

SWCC Prioritization Meeting

Meeting Notes

August 4, 2011

Present: Travis Belote, Rich Kehr, Jon Haufler, Amber Kamps, Cory Davis, Rob Ethridge, Sandy Mack, Tim Love, Megan Birzell

- I. Approve notes
 - a. The notes were approved unanimously.

- II. Update on EMRI's progress
 - a. EMRI is meeting with the Lincoln RD next Thursday, August 11th, 9am and with the Seeley RC Tuesday, August 23rd, 9am.
 - i. Amber has invited Lincoln RC to participate in all these meetings.
 - b. EMRI is ready to start discussing 10-year goals with the Lincoln and Seeley districts. They are currently approaching this at district level and will roll up to SW Crown level. They are suggesting a goal of having 10% of native terrestrial historical conditions represented across the 4 major ecological types in the SW Crown, although this may be too optimistic.
 - c. EMRI is asking the districts to get more specific with respect to definitions such as "fuels mitigation" and "restoration" in different forest types.
 - d. EMRI met with the Swan Lake RD last week. They presented an overview of their work as well as the preliminary work they've done. They are waiting to hear feedback. In a couple of weeks, they'll run the historical analysis. Their work with the Swan is essentially a month behind the other districts.
 - e. There is a need to merge current planning with Jon's work.
 - i. Specifically, we need to connect the wording of Center Horse project description with EMRI's prioritization language.
 - f. Regarding scale, EMRI is starting at the 6th-code HUC level but will go finer (particularly from aquatics side of things).

- III. Update on FY 2011 projects and shifting money between units
 - a. Seeley is planning to spend all the money they have, including Colt Summit (2 contracts – road work is one (task order on IDIQ contract, funds to be obligated this fiscal year), IRTC is another one (might be delayed a bit, work wouldn't start until next summer).
 - b. Amber is planning to spend all of her money. She had \$150,000 left over, but \$10,000 is going to Seeley to augment work on Auggie. The Lincoln RC is using the remaining \$140,000 for more road maintenance and a partnership agreement with the Blackfoot Challenge to continue with aerial weed spraying on Helmville Face and working south.
 - c. Rich suggesting idea of pooling monitoring \$ and consolidating on one work plan in order to reduce confusion. Swan Lake will be obligating all of its project money on listed FY 11 projects.

- IV. FY 2012

- a. It was suggested that we have a list of additional CFLR project opportunities (“Plan B”) that are collaboratively approved in case there are extra funds available at the end of the fiscal year.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: Rangers will present draft FY 2012 project lists at the September 30th meeting.
 - b. Amber is concerned about not being able to spend all of her share of FY2012 funding if we get full funding. The Lincoln District is talking about ramping up CE and small-NEPA restoration projects to supplement big-NEPA planning. They want to make sure these small-NEPA projects are in high priority areas.
 - c. There was discussion about when the collaboratively developed objectives will be implemented on the ground.
 - i. This work will likely have more influence in NEPA starting in 2014 with implementation starting 2018-2019 but will begin to impact projects slated for implementation as early as 2013.
 - d. Expanding CE authorities – FS has been working on this for the past couple of years relative to trails, roads, and mines.
- V. Update from Executive Committee about process for moving from “NEPA-ready” project selection to collaboratively developing projects
- a. Different processes and models are okay but can still be integrated and cross-pollinated.
 - b. It may be good to have an annual meeting between RCs, SWCC, and FSC.
 - c. This will be an agenda item at the next SWCC meeting.
 - d. Rob would like to keep DNRC area managers informed about what’s going on. Rob will talk to managers about this and get their thoughts. They are always welcome, and they would help us look at the landscape scale.
 - e. The group discussed the need to have flexibility in getting high priority areas (identified by SWCC that aren’t in current district priorities) moved up in the NEPA pipeline instead of having to wait a few years to be considered.
 - i. Jon doesn’t see there being anything totally different from district priorities coming out on veg side, but there may be opportunities to shift some aquatic priorities.
- VI. Discussion about prioritization workshop (scope, agenda, etc.)
- a. The original idea was to help the Monitoring Committee better understand the prioritization work that EMRI is doing by delving into the methods of this work and the data being used.
 - b. At the last Monitoring Committee meeting, it grew into something bigger:
 - i. Start with discussing details of EMRI’s work
 - ii. Talk about gaps in the process (i.e. socioeconomics, climate, fire modeling)
 - iii. Talk about results of EMRI’s work (not ready yet)
 - c. Right now, Cory is anticipating a 3-hour workshop to look at the models, methods, data, and missing information.
 - d. This group needs to explain to the Monitoring Committee how current projects can still be monitored according to the long-term monitoring framework.
 - e. There should be a second meeting w/ the Monitoring Committee after we have the results of the prioritization work.

VII. Next meeting Friday, September 30th, 12 – 2pm, Seeley RD