

DRAFT
Framework Committee Minutes
May 28, 2008
Juneau, AK Forest Service Office

Members attending all or portions of the meeting: **Bold = primary TFR member**

In person: Charlie S., Clarence C., Cynthia S., Dale R., Mark R., Norman C., Jason A., Pete H., Keith R., Kent N., **Forrest C.**, Mark Rorick, Dave A., Rob R., Bill H., John C., Shelly W., Rob B., **Chris M.** (chair)

Via teleconference: **John S., George W., Owen G., Karen H.**, Evan Hjerpe, **Niel L., Elaine P.**

Meeting convened at 8:00am with a round of introductions and some opening comments on what we hoped to accomplish along with some logistics and schedule items for the day. Goal was to review each of the USFS Five Year Timber Sale Plan sales identified as “red flags” at our last committee meeting in Hoonah. The Forest Service had numerous staff present and district rangers or their representative from three districts.

Following are some key opening points and thoughts from discussions during the day:

- Try to explore specific concerns for each sale by the various interests. Listen to concerns and try to identify key points and possible ways to address.
- The committee realizes that we are in a transition period between the old forest plan and the new one and that sale offerings in FY08 and FY09 are far enough in the timber pipeline that there are side boards on what can be changed. Once we move into FY10 there is more flexibility and FY11 and FY12 have even more potential for significant changes both in content and process.
- Goal is to move toward a collaborative timber sale planning methodology that identifies and deals with issues early in the process and is overall a more holistic approach that works elements of restoration, young growth management, access and timber economics and conservation principals into each sale. This type of work is beginning and being incorporated into the current planning process when ever feasible.
- Mid to long-term we need to merge the work being done by various TFR committees that are addressing elements of this process into the working relationship being developed between the State and Forest Service and incorporate the conservation forester into the process.

Following are my notes by sale and fiscal year; these may not have caught all the points raised, so please feel free to make edits and additions:

Summary of Remaining FY08 Sales (Gate 5)

Baht: 16.8 MMBF, pre-roading needed to appraise positive. Bids have been received for this work, but not awarded. Volume would not be available for harvest in FY08.

Traitors: 15.4 MMBF, main issue with this sale from an economic perspective is the need to use three different LTF's. This situation drives the costs too high for such a small amount of volume, not likely to sell if offered.

Backline: 3.8 MMBF, all helicopter harvest, currently being advertized and closes June 3. This should be a sale that will sell.

Sealevel (Orion re-offer): 5.6 MMBF, this was a settlement agreement sale, I'm not sure of the status, but I think it has been dropped?

Todahl Backline: 3.5 MMBF, possible offer. Also some discussion of Scott Peak being added in, but this sale is still under litigation. (Scott Peak, Bocephus). This sale would also need a re-appraisal before it could be offered.

Logjam EIS FY09

- First sale that has had the benefit of participation of the State since the development of the partnership with the FS. This is a transition sale and the new approach has been applied where possible, but side boards were in place due to the NEPA process and timeline.
- More selection harvest units as opposed to clear cut units in original plan
- Fewer roads went from 29 miles of new road to 19 miles, a significant reduction. Road specifications were changed from system roads to specification roads.
- Will close xx miles of road (close 50%)
- No pre-roading needed, sale pays for itself. Goal for all new sales is to not use pre-roading dollars.
- Sale is near Honker Divide
- Alternative that doesn't select units that maintain connectivity north/south and east/west for wildlife has been dropped. (Changes in the new FP also address this issue in a proactive manner)
- Located on POW island and could provide approximately three years worth of timber for Viking Lumber
- Participants stressed that we need to move toward an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) approach to sale planning and need to develop a timeline to move from old methods to new methods of sale preparation. There are multiple efforts heading in this direction, various TFR committees, State/USFS partnership as examples.

Central Gravina EIS FY09

- See handouts (4) from Rob on this sale
- Roads are planned to be "stored" after sale completion

- 16 miles of road, 100% roadless, questions about number of stream crossings
- Numerous changes made to this proposal when compared to the previous proposed project for this area including consultation with various interest groups
- There was a collaborative effort in this area in the 90's with many of the same interest groups. More recent discussions have had the same interests, but different people representing the interests as compared to the 90's process.
- SEACC special area (Gravina Island)
- Audubon/TNC conservation priority watershed, bear, deer, salmon, however the core areas are not in the area being proposed for the sale.
- Need to post the maps with alternatives
- Deer issues with predation factor
- Potential issue with Standards and Guidelines, look at the whole island to address deer habitat, martin under the plan. Hard to just focus on the sale area need a larger geographic look to put this topic in context.

Kuiu EIS FY09

- New roads 6.5 miles and reopen 6 miles of old roads
- Sale is 75% Hemlock, less than 10% Cedar with overall volume approximately 31.4 MMBF
- Roadless amount needed checked? Sounds like 1% in inventoried roadless.
- Kake village concern, at least one person in particular and possibly others
- All three sawmills are potential bidders on this sale
- Harvesting is all ground based, zero helicopter, no partial cuts and long haul via barge to mills
- Martin, endemic and introduced present
- Plan to cruise the units this summer

North Thorn/Rio Beaver EIS FY09

- Approximately 60.0 MMBF in project area
- South of Honker Divide
- High percentage of past harvest in North Thorn, so opportunities for restoration work
- Some young growth in 40 year age class, lots in 20-30 year age class needing thinning
- Lower value for protection, but core areas for restoration activities
- Mental Health Trust Kassan Project 30 MMBF?
- Good timeline and candidate for a Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) project
- About ½ the project is done in regard to analysis work for North Thorn

At this point there was some discussion about IRMP and developing two proposed actions that would take a larger look from a geographic perspective utilizing this process. There is a need to identify some candidate locations to work on this concept and some discussion about bringing two projects forward to the full TFR for critique at the September meeting.

Staney EIS FY10

- High potential for IRMP and State/FS will work with conservation interests to develop a unit pool at the Gate I level and come up with a proposed action for the committee to review at our next face-to-face meeting in July. (If I remember correctly this was Clarence, Dave and Keith that were going to work on this?)
- They thought that they would need about 30-45 days to develop a proposed action and would incorporate helicopter selective harvest and restoration components into the proposed action.
- Target ROD date is 2011 and offer the same year

Central Kupreanof FY10

- Approximately 20 MMBF with Gate II draft EIS due this summer
- Some possibility for restoration work
- New roads about 25 miles, 9.0 miles reconstruction and 6.0 miles temporary out of new total.
- Helicopter units about 14%
- Potential bidders, Viking Lumber and possibly two other mills.

There are also a number of maps that will be posted to the website including a map that shows the location of each of the sales in the current five year plan by VCU.

I'm sure I missed some things, so please look for (?) and other places that you can help fill in any important details that I missed.