

Seeley Swan Blackfoot Stewardship Summit
Double Arrow Resort, Seeley Lake, Montana
April 15-16th.

**Notes taken during the summit that focused on next steps and areas that we can collectively work together on in the coming years.

Summary of Breakout Groups on Day 1: Top priorities for collective action over the next year

1. Support ongoing public outreach, education, and involvement efforts to further restoration and Stewardship objectives
2. Develop a system for prioritizing projects that best address the triple bottom line
3. Save Pyramid and diversified regional infrastructure
4. Conduct restoration assessments of MLP lands (i.e. Smurfit)
5. Develop restoration assessment plans and implement (a focus on MLP lands was suggested)
6. Maintain infrastructure for Pyramid and Smurfit
7. Implement pilot project so we learn through the process
8. Develop indicators to assess health of natural resource-based communities, including common definitions/language, tools to sustain the community/working landscape (feedback loop)
9. Take advantage of current and future funding to target “restoration” priorities across the 3 valleys

New Opportunity: Forest Landscape Restoration Act (part of Omnibus Public Lands Bill)

- Establishes 10-year program and authorizes \$40 million in annual appropriation so that FS has necessary resources to plan and implement restoration.
- 10 pilot projects will be selected to receive \$4 mil/year (areas of at least 50k acres).
- Now working to ensure this is fully funded in FY 2010.
- Have commitment with congressional staffers and other partners to develop a proposal for this funding on this landscape.
- Senate committee staff conference call in early May to help develop proposals.
- Scott Brennan, will help to lead our tri-valleys in an effort to grab a hold of this opportunity. Please contact him for further questions: 406-586-1600 x 117
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Final Day Summation of Next Steps: How to we meet the triple bottom line—what projects meet this criteria?

Top Priorities broken down from Day1:

1. better clarify social/community dimensions
2. save economic infrastructure, especially Pyramid

3. better definitions/shared understanding of terms and identify restoration and conservation priorities, particularly with respect to Montana Legacy Project
4. capitalize on current funding opportunities by developing economic stimulus working group to ensure local benefits

Proposed Action Items:

1. In the next 1-2 months, we should develop tri-valley working group to work on FLRA proposal and track stimulus \$ and unbundle them to get them on the ground here
2. Identify projects for fuels mitigation across the 3 valleys
3. Funding work group
4. Tri-valley working group to communicate between watersheds.

Emerging funding: stimulus via FS, stimulus via State, stimulus via FWS, stimulus via BLM, omnibus bill, legacy roads.

What rises to the collective action level versus individual watershed group activity?

- FLRA and stimulus merit collective action, state agency stuff and legacy roads, less so
- we need to make sure we're not unnecessarily competing

Wrap-up: Melanie Parker

Summit Planning Committee will flesh out what exactly the tri-valley working group should look like.

We need to be coordinating across watersheds on some issues.