



IDAHO LANDS RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Riverside Hotel, North Star Conference Room, Boise, Idaho

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Ailport, Idaho Chapter American Planning Association
Patti Best, Utilities/Energy Efficiency
Glen Burkhardt, Bureau of Land Management - Fire
Gordon Sanders, Idaho Forest Owners Assoc. (alternate)
Janet Funk, Idaho Tree Farm Committee
Frank Gariglio, USDA-NRCS
Jeff Handel, Nez Perce Tribe (alternate)
Ken Knoch, ILRCC Chair, City Foresters/Idaho Parks & Recreation Association
Elaine Clegg, Association of Idaho Cities

Tim Maguire, Urban Forestry Collaborative Groups / Bioregional Planning
Susan Cleverley, ID Office of Emergency Management
Bob Reggear, Green Industry Organizations
Knut Sandahl, ILRCC Vice-Chair, State Fire Marshal
Gregg Servheen, Idaho Fish & Game
John Roberts, Idaho Emergency Management Association
Amanda Egan, USFS, S&PF, UCF Program Manager
Mike Wolcott, Association of Consulting Foresters
Janet Valle, USFS, S&PF, Forest Legacy & Stewardship Program Manager

AGENCY STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:

Ara Andrea, Bureau Chief, Forestry Assistance, IDL
Tom Eckberg, Forest Health Program Mgr., IDL
Mary Fritz, Stewardship Program Mgr., IDL
Tyre Holfeltz, Community Fire Program Mgr., IDL
Dave Stephenson, Urban Interface Program Mgr., IDL
Jennifer Russell, Project Coordinator, IDL
Karen Sjoquist, Coordinator, Forest Legacy Program, IDL

Craig Foss, Division Administrator- Forestry & Fire, IDL
Suzie Jude, Forest Stewardship Program, IDL
Tim Kennedy, SWI Private Forestry Specialist, IDL
Sabrina Minshall, Idaho Chapter American Planning Association
Lance Davisson, Treasure Valley Canopy Network

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Ken Knoch welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Craig Foss reported staff changes at IDL: David Groeschl moved to a newly-created Deputy Director position, Craig is now Division Administrator for Forestry and Fire, and Ara Andrea is now Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief. In the Timber Management Bureau, Bob Helmer retired and Jim Elbin is the new Bureau Chief. Michele Andersen replaces Ara as Technical Services Bureau Chief, and the new Forest Health Program Manager is Tom Eckberg.

Tyre provided background leading up to the reformulation of the previous Idaho Fire Plan Working Group (IFPWG) to the current statewide Fire Response Committee (FRC). This new group is forming to address the Safe and Effective Wildfire Response (suppression) tenet of the Cohesive Strategy, which isn't a function of ILRCC. Direction will come from JT Wensman, IDL's Fire Management Bureau Chief. The group will take on issues that have statewide influence.

Newly-appointed Vice-Chair Knute Sandahl provided his professional background and involvement with ILRCC to date. In his position as the State Fire Marshal, while he focuses on the "built" environment, he



noted this is located within and influenced by the natural environment. Knute works closely with Tyre on planning with communities to limit losses.

2017 LSR & Hazardous Fuels Grants

Tyre reported that IDL submitted 5 applications for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 Western Fire Managers (WFM) grants representing \$1.5M; all 5 were recommended for funding. Two Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) adjacency projects (\$600K) were submitted and recommended for funding in USFS Region 4. Two HFR applications (\$250K) were submitted for USFS Region 1 and we are still awaiting word about how they fared. Currently, IDL is waiting on passage of the FFY17 federal budget to move forward with funding for WFM and HFR projects.

Jen reported there were 2 applications submitted last fall for 2017 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) projects; the number 1 nationally-ranked proposal was Idaho's Clearwater Complex which will be fully funded at \$300K pending the passage of the FFY17 federal budget. Jen is preparing the MOU with project partners; once our notice of funding is received we can implement the MOU and get work completed during this year's growing season. Restoration work will take place on private lands and will compliment work done by the Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team on federal land.

Interagency Coordination Clearinghouse

Tyre presented information about various grant funding sources and who manages them. Discussion followed about the purpose for which this list will be used. The list of grant sources includes:

- State & Private Forestry grant processes (HFR, WFM, and LSR) as advised by ILRCC and administered through IDL;
- NRCS funding for private landowners to provide assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPPs);
- Pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) grants from FEMA that support counties and partners with projects identified in the county all hazard mitigation plans, including fuels reduction projects;
- Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) offer a percentage of dollars for mitigation (which includes fire) that only occur after a President declares a disaster;
- Shade tree projects for energy conservation;
- Community assistance grants from the Department of Interior (BLM/USFWS). Historically these went to RC&Ds in Idaho for the development of CWPPs and fire risk mitigation projects (note that funding has diminished significantly for this program over the last 5 years or so);
- Rural fire assistance grants through the Department of Interior (BLM/USFWS) helped fund rural fire departments needs associated with wildland fire fighting (there have been no available funding for the past several years);
- Volunteer Fire Assistance through the US Forest Service and administered by IDL helps support training, communication, personal protective equipment and equipment needs for volunteer base fire departments.
- Idaho Fish & Game funding opportunities (Gregg will provide this information)

Elaine commented that Idaho communities have not fully taken advantage of USDA and EPA urban forestry and carbon sequestration grants that are available and suggested ILRCC help inform communities about they're availability, how to apply for these grants, and, if appropriate, offer recommendations on behalf of communities applying each year. Elaine will provide specific grant information to Tyre to add to the list. Council members voiced support for this idea.



The following is a summary of the conversation and suggestions/ideas:

- This list can serve as a “grants clearinghouse” for Idaho.
- Add sections on who is eligible or should apply, when to apply, and how to apply (with website links). Distribution to ILRCC membership would allow for additional specific input on target groups for distribution.
- Consider whether a spreadsheet is the best method for listing grant opportunities. A geodatabase with a front facing public interface may be better. Add a Past Successes column and link it to a map.
- ILRCC should understand constituencies and identify opportunities for proposed funding. The 2020 FAP update would be a good place to capture this information.
- Update list semi-annually.
- Host information on an ILRCC member website to begin with (perhaps IDL?); others can link to this. Consider other hosting options, such as with ESRI.
- Keep it simple.

2018 LSR Project Pre-Proposals

(IDL received three LSR pre-proposals and can move three forward for western competition. ILRCC does not, therefore, need to prioritize or recommend which pre-proposals to move forward. Rather, discussion will focus on how each project can be improved. For this reason, Tim Maquire—ILRCC member and LSR applicant—did not have to recuse himself from discussion.)

Jen and Tyre worked with the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation (IDPR) applicant last fall. IDPR does not have grant funding available through its agency and instead applies for funding through other grant sources.

ILRCC feedback/comments on IDPR application:

- In the past applications for recreation management plans did not rank well
- It is the weakest of the three LSR pre-proposals
- Nothing in pre-proposal is related to stewardship activities or treatments
- Consider building future workers from a human/professional development perspective
- Each park should have a management plan; they are the centerpiece for visitors to the park. Applicant needs guidance on how to put this together
- Without selling timber off park lands, funding for this type of work is very limited. Every park is unique
- The education component needs to add thinning and provide examples of healthy forests, i.e. treated vs. untreated
- Park visitors are the leverage for this project as they will learn from the experience
- Perhaps narrow the focus of project to strengthen application. Focus on three parks only and forget the template
- What are connections to partners surrounding the project?
- Nothing in the application about education—this should be the main focus
- Implementation should be based on a management plan
- No NRCS financial assistance/funding available for IDPR at this time. However, experienced staff from NRCS would be able to provide input on a management plan. IDL has had foresters that work part-time for both IDPR and IDL



- Clarification provided that state parks need a natural resource plan that is proactive and not reactive. The focus of this proposal should be plan first and later apply for implementation through education, etc.
- A need for assistance to IDPR with management plans through professional foresters has been identified
- A gap analysis is needed to help strengthen the application
- Besides timber management, other stewardship components and resource areas need to be identified and addressed in the management plan
- IDL has an interest in assisting with this work
- In order for this project to be competitive, it needs to be fine-tuned
- Emphasize inventory aspect of natural resources in application for management planning purposes

Idaho Treasure Valley Canopy Network (TVCN) application

The application was reviewed last year but it needed more background work on partnerships and to identify what the projects within the project would accomplish.

ILRCC feedback/comments on the TVCN application:

- Include sourced data about why urban forests benefit human health (may not have room for this)
- Project summary needs to be very clear, i.e. trees provide a specific attribute that promotes human activity leading to wellness; provide three specific examples of this interaction
- Measured activities would be hard to accomplish in terms of measuring obesity rates
- Specify the timeframe that leads to success. Tree canopy growth can span long periods of time and differs depending on the species
- Health impact assessments—need to state what will be collected and explain how it will happen
- Use census data overlain by tree canopy to identify proposed project areas
- Are there health impact assessments that Idaho universities have completed?
- Translate project statewide but identify that the Treasure Valley is well-suited for the proposal at this time
- This project adds to work already funded under LSR grants in Idaho
- It needs an education component to address tree health
- Cities need to have management plans so that trees will live longer
- The City of Boise has a tree ordinance that can be shared with other Treasure Valley communities and customized for a particular community
- Application focuses on communities that have not participated in urban tree efforts
- Line out the progression of efforts for canopy for various purposes and to show success

Idaho State and Private Forestry Economic Impact Analysis:

This proposal was submitted last year and Jen provided Council members with a summary of last year's review comments. The application was changed (last year) to incorporate the 2020 FAP effort. When the application did not rank high enough (27 out of 42) to be funded, the decision was made to remove the FAP effort from the application. The wide variation in ranking committee scores and comments demonstrate there was not a clear understanding of the application.

ILRCC member feedback/comments on the Economic Impact Analysis application:



- If FAP is removed from the application, include other (BLM, IF&G, NRCS) grants into the database to show what has happened in the state and the resulting economic analysis
- Picture of resource management in the state and opportunity for other grants to assist in the work of the FAP
- Tie results back to outcomes we said we were going to do
- How far back in the past should they look back at projects and their outcomes? Is 8 years too far back to look? Not necessarily as there is a maintenance component in the original grant
- It is subjective or social science data? Could this be a tool to improve the quality of future project applications? This would need to be explained better. How will it tie to national themes specifically?
- Provide a stronger needs statement and more concrete information about how it will be used in the future
- There are capacity gaps and this tool can be used to develop grants that address these gaps

Dave provided a handout of national Performance Measure Outcomes. It identifies data gaps that need to be rolled up in order to tell a story. Tim suggested that the application could address the data gaps and allow for more specificity to link the state effort to the national effort. Data can also be combined to tell other stories.

Recent experience will help inform the application going forward and will help support the 2020 FAP. Tim is open to feedback to make a better application. IDL's goal is to have these applications completed by the end of June, prior to the fire season. If more information is desired or members want to remain engaged with the application, Jen requests members contact her directly.

Discussion followed regarding Denver's South Platte River economic analysis. It included mapped green infrastructure and the most important assets, i.e. clean drinking water, green storm water infrastructure, density where they occur, overlaid by economic layer to determine the value of resources. Data use has not yet been determined. Tim sees the identification of urban forest resources helps determine underserved areas of green infrastructure (green areas or parks). These would be areas identified for municipal funding and revitalization and speaks to sustainability.

2020 FAP Update—Next Steps

Dave provided a summary of original State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR) and subsequent Forest Action Plan (FAP). Dave suggests putting together a request for proposal (RFP) for the 2020 effort. Going forward, there is a need for a clear scope of project work and Dave requests input from Council members. Most members are familiar with the strategy document but additional feedback is needed.

Summary of FAP discussion

- 1) FAP timelines
 - a. 2017—put together RFP for contract with Council input
 - b. 2018—work on geospatial assessment
 - c. 2019—work on strategy document/online portal
 - d. Mid-2020—project complete
- 2) While forest economics grant proposal will inform FAP (if funded), direct work on FAP will be contracted independently/ removed from grant application



- 3) FAP should be a decision support tool (online/cloud/geospatial), and less prescriptive
 - a. Data layers can be turned off/on
 - b. Make plan an opportunities documents
 - c. Perhaps reduce detail in each FAP re: strategies to enhance flexibility
 - i. It doesn't sound like the more detailed strategies within each PLA are being used
 - ii. Land managers have their own plans/priorities
 - iii. Focus on partnerships, landscape scale leverage/boundary overlap, etc.
 - iv. Use ESRI story maps as a way to provide context, examples, etc.
 - d. Include grants clearinghouse, examples of successful projects, etc.
 - e. Consider cross state-boundary efforts
- 4) Consider a survey to garner public input on key issues (North Dakota example)
 - a. Monkey survey
 - b. QR code
 - c. Online and paper
 - d. Utilize a survey expert
- 5) Roll-in elements of SWAP data to ensure consistent use of data points
 - a. Is there a potential to combine SWAP and FAP into common online portal?
 - b. Potential to engage National Forests as the update their forest plans
- 6) Keep statewide scale of data so areas with finer scale or more data don't skew results

Dave would appreciate additional input by members as it becomes available.

Idaho Chapter—American Planning Association Presentation

Lisa Ailport introduced Sabrina Minshall, board president of the Idaho Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). Sabrina is employed as the Director of Planning at Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), whose staff works closely with member agency staff from an association of local governments to provide data services to members. Planners look ahead to the future based upon data, help others based upon data, assist decision-making processes, and are not just involved with land use or transportation, but speak the technical language to bridge gaps between technical and planning folks.

The APA is a national organization in all but three states. Idaho has six regional representations within its Chapter. They provide training and education, certification, and a testing process (similar to accountants), ethics standards, BMPs, agency support, community liaison, social media information sharing, involved with Idaho university programs and projects (UI and BSU), have a work program, provide advocacy to legislators, and online information about Idaho's Chapter. Process is important to those the Idaho APA serves. They have a great list of partnerships that give them a wide breadth.

There are related goals between ILRCC and the Idaho APA: working together on FAP, collaboration and coordination, delivery of information, opportunities for education, relationship building, and sharing successes. Idaho APA is involved with the Idaho Legislature, sharing information within their group and with others such as the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) and the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC). There's a need for coordination linked into what's happening statewide. Legislative voting is not geographically based. The Idaho APA also participates at a legislative reception. Within their group's meetings, they invite participation on a variety of topics including fire risk, tree canopy assessments, etc.



The theme for their next annual conference is “Plan Big” with event information available online at www.Idahoapa.org. State planning in Idaho is broad based: if you choose to plan, you must have a written plan. This is different from Washington state where planning is based on Dillion’s Rule. The Idaho APA can assist as a planning organization by providing BMPs for issues like stormwater, facilitate discussion about what rural means, and identify the need for community conversations between citizenry and municipal/county leadership.

WFM Project Work / CWPP Update

Tyre provided a Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) map showing the status of CWPPs in Idaho. He discussed changes about risk evaluations, WUI designation and tracking success. WUIs are now defined at the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12 digit level to capture the impacts wildfires can have on communities. Going forward, Tyre is continuing to recommend the integration of the CWPPs into the County All Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP) especially when an HMP is being updated to reduce redundancy of effort. To recap, Tyre’s role is to assist counties and communities with CWPPs and sign off on plans for IDL.

The FY15 LSR ‘Community Wildfire Planning’ project has completed a planning guide which consolidates best practices from Idaho and across the West about how to complete a CWPP, identifying a four part planning cycle centered on the cohesive strategy and surrounded by education. Within the guide are 100 pages of code examples counties can look to for land use and community planning. The project principles intend to bring wildfire planning to a few communities to develop community-based plans that can be attached/amended/annexed into County Plans. Click on the link to access the guide https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2845046 Funding opportunities are available through pre-disaster mitigation grants if identified in County All Hazard Mitigation Plans. Funding planning efforts will also be a priority of the Western Fire Managers (WFM) grants. However, WFM still want to see other efforts besides planning such as education and/or vegetation mitigation in applications.

It was noted that the City of Boise is going through a gap analysis of their codes as it relates to wildfire; the results will be presented to ILRCC once available.

2018 WFM & 2017 HFR Pre-Proposals

Tyre provided a summary of grant proposals and expanded upon the previously provided information in **2017 LSR & HFR grants** discussion on Teton, Shoshone, Lewis (new effort), Kootenai, Bonner (Priest Lake), Boundary, and Valley counties. All WFM and HFR applications will be submitted and hopefully funded. As a visual aid Tyre provided a map of 2014 to 2018 project proposal locations; the map represents the federal fiscal year in which the project was or [hopefully] will be funded.

Forest Legacy Program Update

Karen provided a Forest Legacy Program update and how Idaho is celebrating 15 years of participation in the program. Karen summarized program highlights and noted that the Land & Water Conservation Fund that provides the underlying program funding will be in place for 3 more years; hopefully it will be reauthorized. Forest Legacy applications will be accepted until May 31st for the next round of project proposals. Karen provided a status report on easement closings for the last year and noted that FLP subcommittee member Frank Gariglio will be retiring this June from his position with NRCS.

Idaho Tree Plotter Demo



Dave introduced Lance Davisson with the Treasure Valley Canopy Network. Dave explained some of the challenges of collecting tree data in the past. Dave put together a request for proposals for a tree inventory program that is browser and map based, no software required, easy to use, and is aimed at small and medium sized cities and scalable for larger cities or at the state level. Once a contractor was selected, program level and Emerging Pest LSR grant funds were used to develop the tool, which is offered to Idaho cities at no charge. The program records a great deal of information on each tree, allows photos to be attached, has powerful query tools and calculates the value of tree benefits to stormwater, air quality, stormwater mitigation, carbon removal and storage, and property values. Data can be exported at any time in either Excel or ArcGIS formats. Feedback has been excellent from cities using it as an inventory and planning tool.

Forest Health Program Update

Tom Eckberg, the new Forest Health Program Manager (replacing Gina Davis), provided an update on the Forest Health Program. One of his first duties was hiring his replacement, Forest Health Program Specialist Erika Eidsen, who will start in June.

Current issues include pine engraver and western pine beetle. An additional aerial detection survey was flown in November in areas where drought-related pine engraver (*Ips*) was seen. Defoliators are an issue in south Idaho and in the Sawtooths. 2015 fires burned state timber and they are now seeing beetles in the periphery. MCH pouches have been placed to help keep beetles out of the green Douglas-fir timber—any downed timber that is green in spring will attract bugs. Most of the MCH work done was in the Clearwater area, and more pouches will be going up this spring. There have been more drought effects for last several years in north Idaho. Currently, most of state is out of drought due to winter precipitation, especially during October 2016. The November 2015 wind event also caused many downed trees, precipitating pine engraver (3 generations of) infestations. Tom outlined strategies for managing pine engraver and the timing of slash treatments, both creation and burning. Thinning plantation areas is important. Tom reported on secondary bark beetle (*Scolytus monticolae*) problems following drought a couple years in a row. Spruce budworm is making a comeback in south Idaho, as well as Douglas-fir tussock moth in the Sawtooth and Boise National Forests. There are new Forester Forum publications available online, as well as fact sheets of the usual suspects. Trees attacked by bark beetles in 2016 will fade in 2017. One European gypsy moth was captured in eastern Idaho near Pocatello during 2016, with 3 trapped in Shoshone County during 2015.

Meeting feedback, wrap up, next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Boise during the month of June. A Doodle poll will be sent out to members to determine meeting and tour dates.

Feedback:

Elaine reported lots of communities in Pocatello and Blackfoot want to do WUI mitigation work.

Good conversations took place today.

Idaho APA will be soliciting speakers for their annual conference and they encourage ILRCC members to go to their website to sign up as speakers. There were lots of good ideas and topics discussed today that would be beneficial to share with Idaho APA.

Tyre reported there is room for six more WFM grant applications –please pass the word!



There was a reminder about the upcoming Family Forest Land Owners and Managers conference in Moscow at the end of March. Also, IDL will be hosting 2017 Regional Western State FSP and FLP Meeting, June 6-9, in Coeur d'Alene.

Meeting adjourned 4:55 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Suzie Jude

List of follow-up items:

1. Gregg will provide IDFG grant information to Tyre for clearinghouse list
2. Elaine will provide USDA urban forestry and EPA carbon sequestration grants information to Tyre for clearinghouse list.
3. Doodle poll for Summer 2017 meeting.