

WRD-PRD Zone IDT Meeting

Microsoft Teams Call

August 16, 2021

8:30 – 9:30 am

Attendees

	<u>Team Member</u>	<u>Role/Resource</u>		<u>Team Member</u>	<u>Role/Resource</u>
X	Ted Sandhofer	PRD Ranger		Clint Kolarich	WRD Ranger
X	Adam Caster	PRD Forestry		Jeremy Padilla	WRD Forestry
	Adam Tlachac	WRD Forestry		Jim Baichtal	Geology
	Austin O'Brien	WRD TMA		Joe Delabruce	WRD Wildlife
X	Becki Reynolds	CRD Soils, Wetlands		Joni Johnson	Tongass Ecologist
X	Ben Case	PRD Silviculture, Forestry		Jorge Enriquez	PRD TMA
X	Bret Uppencamp	PRD Forestry	X	Marina Whitacre	Writer-Editor
X	Carey Case	PRD Team Leader	X	Nate Stearns	WRD Forestry
X	Carin Christensen	PRD Recreation, Lands, Special Uses		Ramona Engelmann	WRD Bio Tech
X	Dani Snyder	SRD Scenery	X	Rob Cross	Zoned Subsistence
	Dee Galla	WRD Recreation	X	Robert Dickamore	PRD Forestry
X	Eric Castro	PRD Fisheries		Rustin Gooden	WRD Bio Tech
X	Gene Primaky	GIS Specialist		Sandy Powers	Tongass Writer- Editor
X	Gina Esposito	Zoned Heritage		Toby Bakos	PRD Wildlife
	Heath Whitacre	PRD Hydrology	X	Tom Parker	PRD Planning Staff
X	Jane Smith	Zoned Heritage		Tory Houser	Zoned Recreation, Lands, Special Uses
X	Jean Daniels	Regional Economist	X	Travis Womble	PRD Forestry
X	Carol Jensen	Landscape Architect	X	Fernando Becerra ochoa	Tongass Transportation Specialist
X	Marcee Meinhardt				

Agenda Topics**Words from Ranger Sandhofer**

As we all know, with the change in administration, the Forest Service is shifting from OG management to YG management. This makes the Thomas Bay EA a big priority for district and region. It will be one of the first YG projects on the Forest.

We will also be working on a smaller YG management EA – Upper Falls Creek to meet recent developments with the local Falls Creek mill. There is a potential demand for volume exceeds what the

district currently has NEPA cleared under the Mitkof Island Commercial Firewood or Individual Tree Sales Decision Memo.

GAOA Projects

- Please remember to send resource documentation to Marina no later than **9/30**. She is tracking the completion of each project review. She and Carey will work together to write NEPA decisions for each project.
- Information related to these projects is located here - <https://usfs.box.com/s/4er9ubkiv0t07kfialoam459el53m3nb>
- No field work, resource documentation, or analysis concerns were expressed by IDT at the meeting. If there are questions after the meeting, please contact Carey.

Thomas Bay EA

- Field work should be complete across all resource groups, and information updated in GIS, as needed.
- Scoping will begin on 8/20 – starting a 30-day comment period
- In September, will talk more about what EA process will look like – new templates and guides available from WO (see table below for some of the milestones ahead)
- Will try to keep TB working alongside the Upper Falls Creek project to minimize workload
- GIS Update (Ben and Caster)
 - Timeline Reminders
 - Gene has a place for Thomas Bay and Upper Falls Creek on the T drive and there is also an AGOL group in Arcgis for both projects. Layers include units and roads.
 - Caster will make sure that everyone on IDT has the permissions needed to access the GIS files
 - Gene is taking the lead on TB. Caster is backup.
- Expect NEPA work to pick up for Thomas Bay in late September once we have public comments in hand.

Publish legal notice for opportunity to comment in newspaper of record	10	61	14	Thursday, August 19, 2021
Begin 30-day Scoping/Comment Period	1	62	1	Friday, August 20, 2021
End 30-day Comment Period- Begin comment review	22	84	31	Monday, September 20, 2021
Finalize Comment Review - Meet with IDT to discuss Issues and Alternatives	5	89	7	Monday, September 27, 2021
Finalize Issues and Alternative Development - if needed - Finalize GIS	7	96	10	Thursday, October 7, 2021
GIS Requests Submitted - Begin Analysis - Update Unit Cards	3	99	4	Monday, October 11, 2021
Effects Sections due for IDT/Team Leader Review - Finalize Unit Cards	18	117	25	Friday, November 5, 2021

Upper Falls Creek EA

- Ben sent out an email (8/4) with the following information about the project
What's being proposed: Environmental Assessment of approximately **43-acres** of commercial young-growth harvest and the construction of up to a **¼ mile of temporary road**.
Where: Mitkof Island in the Falls Creek watershed.

How: Even-aged management (clearcut) of two separate stands, using ground-based equipment. Logs would be yarded to existing FS roads 6235 and 6204, or new temporary road.

When: Scoping for this project is planned for August 20 with a release of the EA and FONSI/draft DN in October and a DN signed this calendar year.

Why: Recent developments with the local Falls Creek mill has generated interest in young-growth timber opportunities. This potential demand for volume exceeds what the district currently has NEPA cleared under the *Mitkof Island Commercial Firewood or Individual Tree Sales Decision Memo*. Additional NEPA cleared young-growth volume on the Mitkof Island road system would provide an opportunity to help meet potential demand.

- Scoping is slated to begin this month. Carey and Marina will work with Ben to get all materials ready for distribution to the public.
- Potentially some temporary road extensions
- Two units being cleared - about 20 acres each
- Caster is taking the GIS lead on Upper Falls. Gene is backup.

PRD/WRD Invasive Plant EA

- JRT review comments and edits have been addressed, thank you all!
- Draft EA/FONSI will be made available this month, and a 30-day comment period will begin. Carey doesn't anticipate much work needed from specialists following the comment period; however, there is a potential for objections.