



Thursday, Nov. 19th, 2020 | 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Link to Zoom Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ok8JjPawUHaFui8Qk0DGjsXfIYqLFP4iFISKC12yQg2-29FqUYhHg4LJgrCGzx9-.L8hyFatYIUWEFyvd> Passcode: @Gen15x3

Attendees: Natalie Martin, Ben Cate, Bryant Keuchle, Jeff Rose, Bill Dragt, Jeremy Austin, Dustin Johnson, Katie Wollstein, Carter Crouch, Andrew Olsen, Angela Sitz, Chad Boyd, Casey O'Connor, Dawn Davis, Emily Jane Davis, Jacob Gear, Cody Folk, Rick Knox, Joe Sullivan, Kyle Wanner, Marla Polenz, Peter Harkema, Rachel Beaubien, Mike Fox, Roxanne Rios, Shelby Weigand, Travis Hatley, Zola Ryan, Ron Whiting, Chad Karges, Peter Harkema, Don Rotell

Action Items:

- Send Pueblo Monitoring Report with Notes – *Ben Cate*
- Share Emily Jane Davis resources with notes – *Ben Cate*
- Coordinate with Dawn Davis to walk through the step-down approach to the PEIS with the Coordinating Committee – *Ben Cate*
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Welcome, Introductions, Agenda, and Updates

- December Invasive Annual Grass Workshop & SageCon Summit – *Ben Cate*

Shared the background of how/why the Wildfire Collaborative ended up hosting / coordinating this virtual IAG workshop.

- OSU Extension position introduction – *Dustin Johnson*

Katie Wollstein – with the Forestry & Nat. Resource Extension Program: Provide capacity support, Secure TA, Coordinate access & resources across jurisdictions, etc.

Pueblos Implementation – Subcommittee

- Fall seeding (status, application method, next steps)



Angela (USFWS) & Autumn (BLM) have been talking about procurement of Native Seed, the TRAX Drill (& standard rangeland drill) contract will be submitted for a tractor.

Angela - on status of the seed: initially were hoping to wait another year to seed – because site specific seed was harvested in the area & will be grown out next year (source identified seed). But with favorable winter conditions, we're planning to seed this fall with whatever we are able to procure – USFWS provided 50K in funding for this project.

We'll get a small amount of Source Identified seed (as a test) this year (hoping to get larger quantities next year) & the rest will be what is commercially available.

- Well and pipeline installation

Don Rotell: Well & Pipeline – didn't get an adequate response to RFP's this year, so we're hoping & planning to get that into contract in FY21.

- VRM report

Kyle Wanner: shared some photos & description about different classes of Visual Resources

VRM: majority of the area is Class 1

We've discussed ways to mitigate the impact to visual resources in the area.

Jeremy's Comments: curious about the feathering aspect – how'd the VRM addressed the feathered areas?

Don: I don't think it was totally successful (the feathering) back to brainstorming ideas on how to implement that better in the future

Jeremy proposed some type of adaptive management report, documentation of what was done, & thinking about how we learn from what worked & also what didn't work for the future. Documentation is important.

Mike Fox – Don't think we should let perfect be the enemy of the good. Think about the big picture of Do we Want this area to burn or not? I think it was necessary to do something out there to give us a chance to catch a fire when it starts.



Jeff Rose: From the BLM perspective its something that we must & should consider (VRM)

Don: I think that we're trying to show here that we can have both – do something about fuel breaks while also maintaining the visual resource.

Jeremy – I understand that this is a Pilot Project & we're trying some things that haven't been done before, but I think that we need to document what works & what doesn't so that if someone else tries this in the future they have some history to learn from.

Chad: You could use another tool (herbicide to kill sagebrush) to affect the VRM to get that feathered appearance.

Dustin – I'd just remind everyone that we haven't implemented all of the treatments yet & I'd like to look at this with caution right now knowing that it will change in coming years. After seeding, & after another growing season it could look quite different.

Jeremy - a request for next meeting: Talked about the amount of IAG (cheatgrass) in the North end & was interested in having a discussion about the implications of that moving forward – trying to transition from State A to State B, etc... but it looked like (from the monitoring data) that there was still a lot of cheatgrass in the N. end, which is the higher quality habitat. Is that something we're planning to address, is it a problem?

Stinkingwaters – Subcommittee

- Today's goals

Bryant walked through the idea behind the Stinkingwater discussion today – what we're hoping to accomplish

- Current DRAFT PODs map Overview – Casey O'Conner

Showed a presentation about the work of PODS (looked at a map of the Stinkingwater area) – tried to get Crane RFPA to prioritize roads, haven't really gotten that input yet, but did meet with Jacob Gear to start looking at that.



Casey's prone to using roads, but there are other features that could be PCL's like riparian areas, targeted grazing areas, rocky outcroppings, etc... Anywhere that make it so that suppression resources can fight the fire safely.

- BLM Fuel Breaks Programmatic EIS – Jeff Rose

Jeff really quickly covered (shared a PPT) the PEIS – it is online & approved.

The higher up BLM contacted us to 'Pilot' some of these projects. I think that there is 140 miles of roads in the Sinkingwater that are options for this.

There is the option for us to do a determination of NEPA adequacy (DNA) tiered to the PEIS –

If we were a pilot area, there would (assumed) be money to go along to implement this as well.

Dawn Davis comment – word of caution: this covers a big area (5 states) & we need to be careful with the overgeneralization with some of the tools when we're putting this on the ground – there's a need to work with local resource managers to plan & make sure that it's site specific.

Angela: we put a lot of thought into the step down – Dawn can share the (draft) step down language the USFWS drafted regarding PEIS'. Providing a level of assurance that the local specialists are engaged in planning implementing these fuel breaks – it's not a one size fits all approach.

Jeremy: The EA for the Pueblo's was sort of our plan for the project – if we go the route of the DNA for Stinkingwaters, we'll still need some guiding document to specify goals & objectives, adaptive management plans, etc...

- Applying social values - Emily Jane Davis

Described the overview of the guide she has developed – will provide PPT PDF to the group.

Could be some ideas coming out of this,

Q: Andrew: is there any guidance for how to move through when social values are in conflict with other values?

A: EJ response: It doesn't have a lot on this, but points to some resources about that & she'd be happy to share

EJ provided a list of things that you can identify in a mapping exercise:



Here's that list:

The presence or absence of meaningful places and values, and where those may be located, co-located, concentrated, or dispersed

- Where recreational or other types of human-environment activities occur
- The potential relationship of biophysical and built features with social values

could be adapted into a collaborative one that was focused on seeing areas of group priority and agreement about important values and risks, rather than just collecting individual data

Kevin Doner presentation: an interview based social science study

Kevin described his Master's project proposal to conduct interviews about the Stinkingwater area

Q: Would this help to inform the Stinkingwater area specifically?

A: Yes, we'd be pairing the Stinkingwater quantitative data with this qualitative social data & would hope we could use this to inform POD's exercise.

- DRAFT PODs map mark-up exercise

POD's will allow us to incorporate some different values than we normally do. I think that we could go through a conceptual POD, but identify who those people are we need to engage, & who are the best people to contact those folks & how do we incorporate some of the things Emily Jane brought up in her presentation today.

Zola: how is this different from the original / first breakup of this area? Are we steering away from that now, or will it be superimposed on the POD's?

Zola had a comment about how this (POD's) fits in with the NRCS medusahead treatments – is there a way to coordinate the efforts, or are we doing our own thing now? Trying to figure out how NRCS fits in, should we be coordinating?

Zola: I could see different approaches for different types of projects – If you're doing annual grass you're going to want to coordinate across boundaries, etc. But if it's a juniper cut, you probably could just do treatments independently.



Angela: The POD's will hopefully be a better way to capture all the values in one place – not just a few of the values.

Bryant – seems we need some sort of draft workplan – but we're missing some information to inform our plan.

Bill – I think that a lot of the landowners already know what they would like to do on their property – need those folks' input.

Also Bill – we could also take the 1st split by doing burned vs. unburned areas (split the area into 2)

Katie: My sense is that you would put the values down first so you don't have arbitrary lines on the map to start with. Let the values drive the map & splitting up of the PODS.

Rick Roy: I see that when setting up the boundaries of the units as far as control lines – isn't really driven by the values – it's driven by where we can put fuel breaks & stop fires – then you lay the values over those boundaries – then this is a prioritization tool, so that when there are limited resources you can prioritize where you put your fire fighting resources. That's different than putting the values there.

Chad B: It makes sense to me to start with the fire lines - & then start disseminating values within those areas.

Mike Fox – I think this is the right approach & I think we need to move quickly on this – the risk of fire is high here.

Bryant – Where are we @ with the fire values? Are those already mapped? Can we put those down on paper to start with or is there more work to be done?

Katie – if we're interested in just starting to do something. I would argue that we think of it as an exploratory process – we find out if the values in the area are spatial or more general? Have focus groups that ID values in the area as a start.

Zola's proposal - when thinking about stakeholder engagement surveys/focus group: I think we have 3 maps of varying levels of lines on the map – One with the outside boundary, one with a few, & one with a lot of lines already dividing up the landscape. Start with that & use those to guide discussion about values & fuel breaks – how comfortable would you be if...



Angela provided a history lesson of what we've already done: meeting notes from Oct. 2018 contain a list of values on it. Also a 2-pager was already developed for the area.

Looks like we need more values from:

- Conservation interest
- Tribal interest

It looks like we have 2 things we want to accomplish:

Gather more data about social perspectives of the area through surveys (Katie will help draft questions)
– Conservation & Tribal specifically

Have a map in Jan. for the whole group to look at.

Ron Whiting – who has a relationship or access to the small landowners in this area? Do the BLM Range Cons have access to them? Second – who would be the conservation interests (Jeremy Austin and Andrew Olsen would be the ones who have been engaged)

NRCS can (and is doing) do outreach to the smaller landowners in the area (particularly Beaver Tables & Crane Buchanan Rd.)

Angela: Who's going to outreach to the Tribe?

Ben volunteered to do that between now & January.

People to Add to Stinkingwater Subcommittee Meeting: Zola Ryan, Dawn Davis, Cody Folk, Katie Wollstein

- Self-Evaluation Survey feedback

There's interest in having more education items on the agenda – some science stuff, etc.

- Future agenda items

Zola would be interested in seeing a roughed outline of the timeline of major milestones, goals & objectives for the future work of the Stinkingwater area. Is that reasonable?

Bill: described what the BLM is already moving forward with...

If we move on the social information gathering & we have some PODS id'd then I think that we'll have what we need & move forward with developing a timeline



2:30 ADJOURN

Facilitator:

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