

Spotted Dog Minutes

11/20/2014

Attendance: Jim Flynn, Bill Mosier, , Jodi Pauley, John Beck, Donna Young, Fred Staedler, Dan McQuery Jason Swant, Bill Pierce . Others present: Pat Hansen, and 2 guests. FWP present: Ray Vinkey, Dave Dziak, Mike Thompson, Jason Lindstrom

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Jim said we will discuss fisheries, and the Beartooth management plan.

Jason, FWP talked to the group about the streams within the Spotted dog and the fishery component of each stream. He said most streams are pure streams concerning fish within the Spotted Dog. He said a lot of the streams are in rough shape according to riparian health. He said one of the aquatic goals is to improve riparian health and reduce sedimentation. He said they would also like to reduce access and reduce the number of culverts and crossings on streams that are not needed. He said it is also a goal to replace some of those existing culverts and make them more fish friendly.

Dan McQueary asked if the goal was to reduce access? Jason said there are a lot of spur roads and there are multiple culverts on some of those streams and those are the ones that need to be cleaned up. He said some need to remain from a management standpoint. Dan said if this group comes up with a management plan for roads then we need to make sure that we look at it from a fish standpoint. Jason said yes and reclaiming some roads will be necessary others can be taken out naturally. Bill asked if the roads are contributing to sediment. Jason said yes that is the case in certain conditions. Jason said a lot of roads can be closed and reclaimed naturally because FWP does not have the money to reclaim most roads.

Dan asked about fencing and does FWP want streams fenced. Jason said it depends on the end goal or management of the area. If there is grazing then yes some fencing or electric fencing of certain streams, etc. will be necessary. Jason said especially on some of the worst spots where cows typically were on riparians. Dan asked what about offsite water. Jason said yes that would definitely be of value to those streams. Dave said when we acquired Spotted Dog we had about 1.2 million and \$475,000 was dedicated to roads to eliminate some roads, culvert work, , etc. He said they have not done much work on roads yet because of weed management and these roads provide access. He said they will always have a management road system to manage weeds, etc. Jim said out of the \$ 475, 000 is there any consideration for off water or fencing of those streams. Dave said no that was just for roads. He said the boundary fence has pretty well eaten up the budget they had.

Mike wondered if this is a fishing destination? Jason said the reservoir is and some of Spotted Dog Creek but most of the others are not really fished. Mike said sometimes FWP builds streams and is there any plans for that. Jason said yes portions of Trout Creek may need some aggressive riparian work but once equipment is put into a stream that can get expensive very quickly. Dan wondered if there is any thoughts of beaver introduction? Jason said that would be awesome but he didn't know about reintroduction. He said he has attended a workshop in which you can build beaver analogs and they are

inexpensive and may be very beneficial especially on Spotted Dog Creek. Bill asked if you build those do you run into any water right issues. Jason said he didn't think so, as they are putting a few sticks in the ground and weaving in willows and letting it naturally catch debris. He said it has shown success on bringing streams back up, etc. Dave said he was on the south fork of Spotted Dog creek and there are beaver in the south fork and some of the other streams within Spotted Dog. He said it is habitat driven and they need the right kind of groceries in order for them to be there. He said there are about 18 aspen clones within the spotted dog and aspen are needed for beaver. He said they would like to increase aspen presence. Dan wondered what kind of effect elk and deer have on an aspen grove. He said they like to rub and eat them and they ruin his aspen groves. Dave said that is something they are monitoring. Jason asked if they were doing any enclosure. Dave said no they are just monitoring, etc. Dan asked about Moose and how much damage they do to an aspen grove. Dave said yes, Moose can be very damaging. Fred said if they really want to sprout aspen, fire works wonders and they would be willing to help with that. Jason said yes that is would be a possibility.

The Beartooth Management plan was passed out to the members. Each member is charged with reading the plan before the next meeting.

Next meeting is January 15, 2015 at the Elks Club in Deer Lodge

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Pauley