring break up. We are coordinating with the Forest Service to get the most we can.

Mayes: 25,000 acres of thinning, that's a constrained number. I assume that is based on finances, man power, etc. What do we need to do to be able to expand that?

Bobzien: 25,000 is our regular program, and it is slightly above our Forest Plan. The "all fuels treatment" number is in the neighborhood of 60,000 acres. Bob and others have had crews out there marking, and there are thousands and thousands of trees. We want to be as effective as possible. Bob, could you give us an update on progress on your District?

B.Thompson: We have a lot of areas under contract, and so industry has been out their working with us trying to target the areas where we have the most activity. We have marked these areas, so they are out marking trees that would have otherwise stayed – the beetles didn't care about that fact that we wanted the trees to stay! So many of the leave trees have beetle hits. In the last week we have marked another 7,000 trees or so. We're trying to keep coming together, where they harvest, we want to mark ahead of them for fresh hits. We are getting thousands and thousands a week.

Bobzien: What it comes down to is the time, we've had reports that there have been three waves of beetles; we are in primetime right now for marking. We have been working with industry to determine if we are going to the right places. Now that the beetles have stopped flying for this year, we have called all hands to help; we've got all of our folks on this project. There is some limit to where we can go. Acres might not be a good metric, rather it's the number of fresh bug-hit trees marked.

Paterson: 194,000 ccf of timber; what percent increase is that of what is normally done?

Bobzien: Our forest plan would put it at about 180 or 182 ccf. Additional above that would be about in the 25% to 30% range.

Heinert: Acres might not be the metric, but it helps me to understand. Do we have an estimate on the current acreage of infestation, and what amount is at the greatest risk?

Bobzien: In the neighborhood of 400,000 acres at risk. Not all of those acres are fully engaged, but 400,000 acres are the large dense forests that are at risk.

Hoyt: That only leaves about 88,000 acres left.

Paterson: That 700,000+ number is of high fire risk, including beetle acres.

Bobzien: 400,000 acres total of MPB infestation.

H.Thompson: I am familiar with an epidemic of Spruce Bark Beetle and there was a similar scenario. We were finally told that the epidemic would probably continue until there was a major weather event or till it ran out of host material. So basically, it looks like, in the absence of a 40 below winter, that what you'll have left is those areas that you can treat in the next few years. And that's what the Black Hills forest will look like. What you can treat before you run out of host material. This could result in a major forest plan revision. We'll have to look at what we have left; it might not be all that much.

Troxel: I would like to respond to Colin's question. The annual Forest Plan amount for thinning is not capped from year to year. There were some significant short falls in previous years, so we are still below what is in the Forest Plan.

Troxel: Related to beetles, when I look at the Black Elk Wilderness and the fire potential; I would like to know if part of the Norbeck decision was to do some proactive treatment regarding fire issues.

Kolund: In the Record of Decision that I signed in March, I deferred the decision and we now have done some inventory in that area - basically a half mile around the perimeter. The decision was that when we got the inventory, we would make that decision next spring. There has been no decision on prescribed burning within the boundary of the Black Elk Wilderness.

Troxel: What is your timeline?

Kolund: The best place we could implement would be along the boundary of the State Park. We have good partners there, our best opportunities. It would most likely be a fall burn (fall of 2011). We've broken the area up into three to five hundred acre burn areas. We would look at how many of those we could burn.

Troxel: Do you have authority to do something other than prescribed burning in the wilderness?

Lynn: There is nothing else analyses in the EIS other than burning. The Regional Forester could approve other activities, but I, as the District Ranger, do not have authority.

Heinert: Craig, part of this requires the reactivation of the Subcommittee, correct?

Bobzien: I'm making the presumption that the Board that sponsored the CFLRP last year would still be interested. I would like the Subcommittee to schedule a meeting with Randy and Tina to examine the resource information, and look at some of the work we've gotten done, and select a time to meet to get to work. I envision an interim report at the October NFAB meeting and a finale in November.

Mayes: What you're saying is to reprise the effort of this year for next year.

Bobzien: We've completed most of the 2010 plan, it was a modest proposal. This year's will be much more considerable.

Heinert: There is a benefit to having the same people serving on the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee consisted of Terry Mayes, Colin Paterson, Bill Kohlbrand, Carson Engleskirger, and Nancy Kile.

Bobzien: The chairman appoints the Subcommittee. Board members and others can be on the Subcommittee if the chairman approves.

Heinert: I would like to reactivate the Subcommittee. It would be a benefit for the record to reflect the decision. Is there a motion to reactive the Subcommittee? Motion made by Nels Smith, second by Tom Troxel.

Bobzien: For Tina and Randy, shall we take break and let them come up with some dates and times for a meeting?

Paulson: While we wait for Lynn to return, is there a summary of how Beaver Park looks?

B.Thompson: I believe they went in and removed some of the dead trees, and brought them up into the quarry site for free firewood.

Paulson: There is still standing dead timber in there.

Troxel: They pretty well removed and piled the dead trees.

Spring Creek Partners

Heinert: Everyone please be seated, we are ready to begin.

Bobzien: Next on our agenda is our partnership for Spring Creek. This is really important as it highlights our work with partners. You as a Board need to be aware of the issues that affect us all.

Deanna Reyher is our Forest leader in watershed and soils. Deanna has also been our leader working with the Spring Creek project group. How many of you are aware of the Spring Creek project?

Carroll: I would like to introduce George Zimmerman. George is the Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator. I would also like to introduce Brittany Molitor. Brittany is the Water Protection Coordinator, Pennington County Planning and Zoning.

Bobzien: This is a current situation; we want to know how it relates to other watersheds, what can the Board add, and potentially how you are connected to others that might help.

Zimmerman: BH RC&D has six areas in the Black Hills. We'll show you a PowerPoint with the status of our project.

BH RC&D PowerPoint Discussions/Questions:

Spring Creek Watershed & Project Area – Project Structure:

- 319 Grant Sponsors – Pennington County & SD DENR
- Co Sponsors (nine organizations)
- Advisory Group
- Contract Project Manger
- Project to consists of five segments

Spring Creek exceeded criteria for Immersion Recreation from Headwaters to Sheridan Lake.

Troxel: What does the dollar amount for BMPs mean?

Zimmerman: In our application to DENR, we budgeted 100,000 for the first segment to put in best management practices.

Troxel: So it's to do some mitigation work?

Vonk: Was the $100,000 grant money Federal, and was there a cost share?

Zimmerman: Yes – and we'll get to that.

Molitor: The $100,000 is the 319 grant money; it is a 60/40 grant to the land owner for whatever work they are doing. They were aware of that during the application project.

Zimmerman: The website for our project is: www.springcreekblackhills.com

Smith: What is the red in the picture off to the right of the map?

Molitor: High risk to septic pollution on Spring Creek.

Smith: Is that the recharge area from the Madison?

Molitor: No, that had to do with proximity to the stream, soil types, etc.

Brannan: Of all of the BMPs, 64% is coming from livestock. Are any of the grants going to livestock issues?

Zimmerman: Yes, water development along creeks, willow cover along stream banks, fenced out with a buffer area.

Brannan: What is the goal? Trying to protect the stream from the cattle?

Zimmerman: The goal is to try to keep cattle away from the stream banks.

Carroll: Doesn't the next slide show that?

Molitor: In the 319 grant we did a section for water quality monitoring. There are 17 sites, past Sheridan Lake. The project is funded locally.

Vonk: What do you test for?

Molitor: Several things including sediment, e-coli, total chloroform, etc.

Hoyt: When did you start this project?

Molitor: April of this year.

Smith: You mentioned that 40% of the Rapid City water supply comes from Spring Creek; form the Madison?

Molitor: At the Strata Bowl, there is a lost zone where Spring Creek goes into the Madison. We have two sample sites one below and one above that lost zone. Rapid City contributed $30,000 to the monitoring project.

Smith: It exceeded the EPA limits; was that by one part per million?

Molitor: EPA limit for fecal is 400 and during storm events we are looking at thousands.

Paulson: Are you coordinating with USGS or building on their work?

Molitor: We do have some other gauges that we do use. We would like to get the gauge station above Spring Creek operable again.

Paulson: The Nature Conservancy has a conservation easement to limit development around that lost zone. The Cooper Oaks Subdivision lost their water recently due to a dead beaver that went through the sink; it's sensitive.

Travel Plan Implementation

Bobzien: We are completing the appeal process and wrapping up the nine appeals that we had. We are also wrapping up the motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Our principal focus this fall will be education.

H.Thompson: Were your appeals resolved to the extent that you have avoided litigation?

Bobzien: The discussions were good, all in good faith. There were three appeals that came to a formal resolution and each of them withdrew their appeal. On some we made some suggestions; we have not heard that we would be in litigation.

Hill: The travel management plan will go into effect when the MVUM is done. The MVUM is a national template, so it's been a challenge to get the MVUM to match the template. The BHNF MVUM will consist of three maps; one for the Bearlodge Ranger District, one for the north end of the Forest, and one for the South end of the Forest.

Implementation of the new trail system will be done in stages, paid for as we collect money from the fee system. Not every road and trail will be open every year. The portion of trails available in the first set will be 470 miles.

Heinert: Do the dark shaded areas on the map represent trails?

Hill: This is every route; so this is every route open to the public in some form; all motorized.

Hill: Trail users will have to obtain a permit, a use fee that will be on each vehicle. As was decided earlier, the annual permit will be $25, a seven day permit will be $20, and an annual commercial permit will be $125. Initially permits will be available at all Forest offices. We would like to work toward other vendors as well. We are still narrowing down the exact date that permits will be available. The permits will be valid for this calendar year and all of 2011.

The MVUM will allow motorized elk retrieval within 300 feet of roads. Also allows dispersed camping within 300 feet.

Carroll: We're moving from the planning phase, and we are just finishing dealing with the appeals, and now we are moving into getting it onto the ground. A huge piece of that is public education and enforcement. Public acceptance of the system depends on how much people know.

There are two parts to this. The first piece will be to make sure that the Forest Service folks have a good working knowledge of the maps. Our own people will need to be able to help people with the map. We'll have workshops with our own folks, some on the ground tours, etc. We want to get our own people as fluent with this as possible. This is a new and big thing; everyone will not know everything right out of the gate.

The second piece is public education; getting the MVUM into people's hands. There will be maps on the internet, these maps will allow you to type in a road you are interested in and find out information about that road. We are creating a brochure to explain the program for both South Dakota and Wyoming. The MVUM is the legal instrument of enforcement; it's a free map, and will be available in hard copy. There will also be wide spread media attention. One question we've been asked is what about out of staters - there will be a lot of that.

Craig asks folks at meetings to raise their hand if they hadn't been involved in any way with the TM Planning process, and we get many that raise their hand every time. We will be very aggressive in making sure our employees have what they need. We are working specifically with our front desks with questions and answers.

The State of South Dakota is wrestling with issues of temporary licensing. We will answer questions as best we can, but those are State issues, so we'll refer to the State. The key is many of us have been engaged in this matter for several years. Back in 2003, Bob Thompson showed us some unmanaged OHV activity – but even so, we cannot even answer all of the questions. There are some questions about timing etc., and it will move quickly once we start implementation.

Mayes: The maps are great, kind of like that red South Dakota code book – they are on the shelf. Where this really happens is out in the woods. Part of the public education is signing, we'll need really good signing, that's what the public needs, and what enforcement needs. Without good enforcement, it won't make any difference. Once you are done with education, enforcement must be good, even handed, and fair. What will you do to beef up your enforcement?

Carroll: Let's ask the Rangers where they are with signing trails and routes on their Districts.

Kozel: We've been signing for a year and a half. We're having a signing party this weekend and having OHV groups coming out to help us. Our goal is to have good signing; we are at 90% signed on our District. On the enforcement side, we have to think that through on how we can do that more efficiently, and safely. We are training our personnel.

B.Thompson: We've also been doing signing. 50 % of the trails for the Black Hills system will be on the Mystic District, so we have been very focused on the trails; we are singing them, and GPSing them. Our folks are working with all the technology they have. There are also roads with signs that are not correct and we are fixing those as well. We are going to the most important points first. We'll be pretty close to 100% signed when the MVUM comes out.

Hill: The Districts have been doing a wonderful job of the marking. The C&M crew has some work to do on the motorized mixed use roads. We've been installing the "share the road" signs; all but 12 are installed. The intent there is to change the user expectation - that they might see an ATV or UTV on the same road they are driving their truck on.

Carroll: The only instrument of enforcement is the MVUM. The map dictates, not the sign on the ground.

Mayes: Are you going to have more enforcement officers? How will you maximize your foot print?

Bobzien: Collaboration has been our focus from the start in trying to make this change. If we had a plan that the public doesn't feel is reasonable, a 100 officers wouldn't matter. We feel that we have the best decision possible, and that the public can support it. Our presence will be with Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) because we only have three Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) on the Forest; education first then enforcement. We agree with Terry that enforcement is a critical tool. As we collect funds, the Board will have a keen interest; part of our process going with the Recreation Enhancement Act is to look at the oversight of the collection of funds. We'll need to decide what portions should be invested in enforcement, education etc. I'll look to the Board for advice on that.

Hoyt: With the trail system map, I find that I also needed to use the nice $10 map of the Black Hills, because some of the features are used on one but not the other. Is it possible to merge the two maps, so that the names are on the map, etc?

Hill: Are you talking about the standard visitor map? Yes, the next time we would do a new Forest visitor map it will incorporate all of the changes. We have very few options with the MVUM because it is a National template. One option we have is partners, private organizations, who might help us create a more user friendly map.

Carroll: National Geographic is working with us and we will also create supplemental materials to help users understand the map.

H.Thompson: As a grazing permittee, I would not look forward to a conversation I would have with an LEO if I was on my allotment on an ATV and I was authorized to be there. Would I be correct in assuming that the Forest Service will provide permittees with a sticker of some sort that will identify them and the machine as such?

Hill: That is a good question. I don't know if you would have a sticker or have the permit on you. Administrative use permittees would be exempt from having to purchase a sticker. That might be the best answer; a sticker would be the easiest.

Smith: I would have to disagree with Hugh. Forest Service officials have to be properly trained to know where they are and what allotment they are on. Having a sticker available or a permit would be a good supplement.

Carroll: We'll get back to you on that question.

Paterson: It's unlikely that you'll come across an LEO anyway, because they are so thin on the ground. My question is about signs, we have no idea what these signs look like.

Hill: Are you familiar with the standard carsonite road sign? Trail signs will be carsonite as well. On the top will be the letters TR, under that, vertically, will be the four digit trail number, same as typical level two roads.

Paterson: So every route that is open will have a sign?

Hill: There is not a requirement to do that, but our goal is to have them all marked.

Paterson: Without signs on the ground users will be all over the place. LEOs should not be on the trails, but everywhere else.

Mayes: There is a big issue with roads that are restricted for special usage. You'll have to correlate the trial number with the map. There will have to be an indication on the sign post what the road allows.

Kohlbrand: With all the GPS usage on trails, I would like to recommend a system where people could download the MVUM to their GPS units.

Tieszen: I was the legislator that made the failed attempt last year to involve the State in this project, so I met the ATV users in this area. 95 % are waiting for these maps, and they will do everything they can to abide by these maps and use the Forest appropriately. But, there is 10 – 15% of this ATV community that could care less about your maps, and won't let them interfere with their right to do whatever they want in the Forest. I would suppose that they will have designing parties. They will be defiant. My suggestion is that we should be ready. Education is important, 90% will be ready and supportive. There will be a hard core group that will be defiant.

Brannan: First of all - thank you for all of the years of work that have been put into this. It's been a tremendous amount of work, and I appreciate the work the Forest Service has done. How many maps will there be total?

Hill: Three total pieces of paper to cover the Black Hills: north, south, and Bearlodge.

Brannan: I'm sensitive to the private landowners. Are all of these trails are on Forest Service? None go through private land? If trails were across private land do you move them?

Bobzien: To our knowledge there are no trails on private land; Forest Service property only.

Paulson: When you are training your staff, don't forget about the two visitor centers on I-90.

Carroll: Great point, thank you.

Paulson: A trail to me is a trail for a horse on foot. Motorized is different, but you still mark the sign with a "TR".

Hill: That is the standard designation for the Forest Service. The designation is for motorized trails. The non-motorized trails will not show up on this MVUM.

B.Thompson: There are four digit numbers for motorized, and you could hike those to if you wanted to Bob!

Paulson: I'm concerned about the confusion. If four digits mean something and two digits mean something else, we don't know that.

Vonk: Most Forests that have systems in place have a marker that has pictures on it.

Hill: The region has adopted those for Colorado. We are still discussing the pictures.

Vonk: I would like to complement you on your very careful avoidance to timing of the MVUM, but I don't want to let you off the hook. We have a key user group coming into the Hills right now, the hunters; elk and deer. My question is about the timing, I would like to know the when you plan to implement. Will it be the end of December when the hunters will be done and gone? Before December? We can give you the names and addresses of all the successful hunters, and you can mail them an MVUM. I would like to suggest that you do not implement till the end of December. This will add a lot of confusion to a group that has already been selected. Second the GPS suggestion is a good one; it is not a hard thing to do.

Paterson: What is the ball park estimate for implementation?

Carroll: We are not trying to avoid this question. We will request your hunter e-mail lists.

Bobzien: We are having our own discussion on the readiness and the outreach knowing there is a public need to have the information in advance to the users; especially those who have not been tracking with the whole process. We are looking at mid fall. There are arguments that say let's start right away, and on the other side, there are arguments that say let's defer, and avoid impacting the hunters. To keep deferring, there would always be some reasons - pros and cons. The implementation will be this fall, but at first our purpose will be on education, and we will not concede the LEO tool, on those who are repeat offenders. We talked about the hunters and special seasons.

Vonk: the reality is the big user group is in November, and it makes no sense to me to throw it out in November when you've waited so long anyway. People will snowmobile in December, and there will be six months before more four wheelers start using the Forest.

Mayes: I agree with Jeff, it will give you time to get extra signs ordered, and pictures. When we start enforcing, your signing will be in place, and it will be much easier.

Bobzien: Regarding the signs, we are signing to designate open routes, because that is more of a positive effect, rather than signs that say you can't ride this trail or ride this road.

Paterson: The concern is that there might be moving of sign from one place to another.

Heinert: In closing, we know there is a high level of interest in this Travel Management Plan. This Board has a lot of sweat equity in bringing this to the table, everyone wants this implemented successfully. My question is on the feedback you've heard today, is that sufficient for you to process so you can respond and experience success?

Bobzien: We've developed the best plan we can with all the different perspectives. The monitoring of the actual data, the actual usage, will help us in the future in working with the Board, with the fees and how we invest that money. Is it more in signs, LEOs? Feedback from the Board and users will help us make the best system we can, for that part of the motorized users. Constant feedback is what makes it the best.

Heinert: Is there any need for continuing work by the Subcommittee?

Bobzien: I believe, like with our Forest health, this is a recurring topic. At this point we should go forward with the plan, and all of you will bring back some monitoring things to discuss.

Heinert: Five minute break.

Gold Mountain & Meeker Ranch

Carroll: Next we have two special presentations by two of our folks who have been working hard to preserve the cultural resources.

Kristen Harper, Archeologist at the Mystic Ranger District
Michael Salisbury, Mystic Ranger District and project lead for the Gold Mountain Project.

Gold Mountain Project Discussion & Questions

Salisbury: Two good websites are available to you to get more information, and an e-mail address for the President of the Black Hills Historic Preservation:

www.passportintime.com
skiptillisch@wildblue.net
http://bhhistoricpreservation.org

Mayes: Where is the Gold Mountain Mine?

Salisbury: From the Deerfield Road, take the Burnt Fork a mile and a quarter. There is a road that leads up the ridge, and then it's an easy walk to the site.

Troxel: What happened to the poor guy that had the contract?

Salisbury: He did pretty well actually. He still did all of the rest of the contract work other than the demolition of the site. We had a big project, closing the mine shafts, cleaning up debris, dangerous derbies hanging off the site, and a huge boiler on the site. We had to lift the boiler up, and put concrete footings under it to secure it.

Hoyt: Who does the planning for the renovation and how do you manage so many people?

Salisbury: We do it ourselves. Our heritage staff is a great, very experienced staff. Safety and communication are two big things. It was a well managed project. The first meeting was in 2007, but we didn't start till 2009, so we had two years of planning.

Brannan: This just goes to show how well managed this Forest is. I appreciate you taking the time when the community spoke up, to take a look at the project and be willing to do something different. This is an awesome way to showcase the Black Hills and the mining industry, thank you.

Salisbury: Thank you. This has been a great experience from the Agency side and partnership side.

Bobzien: You'll see a common thread when Renee Boen comes up to show you the Meeker Ranch. Kristie and Michael laid out the situation; where this was in disrepair and the public was in the right place and the right time. We don't get much money for this kind of work. Bob, Kristie and Michael stepped up; with not much more than just the will to do something. Kristie and Michael, thank you.

Meeker Ranch

Boen: The Heritage Program on the Black Hills is not just about the buildings, tools, etc., but it's about the story that these things tell.

Meeker Ranch PowerPoint Discussion & Questions

H.Thompson: Isn't that the ranch the NFAB toured on the field trip a couple of years ago?

Bobzien: Yes

Public Comments

Chairman Heinert: We'll close out discussion on the regular agenda items. If anyone from the public wishes to address the Board, please do so.

Patty Brown: One of the concerns I have about the travel plan is that for us as users we need access to our private campgrounds also. Most of the private campgrounds do not have trails. The State has given plates to out of staters, but that does not help us. We need trail access to those campgrounds, and that includes private campgrounds also, they are very valuable to us. And economically we are valuable to them. As we move forward, I hope that one of our priorities as we build the system, and work on those issues, and fix those things that need to be tweaked, is a high priority on access to private campgrounds. We are working with the BLM to get us into Lead & Deadwood also. As campground owners, they didn't see this coming. As users, I did ask for access to those campgrounds, and I would like that to be a consideration and a higher priority for next year.

Blair: I would like to piggy back on the comments made by Terry Mayes and Craig Tieszen regarding the MVUM. Regarding the need for law enforcement, we have a good opportunity, we have 20 % of our users abusing the land, and we have the other 80% that are people like Patty. We have a great example from the State on the TIPs program. A program something like the State's TIP program would be a great way for the users to identify the abusers. A simple process that they could call – that would go a long way to help LEOs. If the LEOs are on a trail, they are looking in the wrong spot because that's not where the violators are. If we could have people out there reporting the violators, that would go a long way. Consider this in the maps, a hot line.

Paterson: To Chris's comments about the TIPS hunting program; how is it practically enforced in the end, what evidence does law enforcement have that they can enforce this with? It's not like finding an animal in someone's garage.

B.Thompson: It's amazing what law enforcement people can get people to admit to when they are armed with certain information. Much of the time they can do it by that, but even if they can't, the person knows they will be watched.

Hoyt: I had the pleasure of attending a meeting on a planned treatment area in Silver City; a presentation about the burn, the treatment, the process, etc. I want to commend Bob Thompson for the manner that he conducted the meeting. Bob correctly sized up the situation that we needed to bring out more information, which he did do, and entertained questions. It was a very, very appreciative group of residents thanks to Bob's contribution to the meeting.

Brannan: Is the Forest Service planning to attend the transmission line meeting regarding the line from the Forest Service to Osage?

B.Thompson: Black Hills Power is looking at putting a big power line from Wyoming and tying into a substation in Rapid City. They informed us of this, but they are trying to determine the best route, so this is their meeting, and once they determine their route, we will be involved in a major way. We are trying not to confuse the public, once they have a decisions, we'll follow up

Kolund: I attended the Newcastle meeting, same thing there, they met with ranchers, etc., and the folks that the line would affect.

Adjournment:

Chairman Heinert: If there is no other business to come before the Board I'll take a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Terry Mayes, second by Tom Troxel. Meeting is adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

2010 Meeting Dates:

October 20
November 17
December – No Meeting
January 5, 2011 (Tentative)