BIC Sub Committee Report Out Summary

Sub Committee Name: Access, Habitat, Wilderness and Set Aside

How do you provide access for human needs and protect important habitat?

Meeting Date: October 19th, 2020 1:00-3:00 pm

Committee and BIC members in attendance: Carl Scheeler, Mark Owens, Bill Harvey, Kevin Robinette, Leah Tai, Nicholas Goldstein, Bill Lind, Greg Wolf, Susan Roberts, Jim Hampsher, Mark Kirsch, Maura Laverty, Kristen Shelman, Tom Montoya, Patty Dorroh, Darcy Weseman, Todd Nash,

Interested Public: Michael O'Casey, Kathleen Cathey, Alexander Scott

Invited guests participating: None

Documents/presentations reviewed:

- Desired Conditions document (continuation from the last subcommittee meeting)
- The Draft Revised Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land Management Plan (2018)
- Representative Owens's "Additional Desired Conditions to Consider"

Key Issues Discussed, Decisions Made, Points of Agreement/Disagreement:

- The group briefly reviewed the progress made during the previous meeting regarding the Desired Conditions document and points of subcommittee agreement.
- The subcommittee spent time reviewing the document to identify those issues related specifically to the mission of this subcommittee and those that may be need to be reviewed or addressed by one of the other subcommittees.
- The group identified the need to review the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land Management Plan in order to understand certain points of reference in the Desired Conditions document.
- The balance between elk security and travel and road management was a point of some discussion. There was a question of clarification about the Hillis study and the implications of its 30-100% figure regarding elk security vs. road density. The group discussed the fact that the focus was on a "forest" plan, not species management. The pondered whether it was possible to reframe Elk Security in terms of habitat management. Those familiar with elk security were asked to provide concrete examples of how it has degraded over time, and how it relates to overall forest health. Time of year, place, fire, recreational hunting, forage quantity and quality, and noxious weeds were all identified as factors affecting elk habitat. The issue of trust was identified as an important part of this issue, and it was reaffirmed that the interest in Elk Security was not intended to be a reason or effort for road closure. Tribal interest is in using a "scalpel" to provide undisturbed areas for Elk, including seasonal road closure, versus a blunt or uniform closure. Mark Kirsch offered to work on rewriting this section to reflect the discussion, highlighting the need for balance and trust.
- The group then reviewed Rep. Owens's "Additional Desired Conditions to Consider" document and decided to review it prior to the next meeting.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

- Overlap was identified regarding watershed function, which may need to be addressed in the Livestock, Grazing, Fisheries and Hydrology subcommittee.

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

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Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

Trust – how to we get past this in driving for our outcomes?

Next Steps:

- Laurel Singer will make sure that all participants receive the emails that Mark sent out pre-meeting.
- The group will review the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land Management Plan in order to understand the points of reference in the Desired Conditions document.
- Mark Kirsch, Kevin Robinette, and Baker County will draft new contributions to the Desired Condition on elk security to focus on habitate, and circulate it to the group before the next meeting.
- The group will review the "Additional Desired Conditions to Consider" document in order to provide feedback at the next meeting.
- The group may need to address set asides and wilderness in the "Desired Conditions" document.
- Mark Owens and Carl Scheeler will look at the additional Desired Conditions to determine if they can identify sections of the document that deal specifically with issues of access, and those which may not.

Next Meeting: November 16th, 1-3 pm

Sub Committee Name: Forest Health

How do we develop wildfire management and suppression strategies that protect both natural and economic values?

How can we develop timber management strategies that support local community economies and forest health?

Meeting Date: October 19th, 2020, 3:15-5:00 pm

Committee members in attendance: Susan Roberts, Sam Palmer, Lena Tucker, Amanda Lindsay, Tom Montoya, John Huffman, Greg Wolf, Todd Nash, Nicholas Goldstein, Darcy Weseman

Interested Parties: Pam Hardy, Tom Schoenfeld

Documents/presentations reviewed:

- Desired Conditions document

Key Issues Discussed, Decisions Made, Points of Agreement/Disagreement:

- The group picked back up on its discussion of the Desired Conditions document from the previous meeting. This conversation included:
    - The potential inclusion of an additional desired condition concerning a long-term reliable timber supply for commercial and non-commercial operators.
    - The eventual need for a rewrite that will be able to put these complex ideas into an easily digestible plain language format.

- The group discussed the need to include a time-sensitive post-fire salvage and ground cover plan into the document as well.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

- Targeted grazing as a tool to achieve certain desired conditions was identified as a cross-over with the Livestock, Grazing , Fisheries and Hydrology subcommittee.
- Additional crossover was identified with the Socioeconomic subcommittee regarding the previously mentioned discussion on reliable timber supply for commercial and non-commercial operators.

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

- Suggested that the full BIC have a presentation by Hampton Lumber or other industry representative to understand needed for sustained timber yield.

Next Steps:

- Lena and Amanda will work together to wordsmith the Desired Conditions document prior to the next subcommittee meeting.

Next Meeting: November 16th, 3:15-5 pm

Sub Committee Name: Socioeconomic Assessment Committee

How do we gather data to better characterize the social and economic conditions for communities affected by the Blue Mountain Forest Plan that can better inform forest management practices?

Meeting Date: October 20th, 2020 8-9:15 a.m.

Committee members in attendance: Paul Anderes, Nils Christofferson, Julie Keniry, Peter Maille, Scott McConnell, Patty Dorroh, Patti Adair, Mark Metcalfe, Carl Scheeler, Lauren Smith, Charles Amerein, Kristen Shelman, Mark Kirsch, Nick Goldstein, Bill Lind, Calla Hagle, Sarah Buddingh, Darcy Weseman, Susan Roberts, Todd Nash, John Shafer

Invited guests: none

Documents/presentations reviewed:

- Julie Keniry's Community Selection spreadsheet.

Key Issues Discussed, Decisions Made, Points of Agreement/Disagreement:

- Julie Keniry gave a report back about the status of the community selection process. Some counties haven't got back to the subcommittee about which specific communities they would prefer to have surveyed, and they would move forward with those counties were a preference was indicated.

- The group discussed what to do about those counties who indicated a preference, how many communities within each county to select, and which types of communities would be worthwhile to look at. The group decided to allow some flexibility to the counties in the community selection process and to the survey conductors in the number of communities within a county to be surveyed (given time and resources available). Additionally, consideration was given about how to incorporate the various tribes into the survey, and the group decided to do so on a case-by-case basis.
- Peter Maille then talked about a potential timeline for next steps. He forwarded the goal of having **three county economic profiles by the end of the year** to share for feedback. After incorporating this feedback, the team would work on all profiles and then spend time during the summer hitting the road and visiting sites to do ground-truthing, before starting to finalize things by the end of the summer.
- There was also some discussion regarding which three counties to select for these initial profiles. Wallowa, Harney, and Walla Walla were identified, with Grant as the swing county, due to their proximity to the main forest ranges in the region. Additional consideration was given to including at least one county from each of Washington and Oregon state.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

- Kristen Shelman shared a potential area of overlap from the Livestock, Grazing, Fisheries and Hydrology subcommittee regarding change in operations for Forest Service Grazing Permit (FSGP) holders. This information was used as a jumping off point to discuss which three counties should serve as the initial three (or four) economic profiles, as mentioned above.

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

Communities selected for Community Level Analysis within County Socioeconomic Profile Report
Counties colored orange selected for first round ground-truthing process:

<u>OREGON COUNTIES</u>
Baker County: Baker City, Halfway
Crook County *none selected*
Grant County John Day Prairie City Mount Vernon
Harney County: Burns/Hines Riley Crane
Malheur County *none selected*
Morrow County *none selected*
Umatilla County: Pilot Rock, Pendleton, Mission
Union County: Elgin Union North Powder
Wallowa County: Joseph, Enterprise, Wallowa
Wheeler County *none selected*

<u>WASHINGTON COUNTIES</u>
Asotin County *none selected*
Columbia County: Dayton, Starbuck
Garfield County: Pomeroy
Walla Walla County *none selected*

Next Steps:

- Julie will send out the list of communities selected to the whole group.
- The survey conductors will sit down with this list and categorize it based on community type, in order to report back on this process during the next subcommittee meeting.
- Additionally, the survey conductors will need to determine how long a community level survey will take in order to be able to get an accurate picture of how many they can feasibly conduct given time and resources.

Next Meeting: November 17th, 8-9:15 pm

Sub Committee Name: Livestock, Grazing, Fisheries and Hydrology

How do we develop strategies that both maintain and increase grazing opportunities and improve fishing and hydrology conditions?

Meeting Date: October 20th, 9:30 – 11:00 am

Committee members in attendance: Kristen Shelman, Todd Nash, Calla Hagle, Marisa Meyer, Craig Trulock, Sarah Fesenmeyer, Nicholas Goldstein, Bill Lind, Paul Anderes, Patty Dorroh, Susan Roberts, John Shafer, Mark Kirsch, Patti Adair, Jim Hampsher, Carl Scheeler, Darcy Weseman

Interested Parties: None

Invited guests participating: None

Documents/presentations reviewed:

- Desired Conditions document

Key Issues Discussed, Decisions Made, Points of Agreement/Disagreement:

- The group began with a review of the changes made to the Desired Condition document since the last meeting. There was discussion about the value of including language and reference to specific legal documents and frameworks. The group decided that it may be a good idea for at least the conveners to review the relevant legal frameworks, but at this stage the subcommittee should prioritize producing a desired conditions document that is based on the shared aspirations of the group. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to continue to work on finalizing this document before the end of the year deadline.
- The group paid particular care to separate desired conditions from standard and guideline language.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

- The section in Desired Conditions document on high forest density has overlap with the Forest Health subcommittee (see language in section below), and will be sent to that group to potentially include in their Desired Condition document. However, this subcommittee may keep a reference to this section in their document.
- Likewise, there is overlap regarding FSGP sustainability issues and the Socioeconomic Subcommittee. Members of this subcommittee have shared with that group and they seemed receptive to the overlap. This is another issue that could also be referenced in both places.

- In addition, Todd mentioned that the Access subcommittee has been doing work on wildlife and that this is an area where there could be overlap.

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

This suggested desired condition will be suggested to the Forest Health Group:

High forest density can create risks and negatively influence associated resources. Our vision is a healthy forest density with: 1) reduced fire risk, 2) increased understory forage production for both livestock and wildlife, and 3) sufficient upland water input to rivers and streams to maximize water flow and quality.

Socioeconomic subcommittee to consider FSGP sustainability in their reporting.

Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

It is suggested that the short hand for this group be changed to be Livestock and Hydrological Systems.

Next Steps:

- A group member will forward the passages regarding FSGP sustainability to the Socioeconomic Subcommittee for review.
- The next meeting will be a continuation of the agenda from this meeting, with the group attempting to finalize the Desired Conditions document before the end of the year.
- The group was asked to review the fishery and hydrology statement that was developed by Carl S., Calla H., Kevin R., and Bruce E. prior to the next meeting.
- Mark Kirsch was asked to look at this fishery and hydrology statement and make recommendations on additional language regarding wildlife.
- Laurel will send people out the revised desired condition including the fishery and hydrology statement.
- The group will solicit the aid of specialists to provide feedback for the Desired Condition document.
- The group thought it might be helpful to have technical experts review and provide feedback to desired conditions. A separate meeting will be set up for that feedback.

Next Meeting: November 17th, 1-3 pm and HOLD November 24th for Technical Experts

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