

# Lemhi Forest Restoration Group (LFRG)

## Meeting Summary

*Wednesday April 16, 2015*

*10 am – 11 am*

*SVS Office/Conference Call*

*Our Mission: Enhance forest health and economic opportunities in Lemhi County through collaborative engagement of restoration projects and Wildland Urban Interface/community protection using stewardship contracting and other tools.*

### ***Participants:***

Beth Waterbury – Idaho Dept Fish & Game

Lynn Bennett – SCNF

Kim Murphy – National Marine Fisheries Service

Michelle Tucker – SVS Staff

Ken Gebhardt – Salmon-Challis National Forest (SCNF)

Dani Mazotta – Idaho Conservation League

Gary Power – Salmon Valley Stewardship (SVS) board

Jim Tucker – SCNF

Hadley Roberts - Citizen

Gina Knudson – SVS Staff

Toni Ruth – Back Country Horsemen and Anglers

Jerry Hamilton – Citizen

Louise Wagenknecht – Citizen

### ***Upper North Fork Project Implementation Memo:***

Gina asked for comments on the draft Implementation Memo sent out to LFRG members through email.

Ken stated that he had reviewed the memo and wanted to make clear that there are going to be times when the SCNF needs to rely on the trust built with the Collaborative as they are very busy and may not be able to share information in a timely manner.

Michelle feels that the communication has greatly improved over the past few years and the Collaborative is asking to be considered not only in the public notification process but also in order to assist the SCNF in public outreach for Collaborative projects.

Gina emphasized that the Collaborative isn't asking to micromanage the SCNF.

Gina called for any objections to the Implementation Memo. None received. SVS will send out an electronic copy for member signature.

### ***Update on Farm Bill***

Ken updated the group on the SCNF plans for the use of the categorical exclusion under the Farm Bill:

The South Zone Farm Bill Project will be the Forest's 2015 priority, Big Hills Project on Challis/Yankee Fork. A project initiation letter is underway.

The Forest Priority for 2016 will be the North Zone Farm Bill Project Ken would like to solicit LFRG assistance in drafting the proposed action and purpose and need. Right now they anticipate that firefighter safety and municipal watershed protection will be a priority. A project initiation letter will be out this fall and a decision is planned for 2016. Implementation will occur after 2016..

Gina offered to send our notes from the 3/6/14 LFRG meeting where we discussed the Farm Bill and assisted the SCNF in identifying the proposed project areas for members who were not in attendance.

Ken clarified that from here out, to avoid confusion; the North Zone Farm Bill Project is different than the Jesse Creek Project. The proposed North Zone Farm Bill Project is being proposed for an area west of the Ridge Road. Gina reminded the group of the antiquated City of Salmon/SCNF agreement for the Municipal Watershed. This will need to be addressed before moving forward on the Municipal Watershed Project.

### ***Multiparty Monitoring (MPM)***

Michelle reminded the group that team assignments are due back Friday. She has heard back from most groups. Once this information is received she will consolidate and schedule a meeting for the Sub Committee.

Toni asked if there is an updated implementation schedule.

Ken will get one together for the group.

Michelle offered that Ken provided this in the last MPM meeting and it is in the notes. She will re-send this to Toni and Dani to use until Ken has a new version available.

### ***Joint Chiefs Project***

Gina explained that SVS has reached out to Mark Olson with NRCS to discuss ways the LFRG could assist the NRCS in the upcoming Joint Chiefs Project. Mark's schedule is very busy but will let the group know as soon as a date is set.

Lynn told the group a public meeting has been tentatively scheduled for May 4 in Gibbonsville.

Gina asked that LFRG be include in the notification of the meetings.

### ***H.R. 2 – Secure Rural Schools***

This bill passed the senate and it is anticipated that RAC funding will be reauthorized for two years once it goes to the House.

### ***Next Meeting – To be determined***