**Notes from SBEADMR Working Group Meeting**

October 9, 2014

The “kick-off” meeting of the SBEADMR working group was convened on Thursday, October 9, 2014 in the Pioneer Room at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Following are notes from the initial meeting based on the following agenda:

**Item No. 1: Purpose and Role of the SBEADMR Working Group**

The intent of the working group is to bring together individuals representing diverse interests to share information and resources while working together cooperatively towards agreement on or more issues related to the proposed Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR).

The purpose of the initial meeting was to begin to identify issues surrounding SBEADMR that could be addressed by the working group and to identify opportunities to work together collaboratively during implementation.

The working group will work independently of the Forest and will provide input to the Forest over the next six to twelve months while the Forest continues to work through the DEIS and FEIS process. In the long term, after the final decision, collaborative work could continue in the implementation and monitoring of the proposed management plan. Forest staff will attend working group meetings in a resource capacity. The Public Lands Partnership (PLP) convened the initial meeting of the SBEADMR working group as part of its role in helping the Forest with outreach and public involvement. The PLP will assist the working group in terms of disseminating agenda, notes from meetings and requested documents to attendees and providing a SBEADMR webpage and link on the PLP website. The working group meetings will be facilitated by a third party neutral facilitator.

**Item No. 2: Brief of the Proposed SBEADMR Project – Need, Purpose and Goals**

In order to “set the stage”, the need, purpose and goals of the proposed action (as set forth in the 7/31/2014 Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register) were briefly reviewed to be sure that everyone was “on the same page” in understanding the need, purpose and goals for the proposed action as they provide the context within which the working group will focus its efforts. The approach is to actively manage vegetation consistent with the goals outlined in the Western Bark Beetle Strategy, i.e. Recovery, Resiliency and Human (Public) Safety.

The stated need and purpose were clear however it was suggested that there be further clarification of the goals – specifically the goals of Recovery and Resiliency. In the interest of time, further discussion of the goals were tabled until the next meeting.

It addition to the need, purpose and goals, it was noted that the proposed action calls for an adaptive management approach to where and what actions will be applied to the landscape. This offers another opportunity for working group input and collaboration in the implementation and monitoring of the plan.

**Item No. 3: Refine Project Objectives to Clarify and Align with the Purpose and Goals**

This proposed exercise was tabled until the next meeting in order to give participants an opportunity to review the objectives as noted in the July, 2014 Q&A (handout) and/or think about other objectives that might help clarify the stated goals.

**Item No. 4: Brainstorm Project Related Issues that Need Further Explanation and Scientific Input to Achieve Community and Civic Learning**……

The following issues were identified:

* Advantages/disadvantages of salvage logging for forest health
* Suitable acres for timber production
* Who/what intended to benefit from commercial harvest; i.e. pay for future reforestation?
* Understanding the economics (direct and indirect) of a timber sale
* Where forest classifications come from, i.e. spruce vs aspen (opportunity to refine)
* Impact of invasive species on regeneration
* Aspen ecology

**Item No. 5: Identify Opportunities to Collaboratively Engage the Public in the Adaptive Management Aspects of the Implementation**

The following opportunities were identified:

* Opportunity to see impact of salvage logging on regeneration
* Monitoring – use of science
* Market opportunity – new product utilization
* Build stakeholder relationships
* Opportunity to compare intervention vs non-intervention in both wilderness and non-wilderness areas

**Item No. 6: Discuss Future Meeting Logistics**

Next meeting: Thursday, October 30, 2014 (plan to meet every couple of weeks for a while)

Place: Pioneer Room, Montrose County Fairgrounds

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Agenda Items: Establish Expectations/Ground Rules for Working Group

 Clarify Meaning of Stated Goals (Recovery and Resiliency)

 Refine Objectives to Align with Purpose and Goals

 Review Science Proposal for Monitoring (tentative - if Clay has received proposal)

**Other Comments by Attendees**

Hilary Cooper of Sheep Mountain Alliance shared that several of the conservation groups were meeting with the intent of preparing a separate alternative to be considered as part of the EIS. She wished to disclose that fact as she and others still were interested in participating with the working group.

Phil Seligman of Wood Source Fuels offered to share a “Supply Chain Analysis” as an educational presentation for the working group.

Kevin Mueller of Wild Earth Guardians (UTAH) and So Rockies Conservation disclosed that Wild Earth Guardians was not in agreement with all of the goals but he still planned to participate in the working group

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM

Susan Hansen, Facilitator