

**FALL 2015 UPDATE TO THE '09 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TENMILE SOUTH HELENA PROJECT AREA**

Goal	Issues	Recommendation	Action items
<p><b>Goal #1:</b> Provide for present and future public safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Rimini</u> Watershed/project area residents at risk</li> <li>• Area workers and users, firefighters at risk</li> <li>• Lack of readiness/awareness of some people (<u>Residents and other stakeholders are often unaware not only of fire risks, but of post-fire impacts.</u>)</li> </ul>	<p>Specific actions to protect the communities throughout the project areas of Rimini through community outreach and engagement, development of defensible and survivable space around structures, and the establishment of evacuation routes in the event of major fire. <u>Build public support by engaging stakeholders. They must not only understand the risks, but must support mitigation efforts.</u> <u>Collaborative members: Work among community members and neighborhoods to encourage small group gatherings – invite Sean Logan &amp; Pat McKelvey (or others) to speak to small neighborhood groups about mitigation, evacuation plans, and post-fire impacts.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate evacuation routes</li> <li>• Develop evacuation plan and routes, including a maintenance agreement</li> <li>• Implement a safety education program <u>– may need to review private property mitigation efforts from prior to 2009. Local DES, in cooperation with area stakeholders, recently (August 2015) updated the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The plan is being approved by each governing body.</u></li> <li>• Prioritize defensible space around human structures/assets, <u>sensitive soils, and mine wastes</u></li> <li>• Prioritize areas for survivable treatments, which involves assessments of structural details</li> <li>• Utilize a community-led program involving local leaders</li> <li>• Tri-County Firesafe Working Group should take the lead and secure the needed funding</li> <li>• Ask the City to assess the potential for burying power lines to reduce fire hazard and road design issues – <u>Northwestern Energy has done some work in this area to mitigate risk of trees falling on power lines &amp; starting fires, as well as risks to infrastructure in case of a wildfire. I.e. poles at risk. Northwestern Energy placed 7,831 ft of delivery lines underground in Rimini.</u></li> <li>• USFS should cross-reference treatment projects with evacuation routes</li> <li>• <u>New tank transfer? The new 40,000 gallon tank below Rimini is owned by the FS and Baxendale has a 30 year conditional use permit for the tank.</u></li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #2:</b> Protect City water delivery infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At risk from wildland fire</li> <li>• At risk from mine waste</li> <li>• Limited funds for improvement</li> <li>• Antiquated, vulnerable design</li> <li>• Mixed land ownership</li> <li>• Post-wildfire repair</li> <li>• <u>Vegetation close to flume</u></li> </ul>	<p>Actions to protect the City’s water supply infrastructure, including the flume delivery system, by removal of vegetation in proximity to structures, and other measures, including recommending eventual modification/replacement of the fire vulnerable parts of the flume with metal pipe, and to explore the development of a pre-sedimentation basin to minimize the effects of sediment on the Ten Mile water treatment facility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement flume proposal: <u>FS project on flume area under way. Approximately 35% complete as of fall 2015.</u></li> <li>• Prioritize defensible/survivable space around city water supply infrastructure: <u>FS project also under way, i.e. Chessman Reservoir Project</u></li> <li>• Obtain needed funds</li> <li>• Get City involved in fire suppression, prevention, and response planning and implementation: <u>Continue ongoing city involvement in these areas. City cut and removed piled forest fuels on 4 city-owned properties on 81 acres. City cut, piled &amp; burned forest fuels within a zone 132 horizontal feet upslope and 300 horizontal ft downslope of the flume, which comprises about 92% of the privately owned property transected by the flume.</u></li> <li>• <u>Currently working on Scott Reservoir/Banner Creek Fuels Reduction for 220 acres in that area.</u></li> <li>• <u>Land exchange between City of Helena &amp; FS being processed/proposed for city ownership of 320 acres of FS property surrounding Chessman Reservoir, 40 acres surrounding Banner Creek Headgate, and 37.39 acres surrounding the Minnehaha Creek Headgate.</u></li> </ul>

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**Comment [i2]:** Can Jordan Alexander get an update from Tri-County Fire re. status of Population Protection Plan. – Jordan will find the link to the recently revised CWPP so it can be attached or associated with this document.

**Comment [i1]:** This goal is related specifically to health and HUMAN safety issues. Goal #7 is related specifically to ecosystem & environment protection by major wildfire.

**Comment [i3]:** Moved to goal #7

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**Comment [SE4]:** Provided by A. Grove

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**Comment [i5]:** Angie & Jordan work to update action item status in this section. Plus status of new fire house being built in Rimini? (Sub-station for equipment?)

**Comment [i6]:** Brad will work with city water superintendent (Don Clark) to get updates for this section. The city is working with the FS to trade property along the flume.

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<p><b>Provide recommendations for watershed road density</b></p> <p><b>Goal #3:</b> Honor and protect the nature of our inventoried roadless areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire suppression capabilities</li> <li>Access for mitigation of potential wildfire effects on watershed</li> <li>Impacts on recreation</li> <li>Impacts on fisheries</li> <li>Impacts on wildlife</li> </ul>	<p>Overall reduction in road density/miles of road, and a collaborative process to make specific recommendations to the Forest Service. Seek to balance the protection of roadless area values with needs for access for fuels mitigation and prescribed fire treatments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary road construction for implementing LSTs must be paired with an equal distance of road decommissioning</li> <li>Delineate existing roadless areas and evaluate USFS recommendations for fuels mitigation and treatments in those areas.</li> <li>Make recommendations to USFS on the need for and types of access to accomplish fuels treatment goals while carefully considering the values of roadless areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #4:</b></p> <p>Provide recommendations for landscape-scale treatment of watershed (LST)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuels buildup</li> <li>Increased risk of landscape-scale, intense fire – risks to public safety, water quality, soil retention, recreation, other values</li> <li>Pine beetles</li> </ul>	<p>The Collaborative recommended the careful use of prescribed fire, including pre-fire fuels thinning where appropriate. This represented the best strategy to minimize the risks of an uncontrollable fire in the Tenmile Watershed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endorse Finney's 20-40% of periodic landscape treatment model</li> <li>Endorse Finney's view that all units treated require the use of prescribed fire</li> <li>Build public support through a high visibility demonstration project(s)</li> <li>Project design should be synergistic with goals of wildlife habitat improvement</li> <li>Finney should be directly involved in planning</li> <li>No new permanent roads</li> <li>Develop an MOU between FS and Collaborative</li> <li>Outreach to Resource Advisory Committee(s)</li> <li>Prescribed fire will be used in roadless and roaded areas</li> <li>No new roads, temporary or otherwise, will be constructed in Roadless Areas, however, non-road firebreaks may be constructed if needed</li> <li>Mechanically treat a roaded area and then determine if mechanized treatments in Roadless Areas is acceptable</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #5:</b></p> <p>Protect and improve water quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of water for water customers</li> <li>Increased cost of water treatment</li> <li>Mine waste contamination</li> <li>Failing septic systems</li> <li>Reduced stream flows effects on fisherie</li> <li>As, Cd, Pb, Cu, Zn contributions to Tenmile creek from mining wastes and mine dischargess</li> </ul>	<p>Consider in stream flow augmentation via 6<sup>th</sup> diversion near water treatment plant</p> <p>Encourage EPA/DEQ/USGS to continue monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop cooperative, interagency management agreement: All but one of the Rimini septic systems have been replaced. (MB 9/9/15)</li> <li>Develop defensible space around inactive mine sites</li> <li>Identify sites at special risk due to wildfire</li> <li>Develop mitigation strategies for such sites</li> <li>Discuss with EPA/DEQ potential to include in final Superfund remedy: Mike will arrange briefing from USGS (Tom Cleasby 457-5919) regarding monitoring of those elements.</li> <li>Request agencies to include collaborative in annual water quality reviews</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #6:</b></p> <p>Promote potential for restoration in watershed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality and quantity</li> <li>Lack of management agreements</li> <li>Need for ongoing monitoring of fish and</li> </ul>	<p>Support efforts to continue monitoring and review data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop joint management agreement between DNRC, USFS, City, EPA, DEQ, FWP, etc.</li> <li>Engage in discussions with EPA/DEQ/FWP. Participate in briefings.</li> </ul>

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**Comment [i9]:** Brad will work with FS re. travel plan, to update this goal. Mike will also work on this with Brad re. 4-wheeler/ATV issues. Angie will also work on this with Mike & Brad, Angie will speak with John Gatchell about the ATV limitation programs.

**Comment [JC10]:** This may be one way to seek balance, but it misses one of our major objectives, the effective treatment of forest conditions. We should not be in the business of trading a mile of road somewhere for a mile somewhere else. Instead, we may wish to recommend temporary access for fuel treatments, which may or may not involve construction of roads in the traditional sense. The USFS travel plan addresses the appropriateness of and plans for existing roads in the study area.

**Comment [JC8]:** I am not sure what this means exactly, I get the intent, but unclear how it plays into our mission?

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**Comment [JC7]:** Isn't this addressed in the USFS travel plan?

**Comment [i11]:** Collaborative will evaluate/analyze the updated FS proposal based (...)

**Comment [i12]:** Jeff will work on this section (...)

**Comment [i13]:** Mike will work on this sectio (...)

**Comment [i14]:** Advocate monitoring for (...)

**Comment [i15]:** Brad & Mike will work togeth (...)

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**Comment [i16]:** Mike would like to see the ci (...)

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of a viable fishery and wetlands	<u>aquatic organisms population density and species diversity</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get briefed by FWP/USGS regarding changes &amp; updates (improvements, etc.) since 2009</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reduce damage of major wildfire</b></p> <p>Goal #7:</p> <p>Protect, and reduce potential damage to, ecosystems by major wildfire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rimini &amp; neighboring community's safety</li> <li>Damage from wildfire on multitude of values</li> <li>Increased rates of erosion</li> <li>Lots of fuel present</li> <li>Human ignitions</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thin fuels</li> <li>Evaluate potential projects</li> <li>Utilize spatial arrangement/location of treatments to modify wildfire behavior</li> <li>Develop defensible space around mine waste and sensitive soil (referring to specific areas prone to erosion and other post fire issues.) sites</li> <li>Develop defensible space around and within Rimini</li> <li>Utilize prescribed burning with proper site preparation and prescription</li> <li>Develop strategies for wildfire</li> <li>Enhance local firefighting capabilities: <u>New tank in Rimini installed.</u></li> <li>Mitigate risk to power lines</li> </ul>
<p>Goal #8:</p> <p>Protect and improve long-term quality of wildlife habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too many roads, <u>Including 4 wheel creep off designated roads</u></li> <li>Beetle caused loss of lodgepole and ponderosa habitat</li> <li>New habitat created through beetle kill</li> <li>Loss of thermal hiding cover</li> <li>Significant wildlife corridor zone</li> <li>Natural ebb and flow of habitat</li> <li>Fragmented management</li> <li>Cumulative impacts of human activities</li> <li>Dollars for habitat restoration</li> <li>Effect of travel management on wildlife habitat</li> </ul>	<p><u>Work with FWP and FS to promote TIPMONT as a means of citizen eyes and ears to reduce off-road use</u></p> <p><u>This committee is concerned with habitat fragmentation; there needs to be some mitigation for habitat fragmentation as a result of work in the area</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with FWP, FS and local community</li> <li>Identify linkage zones and develop habitat conservation strategies</li> <li>(MB 9/9/15) sign placement – warnings &amp; TIPMONT</li> <li>Review more closely linkages and elk habitat/elk security in specific project areas</li> <li>If conflicts between fire mitigation and habitat conservation strategies develop, use interdisciplinary approach to resolve the conflict</li> <li>The USFS should coordinate planning/actions with FWP, and USFWS</li> <li>Jeff will work on getting the definition of Roadless Areas clarified, simply described for the group. Angie will send Jeff information received from John Gatchell.</li> </ul>
<p>Goal #9:</p> <p>*NEW*</p> <p>Continue to build and maintain, encourage and nurture the relationships among all agencies &amp; stakeholders involved in the area in order have ongoing interest &amp; maintenance schedules.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are always difficulties in information sharing among agencies.</li> <li>Agencies can save time, money, &amp; effort in mitigating in a post-fire event, as well as treatments in co-dependent areas. I.e. <u>Temporary roads created for mine treatments – before they are demolished, they may be used for fire treatment.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>Develop plans for ongoing treatment &amp; review. Develop specific timeframes for scheduled review of treated &amp; untreated units.</u></p> <p><u>Begin process of receiving updates from various groups (FS, EPA, DEQ, BLM, etc.) each January re. upcoming projects and workplans, and ongoing monitoring (water quality, air quality, etc.) for the area.</u></p> <p><u>Review impacts of changes in the area each year, re. new road for Rimini, landscape-wide changes (beetle kill, floods), road density &amp; population changes, wildlife changes, etc.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that all available public information is posted on the Tenmile webpage on the city's website, <u>helenamt.gov</u>,</li> <li>Ensure public notification of collaborative meetings, including agenda and materials,</li> <li>When a position is decided by the collaborative, develop a strategy to inform the public of the recommendations,</li> <li>Develop strategies to share with the public: The FS proposals were designed specifically using the original collaborative's recommendations. Now the FS is specifically ASKING this collaborative for feedback and recommendations on the implementation of those plans,</li> <li>Establish routine briefings with all agencies to encourage their collaboration on the watershed and make sure the public is notified and encouraged to attend, and information</li> </ul>

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**Comment [i17]:** Angie will contact FWP/fisheries to find out if there have been any restoration projects or other changes in the project area (Trevor Selch 444-5686, pollution biologist, last study around 2010).

**Comment [i20]:** Again – FS draft EIS should address these recommendations. Jeff & Joe will address the first six bullets, Jeff & Jordan will work on the last three in this section.

**Comment [i19]:** Removed from this section, it is addressed in the first goal.

**Comment [i21]:** Mike Bishop will work on an update on this bullet item. He will address both treated & untreated mine sites. He will work with Joe on the impact re. fuel treatment zones. Dick ...

**Comment [i22]:** Review where the FS treatment overlaps with the untreated mine sites. Mike will ...

**Comment [i23]:** Removed and stated in goal #1

**Comment [i18]:** Goal #1 is related specifically to health and HUMAN safety issues. This goal is rela ...

**Comment [i24]:** As potential ignition source, as opposed to listing in goal #1.

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**Comment [i25]:** Joe will focus efforts on this section.

**Comment [JC26]:** We have this information now, can use it in our evaluations down the road.

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Goal	Issues	Recommendation	Action items
			<u>from these meetings is disseminated to the public</u>

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