

NEWFC Board – Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2011
Vaagen Bros. Conference Room

Next meeting: TBA

Attending Board: Russ Vaagen, Ron Gray, Steve West, Tim Coleman, Derrick Knowles, Jeff Juel, Dave Heflick and Mike Petersen -- a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: Bob Playfair, Dick Dunton, Lloyd McGee, Bart George, Maurice Williamson

Agenda

1. Review July Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Commissioner's anti-W initiative
4. Categorical Exclusion
5. Cradle to Grave proposal
6. East Wedge

Minutes

1. Review of July 2011 Minutes.

Motion: Ron motioned and Mike seconded to approve. Approved

2. Treasurer's Report
There was no report.

3. Commissioner's anti-W initiative
This initiative threatens industry's credibility and the Coalition's ability to collaborate. Industry has called commissioners about it. The commissioner's "anti" agenda applied to timber projects would essentially be zero cut, or in the case of ATVs, zero access. Mike spoke with EWU professor Patrick Jones who promised to send him forestry employment statistics for Ferry County that will help demonstrate that there is significant timber industry employment in the county.

4. Categorical Exclusion (CE) Projects
Gary Nielson has been hired to complete an assessment of bark beetle areas. From this a proposal for 4-6 CE's of 250 acres will be made to the FS and within the Active Management Area for the most part but might also be in roaded portions of restoration area.

5. Cradle to Grave Proposal
Russ outlined possible parameters of a ten year "cradle to grave" project. Area is to be selected would be mapped and a contract signed with the Forest Service to do NEPA and meet project objectives. There is some precedence where ski and mining industries do their own NEPA. In this case, however, caution should be observed as an appearance of trading timber for NEPA could create a backlash within the Forest Watch community. NEPA would have to be as rigorous as if the Forest Service was doing it and there would need to be conservation oversight. Russ said industry wasn't asking NEWFC to collaborate re NEPA.

6. Forest Service
Rodney wants to meet about East Wedge Project after it is released.

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Russ Vaagen, President

Tim Coleman, Secretary