

## **MWPA Resource Committee**

**February 19, 2014**

**Present:** Gordy Sanders, Paul McKenzie, Bryan Lorengo, Rick Franke, Steve Flynn, Jim Krantz, Rich Lane, Gary Marks, Ken Williams, Doug Walenski, Julia Altemus

**Guests:** Paula Short, Sonya Germann, Jim Innes, Christine Dawe, Tom Martin

**Chairmen Welcome:** Gordy Sanders/Paul McKenzie

### **Anti Trust Statement**

#### **Federal Update:**

R1 will get the final 2014 program budget from the WO by the end of February. Initial target is 550ccs (275 mmbf). The chief is shooting for the national 3bbf target. The additional will likely go to regions that are not litigation challenged, but there could be a slight increase to Region One. RF looking for increased success. Planned for about an 8 - 10% budget reduction. Still operating under the NFRR region pilot. Did receive some additional money in the fire transfer. IPHN, B-D and FNF received funds under the fire transfer. Plaintiffs withdrew the motion to sue on Blakenship. Cabin Gulch is moving forward, but still in court, the plaintiffs have until the end of March or 1<sup>st</sup> of April to reply to the FS, then the judge will make a decision. Going to award the 2 stewardship projects that came off of Glacier Loon project that got caught in the government shut down. One at the end of the month and the other the first week of March. Staffing - Deputy RF will be reviewed by WO Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, announce end of the week. Lolo SO will come out on Feb 21, KNF SO currently reviewing applications. The Resource Director position closed last week. Going through qualifying now, then start interviewing. Hope to have someone in place by June. Can take 6 - 8 weeks to get into position.

Master Stewardship Agreement with the state for all forests in Montana. This allows them to enter into projects with agencies such as the DNRC as a partner. The first agreement is on the HNF as a pilot (Chessman). Partner matches 20% cash and in-kind to what the FS provides the project. In this case the DNRC is the contractor but the receipts are returned to the FS. It's a hybrid contract. FS does the NEPA work and the state implements. The FS received a grant. \$800K for FS and \$65K from NRCS. NRCS money will be used on private land. There is a NOI on the project. Chessman is the warm-up to a larger watershed that provides logs on trucks.

Farm Bill Implementation: GNA gives authority for the FS to enter into contracts with the state. This time the FS would pay the state to implement projects on federal land. FS still does the NEPA and writes the treatment prescriptions. Most projects are on adjacent lands where it makes sense to leverage resources. The question that everyone is trying to figure out is how this going to work with their

current planning process. Policy still needs to get defined in rules. Working on a MOU for coordinating.

HFRA Restoration Language – Governors have until April 9<sup>th</sup> to designate a minimum of one area. Does not have to be a 6 code HUC. The Secretary will not likely make a decision on April 10<sup>th</sup> but will likely wait and review all area. \$200 million per fiscal year for 15 years. Not new money. Projects may not exceed 3,000 acres.

CE – 3,000 acre under the context of collaboration. In the past the FS has not done rule making on CE's, but not sure yet.

Federal Legislation Update – Julia provided an update on stewardship contracting, the silvicultural rule, Wyden's O & C and Barrasso's bill. She also mentioned that the BCAP program was resurrected in the Farm Bill.

### **State Update:**

Stewardship Agreement – Agreements bring other partners into the project that have money. There are other projects in the works depending upon how the success of Chessman. State criteria - landscape, logs on trucks and projects that pay for themselves.

Fire Suppression Funds for Eastside Project Status – there is up to \$5 million per biennium that may be used for fire suppression work. They have identified areas in south eastern Montana where they need to do some post fire salvage. Also identified some areas in the Helena area. \$5million for the next 4 biennia. Do not have to go before the Land Board with projects. Focus is watershed restoration work. Asked for \$3, \$1 million for Colstrip, \$1 million for Helena and \$1 million for south eastern Montana.

Fish Wildlife and Parks – legislative session directed them to complete a Sustained Yield Study. DNRC has reached out them to see if they can help. FWP is required to develop a SYC but not directed to cut to it. The SYC would be a ceiling. DNRC anticipates an MOU with FWP to help manager their timber lands.

Sustained Yield Calculation – 59.8 was the objective this fiscal year, have sold 75%. The rest of the projects will go before the April and May Land Board. Mike O'Herron new Southwest Land Manager. SYC Focused Plot Inventory on state lands. Awarded 3 contracts to collect data. Inventory completed by end of October. Then feed the data to the successful bidder to do the calculation. By June 2015 the new calculation will be done. HCP received the motion last week from the plaintiffs. Summary judgment due in April. Issues are bull trout, climate change and roads.

DEQ Nutrient Standards Adoption Update – Julia, hearing March 24 in Helena. Numbers is reviewed by the Board of Environmental Review, the Variances are reviewed by the DEQ. Brian Sugden is continuing to work and monitor.

Streambed definition RCD/Water Policy – Julia is working with state RC&D and has talked to Senator Hamlett and sent a copy of the BMPs and the Streamside Management Zone Law.

**Other:** Next meeting June 25<sup>th</sup>