



Boise Forest Coalition | Meeting Summary

January 5, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Held via ZOOM

In Attendance

John Roberts	Joshua Newman
John Robison	Kaysee Miller
TJ Clifford	Larry Laxson
Art Beal	Liz Bridges
Steve Shay	Mike Dwyer
Bill Moore	Morris Huffman
Brian Davis	Rachel Vandenburg
Carl Jorgensen	Robert Jaeger
Casey Attebery	Rollin Winter
Danelle Nance	Ryan Nehl
David Francomb	Steve Dempsey
George N	Tim Maguire
Jace Hogg	Sandra Mitchell
Jim Comb	David Nichols

Introductions & Objectives

David Nichols will be the new group facilitator. He provided an introduction and brief overview of how facilitation will work for the meetings moving forward. Sarah Beardsley will be providing support for David by providing agendas and meeting summaries.

Meeting objectives:

- Meet new facilitation staff
- Meet key acting Forest Service staff and receive project updates
- Experiencing Restoration-focused Forestry” Presentation
- Plan 2023 Emmett Woodgrain Mill tour
- Decide if BFC will apply for additional funding & who will submit applications

Boise Forest Service Updates & Announcements

Ryan Nehl is the acting Forest Supervisor on the Boise National Forest for the next 120 days. Ryan shared that he is happy to meet with anyone who wants to offer their questions, ideas, and concerns. He can be reached at ryan.nehl@usda.gov.

Danelle Nance is the acting Southwest Idaho Landscape project manager through April 1. She shared that she is working on getting the budget allocated for fiscal year 2025 and finalizing contracts for summer and fall 2023 projects. She said they will be hiring a new partnership coordinator who will focus on the Southwest Idaho landscape and who should be on board in the next two months. Danelle can be reached at Danelle.nance@usda.gov.

Four Corners Fire Update:

- The name of the planned project for the Four Corners Fire salvage is "Hazard Salvage GNA".
- An interdisciplinary team is reviewing the NEPA needs within the unburned portion of the Hurd-Wyck GNA Sale. That review may identify salvage opportunities on about 400 acres. The team will be meeting this month and will have a better idea about the specific salvage potential within the next month and a half.
- There will be a Cascade Ranger District public engagement session on January 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Cascade American Legion Hall. Intent will be to communicate to the community how the USFS's Southwest Idaho Landscape Project and SWIRL Project (Forest-wide prescribed fire project) will be implemented and what benefits and impacts those efforts will bring to those communities over the next several years. Community members will be able to ask questions and provide feedback. Additional details and announcement of this opportunity is forthcoming through public communication channels.

Upper Mores Creek Update

Josh Newman, the District Ranger from Idaho City provided an update on the Upper Mores Creek project. This project was originally presented to the Boise Forest Coalition in November by Brian Lawatch. The slides for the original project and update are posted on the Boise Forest Coalition website [here](#).

- There have been some changes to the treatment polygons. Some non-commercial treatment areas shifted and some fuel reduction areas were added once a review of the area took place.
- The Forest Service is working to complete the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Step Down Process. The process looks at communities at risk, private land with structures, and private routes of ingress and egress. The purpose is to develop the prioritization of fuel treatment and restoration treatment. The work aligns with Boise County's Community wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- The Forest Service initiated the Transportation Analysis Process (TAP). This is a fine-scale refinement of the forest-level transportation analysis from 2008. The team examines all roads in the project area using a benefits-to-risks assessment and then makes recommendations based on any adjustments needed.
- Next steps:
 - There will be continued project refinement, including: vegetation treatment recommendations, continued restoration and fuels recommendations, roads/transportation recommendations.

- Once that work is completed, the Forest Service will initiate a purpose and need development, draft Proposed Action Report (PAR), and begin pre-scoping public engagement. The estimated timeline is spring to early summer for this work.
- **Question:** Does the TAP look at trails?
 - It looks at the existing system. There have been proposals for new trails and roads. An offer was made to Ridge Riders to access trails with GPS to bring up the discussion of adding other trails.
- **Question:** In reference to WUI Map. Has California Gulch been reviewed for fire suppression?
 - The area is covered mostly under the Boise Basin experimental forest NEPA signed in 2019.
- **Question:** Describe Whitebark Pine treatments?
 - Whitebark Pine is now listed as an endangered species.
 - Crop Tree release is also known as ‘Daylighting’
 - Releasing the crop tree from competing vegetation to allow them the space to grow.
 - The Pioneer fire took out some Whitebark Pine, but since then more has been planted.
- **Question:** How does this project apply to the SIL efforts underway?
 - That is why the WUI step down process is being completed to help prioritize what treatment efforts will be best. More information will be released in February.
- **Question:** Are the watershed improvements still being carried forward?
 - There are some roads that the TAP will examine to balance access with sedimentation issues.

Experiencing Restoration-Focused Forestry Presentation

Mike Dwyer, a forester with the Idaho Department of Lands, presented his Master’s degree capstone project about the public response to the Boise Basin Forest Restoration Project. Mike’s project looked at how people may have different “place meanings” for a location (for example, a “playground” or “escape from civilization”) and that understanding the place meaning people assign to a given area may help land managers more successfully implement projects and manage conflict. Mike’s full presentation and report are posted on the Boise Forest Coalition website [here](#).

2023 Emmett Woodgrain Tour

Within the last 6 months there has been growing interest in touring the Emmett Woodgrain Mill. It is suggested to go later in the spring, potentially March, to avoid frozen conditions. Visit details and signups will be finalized in the February BFC meeting. Those who are interested in attending but may miss the February meeting can reach out to Rachel Vandenburg (rvandenburg@woodgrain.com) to express an interest in attending.

- Details about the tour:
 - Groups will be 5-7 people
 - Hardhats will be provided
 - Hiking boots will be required for stair accessibility
 - Tour is about 1-1.5 hours approximately starting at 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Greater Boise Recreationalists Inaugural Meeting Report

Liz Bridges shared a presentation about the Greater Boise Recreationalists (GBR) organization. The Inaugural Meeting of the GBR was held at Idaho Fish and Game Headquarters on December 7, 2022. The GBR charter is:

The Greater Boise Recreationists is a coalition of recreation users. The coalition exists to identify, propose, and guide year-round recreation needs and goals of public lands surrounding the greater Boise area. Our focus is on connectivity, corridors and collaboration. Together, we will strive to reduce land use conflicts while protecting natural resources for generations to come.

Liz shared that the group hopes to create a common forum to:

- Identify and guide recreation needs
- Identify and guide recreation goals
- Reduce land use conflict
- Protect the natural resources for now and ever

David Francomb shared that the Forest Service helped coordinate this group to get it started but hopes to see this group led by a steering committee of citizens from outside the agency.

The full slides for the GBR presentation are posted on the Boise Forest Coalition website [here](#). Liz also offered to share the GBR December meeting notes with the BFC once they are available. Those interested in joining the GBR should contact Catharine Beverly-Bishop at Catherine.beverly-bishop@usda.gov.

- **Question:** Does this group include motorized recreationalists?
 - Yes, and they were heavily represented. There is a lack of representation for fishing and hunters, skiers, and hikers. There is a need for a more diverse representation at these meetings of recreationalists.

Potential Funding

A new funding source has been identified for collaboratives doing forest restoration work. Idaho will be receiving roughly \$130,000 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. The Boise Forest Coalition has been invited to submit an application for this funding grant. The grant could be \$10,000 to BFC and could be used for facilitation services, website hosting, and trips. The BFC steering committee will take responsibility for completing the application.

The application will include:

- Project type
- How will recommendations be made
- Track record of success
- Plans for growth

Next Steps

The Steering Committee has decided to hold a follow-up meeting the week after each BFC meeting. The purpose of the follow up is to review the meeting notes and plan the next meeting. The group will coordinate with TJ Clifford to coordinate updates from the Forest Service. The next BFC meeting will be held on February 2nd starting at 10:00 AM MT.