

Cherokee National Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

Historic Jonesborough Visitor's Center, 117 Boone Street, Jonesborough Tennessee

Thursday June 23, 2011

-- Draft Agenda --

Additional Committee Recommendations and Implementation Discussion

- 9:00 a.m.** **Welcome, Agenda Overview and Reaching for Agreements** by Karen Firehock
- 9:30 a.m.** **Membership and Process to Complete Our Work Going Forward** by Karen Firehock
with committee input
- 10:30 a.m.** **Discussion of Items and Potential Related Recommendations** [Committee members
should come prepared to discuss items they suggested and should send out any key articles or background not
already sent]
- 1) Effects of recommendations and management actions on threatened and endangered species.
 - 2) Need for more early and late seral stages and amount of per type, size of overall.
 - 3) Sizes of openings for gaps and purpose of (e.g. what do foraging birds need?)
 - 4) Watersheds (planning on basis of watershed boundaries, road densities etc.) Many of the watersheds on the northern Districts are rated "functioning at risk." The Forest Service is mandated to address problems in the watersheds and work to improve conditions
 - 5) Economics of harvest values.
How can we address the fact that the model does not capture financial benefits that may be realized by mechanical treatments?
Are there ways to make expensive treatments more economically viable?
What are the parameters needed to make a cut economical to bid on (so that if mechanical -- cutting -- is recommended we know it would actually be viable).
The ROI in the model is not able to include revenue from cutting commercial timber so how can we address the true costs of those types of projects?
Energy and biofuels -- how might these emerging markets affect harvest and revenue in the Cherokee (note that we may not have enough data to address this question).

12:15 p.m. Lunch (provided)

1:00 p.m. 6) Wilderness areas incorporated in the larger areas have to be handled differently than the other areas. The wildfire plans are crucial to that management approach, but they will be different if recommended for wilderness areas. What are the management options that are available in the wilderness? What other areas (e.g. riparian) will have constraints that we need to acknowledge and address in recommendations?

7) Invasive species (forest pests and pathogens) -- which ones do we want to make specific recommendations about/address how our recommendations hinder their abundance/existence. [Joe McGuinness and Katherine Medlock]

8) Climate change: how should this be addressed in our recommendations? [See Mark Shelley's briefing paper]

9) Roads and condition of, role for habitat, restoration of roads to provide this. The Forest Service is mandated to address transportation analysis in the next 3 years (by 2015) to identify unneeded roads and problem roads.

10) Overall discussion of the models and any changes recommended since last meeting (e.g. amount of mechanical harvesting versus fire, how much fire is realistic given the amount of Wildland/Urban interface areas, focusing on areas dominated by Uncharacteristic vegetation, other concerns or questions.)

4:30 p.m. Next Steps for Model Runs and Recommendations

5:00 p.m. Adjournment

At a later meeting - next time:

Final decisions on model outcomes

Final agreement on report format

Recommendations concerning how restoration implementation will be monitored near and long term

For more information or to request additional input please contact KarenFirehock@gmail.com