

Notes – December 13, 2014

Tenmile – South Helena Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee

Attending as Collaborative Members: Joe Cohenour, Gary Marks, Leonard Wortman, Jordan Alexander, Mike Bishop, Doug Powell, Mike Murray

Attending as interested public: Diane Tipton, Steve Balazs, Janelle Balazs (Colorado Gulch residents), Stan Frasier (Baxendale area resident)

Attending as resources: Allen Byrd, Sarah Elkins, David Nunn, Heather DeGeest, Brad Langsather (City of Helena)

Next meeting: January 14, 2015 1:30, location TBD

DISCUSSION:

Meeting of “People Who Care” (PWC flier & info attached) at MT Wild – Doug Powell, Joe Cohenour, and Jordan Alexander attended. Those who attended shared relevant public comments with the group as discussion and specific areas of interest that came up during the meeting. Joe is on email list, will forward relevant messages to Sarah for distribution to collaborative.

Heather supports the community discussions and the understanding of trade-offs for work in the forest. Timber sale in Clancy/Unionville project was first part of implementation for the travel plan for that area. Concern was raised about decommissioned roads promised but not yet implemented. The project team continues to use the specific road discussed at the public meeting. Timing can be controversial in terms of implementing decommissioning of a road based on project work not yet complete. Brooklyn Bridge Road is the one being discussed.

Joe asked David Nunn about his thoughts on “let it burn”. David described the Forest Service’s “modified objective/modified suppression” methods that are different from the Let it Burn policy.

Jordan said he trusts David Nunn's research and experience in terms of fire behavior and risk. He spoke about the studies done in British Columbia regarding “grey ghosts” dead beetle-killed trees burn like a wheat field.

- *Should buffer zones include not only homes & structures, but also include major roads & infrastructure?*

Diane Tipton asked about structure and relationship between Forest Service, the FS plan & the collaborative & city. What’s the end goal?

- Collaborative will focus on key items in the scoping document and provide consensus recommendations to Forest Service as well as to help develop alternatives.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Sarah will share link to video “The Tenmile Threat” published last year on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6n_x_HJX3o)

- Gary will share link to Google Map software which shows layers on the map: landowner, vegetation, changes over time, etc.
- Forest Service will share the layers they have currently – maybe meet at the FS offices for next meeting. A GIS person will be available to help host & share.
- Group indicated need for more education on prescribed fire methodology
- Group indicated need for more education on weed treatments needs, plans and options
- David Nunn will present modeling and other helpful information to the group on 1/14

DRAFT