

FENW Strategy Meeting Discussion Items
Meeting on July 17, 2006

Strategy

Attendees: George, Maryann, and Vince

STRATEGY CATEGORY – FENW ADMINISTRATION

Key Roles -- Present

- Politics and Policies (active role in events affecting wilderness areas)
- Trails (trail projects, signage, coordination with USFS & others)
- Wilderness Volunteer Program (Summit and Eagle counties)
- Noxious Weeds (coordinate with USFS; hire contractor and administer program)
- Eagle County expansion (establish leadership & membership base; coordinate events)
- Grant writing & other fund-raising (i.e. John Fielder events)

Possible Additional Key Roles

- Strong Coordination with USFS – Dillon and Holy Cross/Eagle Ranger Districts – including involvement in decision making regarding plans for wilderness areas.
- Fundraising – Expansion of present revenue stream to include both more grant writing and development of other activities.
- Membership Drive(s) – Lead efforts to expand present membership, with added focus on Eagle County.
- Training – Become more active in organizing training (w/USFS) for wilderness area activities, such as crew leaders, saw operators, hunter patrols, etc.

Direction for Present Board

- Active role – Continue with present responsibilities
- Directing role – Align with an Executive Director; revise responsibilities

Possible Roles of an Executive Director

- Administer day-to-day operations – Maintain website, etc.
- Administer Wilderness Volunteer programs – Conduct training, coordinate w/USFS, monitor results
- Administer trails projects – Coordinate w/USFS, develop listing of projects, advertise for volunteers, identify trail project leaders, etc.
- Manage communication efforts for all projects – Work with newspapers, etc.
- Coordinate noxious weed program with USFS & contractor(s) – Coordinate w/USFS, hire contractor, monitor performance.
- Administer grant preparation – Prepare grants and/or identify BD members to assist.

Next Steps

- BD must determine whether to maintain present role or assume a “directing” role and work with and provide funding for an external operations manager, such as an Executive Director.
- BD must decide whether to proceed with new, additional key roles.
- Immediate attention to BD transition without Jonathan and Maryann plus Vince is essential.

FENW Strategy Meeting Discussion Items

The goal of the Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge is that within 10 years, every Forest Service unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System will meet at least 6 of 10 stewardship elements. Currently, only 18 percent of the FS wilderness units meet minimum standard. Following are the current stewardship elements and potential questions that must be addressed to meet the element:

1. Wilderness is covered by a fire plan that allows for the full range of management responses.
 - What are the effects of fire exclusion?
 - What are the fuels in wilderness?
 - What are the logical (natural) fire boundaries?
 - What is the pattern of lightening?
2. Wilderness is successfully treated for noxious/invasive plants.
 - Where are the invasive species?
 - What are the ecosystem effects of invasive species?
 - How do we effectively treat invasive species?
3. Air quality monitoring is conducted and baseline is established.
 - Which lakes, lichens are sensitive to acid deposition?
 - What is the special pattern of ozone? Where it forms and where it hits is important.
4. Wilderness education plans are implemented.
 - Where do we find the capacity to make visitor contacts at the trailhead and within wilderness to inform visitors about proper behavior to minimize impacts to the resource?
5. Wilderness has adequate standards, in which monitored conditions are within forest plan standards, and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are stable or increasing.
 - Identify quiet places, are they changing?
6. Wilderness has completed recreation site inventory.
 - What are the baseline site inventories?
 - What is the connection between use, sites and changes?
7. Outfitter and guide permit operating plans are in place that direct outfitters to model appropriate wilderness practices and incorporate appreciation for wilderness values in their interaction with clients.
 - How can we help outfitter/guides and their clients understand wilderness?
 - What is the performance of outfitter/guides in the field?
8. Wilderness has a full-range of adequate standards which prevent degradation of the wilderness resource.
 - What are the Forest Plan standards for wilderness?
9. Wilderness managers have their priority information needs addressed through data collection and corporate applications.
 - How can we get the data we already have entered and analyzed?
10. Wilderness has a baseline workforce (from workforce assessment) in place for each wilderness.
 - How do we figure out how many people are needed to accomplish the work of wilderness?

FENW Strategy Meeting Discussion Items

Identify key FENW projects for the next 3-5 years. Some ideas:

- Invasive Species/Weed mitigation projects (one of 4 USFS identified major threats)
- Projects related to other 3 USFS major threats -- (1) Fire and Fuels -- risks require rehabilitation and restoration of forests and grasslands; (2) Loss of Open Space -- not sure what the risk is in Summit/Eagle Counties; and, (3) Unmanaged Recreation -- need to manage all forms of recreation, particularly OHVs
- Chief's 10 Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Elements (below)
- Trail projects (large/small)
- Volunteer Wilderness Steward Program
- Posters and signage -- repair/improve
- Funding of USFS programs (e.g. the USFS Hunter Patrol @\$2,900 in 2005)
- Involvement in review of the pending Travel Management Plan (Advocacy)
- Involvement in any other government projects affecting Wilderness areas

Network with other wilderness groups

- Focus on adjacent counties
- Discuss FENW role relative to the Friends of Dillon Ranger District
- Establish a formal FENW presence in Eagle County

FENW Administration

- Review budget requirements related to the projects.
- Review membership levels and other revenue sources needed to support the projects.
- Formalize a fund raising strategy, as required.
- Review present BD roles and responsibilities, including service and attendance; revise as required.
- Review communication process (brochures, website, trailhead signs, etc.); revise as needed.
- Review FENW Mission Statement (Charter/ByLaws, etc. for Eagle County)
- Formalize hiring policies for special projects

Communication/Education

- Develop TV presentation -- Wilderness & Leave No Trace
- Improve communications with DRD personnel (who and when)??
- Prepare and present wilderness related traveling Displays
- Deliver wilderness related presentations to Schools, etc.
- Revive Wilderness Box Curriculum
- Create and distribute Eagles Nest/PP Wilderness brochure/map
- Develop communications matrix
- Develop PowerPoint "shelf" presentation

CHIEF'S 10-YEAR WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE ELEMENTS

FENW Strategy Meeting Discussion Items **2006**
(**Bold/Italic Items Discussed @ 3/7 Meeting**)

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- ***Chief's 10 Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Elements (attached)***
- ***Trail projects (large/small)***
- ***Volunteer Wilderness Steward Program***
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- Funding of USFS programs (e.g. the USFS Hunter Patrol @\$2,900 in 2005)
- ***Involvement in review of the pending Travel Management Plan (Advocacy)***
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- Propose to run bookstores in East Zone (Dillon, Holy Cross)
- How (or do we) contribute 30% to DRD other than just taking care of Wilderness?

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