



11 February 2010  
WEAVERVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
USFS OFFICES – 11:30 a.m.

In attendance:

Jerry Van Hees (USFS Contracting Officer), Laurie Magnelli (USFS Contracting Officer), Steve Graves (USFS), Veronica Magnuson (Acting Weaverville Ranger), Jim Powell (USFS) Alex Cousins, Joseph Bower, Patrick Truman, Pat Frost, Clarence Rose, Bob Morris, Kenneth Baldwin, Jerry Hauke, Colleen O'Sullivan.

Veronica started out the meeting with emphasizing the trust factor with the USFS and the steering committee. In regards to last Friday's meeting (2/5/10), she wanted to know what the spring field trip was about. Veronica got from that meeting that a timber sale could be offered.

Veronica stated that her notes revealed that we were going to move forward with the first timber sale, and that the group was okay with moving forward, with the stipulation that Joseph wants a spring field trip to review the mark. "Move forward" means proceeding with the bid package – the timber sale.

Joseph stated that as a committee we are okay with going forward, but Joseph still wants to review it. We want personal verification. Alex state that we want to put the Forest Service in a position to succeed. The purpose of the field trip is to review the mark and the landing sizes.

Jerry stated that the actual NEPA specifications (spec) are enforced between the Timber Administrator (TA) and the logger – it's not a spec. in the contract. There was a general discussion about landing sizes and the tags that are on the trees in the landings.

Jerry stated that we can ask the prep people if they remarked the landing/retagged the unit.

Bob wants the square orange tags (regeneration boundary) changed. There was a general discussion regarding clarifying these landings via the tags. This will be part of the field trip.

Clarence asked what defines a landing? Is it a bare mineral soil area? If material is stacked in an area, this is not considered part of the landing. No additional trees are cut on the edges.

Veronica again asked: can we go forward with the sale? Jerry stated no and Jim agreed. There is no sense in putting the sale out until it is remarked etc.

Steve stated that it must be on bizopps for 45 days, after the package is put together – there is still lag time. Jerry stated that if we started today, in two weeks it would be on bizopps, then 45 days, which puts us into April or May (there is a two week review). We would be into May before it was awarded.

There was a general discussion regarding canopy closure, oak woodlands, etc. This is Phase 1 only – Joseph discussed the diminished value of the first phase of timber. He thinks we can get out there in the next 30 days. Phases 2, 3 and 4 are still marked at 60 percent. We need to fix that. Jerry believes that Phase 1 has been done in good faith. He says we need to fix the next phases. There was some confusion over the phases. In essence, Phase 2 has become Phase

1 – there is confusion over this. It was changed to get the **most** value timber out and get the road work done now.

Jerry stated that Phase 2 (1) was selected to pay for road work. They have appropriated money for this, but not much longer (Phase 2 has most of the timber). So the Forest Service needs to spend it this year.

Joseph asked why they don't offer Phase 1 and use the appropriated money to fix the road? Jerry reviewed the map. Pat talked about the stewardship area and how work can be done anywhere in the area, not just on Browns. Can the Forest Service do road improvements anywhere in the stewardship area? This is Pat's understanding. Jerry thinks that this is correct. We are working with a document that is a service contract with an embedded timber sale.

Joseph reminded the group that we have some money available now through the RAC, but that this money will be going away in a few years. We want the maximum amount from the timber sales. There was a general discussion regarding yarder units, and possibly redrawing the phases boundaries. The Forest Services sees them as subdivisions, not phases. Can we reconfigure Phase 1 to pick up acres from what was dropped for economic reasons? There was a general discussion regarding this option, and general agreement, but Joseph stated that he was still not clear. Jerry explained to Joseph what the changes were, and Joseph understood.

So, 3j and 3k are going to be added to Phase 1 (subdivision 1).

There was a general discussion regarding the doubling of costs when an operation goes from tractor ground to cable ground. The likelihood of the sale being bought is lower. Because it needs to be remarked, it needs to be revalued. It probably can't go forward this season. Clarence left.

Jerry is confused over why we are stalled. What didn't we understand that day (11/30/09) when we had the bidders meeting and field trip. Joseph stated that we can do what we thought was Phase 1 (with no yarder units) and use the appropriated money to fix the Musser Hill Road, then save the better timber for a better market. Lindsay Large, a timber Forest Service person, needs to redraw the map reflecting our agreed-upon information. Joseph asked if we can add yarder units in 12, 13 and 14? Jerry stated that they need to look at volumes, yarder units and do some economics. Joseph stated that he is trying to get more work done. Service work will be less because 200 acres of mastication in tractor areas will drop out.

Bob suggested that the project we suggested earlier about widening the fuelbreak on the town side of Musser Hill can be part of Phase 1 service work. Veronica will decide about service work changes in Phase 1, and Jerry is the implementer.