
DRAFT MEMO

TO: CHUCK MARK, SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR
FROM: SALMON VALLEY STEWARDSHIP
SUBJECT: UPPER NORTH FORK IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
DATE: 4/25/2015
CC: LEMHI FOREST RESTORATION GROUP MEMBERS

**Request for Collaborative Involvement in Implementation
and Monitoring Stages of the Upper North Fork Project**

This memo is a formal request from the Lemhi Forest Restoration Group (LFRG) to the Salmon-Challis National Forest (SCNF) as they move from the environmental analysis stage of the Upper North Fork Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project to implementation and monitoring. In our initial recommendation memo of October 24, 2010, modified on April 5, 2012, the group outlined the following standards and methods they aspired to apply to all collaborative projects. Those were detailed as:

1. **Monitoring and documentation of project results**
 - 1.1. Tell the story so successes can be replicated, mistakes avoided
 - 1.2. Specifically highlight wildlife, tree and plant habitat enhancements
 - 1.3. Establish independent, multiparty monitoring within the project area
2. **Economic development**
 - 2.1. Identify opportunities for material utilization
 - 2.2. Encourage local economic development through utilization and restoration jobs
 - 2.3. Use stewardship contracting and best value contracting tools

Some specific actions that we request now happen to support those objectives include:

Public Relations. The SCNF should work together with the LFRG to develop a public relations plan that would include a joint press release, a briefing package for key decision makers, and field tours. LFRG members commit to sharing the information with their respective constituents.

The SCNF should keep the LFRG apprised of work plans and scheduling for the Upper North Fork project. For example, the SCNF should notify the collaborative when they release requests for bids and contract solicitations, when implementation of projects begin, when prescribed burning will occur, when projects are complete and of any specific deviations to the agreements reached between the LFRG and the SCNF during collaboration of the project.

Contracts and Agreements. The SCNF should include the LFRG in the design of stewardship contracts or agreements, as appropriate, in the Upper North Fork Project area. There are a number of ways our collaborative group was successfully involved the stewardship contracts and agreements for the Hughes Creek Project including identification of best value criteria for

candidate selection, participation in selection committees and support for a modification to the West Salzar Stewardship Contract following the Mustang Fire.

Involving the collaborative group in developing these contracts can help ensure that a broad range of community needs are addressed, including identifying what constitutes “local economic benefit.” In order to track socio economic benefit we request that reporting for best value criteria, workforce utilization and earnings be required of the selected contractor for any contracts or agreements.

A joint committee should develop the technical proposal requirements and help determine proposal evaluation ranking and weighting factors. Forest Service Handbook 2409.19 Chapter 60 establishes procedures for contractors and others to be involved with some of the contract development stage without entering into an arena of providing unfair advantage to participating contractors. Once the contract has been developed, the collaborative group as a whole could confirm that the contract reflects the intention of the NEPA document.

Monitoring. Involving the collaborative group in project implementation monitoring is a good way to ensure that the project is meeting its objectives. The LFRG has formed a multiparty monitoring subcommittee and has taken steps to collect baseline data before the project is implemented. Once implementation begins, this same team will continue to participate by gathering data, evaluating the results, and presenting their findings and recommendations to the Forest Service and the larger collaborative group. The SCNF should work to ensure monitoring efforts complement those of the LFRG and results and resources are shared. Funding for project monitoring should be pursued by both SCNF and the collaborative members.

We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the Salmon-Challis National Forest on this important project and look forward to continue working together as this project advances.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please don't hesitate to contact me at 756-1686.

Sincerely,

GINA KNUDSON

Executive Director, Salmon Valley Stewardship
Coordinator, Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group