



## **Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council**

Thursday, February 28, 2019

IDL Coeur d'Alene Office – Sundance Rooms

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Knute Sandahl, ILRCC Chair, State Fire Marshal

Mike Wolcott, ILRCC Vice-Chair, Association of Consulting Foresters

Tim Maguire, Urban Forestry Collaborative Groups/Bioregional Planning

Bob Howard, Idaho Emergency Managers Association

Gerry Bates, Idaho Community of Forestry Program

John DeGroot, Nez Perce Tribe, Forestry and Fire

Mallory Wilson, Idaho Office of Emergency Mgmt

Norris Boothe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Forestry

Gregg Servheen, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game

Janet Valle, USDA-FS, State & Private Forestry

Rita Chandler, USFS Fire & Aviation Mgmt

Ken Knoch, City of Ammon

Joe Adamski, Bureau of Land Management

Gordon Sanders, Idaho Forest Owners Association

Amanda Eagan, US Forest Service

Brian Jorgensen, City of Boise

Janet Funk, Idaho Tree Farm

Hannah Sanger, Urban Issues

Mauri Knott, Latah County

Randy Brooks, University of Idaho

Ed Koch, IFOA, alternate

Elaine Clegg, Association of Idaho Cities

Robyn Miller, Land Trust Organizations

### **AGENCY STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:**

Ara Andrea, Bureau Chief, Forestry Assistance, IDL

Tyre Holfeltz, Fire Prevention & Risk Mitigation Program Manager, IDL

Diana Rauschenbach, Data Coordinator, IDL

Tom Eckberg, Forest Health Program Manager, IDL

Mary Fritz, Stewardship Program Manager, IDL

Robin Dunn, Technical Services, IDL

Craig Foss, Division Administrator, IDL

Jennifer Russell, LSR Project Coordinator, IDL

Karen Neorr, Program Specialist, IDL

Andrew Mock, Technical Services, IDL

Tom Kearns, Technical Services, IDL



## **Welcome/Introductions**

Chair Knute Sandahl welcomed members, alternates, and guests to the meeting, followed by introductions.

## **Forestry Assistance Bureau**

Ara Andrea informed the group that the initial interviews for the Urban Forestry position were conducted via Omnijoin. The second round of interviews will be conducted in person next week. Mike Wolcott accepted the position as Vice Chair position for ILRCC. The Land Water and Conversation Fund has been permanently renewed by Congress. Potential issues in the new Farm Bill language concern our Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant application processes. A few changes will be applied to the FFY2020 LSR applications, but the majority of changes will not apply until FFY2021. These changes may alter the focus of our LSR applications and not give us rating “points” for proposed projects that occur within our Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes. Also, the new Farm Bill language focused on GNA work conflicts with the cross-boundary work we are trying to do in cooperation with GNA projects. The concern is that the language restricts program income from GNA timber from being used on adjacent private forestlands—as we did with the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest in the burned Clearwater River Basin. Federal budget allocations are still pending.

## **IDL and Shared Stewardship**

Craig Foss updated the group on the upcoming Shared Stewardship meetings. The next meeting is scheduled on March 21, 2019, and attendees will be primarily IDL and Forest Service leadership. A larger scale conversation is scheduled on April 30, 2019 to cover different interests. The state of Idaho has signed the first Shared Stewardship agreement in the nation.

The 2019 legislature’s primary interest in Forestry and Fire was to increase Forest Practices Act assessment cap from 10 to 20 cents per acres and a corresponding general fund increase to administer IDL’s Forest Practices Program. That legislation has gone through the House and the Senate. The IDL budget moved through Joint Finance Appropriations Committee. A proposal to initially increase FPA assessment fees from 10 to 13 cents per acre will be presented at the next Land Board meeting.

IDL is using funds from cottage sites divestitures to acquire forestlands and has already acquired 30k acres of industry-owned forestland in North Idaho.

## **Forest Legacy**

Karen Sjoquist informed the group that not much has changed from the previous year. The Forest Legacy Program is funded through the Forest Service State and Private Forestry, and it provides grants to protect economically and environmentally important forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses. This is achieved by purchasing conservation easements, which restrict subdivision and development while encouraging sustainable forest management plans and protection of wildlife. Between 2002 and

2019 we have 16 -funded grant projects, and 33 conservation easements have been acquired. Currently there are 99,912 acres enrolled in the Forest Legacy Program. There are 87K of those acres open for public recreation. Conservatively, an estimated 30 million board feet come from these lands each year. Since last year's update, we've closed on 1000 acres with 3 conservation easements purchased. There are 1500 acres closing this year, 2 appraisal processes pending. There are 2 new project grant applications have been submitted. The application period is open now and closes on May 31, 2019.

### **Federal Grant Competition**

Jennifer Russell updated the group on the status of the grant applications submitted and how they ranked in September's competition. There were 3 submitted,

1. Firewise Adapted Parks Project, which was going to bring the Firewise concept to the infrastructure of Idaho state parks.
2. Riparian Restoration at Bates Bridge Project, located in Driggs and working with Friends of the Teton River to get cattle out of the river, riparian restoration work around the corridor of the main stem of the Teton River. This is a very active recreation site. FOTR partnered with Idaho Fish and Game to do hardscaping in areas where a new boat access was put in. They acquired 80 acres and will now interpret that space of restoration to the public and include a nature walk
3. East Idaho Shade Tree Project, which was going to expand on previous work in the Treasure Valley by putting shade trees in the right spots for energy conservation. Work with Idaho Power to adapt work done in Idaho Valley to the City of Ammon and surrounding areas.

Two out of the three have been funded, two being the maximum allowed. The Firewise Adapted Parks Project ranked number 10 and the Bates Bridge Project tied for number 1.

Tyre Holfeltz detailed the changes to Western State Fire Managers review process, which went from an in-person review to a completely blind process review. Tyre's fire-risk-mitigation grants focus on the fire hazard side of mitigation. Forest health and condition are issues that our cooperators use as an education platform into inform landowners on what they can do to prepare their structures specifically for wildland fires as well as what fuel breaks might look like.

Fire Risk Mitigation grant applications:

#2 Clearwater Timber Fire Protection - Is part of our response organization within the state. They have done mitigation work for quite a while although not on a very large scale. It will be in the New Hope community to put a fuel break around it. This will be done in-house.

#3 Nez Perce – for the Peck are in the county for continuation for the work known as the pre-attack plan in the county. They want to establish fuel breaks to keep fire from rolling out of the gorges. This is very traditional fire work.

#4 Boise – They will be doing mastication, mowing, planting and education with adjoining landowners, this will be run by the Parks Dept. The Ada fire adapted committee helps to coordinate and collaborate in Ada County. Both the fire and parks departments are voting members in that committee. They will be doing slope mowing. Prior to mowing they will do seeding to create green strips for the community and expand education efforts in the community.

#5 Adams County - Maintenance project which cannot be funded by WSFM.

All 4 submitted projects have been funded a total of 1.2M.

### **Region 1 applications (4) – Hazard Fuel Reduction projects**

Tyre Holfeltz presented the 4 Hazard Fuel Reduction project applications for Region 1.

#1 Shoshone County West Terror Project - Continued work which includes cut, chip, pile and remove.

#2 Backside Area of Hayden in Kootenai County (BAH) - Long term project for the forest that starts near Fernan Lake and runs across ridge lines, roads to Hayden Lake

#3 Buckskin Prospect in Bonner County - Continuation and expansion of work

#4 Nez Perce County Pre-Attack 2 - Expected to close out in May having accomplished 250 more acres than expected.

County Line Pre-Attack in Nez Perce County - May be moved to WSFM

### **WSFM applications**

Tyre Holfeltz presented the 9 Western State Fire Management applications.

Bonner County (Hoodoo Valley) - No metrics, could use clarity, focus and is duplicative in places

Boundary County (South Boundary Hazardous Fuels Reductions 2) Community fuel breaks - Expansion of work that has already been started. Thus far 35 acres have been accomplished. They are practicing biomass utilization, upcycling in a joint cooperative with an essential oils manufacturer.

Idaho Department of Lands (Craig Mountain Fuel Break) - This hand treatment site is part of larger landscape effort. They will use hand operations and some rental equipment when necessary and use seasonal fire hires.

Island Park Sustainable Community - This is a resubmission of a current project they are working on right now and will not likely fall within fundable applications. It is a good initiative for educational projects which there are not many of.

Nez Perce WAHA County Defensible Space (WAHA Redbird) - This high priority area continuously has small fires that impact community. Already garnered interest of 15 people to participate in fuels reduction and will tie into the 3 Attack Project.

City of Pocatello - This is to appropriately management of drainages that have high fire risk and flooding related issues post-fire.

Portsmouth Soil and Conservation District - This is for mastication of juniper to improve the landscape and grazing. The Cottonwood block is in a high priority endowment section. They have some bug related issues and extensive harvest. Local resources and labor will used.

Shoshone County Fire Mitigation (N Kellogg) - This is to add to already committed from previously received national funding. They've worked on drainages around N Kellogg for approximately 20 years.

Valley County - This long term cooperators, is seeking funding to implement work in greater Valley County and Cascade area. Ten landowners have already signed up to cut, pile and chip in this long-term priority area. There is no burning in this highly tourist occupied area.

## **LSR applications**

Jennifer Russell informed the group that out of 6 only 3 remain, due to issues.

Eastern Idaho Shade Tree – This is a resubmittal of the third project from last-year's competition. Three of six reviewers scored this at a funding level last time.

Wood River Valley Community Forest Infrastructure Plan - Promoting urban tree growth and management. Community has dense spruce and aspen areas adjacent to forest land, infrastructure problems. Bellevue, Sun Valley, Hailey, Ketchum

Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative Grant – To build a Douglas-fir, white pine, ponderosa, western larch and western red cedar seed orchard in the Lewiston/Clarkston area to supply members of this cooperative. Members include States of Idaho and Washington, State of Montana, Tribes, private/industrial landowners, Potlatch, Hancock, Stimson, Molpus, Bennett, Inland Empire Paper, Forest Service, IFOA and the Tree Farm. New guidelines for this program expected this coming year.

## **Model Updates**

Mary Fritz and Andrew Mock detailed the following Forest Action Plan (FAP) model updates to the group:

Fire Risk Model: The layers that make up this model are fire history, slope, aspect, vegetation, wild and urban interface. The previous version omitted Mica, Maggie Creek and Sandpoint areas.

Water Quality: Added drinking water source, which was missing from previous version. The layers that make up this model are drinking water (public water out-take), 305B, streams with TMDLs and impervious surfaces (storm water).

Development: The group suggested it be renamed Forest Land Conversion Threat. Greg Servheen proposed motion to accept use of map on the right (Development updated). All in favor, motion carries.

Forest Health: Primary change, histogram is split out into 5 breaks. In the 2010 version only mountain pine beetle was considered, it was weighted as highly as all the other components. This model also has tussock moth history, noxious weeds, root disease model, and climate change. We are looking at land cover type changes and how many times it changed. The group approved use of map on the right.

Wildlife: Currently awaiting SWAP data and updated nature conservancy. This has sturgeon, bull trout, sockeye, steelhead, and Chinook. The wolves have been delisted. We are using the endangered species layer and still waiting on 4 layers for this to be completed. This will be revisited once completed.

Forest Product Markets: We met with economists to discuss concerns from our previous meeting. Associated economic benefits are now included. In previous version, holes in the data were associated to using combined data. This time we are using only raw data to inform saw mill and biomass locations. We used a time and cost to extract products from our woods and get them to the mills, and added county economic multipliers. The county economic multipliers include primary and secondary products. Each layer was weighted equally. The group approved use of the updated map on the right with the name Forest Product and Economic Benefits.

Smash-up: Ara suggested starting with a symmetric matrix to reflect the breakdowns that we've already done in all of these layers.

Tyre informed the group that the Forest Action Plan is expected to be completed by August 2019 not May 2020 as earlier anticipated. This is due to the Shared Stewardship initiative and the impact it may have on the Forest Action Plan.

Greg motioned that some technical folks self-nominate to participate in a subcommittee that will work with IDL to bring this to term. The subcommittee will establish deadlines, discuss risk/benefits mapping and matrix. It is not intended to revisit or discuss layers and other issues. The motion was approved and seconded. All in favor – no oppositions

Tim McGuire and Greg Servheen volunteered, Ara Andrea will chair.

#### Narratives

Tyre informed the group that narratives are still being worked on and will be sent to subcommittee once identified.

#### Priority Landscape Areas

Tom Eckberg informed the group that this does not show the sage-steppe special landscape area and is still in draft mode. We were looking at hotspots and following geographic designations that were used last time, based on watersheds and followed ridgeline. The Clearwater/St Joe were split into two. The Snake River complex lost much acreage.

The group came to a general consensus to identify wilderness as its own as a special landscape area. Once additional data is received, a draft map will be emailed to members. Feedback should be provided via email.

June 10-14, 2019 are possible dates for the next ILRCC meeting in Boise.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm