

## **Payette Forest Coalition**

Thursday, May 18, 2023 – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Hybrid meeting: Idaho First Bank Community Room, 475 Deinhard Lane, McCall, ID 83638

and [Join Zoom Meeting](#): Meeting ID: 815 3909 0811 Passcode: 703461

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### Desired Outcomes

- (1) Understand implications of high mercury levels in the watershed surrounding the Cinnabar mine site.
- (2) Receive Payette National Forest NEPA roadmap and project implementation updates.
- (3) Consider adoption of a revised version of PFC's Basic Conditions of Collaboration (BCC's).

### Agenda

- 10:00 AM Introductions, review agenda and desired outcomes
- 10:10 AM Mercury levels and the Cinnabar mine site, Ken Marcy, EPA
- 10:40 AM Project implementation update, Tim Leishman, PNF
- 11:10 AM NEPA Roadmap, Kara Kirkpatrick-Kreit, PNF
- 11:40 AM Consider revisions to PFC's Basic Conditions of Collaboration, Garret Visser
- 12:10 PM Lunch
- 12:40 PM News and Updates

### *References for Meeting*

[April 20, 2023 meeting notes](#)

[Implementation update spreadsheet](#)

Draft revised Basic Conditions of Collaboration (appended below)

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### **Topic Information sheet**

#### **Mercury levels and the Cinnabar mine site**

Sampling done in areas surrounding the Cinnabar mine site east of Yellow Pine has revealed high levels of mercury in the watershed from past mining operations. The EPA is reaching out to the public including local groups, county commissioners, and city councils to discuss what the future looks like and what the potential for Cinnabar being put on the Superfund National Priorities List might be.

#### **NEPA Roadmap and implementation update**

The Forest will share its NEPA timeline with the PFC and review progress (implementation) on projects the Coalition is involved with.

#### **Potential revisions to PFC Basic Conditions of Collaboration (BCCs)**

Potential revision focuses on two themes:

- As new members join the PFC and founding ones leave, there is concern that historical, unspoken expectations about norms of conduct which encourage respectful and productive interactions among members will be forgotten. Currently the BCCs focus on member conduct after formal recommendations are submitted but not beforehand. What language could be added to describe generally-expected behaviors?
- Could the current description of how BCC violations are handled be improved? Questions include who would decide whether a violation had occurred, what would the penalty for a violation be, how would the enforcement decision be made, and who would make it?

The Steering Team has drafted a revised version of the BCCs (appended) for members' consideration. Today's objective will be to discuss the draft document, consider further revisions, and potentially vote whether to adopt the revised document. This is an Intermediate Decision meaning passage shall require an in-favor vote by a supermajority (80%) of voting members present.

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### **Draft Amended Basic Conditions of Collaboration**

Collaboration within a diverse group of forest stakeholders, such as the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), is not easy. It takes a commitment by all members to treat other members with courtesy and respect, be an active listener, and continually search for win-win solutions that make all engaged stakeholders feel their interests are understood, respected and that it is important for them to remain at the table.

Successful collaboration is achieved when all members feel safe in sharing their ideas and opinions and sufficient trust between all stakeholders is evidenced by support from all members for all five goals of the PFC.

Within the PFC, voting is a privilege earned by a member when they display behavior that truly facilitates successful collaboration. Therefore, to be in good-standing (the right to vote), members agree to commit to the following conditions designed to improve and maintain a collaborative environment within the PFC.

A voting member commits to (conditions):

- Treating other members (both voting and non-voting), as well as Forest Service employees, with courtesy and respect.
- Recognize other members' interests are valid and important to the overall success of the PFC.
- Forgo independently lobbying the Forest Service to change the proposed action, selected alternative or final decision in conflict with PFC recommendations.
- Support the PFC's recommendations in their interactions with their constituents, the media and the general public.
- Every PFC member has the right and responsibility to critically review the actions and recommendations of the PFC. Disagreements are an inevitable component of collaboration and each member may represent minority opinions. When a PFC member represents a minority opinion, the member retains the ability to voice critical opinions. However, to ensure the integrity and spirit of collaboration, a PFC member in good standing will not engage in activities that undermine the mission of the PFC including:
  - If a member votes in support of ("support" or "can live with") a PFC recommendation, that person shall forgo the option to file an objection in the pre-decision process contrary to the PFC's recommendations or

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engage in any subsequent litigation other than in support of the Forest Service decision;

- A voting member who “cannot live with” a recommendation has an obligation to offer solutions/new information rather than simply opposing the majority vote.
- If a member votes that they “cannot live with” a recommendation approved by the PFC, their opinion(s) as to why they voted that way will be submitted as a minority opinion along with the PFC majority recommendations.
- Voting on whether to support a Proposed Action following PFC initial recommendations on said project (and the content of any correspondence sent to the Forest Service regarding the Proposed Action) shall be limited to those members who voted on that project’s original recommendations. Any subsequent decision-making and voting in regard to that project shall be open to all voting members of the PFC regardless of whether 1) the decision alters previous decisions, 2) the decision is a consensus recommendation to the Forest Service or, 3) the decision is an intermediate (80% supermajority) decision.
- If a member votes in good faith to support a recommendation and their constituency later decides to support a different alternative or recommendation, that member is expected to inform the PFC so that the group can decide if additional action is necessary.

When a voting member believes a violation of the BCCs has occurred, the member shall inform the Steering Team in writing concerning why they believe this to be the case. The Steering Team shall consider the complaint and, if deemed appropriate by unanimous vote of the Steering Team, notify the accused member as to what actions must be taken to resolve the complaint.

Members who fail to take the actions recommended by the Steering Team shall lose their voting rights for a six month period (from the time the complaint is received by the Steering Team). If the behavior that resulted in losing their voting rights is not corrected or discontinued after that six month probation period, as determined by the Steering Team, those voting rights shall be withheld for another six months (total of one year) before the member can petition the Steering Team to have their voting rights restored.

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By signing these Basic Conditions of Collaboration, the stakeholder acknowledges that the purpose and strength of a collaborative body is that its decisions represent hours of hard work by multiple individuals representing a variety of different interests and agrees to follow the ten conditions listed above to maintain trust and ensure the long term health of the PFC.

Signatures are accepted online by [entering your name and organization on this form](#)