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?

NOTE: This committee report out includes their meeting in late November along with December's meeting

Meeting Date: November 24th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Committee members in attendance: Sarah Fesenmeyer, Nick Goldstein, Calla Hagle, Jim Hamsher, Mark Kirsch, Marisa Meyer, Maura Laverty, Todd Nash, Kristen Shelman, Craig Trulock

Interested Parties: None

Invited guests participating: Bob Hassimiller (Wallowa-Whitman District Hydrologist)

Documents/presentations reviewed:

- Desired Conditions document

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

- The group welcomed Hydrologist Bob Hassimiller, who gave a brief introduction to himself and his work. The group then jumped into the Desired Condition document and Bob gave his specialist's opinion regarding the language in the Hydrology section of the document.
- There was some discussion about the level of detail the Desired Condition document should employ. It was generally agreed that brevity and accessibility are key when possible, without sacrificing any needed specificity.
- A few issues were highlighted as unnecessary for the Desired Condition document, but worthy of future consideration during the standards and guidelines portion of the process. These included bank trampling and its measurement, as well as a section pertaining to "draw downs, erosion, deposition, soils of groundwater dependent ecosystems are intact and functional, withdrawal, and loss of recharge."
- After the group went through each of the Desired Conditions pertaining to hydrology, they then circled back to discuss how they might combine those sections that Bob observed were redundant. They worked together to produce new statements to replace the redundant ones.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

Next Steps:

- Maura Laverty will research the standards and guidelines section of the Forest Plan prior to the next meeting.
- Maura will also share the Desired Conditions soil section with Brian Parks, who has a soils background, in anticipation of the meeting in December.

- Laurel will provide a clean copy of the new Desired Condition documents for the group to browse, as well as the document from this meeting so subcommittee members can see the edits made throughout.

Next Meeting: Tuesday the 15th of December 1-3pm

Meeting Date: December 15th, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Committee members in attendance: Sarah Fesenmeyer, Calla Hagle, Jim Hamsher, Mark Kirsch, Maura Laverty, Todd Nash, Kristen Shelman, Craig Trulock

Interested Parties: Frances Preston

Invited guests participating: Brien Parks

Documents/presentations reviewed:

- Desired Conditions document

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

- The group agreed that the desire with respect to soils is to maintain or ***restore*** soils to the desired condition. Added language to the first paragraph reflect this.
- It was observed that the timeframe for natural regeneration/restoration of soils is 50 to 100 years in this ecological context.
- The second paragraph on soils contains references to both "characteristics" and "properties" of soils and may provide more detail than is necessary for articulating desired conditions. It was suggested to focus on the first paragraph and amend it to more completely address desired conditions (by adding reference to productivity and hydrologic function).
- Assessment of the functionality of soils is done through observation of the plant community is sustains. The group reviewed sections of the document related to distribution and abundance of vegetation.
- There was some discussion about the utility of including an example to this section to ensure that the intent couldn't be misconstrued in the future. The group wasn't able to come to a conclusion on this topic before the meeting ended, but will try to do so during the next meeting.
- Commissioner Todd Nash also broached the subject of inviting Pat and Larry Larson to provide additional comment on the Desired Condition document at some point in the future.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

Next Steps:

- The group agreed that another meeting was needed for a final review of the Desired Condition document as a whole – including sections addressed during this meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 19th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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: November 17th, 2020 8-9:15 a.m.

Committee members in attendance: Paul Anderes, Nils Christofferson, Patty Dorroh, Nicholas Goldstein, Julie Keniry, Peter Maille, Todd Nash, Jim Hamsher, Carl Scheeler, Kristen Shelman, Mark Metcalfe, Scott McConnell

Invited guests: Loren Stout (presenter)

Interested Parties: Billie Jo George, Frances Preston

Documents/presentations reviewed:

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

- Loren Stout gave a brief presentation regarding his experience with environmentalists and government agencies stemming from a decades long conflict over grazing rights and faulty data collection practices. Third party data collection, such as the work being done by REV/EOU, was discussed as a potential solution to some of the issues raised by Mr. Stout.
- Nils Christofferson gave a recap of the work being done by REV/EOU, who is working on three different fronts. The first is the development of the baseline profile mock-up piece, and there should be another mock-up to share by early 2021. The second is Peter Maillie's work lead the development of the vulnerability index, which should be able to provide beta models for 3 pilot counties (Harney, Wallowa, Walla Walla) by January or February. This work will then be used to ground truth and incorporate feedback, in order to have draft versions of all 14 counties by April 2021. The third front is the work Scott McConnell has been doing to develop economic impact scenarios. Scott has been working with Forest Service planning and analysis systems, and will run draft scenarios in January of the 3 pilot counties, to be able to share results and interpretations sometime in the early first quarter of 2021. In sum, for each front the projection is to lay the groundwork in early 2021, conduct ground truthing over spring/summer, and have finished reports on all by fall 2021.
- The group discussed whether or not this plan was too ambitious, but there was general agreement that it was likely not. Mark Metcalfe mentioned that the alternative scenarios included in this work should relate closely to different plan revision scenarios to make it most helpful.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

Next Steps:

- Paul Anderes mentioned looking at the Colville (?) if folks are interested in additional homework, and agreed to send this information to other group members.

- Frances Preston will send out documents to the group regarding Loren Stout's presentation for reference.
- Socioeconomic subcommittee presentation to full BIC during January meeting.

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 from 8-9am

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: December 16th, 2020, 1:00-3:00 pm

Committee members in attendance: Nicholas Goldstein, Jim Hampsher, Bill Lind, Amanda Lindsay, Tom Montoya, Sam Palmer, Susan Roberts, Carl Scheeler, Andy Smith, Lauren Smith, Brett Thomas, Lena Tucker, Eric Watrud

Interested Parties: Billie Jo George

Documents/presentations reviewed:

- Revised Desired Conditions document
- Fuels Desired Condition & Snag and Down Wood Desired Condition document

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

- Amanda Lindsay and Nick Goldstein of the USFS introduced the Desired Condition revision document that they had collaborated on, which was an attempt to take all the feedback from previous subcommittee meetings, and boil it down into an easy to understand and non-redundant document. In the ensuing discussion, Commissioner Sam Palmer stressed the importance of allowing for flexibility in the document for on-the-ground forest managers, to ensure that they have all tools available and are not constrained by restrictive language.
- Amanda then highlighted the need to have a group conversation related to the Fuels Desired Condition and Snag and Down Wood Desired Condition document that she provided. In particular, the key question was how the group wanted to address these topics in its Desired Condition document. She suggested three potential pathways forward in this regard: the incorporation of full sections of the previous forest revision document; the selection of certain parts of that document; or a brand new start. After some discussion, the group agreed that it would be beneficial to further familiarize itself with this document before reaching a final conclusion.
- Amanda brought up the potential need to have additional specialists provide opinions on the efficacy of the document. Eric Watrud raised the question, "is there something in particular that we're looking for an answer about?" It was agreed that the group would consider this question in anticipation of the next meeting.

Potential Areas of Overlap to Other Subcommittees:

- Bill Lind had a question about including issues related to riparian vegetation in this group's Desired Condition document. Nick Goldstein and others mentioned that the Livestock, Grazing, Fisheries and Hydrology subcommittee have been doing work in this area already, and that it may be a good idea to check on it to make sure they are appropriately covering it.

Questions or Feedback needed from other Subcommittees:

Issues to elevate for full BIC consideration:

Next Steps:

- The group will look over both the revised Desired Condition document and the Fuels and Snag Desired Condition document prior to the next meeting in order to provide more informed feedback.
- Think about potential area specialists that you would like to solicit feedback from.

Next Meeting: Wednesday the 20th of January 2021 from 1:00pm-3:00pm