

## **BIC Intergovernmental Council Meeting Summary**

**Meeting Date:** January 25, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Members in attendance:** Carl Scheeler, Mark Owens, Bill Harvey, Jim Hamsher, Anthony Botello, Bill Lind, Calla Hagle, Chris Seubert, Courtney Crowell, Craig Trulock, Dan Dorrان, Darcy Weseman, Eric Watrud, Heidi McRoberts, Howard Teasley, Kristen Shelman, Lisa Northrop, Marcie Carter, Marisa Meyer, Matt Howard, Nick Myatt, Patti Adair, Paul Anderes, Ryan Miller, Shaun Mckinney, Susan Roberts, Steve Pozzanghera, Todd Nash, Tom Schoenfelder, Emmitt Taylor, Julia Riber, Nicholas Goldstein, Maura Laverty, Amanda Lindsay,

**Facilitators:** Laurel Singer and Belen Vega, NPCC

**Invited guests participating:** Julia Keniry, Peter Maille,

**Interested Parties Attending:** Dendra Howatt, Kathleen Cathey, Billie Jo George, Jessica Keys, Lindsay Warness,

### **Documents/presentations reviewed:**

- BIC Ground Rules
- Access and Set Aside Final Desired Conditions

### **Summary Action Steps:**

The BIC reached a consensus to advance the final desired conditions for access and set asides to the U.S. Forest Service with Baker County opting to stand aside and submit a minority report that will be included with the desired conditions.

The REV team will continue to work toward finalizing the socioeconomic analysis.

BIC will consider creating a communications team to engage the public as the BIC continues with the forest planning process.

In addition to field trips, BIC will engage in joint learning with suggested presentations including science and alternative perspectives on grazing, first foods, elk security.

### **Review of Communication Guidelines and Commitments:**

Laurel reviewed the communication guidelines outlined in the BIC operating principles to see if these guidelines needed any adaptations or changes. No changes were suggested and BIC members reaffirmed their commitment to these guidelines as currently written:

*The BIC strives to create an environment that supports open discussion where mutual understanding of needs and interests is sought. All members agree to hold each other accountable to the established communication guidelines and principles, which include the commitment to:*

- Conduct BIC business at the BIC meetings. While discussion and idea generating may happen outside the meetings, all decisions will be made in the context of the full BIC meetings and concerns will be brought to the group for discussion and problem solving.*
- Refrain from personal attacks—stay focused on the issue.*
- Be respectful—even if you have an agenda.*

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- Stay open.*
- Explain terms in a clear, understandable way.*
- Stop and ask if something isn't clear; take time to explain when asked.*
- Be honest—if you have something on your mind, say it.*
- Don't agree to something you cannot fulfill.*

### **Socioeconomic Analysis Update:**

Paul Anderes, one of the conveners of the BIC Socioeconomic Analysis Committee, mentioned that a lot of progress has been made on the county reports which will be a representative and useful tool to establish alternatives.

### **Action Steps:**

The REV team will continue to finalize their work over the next few months.

### **Access and Set Aside Committee - Seeking Consensus on Final Desired Conditions Recommendations**

Mark Owens, one of the conveners of the BIC Access Subcommittee, reminded the group that access was one of the most contentious issues in the last forest plan, and this subcommittee is the first time a group has been convened to try to work through these differences to create a zone of agreement around this issue. He stated that working toward agreement on desired conditions provided the opportunity for BIC members to better understand each other.

Mark explained that the only feedback received on the final draft version of desired conditions came from the Regional Solutions' Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff and from Baker County. The conveners reviewed all suggestions and adopted changes they believed would be supported by the entire committee and strengthen the document. The convener's provided feedback on all the suggestions submitted and a version with this feedback has been distributed to the full BIC. Baker County has opted to stand aside and submit a minority report.

Carl Scheeler, the other convener of the Access Subcommittee also emphasized that the greatest outcome of the BIC process is the improved understanding among members. While progress has been made to find agreements on desired conditions, he believes some work is still needed around how, where and when there is access.

Todd Nash mentioned that the BIC process has gotten as close as possible to an equilibrium point where members have made consensus and there is no more left to negotiate.

Courtney Crowell mentioned the importance that all the agencies are coordinated on the desired conditions recommendations. From the state perspective, the BIC process has reached a successful stage.

Bill Harvey said that Baker county will stand aside to allow the consensus to go forward and will submit of a minority report summarizing their concerns which center around elk security and road closures.

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**Action Steps:** A consensus poll was taken in which members indicated they could live with or fully support the desired conditions for access and set asides with Baker County opting to stand aside and prepare a minority report that will be included with the final desired conditions recommended to the US Forest Service.

### Following Up on Next Steps in Developing a Forest Plan: Small and Large Group Discussion

Julia Riber provided a brief recap of the in-depth presentation she had given at the last BIC meeting of the next steps needed to develop a forest plan. As this planning process gets underway, one of the key questions for the BIC to consider is: *How can the BIC continue to work together to build trust and relationships as the recommended desired conditions are integrated into the forest plan to develop standards and guidelines and to bring the public along in the process?*

The group broke into small groups to discuss this question. A debrief of the small groups identified the following themes and ideas:

- Building trust, relationships, and collaboration among members is a high priority.
- Maintaining public interest over time will be important. This can be accomplished by having some mechanism for keeping the public informed and getting their feedback, such as public forums.
- The BIC could continue to working in small groups around specific issues.
- BIC members could serve as brand ambassadors who can support and communicate about the BIC process in their communities.
- Better communication to the public is needed about the history of the BIC, how it was formed and how they got to this point.
- Having periodic check-ins between USFS and BIC participants is needed to continue to build trust.
- More involvement of the BIC is needed to avoid future surprises and keep continuity.
- USFS can give the BIC the opportunity to review components or guidelines in smaller pieces rather than a big whole.
- The BIC can visit the forest and do groundwork.
- Keep the forest planning process as transparent as it can be.
- Keep the USFS and writers committed to BIC involvement.
- Utilize the website and social media to draw attention to the process and provide updates to the public.

Further discussion focused on the value of creating a BIC communications team to engage with the public that could develop and implement a strategy for communicating with and engaging with the public.

The group also supported the idea of engaging in joint learning, like site visits, and brainstormed topics for future presentations that included glazing, first foods, elk security, and natural science.

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**Action Steps:** BIC will consider creating a communications team to engage with the public. BIC will continue to plan for educational site visits and presentations on topics identified.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with logistics to be determined.