



COLORADO FOREST RESTORATION INSTITUTE

Minutes of Front Range Round Table Process Group Meeting

Jefferson County, Dakota Building

March 8, 2011 1 pm to 3:30 pm.

Present: Greg Aplet, Claudia Regan, Jonas Feinstein, Tanya Sharp, Craig Hansen, Jeff Underhill, Gali Beh, Glenn Casamassa, Jessica Clement (who lead the discussion and took notes).

Jessica started the meeting by identifying the two process needs identified so far by the Front Range Roundtable:

- a. Adapt long term communication framework/ adaptive management process that allows monitoring data (or any other information) to inform projects conducted under CFLRP, and other FRRT activities.
- b. Create short term issue resolution process that connects monitoring, CFLRP (and other) projects to place. Process that connects people who live near projects, with FRRT and forest information, and allows issues to be resolved.

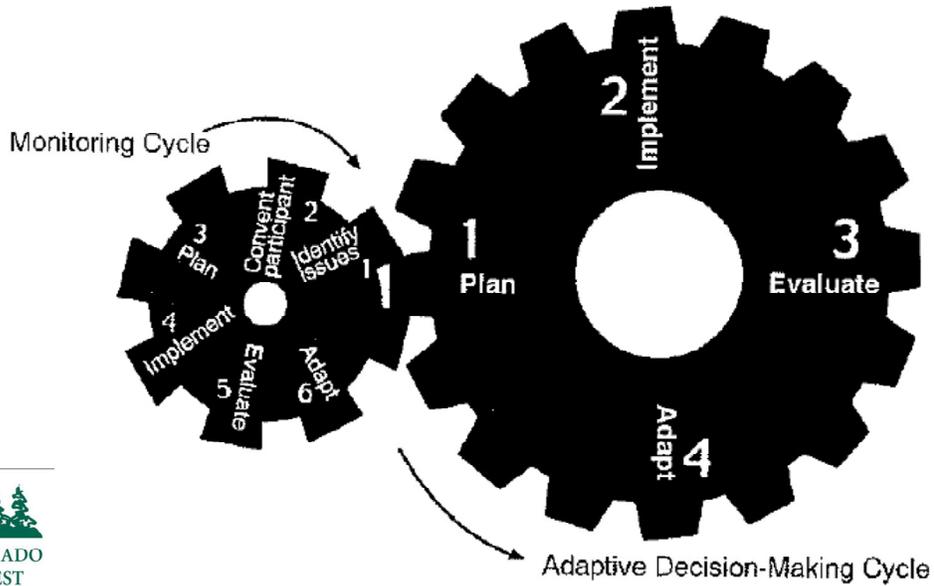
She explained that the purpose of this meeting to identify the following:

- Any other process needs related to FRRT that need to be addressed?
- Suggestions for ways to add/change existing FRRT communication and adaptive management to meet CFLRP and other objectives.
- Timelines.
- Roles.

She used the Bliss et al. model to illustrate the connection between the monitoring working group, or any other FRRT subgroup's activities, and the FRRT proper (see below).

The Adaptive Monitoring Cycle

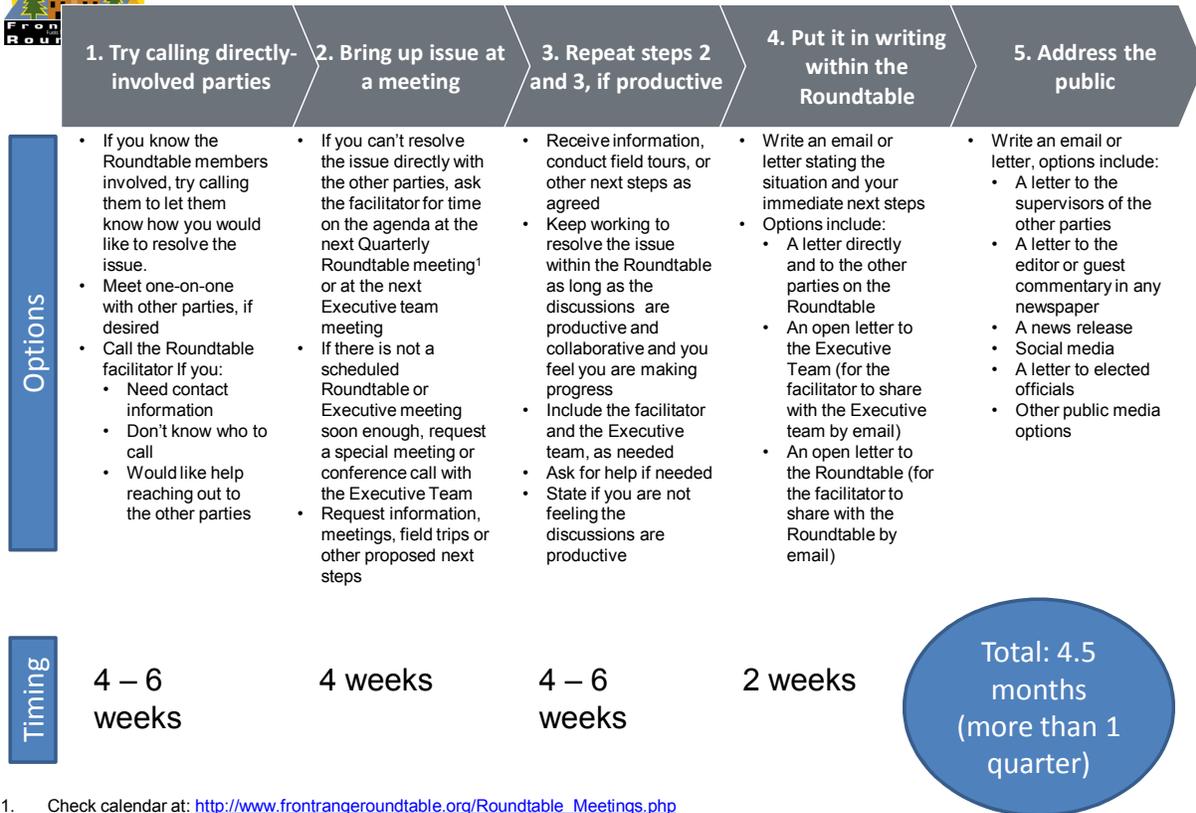
(from Bliss et al. 2001)



Gali Beh presented a model she had created that proposes a methodology for the Front Range Roundtable to resolve issues as they come up in related to place-based issues relating to the FRRT.



Proposed Front Range Roundtable Issue Resolution Policy



1. Check calendar at: http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/Roundtable_Meetings.php
 2. Email: gali@behconsulting.com, or call 303-514-2375 (cell) or 303-499-1576 (office)

See the FRRT website for a larger version.

The members of the FRRT Process group had a number of comments and questions based on Gali's proposal:

- Gali has provided the group with behavioral norms.
- There is probably more work that needs to be done in relation to steps 1 and 2.
- Need to be clear about who "FRRT members" are.
- Need to be clear about identifying what are FRRT issues. E.g. in the past the FRRT decided that lodgepole pine was not one of its issues.
- Unclear how this is going to work with USFS treatments. The USFS already has something like this in the course of NEPA.

A discussion emerged regarding process. Questions arose regarding what jurisdiction the FRRT has. The group agreed that FRRT has no jurisdiction and as a result no authority on its part is ceded. FRRT's role to the USFS is to provide collaborative technical and other assistance. If the USFS decides not to act based on the FRRT's advice, individuals can exercise their own authority. Two advantages were identified in relation to collaboration:

1. Mutual learning
2. The space and time to reach agreement, which can be reflected in statements or otherwise.

The group discussed that FRRT represents an opportunity to create a learning network, based on iterative learning, toward what it thinks is the "right" conceptual model e.g. of a characterization of wildlife habitat, functioning of wildfire or stand structure. The group discussed that in the course of this learning, they did not want to get wrapped around the axle of a subject that doesn't contribute to the discussion, e.g. a too narrow definition of old growth, or diameter caps.

The discussion then touched on the model in Jessica's first figure with the two interlocking gears to form an adaptive management process. What is missing in that model is:

1. The fact that the monitoring working group (MWG) is only one of several FRRT subgroups that need to have a way of inserting their information into the larger collaborative process.
2. There are outside groups and individuals that need to be able to have input and a response from the FRRT, which is what Gali's proposal addresses.

Jeff Underhill explained that to the USFS there are two processes to bear in mind, one is planning and another is implementation. USFS already has processes to cover planning. When issues arise in the course of project implementation action has to be taken quickly and taken to the contract officer and forest supervisor. E.g. the location of a skid trail can be dealt with by a field representative but a larger issue goes to the relevant contracting and line officers.

The group then discussed the desire to be able to quickly access stand exam data, and pre-treatment data for the FRRT monitoring working group's purposes, and to decrease overlap in efforts, create complimentary monitoring processes.

Glenn Cassamassa shared with the group that communities of interest are involved and have influence on USFS decision making. The USFS does not like to make decisions that are not aligned with other communities of interest. On the other hand, the USFS cannot abrogate its decision making authority. Also, the USFS cycle of implementation takes two to three years and it is difficult to change projects once they have been through that process. However supplemental analysis along the way in that process can be used with new information, e.g. tap into the knowledge of new people.

Glenn also discussed with the group another CFLR specific challenge. The USFS has projects in place for the first few years, these projects are "in the queue" and fell under the original CFLRP grant.

Now the USFS has a better idea of what to look for in future projects, we will try to adjust existing projects, and monitor them. We will bring back to the FRRT Executive Committee and to the FRRT what is learned through monitoring. Additionally Glenn encouraged the group to consider looking at a document titled "Front Range Vegetative Management Pilot Project" that discusses remediation efforts in the Front Range ponderosa pine stands that were affected by mountain pine beetle in the 1970's (see Front Range Roundtable website). Glenn suggested that the monitoring working group explore the stands that were remediated at that time for clues for the current outbreak and appropriate measures to take. Glenn has informed all units on the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest to expect monitoring working group members to visit.

A discussion then took place regarding specific monitoring issues:

Who collects the data, analyzes the data, how do we feed the data back to the monitoring working group and the FRRT and Executive Committee? What do we do with the data?

Have to bear in mind that there is ecological and social data that will need to be cycled to the FRRT, Executive Committee and the monitoring working group: ecological and social, e.g. neighbor response.

What is the point of insertion in the FRRT and Executive Committee process for new data?

How refined should the data be when it is cycled back? (Jessica suggested that different kinds of refinement may be required: the MWG may wish to see raw data, the FRRT will want an overview of methods and results).

How do we avoid redundancy of effort? The Front Range CFLRP presents a great opportunity for great monitoring and learning.

How do we approach landscape scale restoration? E.g. did we meet residual BA? Did treatments work from a fire behavioral perspective? Did we do the treatments as envisaged?

The group concluded with next steps:

1. The Monitoring Working Group will propose to FRRT and the Executive Committee a methodology for inserting its information into the larger collaborative process, engaging the FRRT and Exec Committee in learning, and get the feedback/approval it needs if necessary from either or both the FRRT and Exec Committee.

2. The FRRT Executive Committee will create a process that addresses the two issues identified on page 4:

a. The monitoring working group (MWG) is only one of several FRRT subgroups that need to have a way of inserting their information into the larger collaborative process.

b. There are outside groups and individuals that need to be able to have input and a response from the FRRT, which is what Gali's proposal addresses.