

Draft Notes from Beartooth Travel Management Collaboration Meeting  
April 14, 2007 0900-1200  
Meeting location: Shrine Auditorium, Billings, Montana

*Those in attendance:*

**There were 159 public participants in attendance.**

*USFS representatives and attendees:* Dave Schmid, Doug Epperly, Brenda Christensen, Fred Prange, Arlin Krogstad, John Lane, Linda Spencer, Beth Kern, Mike Bergstrom, Terry Jones, Dan Seifert, Lisa Subcasky, Pat Pierson, Paige Leddy (LEO), Halcyon LaPoint, Darin Watschke, Jeff Gildehaus.

*BLM representative:* Lynn Anderson

*USFS meeting facilitator:* Brenda Christensen

*The group reviewed meeting objectives, which were:*

- Welcome/Housekeeping
- Finish working on Pryor Map Collaboration
- Meeting Summary & What Happens Now

*Collaborative Mapping Exercise*

Participants were asked to go back to the same 15 smaller groups as the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Each group was asked to finish identifying points of agreement on the Pryor Mountain map.

Brenda asked the public to respect each group and not move among groups. New public members invited to one area and assigned to groups #2-14 which had not finished at the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting (groups 1 & 15 had completed their maps).

Dave asked the public to please maintain civility and work together to respect each other and complete the meeting.

Doug let public know they can move to the front of the room to review some maps and talk with other Forest Staff when they finish.

Letter size maps of lynx habitat and WSA, RNA and inventoried roadless areas, specific to the Pryors, were provided to each group.

*Meeting Summary & What Happens Now*

Doug Epperly presented a summary of the collaboration meetings and what will happen now with the process.

- We met the two objectives for these meetings: having individuals hear each other's views directly and getting input or an alternative from the public on points of agreement.
- Group made it clear that we need to make decisions based on resource issues and public interests.
- This exercise emphasized the magnitude of the decision.
- We ended up with a set of road, trails and snowmobile areas that the group agreed should be open/designated.
- There were more points of agreement in the Benbow area than expected.
- There were very few points of agreement in the Pryors.
- The ID team had direct interaction with participants – this was very valuable.

- There were a lot of important relationships developed through this process – this was also very valuable.

What Happens Now - The information and comments from these meetings will feed into the environmental analysis. ID team expects to develop set of alternatives in May. Analysis of alternatives will occur during the summer. Draft EIS for public review expected Fall of 2007. Dates may change so check the website for updates. We will contact you using our mailing list. Our plan is to have a decision on this proposal in June 2008.

Comment – Ed Melcher asked if Doug would mention the National Office Highway Vehicle Conservation Council meeting May 12-13 at Billings Convention Center . Travel management process information meeting. Help public learn about the process, understand agencies roles and requirements and how public can have input.

Question- Are there meetings like this occurring in Wyoming where other Pryor users are numerous.

Doug -No, there were information meetings but not collaborative meetings. Group decided to hold meetings in Billings.

Question- Where do comments and input from original 2004 action come in? Will they be included in this process?

Doug: Yes this week those were reviewed by ID team and will be used. Official comment period closed Sept. 04 and we have accepted and will continue to accept additional comments however at some point it is difficult to include those in the decision process.

Question- Is handicapped accessibility being considered?

Doug - Yes.

#### *Wrap-Up*

Dave Schmid reviewed the value and process of the collaboration process. He is very pleased to have the number of people we have had attend these meetings. It makes it challenging but we appreciate the involvement.

He had heard from some that we did not get the word out about these meetings; however, he wanted to ensure everyone that we did all we could do to advertise these sessions.

He has also heard from many involved to make changes to the process that was being used to gather the input from these collaborative meetings. We listened and tried to incorporate changes after each meeting to make the process work under our constraints. We did not want to waste people's time. We understand that some people did not like this process.

Dave thanked everyone for being positive and respectful and staying at the table.

Thanks to the Forest Service staff for being here. Staff has gained very important information due to this involvement with the public.

Dave invited people to stay and visit one on one.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.