
Level 1 Meeting
15 December 2008
NOAA Office Conference Room, Boise

Notes
Mary Faurot
26 January 2009

In Attendance

Level 1 Team: Mary Faurot (USFS, Fisheries), Ana Egnew (USFS, Wildlife), Ally Turner (USFWS), Rick Edwards (NOAA Fisheries). Bill Lind – intermittently present (NOAA Fisheries)

Project Rodger Nelson – by phone (Fisheries Biologist-various projects), Dale Olson – by phone (D3 Fisheries Biologist – Thorn Creek Project),
Representatives: Caleb Zurstadt – Dec. 17 phone call from PNF to Ally (D1 Fisheries Biologist – Council Mt/Indian Mt Allotments, Crooked River), Pete Grinde- by phone (Range Program Manager –Council Mt/Indian Mt Allotments)

Next Meetings: Conference call week of Feb. 2, full Level 1 meeting first week of March

Introductory discussion (telephone-12/17/08) on the Crooked River project (Council District) between Ally, Caleb and Mary will be added to the Level 1 notes in a future supplement

Discussions

Emergency Consultation on East Fork South Fork Salmon River Flood Events

- Mary and Rodger would like to finalize this
 - Bill Lind had coordinated with ACOE during summer to do Emergency Consultation on the culvert work. Martinez would like something to document ACOE participation in emergency consultation as it occurs/occurred, and to be included in correspondence. He needs consultation completed before issuing a permit. FWS has also been coordinating with Greg Martinez, and we understand that they issued the permit but need emergency consultation documents (BA, etc) when they are available.
 - There were two Emergency Consultations initiated by the PNF: 1) All stream crossing actions (Secesh, East Fork, and South Fork). 2) Other East Fork South Fork flood actions
 - PNF will put together a comprehensive project description of the emergency actions, when and where they took place, and with reference to Rodger's memos and photographs as attached appendices. 2-3 page document. This will serve as an amendment to the SFSR Ongoing Actions BA, and be intended to conclude emergency consultation.



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- Ally will go through her records and see which stream crossing actions the ACOE needs documentation for.
 - The stream crossing actions (components of the emergency consultation) were considered NLAA, and considered covered by the 2001 Ongoing BA Road Management or the R1 R4 Stream Crossing Programmatic (according to the PNF) – this will be stated in the amendment.
 - Parks Creek permanent bridge – was not able to be installed before winter – will be installed in summer 09. This will not be covered under “emergency consultation”. Tribe will install bridge, on Valley County FRTA easement. Ally and Rick agreed that having the Tribe use the R1/R4 Stream Crossing Programmatic Pre- and Post-Project Checklists, and submitting them to Level1, would suffice to cover this action, and any other similar actions that the Tribe performs on Valley Co. FRTA easements.

Framework

- The PNF submitted a draft Framework conceptualization document (authored by R. Nelson) to Level 1 on November 28. This document represents the commitment made in March 2008 to proceed with the Framework process.
 - Bill commented that it looked like a good start, but that the synthesis part was missing, as well as the wildlife and botany pieces. The document needs to be responsive to landscape changes – e.g. are our priorities the same now after the SFSR fires? Key watersheds may not be key watersheds any more. Framework should be a “Living Document” that prioritizes forest management. ACS was supposed to do this for aquatics.
 - Bill feels that **Synthesis** is the most important part! It leads to **Strategy** for prioritization for **Forest Management**, by changing (when necessary) management area direction, standards and guides, and goals and objectives, and revising WCIs. Ana commented that this strategy prioritization is now being driven by other processes.
 - Rodger pointed out that Framework process dovetails well with our current efforts for the 5-yr Forest Plan Monitoring Report, which is intended to help decide if goals and objectives need to change.
 - Ana commented that we do not need to belabor on updating the baseline, we need to move quickly, and summarize what we know – we know a lot-much of the Forest is covered by RAPs, this was put together in a map by the Travel Plan analysts. Ana described the WCS process and how it governs restoration prioritization
 - Bill suggested the 2004 Botany document from Kim Pierson be used as a model for Framework, Bill likes this approach. Rick provided hard copies of this.



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- Bill and Rodger envision a Living Document (not a Finished Document) that shows progress in an updated database, to be used as a tool to track LRMP progress through time as a planning document
 - Level 1 has now discussed the concept document, provided feedback, acknowledged progress on the topic, and the PNF will move ahead

Thorn Creek Housing

- Dale had introduced this project at a previous Level 1 meeting. He has provided a BA to Mary who has commented on it. However, there now is a new alternative that will build a new 12-person facility in New Meadows. This is in response to septic problems with the original site. Level 1 decided to hold off on discussing the proposal until we know better what the selected alternative is likely to be.

New Projects

- Patrick Butte Prescribed Burn (Lake Creek drainage on the Main Salmon)
- Bald Hill Prescribed Burn (East Fork South Fork Salmon River)
- Rocky Bear WUI (Goose Creek)
- Brundage Placer (Little Goose/Thorn Creek) preliminary determination = NLAA
- Chinook CG renovation (Secesh River) – covered under Ongoing Admin site consultation
- WallaWalla Mine - preliminary determination = NLAA
- Golden Hand – stay tuned
- Secesh outhouse at confluence of Secesh and SFSR where floatboaters launch – may or may not fit under Admin Site Ongoing Programmatic
- Winter Travel Plan – snowgrooming equipment that “may spill a lot near spawning streams”. We may need to consult for fish? NEPA may need more analysis for lynx – in new winter decision Suzanne may not have groomed miles in different areas. Clearwater NF gave grooming and plowing a LAA for fish, Boise NF gave grooming a NLAA.
- Jacobs Ladder recreation action – proposed, NEPA is beginning this winter for a bridge over Big Creek near Jacobs Ladder Creek, and several miles of new trail to connect up with the Cougar Lake trail (now accessed by the Lick Creek ford in Big Creek). This project will remove the FS trail access from the Lick Creek ford, but does not address the private landowner use of the ford. This represents moving forward with a portion of the Term and Condition of the Travel Plan. Rick and Ally would like to be kept informed about how the rest of the uses of the ford are being addressed. They would like this to be a topic for the next Level 1 meeting – getting a report on Term and Condition 1b3 on pg. 42 from the BO on the Travel Plan. Ana mentioned that technically it is illegal for the public to now be using the ford.
- Ana mentioned that burn projects should only be proposed in low elevation P. Pine areas – with low intensity understory burns (from WCS). We referenced a memorandum prepared by Caleb documenting rationale for changing the determination.

Water Diversions

- Rick needs us to determine the appropriate Federal Action for the Parks Creek (Eiguren) water diversion

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- At this time, the Level 1 team decided to pull this water SUP out of the ongoing BA package until a clear POD and Federal action is developed.

Draft USFWS Weiser BO

- PNF reviewed the draft. Comment documents from Caleb, Rodger (Track Changes), Dave Hogen, Pete Grinde provided to Ally. We did not address Rodger's Track Changes comments but Ally will review them in doing her next draft. Caleb spoke with Ally this morning about all of his comments
 - Hogen commented that we need to append the "new" AOI rules of "three strikes and you are out" to the consultation. Caleb will get this to Mary/Ally. Hogen also committed to provide re-wording of T&C C. Grazing 1.a. regarding the terms "livestock trespass" and "unauthorized use"; also for T&C 4.1) and 2). For T&C 4.3), Ally will change "trespass" cattle to "unauthorized" cattle.
- Weed Management (Grinde comments)
 - BO requirements apply only within occupied habitat, not watershed-wide. Ally will clarify the T&C for adjuvants and blue dye
 - P. 23 This description is the same as in the NOAA BO so it should remain consistent. Ally will clarify on p.23 that digging and pulling is part of the technique list
 - P.26. Ally will clarify in BO that less than 200 acres are treated annually in the Weiser watershed, it is not the total area of weed infestation.
 - Ally increased acreage to 500 in Weiser (and SFSR). All other watersheds are 200 acres
 - P. 27. Adjuvants can be used outside occupied habitats. Marker dye helps to avoid overspraying and the description should remain as is.
 - P. 27. 50-ft glyphosate buffer description should remain as is.
 - P.31. Ally will clarify who and how feeding sites would be inspected during and following use.
 - P.32. 2,4D is limited in use only to occupied NIDGS sites
 - P.84. Ally will change BO to show spot-spraying only
 - Change all references to AOPs to AOIs
 - P. 35 seedheads are usually measured in late July-early August, once a year.
- Travel Plan
 - Term and Condition a)3) (page 90 of BO) needs to be edited to match the T&C from the NOAA BO. Ally will check the memo from 8/29/08
 - T&C b)1) (page 90 of BO) Ally will check on documentation of effects of speed limits and b)3) traffic limitations. Timber sale traffic is meant to be the point of this T&C – Ally would like the T&C to stand so that it doesn't have to be revisited on each timber sale. Ana pointed out that as the T&C stands, 18-wheelers and passenger vehicles are lumped. The level of use needs to be looked at. Ana would like Ally to clarify what ties back to the Travel Plan action. In the Travel Plan, over time we have increased use. Can we determine a level of use or vehicle that is not covered in the travel Plan and tailor the T&C to that type of vehicle/travel? Then we would come back and consult separately. Ally would like it shown in effects analyses where log haul affects NIDGs to force consultation on future



actions (see memo 8/28/08). There is some threshold of effects that is too high. Perhaps under the Ongoing, haul should only be allowed when NIDGS are below ground? Need to check population data in Env. Baseline. Pg 59-61 – effects analysis does not support the T&C.

- Grazing (fully addressed 12/17/08 during a teleconference between Caleb, Mar, and Ally)
 - Caleb would like to use a surrogate for Grazing action take instead of a take of “1 redd/yr share by 2 permittees”. Ally checked with Mark Robertson, who was not keen on using a surrogate. He suggested upping the take to 2 redds/grazing season (one per allotment), and seeing how the permittees feel about that.
 - Caleb suggested adding a T&C requiring redd surveys 1-2 weeks after enclosure, and again in September, GPS’ing them. SO we have an idea of where redds and/or take occur.
 - When Caleb met with permittee’s, they were concerned with how likely they were to hit the take amount, and how the FS would determine that? Caleb is uncomfortable with how the FS will be able to determine that take has occurred.
 - Ally replied that if the permittees keep the cows out, they and the FS will not have to worry, and that the permittees and FS have to do what they can to prevent take, reinforce that the permittees have to keep up their end of the bargain. If there is suspected take, the FS needs to call USFWS law enforcement and conduct an investigation to document take (not forensic data). The take is a sidebar to protect the permittees
 - (Hogen) Permittees have requested applicant status again – PNF will grant them applicant status
- Ally will redraft the Weiser BO and send it to us, with comments addressed

BA Timelines

- Reg agencies receive first draft. 1 month. Reg agencies comment back to FS. FS finalizes BA and officially submits to reg agencies. Informal-30d LOC back to FS. Formal- 60d BO back to FS.

Wildlife/Fish Combination BAs – Ally would like them combined, but do what we can.

