

SWCC Prioritization Committee

Meeting Notes

June 14, 2011

Present: Amber Kamps, Cory Davis, Gary Burnett, Jon Haufler, Rich Kehr, Megan Birzell, Barb Beckes, Tim Love, Travis Belote

- Review and approval of previous meeting notes.
 - All previous meeting notes were approved unanimously.
- Update from EMRI on baseline analysis project
 - EMRI has met with the Lincoln and Seeley Lake districts to present background information, discuss what they've pulled together regarding reference and current conditions, including aquatic components, and talk about the next step of setting more specific objectives for restoration and for fuels mitigation.
 - The next step is to determine where we can meet certain objectives on the landscape based on a combination of ecological sites and existing vegetative conditions. EMRI will conduct GIS work to look at the distribution of those combinations for fuels and terrestrial restoration and will combine this with what has already been done with small watersheds (finer scale than 6th code HUCs). They will be able to aggregate up to 6th code HUCs and plan to provide perspectives about how this work may fit in with the FS' Watershed Condition Framework. EMRI currently hasn't added in the impact of mining to their work. Their watershed information is based almost solely on road work and the disruption associated with that.
 - EMRI will develop spatial maps of possible treatment opportunities in the SW Crown. They will be able to evaluate how much improvement the SWCC's work could produce over 10 years and provide an index for that (i.e. 20% reduction in sediment loading, 50% reduction fuels). They plan to meet with the Lincoln and Seeley Districts again in July and will look at stand-level objectives and aggregate up from there.
 - In the Swan, EMRI has begun gathering information. They will work with Rich to set up a meeting with the Swan District in the next month.
 - EMRI will present the results of their work to the full Prioritization Committee this fall.
 - The group discussed the need to identify a process for integrating the work of the Prioritization Committee with that of the full SWCC and the Monitoring Committee. It was suggested that we hold a conference/workshop at Lubrecht, perhaps in October, to bring the three groups together in a focused manner to discuss this integration. No decisions or formal recommendations were made.
- Update on FY 2011 projects
 - If Colt Summit is litigated and unable to proceed to implementation, that money (up to \$600,000) may be pulled to other projects. The Districts should plan to absorb those funds.
 - Some possible extra projects include:
 - Cleaning up Legacy Lands
 - More weed treatments
 - Monitoring

indicator was weighted differently. While both terrestrial and aquatic indicators were included, the analysis was heavily weighted to aquatic indicators.

- While a consistent methodology was used across forests, the interpretation of the attributes may vary from forest to forest.
- After priority watersheds are identified and action plans developed, the Forests will compete for up to \$80 million in the FY2012 FS budget (from the Priority Watersheds and job Stabilization Act) to fund implementation of those action plans. Money will be allocated to each FS region first and then to forests. This money can be used for NEPA planning, and we think it can count as match for CFLR program.
- Priority watersheds will not be limited to CFLR landscapes, but there is recognition within the FS that it makes sense for some of this money and work to be joined with CFLR.
- Priority watersheds will be a mixed portfolio of short- and long-term projects to meet targets.
- Match for monitoring money
 - ExComm needs to discuss to make sure we have enough monitoring match.
 - We need to provide a 1:1 match over the 10-year life of the program, not necessarily year-by-year.