



## Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council

February 19-20, 2020

Coeur d'Alene, ID

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Knute Sandahl, ILRCC Chair, State Fire Marshal	Mallory Wilson, IOEM Plans Section Chief
Mike Wolcott, ILRCC Vice-Chair, Association of Consulting Foresters	Ben Roeber, Idaho Office of Emergency Management
Tim Maguire, Urban Forestry Collaborative Groups/Bioregional Planning	Frank Edelmann, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
John DeGroot, Nez Perce Tribe, Forestry and Fire	Mauri Knott, Latah County
Janet Valle, USDA-FS, State & Private Forestry	Janet Funk, Idaho Tree Farm
Bob Howard, Bonner County Emergency Management	Ed Koch, Idaho Forest Owners Association, Alternate
Don Major, Bureau of Land Management	Ken Knoch, City of Ammon
Gerry Bates, Urban and Community Consultant	Gordon Sanders, Idaho Forest Owners Association
Hannah Sanger, City of Pocatello	Jeff Handel, Nez Perce Tribe, alternate
Rita Chandler, USFS Fire & Aviation Management	Norris Boothe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy	Tyrone Daniels
Elaine Clegg, Association of Idaho Cities	

### IDL STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT

Ara Andrea, Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief, IDL	Andrew Mock, GIS Analyst, IDL
Tyre Holfeltz, Fire Prevention & Risk Mitigation Program Manager, IDL	Jeff Lau, North Idaho Shared Stewardship Coordinator, IDL
Tom Eckberg, Forest Health Program Manager, IDL	Michael Beaudoin, Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager, IDL (remotely)
Karen Neorr, Forest Legacy Program Specialist, IDL	Gary Hess, Regulatory and Assistance Program Manager, IDL
Craig Foss, Division Administrator, IDL	Peg Polichio, Shared Stewardship Coordinator, IDL
Corrie Ivey, Grants Project Coordinator, IDL	Erika Eidson, Forest Health Specialist, IDL
	Diana Rauschenbach, Data Coordinator, IDL

ILRCC Chair, Knute Sandahl, welcomed everyone. Roundtable introductions were done.

Ara Andrea gave a summary overview of IDL and Forestry Assistance Bureau updates. She presented the latest changes in IDL's organizational structure and announced the departure of the Idaho State Forester, David Groeschl, from IDL. Michael Beaudoin, IDL's new Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager was introduced to the council; Michael was not able to attend in person due to his participation in a Communications Leaders Workshop. Gary Hess was introduced to the committee in his revised role as IDL's Regulatory and Assistance Program Manager, and our bureau's restructuring plans to hire a Stewardship and Regulatory Program Specialist that would report to Gary and fulfill the Forest Stewardship Program roles that Mary Fritz had assumed before her retirement. Rationale for making these changes in bureau structure and function were presented: the Private Forestry Specialists' work focuses equally on both Forest Practices and Stewardship issues, and the overall goals of both programs overlap and integrate heavily. This position, working in concert with Gary, gives PFSs and internal and external partners a one-stop-shop for assistance.

Corrie Ivey, FAB's new Grants Coordinator, introduced herself and described her goals with IDL and ILRCC in assisting us to find new funding opportunities and pathways to get needed work done on the ground. Ara then gave an overview of building enthusiasm as Shared Stewardship cross-boundary work progresses, and our success in closing on multiple Forest Legacy conservation easements. Ara also informed the council that IDL's budget was moving through the legislature with no big changes introduced.

Tom Eckberg gave an overview of forest-health updates, including an explanation of the population crash of the heavily infesting Douglas-fir tussock moths. Tom described the surveying work that led to the population-crash projection and gave a summary of silvicultural remediation that was being carried out on the most damaged timber stands. Tom also indicated that there might be an uptick in tussock moth in the northern tier of the state.

Karen Neorr presented updates on the Forest Legacy Program. She has submitted the Moyie River (Hancock forestlands) and Prichard Creek (IFG forestlands) applications. She then gave an overview of the condemnation process occurring on the southeast corner of the Clagstone conservation easement, with ITD needing to acquire property to widen Hwy 95 at the base of Granite Hill. It was suggested that Karen go to Jim Thompson with condemnation issues (an ITD Board member in Bonner County).

Gary Hess gave a presentation to describe the proposed Forest Practices Rules Shade Rule simplification process—which may go into rule promulgation to supplant the current Shade Rule which is difficult to understand and hard to implement. He also gave the council a summary of the current legislature's lack of carrying out their annual omnibus rule authorization, and the subsequent Governor's order, in effect making all of our state administrative rules "proposed" in status until the next legislative session—and the resulting need for him to host proposed rulemaking hearings. The simplified version of the Shade Rule will likely move into rule promulgation over the next two years. Gary then summarized progress on the Idaho Non-Point Source Management Plan and his work with IDEQ to plan for next summer's quadrennial water-quality-forest-practices audit.

Josh Harvey, from IDL's Fire Management Bureau, then gave updates: IDEQ has paused their rule promulgation efforts on the smoke-management rulemaking—and there is a new Prescribed Fire Council starting in Idaho.

Ara then gave a presentation on progress made in our Shared Stewardship efforts. She presented maps showing Idaho's two Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes, and focused on cross-boundary workplans that were developing in the SW Bonner County (Scattered Lands) Focal Area—integrating workplans with the USFS Sandpoint Ranger District, IDL state foresters, NRCS, Bonner County OEM, and IDL Private Forestry Specialists. She announced IDL's submission of a FEMA grant application to acquire additional funds to secure work on private forestlands.

Jeff Lau, the North-Idaho Shared Stewardship Coordinator discussed his role as the local liaison between IDL and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest to integrate the interests of all these partners to truly dovetail work across ownership boundaries. Peg Polichio, IDL's contracted Shared Stewardship Statewide Coordinator, gave a high-level overview of the goals of Shared Stewardship and announced the upcoming IFRP meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tyre Holfeltz then gave an overview of the status of Western States Fire Managers (WSFM) Landscape Scale Restoration (LSF) and Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) grants. Seven of eight FY20 WSFM grant applications were recommended for funding (Tyre showed a map with recent and new projects). Both submitted FY20 LSR applications were recommended for funding. Tyre then went over the new (FFY21) LSR applications, the HFR applications, and the 8 WSFM applications—for the council's review, suggested edits and approval. Several suggested edits and additions were given to Tyre:

- FFY 21 LSR Blackfoot application: (Janet Valle) make it clear that we are not allowed to put infrastructure in the stream. (Hannah) more emphasis on other efforts that have been done in this area (and are being built on). (Janet) Emphasize more on what will happen re: the field tours. (Robyn:) include \$1000 amphibian survey (Idaho State) into education/outreach narrative as well as in match. This is the first LSR grant with Idaho Fish & Game.
- FFY21--8 WSFM applications. 1) Bonner County--Segal South Bay II--Janet V: needs more description of Segal 1 accomplishments that this is building on 2) Twin Ridge Rural Fire Dept.; 3) Clearwater Soil & Water Con [Lolo Creek]; 4) Lewis Soil & Water Con [Winchester and Forest]; 5) Idaho Soil & Water Con [Cottonwood-town]; 6) Boise Fire Dept. [goats "mowing" veg on hillsides; Janet V: need to explain that they have used goats for fuel-reduction before, they have experience with this "tool"]; 7) Portneuf Soil & Water Con [Resubmit of 2020 app that got rejected due to application error]; 8) City of Pocatello (Pocatello E and W Bench Fuels Treatment II).

## **Day 1 Wrap Up.**

## **2/20/20--Day 2--FAP work and approvals**

Tom Eckberg gave PowerPoint overview of history, why, what and where of 2020 FAP revision.

Model Out Put:

- Robyn (and others): Why changes in heat-map red areas from 2010 to 2020? Responses given by various IDL staff about changes in data to include: updated S.W.A.P., change in bug related issues, loss of mills (economic impact), and vegetation type changes.

- Reminder each watershed has an assigned number based on the benefit/threats within that watershed. (benefits are “100s” and Threats are “1s”.
- The point of the modeling is to provide a place to start in the identification of the PLAs and appropriate strategies to use in the PLAs.
- Brief explanation of matrix that the greatest gain in benefit from implementing work is where the colors are the warmest.
- Elaine (and others): In Strategies, how do we recognize potential benefits of recreation, especially in places like West Yellowstone? We can also take into account land-use policies/ordinances in places like Teton County to account for growth emanating from Jackson.
  - Because modeling was not able to include a recreation piece this go around it will be narrated both as threat and benefit within the strategies section. It was noted that recreation tends to follow growth.
- It was suggested that a statement be included about modeling data gaps and provide suggestion about where the data may come from.

### **PLA Designations:**

Tom summarized how we split the north and south parts of the state, so they are relative to each other--then classified "hot" and "cold" cells--then combined north and south for a statewide map. Now need to define PLAs. Tom Presented the draft PLAs to the group for consideration and suggestions ensued.

- It was suggested that an explanation be provided as to why some PLAs bleed over into adjoining states.
- Need to provide an explanation of how came up with PLAs and explain any adjustments that may have been made.
  - i.e. regional nuances, policies, processes, landscape considerations, resolution of data, missed opportunities because didn't capture all known opportunities across landscapes, for practical/management reasons, or forests cut off due to modeling process....
  - Reminder that boundaries are fuzzy
- There was a soft suggestion that before and after manipulation of PLA maps be included in an appendix.

Recommendation: Run calculation of acreage in PLAs from 2010 versus 2020. Karen is concerned that there are significantly less acres in which we can establish Legacy CE's (can only apply for FLP projects in FAP-identified PLAs).

Janet V: Incorporate land ownership layers in PLA maps. It was confirmed that these are already part of the suite of maps.

### **Recommendations:**

- Add “501” polygons to the Hells Gate PLA.
- Smooth out PLA boundaries in Snake River basin to include riparian and urban forested areas (especially around Twin Falls, Jerome--heading east).
- Smooth out Teton and Caribou PLAs boundaries using the old PLA boundaries and then make adjustments from there.
- Forest Islands PLA make sure entire mountains are included and not cut off by watershed boundaries.

## **Strategies (Tyre)**

Tyre let the council know that he had re-arranged the chapters to help with the flow of the document. No concerns were expressed with this decision.

Tyre then provided a brief history to include the reduction in the number of goals from six to five. He used the newly written goals to update the Goals and Strategies Table and presented this update to the group.

### **Goals x Strategies Table (Recommendations):**

- Put checkmark under Sustainable Wood Products Econ. For Goal 3 (Treatments?) (urban wood utilization?)
- Add check for Development pressure under Goal 5 as well as inventory/analysis
- Put checkmark in "Education" under Goal 2.
- Goal 4 check treatment under development pressure, because of difficulty in logging near developments due to political or other issues. Also, because of fragmentation of contiguous forest into development.

Tyre presented the next table and asked if the right strategies were selected for the PLAs.

### **PLA x Strategies Table (Recommendations):**

- Boise and Caribou PLAs check goal #1
- Check Regulation and Policy in Boise PLA (canopy study)
- Check Education in Caribou PLA
- Drop the strategies column from the table
- Drop Statewide row and provide an explanation below the table about statewide initiatives.
  - It was suggested there is a need to clarify what "Statewide" means. Ara/Craig offered that they are activities that can be done at a statewide scale.

Erika suggest the use of a stratification system to help establish priority/importance. Tyre suggested that maybe a non-check mark represents that an opportunity doesn't currently exist instead of it not being applicable in a particular PLA.

- The committee asked that IDL staff take a first stab at the table and then share it with the committee.

## **PLA Maps and Info**

Tyre presented that he had deleted all the info in each of the PLA because it is in the table and felt it was redundant. Additionally, there is an effort underway to have put the FAP in a GIS Story Map which will be able to provide the info an end user would need.

The committee was ok with this if the specific cooperators within a PLA are still listed within each PLA section.

## **National Requirement of Defining Forest Stewardship Priority Areas:**

Tyre presented that there is a new criterion for the Forest Stewardship Program that requires that no more than 50% of eligible private forested acres can be included on the map. The Stewardship program will only be delivered in the newly delineated areas. Tyre then described the process that was used to identify the acres which came to 46% within the PLAs, this leaves 4% that still can be identified. The council take place to determine where the remaining 4% could be added. Tyre suggest waiting on the consultation until we have a chance to recalculate based on the adjustments made to the PLAs to see if there are still acres that need to be added. Tyre will work with Erika and Andrew to complete this task.

#### **Forest Legacy Map:**

Tyre presented that in the 2010 version of the FAP that the PLAs were the areas defined for the Forest Legacy program. Tyre suggested using the same for this go around. Karen voiced concern that at first glance it appears there are fewer acres than last time in the PLAs and don't want to exclude any potential areas. What is needed is a comparison of acres between the 2010 and 2020 FAP PLAs to determine if in fact there are fewer acres. It was suggested the FLP subcommittee be included in any future discussions about the FLP area of need boundaries if not going to be the PLAs.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The committee suggested that the next meeting with field trip be in the Boundary County area.