



**FFAC-IWG**  
**January 10, 2013**  
**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**  
**University Place, Portland**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**

- At the January 9, 2013 Board of Forestry Meeting, the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) was presented, see (Page f-3 from Budget below) as well as the powerpoint overview for more information:  
[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/BOARD/docs/2013\\_January/BOFMIN\\_20130109\\_ATTCH\\_15.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/BOARD/docs/2013_January/BOFMIN_20130109_ATTCH_15.pdf)
- In Governor Kitzhaber's speech he directed the Board to play a role in developing policies and principles to improve the outcomes of federal forest management specifically to preserve mill infrastructure, restore ecological values and engage in more proactive treatments to limit fire suppression. His full speech can be viewed at: <http://vimeo.com/57085321>
- Amanda Rich will lead the coordination of communication and information sharing efforts during the legislative session to keep FFAC-IWG members informed about how discussions about the forest health priorities in the GRB are progressing.
- Malheur National Forest is hosting Public Information Meetings on the Proposed 10-Year Stewardship Contract. See: [http://www.bluemountaineagle.com/free/meeting-to-detail-stewardship-contract/article\\_7d42aa92-5394-11e2-a7fc-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.bluemountaineagle.com/free/meeting-to-detail-stewardship-contract/article_7d42aa92-5394-11e2-a7fc-001a4bcf887a.html). The meetings are scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 pm at the Malheur National Forest Supervisor's Office located at 431 Patterson Bridge Road in John Day, and Thursday, January 17, 2013 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Harney County Senior Center located at 17 South Alder Avenue, in Burns, OR. For additional information on stewardship contracting, the Region 6 Stewardship Contracting Guide can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur>.
- Next FFAC-IWG meeting: Thursday, February 28, 2013
- April 15-16 USFS Mixed Conifer Science Symposium, Hood River.
- April 17-18 CFLRP Learning Network Meeting, Hood River.
- Update FFAC IWG 2012-13 Calendar to continue to provide information on upcoming events and scheduled FFAC-IWG meetings. (*Appendix B*).
- Updates will be made to the FFAC-IWG webpage: <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/federal-forestlands>

**BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY**

Dry Forest Investment Zone (DFIZ) and Fire Learning Network (FLN)  
11/26-30 2012 workshops in Bend: Summary of discussion and outcomes

DFIZ (Patrick Shannon)

- Collaboratives supported through the 18-month DFIZ program shared their lessons learned and expressed an interest in a Phase II to continue developing capacity support for organizational development. Though capacity development was tailored to each organization, most collaboratives expressed improvement in their ability to collectively set goals, meet deadlines and forecast budget needs. An exit survey was conducted and results can be shared at a future meeting. In the coming fifth year and final year of the DFIZ program, SNW will focus on monitoring and reporting results and contemplating next steps.

#### FLN (Mark Stern)

- The FLN is a nationwide initiative funded through a partnership between DOI, USDA and the Nature Conservancy and has been active in the Northwest for seven years. TNC has held conferences for FLN every other year to understand lessons learned. This year the event was open to all collaboratives on the east side (with 140 attendees over two days) including five County commissioners. A highlight was the Friday morning session where a diverse group of stakeholders aired their views on post-fire salvage strategies. Many will be watching the Blue Mountain Forest Partners process to learn from their experience.

#### Upcoming Workshops (Patrick Shannon)

##### April 15-16 USFS Mixed Conifer Science Symposium

Last year, there was a field tour in Wallowa-Whitman NF to initiate discussions about mixed conifer on the east side. Peter Stein is pulling together a synthesis of the existing science to help guide future restoration work. The draft is expected to be released in February.

##### April 17-18 Region 6 CFLRP Network: Building Collaborative Capacity for Landscape-Scale Restoration

There is an interest in discussing how Region 6 investments were allocated to eastside forests that received CFLRP as there was an expectation that this program was bringing new resources into the region. Scrutiny coming from westside forests that had to compete for the same resources. Generally industry is also questioning what deliverables are associated with the large investment of resources for restoration work and how that is distributed geographically. This event will be an opportunity for CFLRP projects to share creative ways that match what was met as well as what deliverables were tied to the increase in investment made through the program. There could also be a discussion about how to generate new revenue streams, leverage investments in the future and develop a business model based on lessons learned from CFLRP.

These events will be co-located in Hood River.

#### NFF Community Capacity and Land Stewardship: Next grant cycle (Tracy Beck)

There will be a round of funding with approximately \$175,000 dollars available through NFF this year. Funding is coming from USFS, NRCS is not able to participate this year. RFP's are expected to be solicited in March 2013.

Check NFF website for release of information:

<http://www.nationalforests.org/consERVE/grantprograms/capacitybuilding/ccls>

### Statewide Inventory of Community-based Forest Collaboratives (Nathan Poage)

Review, summary & consideration of next steps

23 collaboratives currently inventoried with over 83 organizations involved in regular meetings. The [map of collaboratives](#) has been updated by U of O Ecosystem Workforce Program and shows the split of collaboratives focused exclusively on public lands (11) and those focused across all land ownership (12). The inventory will be posted soon to the OS website.

### Community-Based Collaborative Groups & Project Appeals: preliminary information

Initial information shows the correlation between the growth in collaborative infrastructure and the decline of appeals. We cannot yet infer causation. Nathan is working with Region 6 staff and PSU graduate student Brett Summers to collect and analyze data to better understand collaborative outcomes related to the NEPA process. List of potential data includes:

- # of acres per project
- NEPA timeline
- Million board feet
- Total amounts of dollars allocated from agency budget
- # of culverts/ other restoration activities
- who is appealing

If you have any suggested inquiries, send them to: [poagesblackinc@gmail.com](mailto:poagesblackinc@gmail.com)

Inquiries proposed as a graph to be populated are most helpful.

### Governor's 2012-13 Recommended Budget (GRB) (Brett Brownscombe)

\$4.5 million in lottery-backed bonds is being requested to support restoration efforts for forest health and resiliency of —dry, fire prone national forests in Oregon – the Dry Forest Zone – by providing staff support and financial assistance to collaborative groups. The funds are in part contingent upon some level of understanding with the forest service to establish supply agreements for key mills on the east side of the state ( a “*new business model*”).

Thank you to the FFAC IWG for outlining a strategy to support collaboratives. Work has been incorporated into this proposal. During the Board of Forestry meeting yesterday, staff emphasized the connection between the GRB and the recommendations identified in the Oregon Board of Forestry Vision Report adopted in 2009 (the FFAC report). The available funding to support collaboratives is still around what FFAC-IWG proposed at \$2 million dollars to support staffing at the state level, science and technical assistance and a small grants program.

The Governor's office is working out the details for the delivery of funding, with an overarching principle that there are measurable outcomes tied to funding to hold collaboratives accountable for desired outcomes.

An additional \$2 million dollars is in the GRB to assist with developing and implementing *a new business model* that builds on the momentum and support for the Malheur NF to increase the certainty of supply outcomes through stewardship contracting that will help to maintain existing mill infrastructure in Eastern Oregon. The intent is to build a successful new business model with the Malheur NF and expand to scale up efforts across the dry, fire-prone forest landscape.

There is general frustration at the legislative level around federal forest management and the barriers it is creating for economic development and forest restoration activities. Despite agreement about the problem, questions still remain about why the state should fund efforts that support activities on land under federal jurisdiction and management. The approach outlined in the budget is responsive to the existing partnership context of how USFS operates as an agency at the forest and regional level and builds on the momentum of collaboratives. The Governor's Office presented this perspective to the Board of Forestry yesterday and appreciates the comments from AFRC, AOC, SNW, TNC and others in support of the budget.

#### Discussion/Comments

- The budget, if approved, will be allocated over the 2013-2015 biennium. \$5.4 million is set aside in total with over \$1 million anticipated to support the discussion and development of a new approach for O&C lands. The development of new business models and approaches will take time and will require reporting during the new biennium. There is intention to share the evidence that new approaches can work and diversify revenue sources. The Governor was clear that going to Congress to speak about forest management funding is not off the table but also clear that there is an urgent need for state action.
- State legislature likely doesn't want to pay for NEPA. If money went into layout crews, timber marking, etc. could be better received to show investment in action and assets instead of process.
- Congressional delegation interest on Malheur, communicating that any funding that goes to Malheur should inform how to make investments in other communities.
- The Governor is approaching forest management as he does other policy issues with a general systems approach. Focus our resources on prevention through restoration activities for forest health to reduce the rising costs of fire suppression. He also wants to demonstrate a workable business model to develop sustainable funding mechanisms to show we can increase effectiveness and hold groups accountable. (Re)examine what's working and what's not. New ways to market products, such as biomass discussions. Hope to expand partnerships opportunities with USFS to build business model.
- Question still remains; how to create new business model with new funding source that delivers these outcomes without diverting funding from existing programs.
- Amanda Rich has agreed to be a point of contact "clearinghouse" for discussions during the legislative session. She plans to host a weekly Friday check-in call to download information, details to follow.

## **Participants**

Convener: Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Office, Natural Resources

Paul Barnum, Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)

Tracy Beck, USFS

Jackie Andrew, USFS

Ric Rine, USFS

Becky Rine, USFS

Patrick Shannon, Sustainable Northwest

Tom Partin, AFRC

Russ Hoeflich, TNC

Amanda Rich, TNC

Susan Jane Brown, Western Environmental Law Center

Gil Riddell, Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)

Amanda Rich, TNC

Mark Stern, TNC

Rick Brown, consultant, Defenders of Wildlife (retired)

### **By Phone:**

Curt Qual, USFS (retired)

Steve Beverly USFS

Mike Billman, Ochoco Lumber

Phil Chang, COIC

### **Staff:**

Oregon Solutions

Pete Dalke, Nathan Poage, Melanie Knapp and Julia Babcock

### Healthy Environment Outcome Area Recommended Budget and Key Investments

The Governor's Balanced Budget for the Healthy Environments outcome area is \$0.8 billion, which includes \$91.2 million General Fund, \$141.6 million Lottery Funds from Measure 76, and \$4.4 million from discretionary Lottery Funds. The budget prioritizes water quality and sustainable resource management, including the three major investment areas described above (water quality, water resources strategy, and urban growth management reform), as well as the following additional investments and innovations:

- Marine Protected Areas and Marine Reserves: Continued funding to implement the marine reserves approved by the legislature in 2011.
- Land Use Reform: Continued funding to carry out the Governor's executive order on Southern Oregon resource land management.
- Water Right Management: Approval of a new water right management fee that, over time, can provide stable funding for multi-purpose water development and management in Oregon.
- Columbia River Gorge Management: Restoration of funding for the Gorge Commission to begin updating the management plan for the gorge.
- **Oregon and California Lands, and Forest Collaboratives: Investment of \$0.4 million to continue work on the management of the federal Oregon & California lands in southern and western Oregon, along with work to scale-up production from federal lands in eastern Oregon. This funding also is tied to \$5.4 million in bond funds to support collaboratives, and help implement changes in forest management on the O&C lands.**
- Lower Columbia River Fisheries: The budget invests \$5.2 million to relocate the gill net fishery off of the main stem of the Columbia River, and to supplement fishing opportunities in offchannel areas. The sportfishing users in the lower Columbia are expected to shoulder a part of these costs. Funds will be used to complete the feasibility studies necessary to establish new and existing off-channel commercial fisheries areas.

The balanced budget also maintains existing program levels and restores monitoring programs, including those for salmon and watersheds, groundwater, and forestry. For many of the existing salmon and watershed programs, General Fund is used to maintain services because lottery revenue is forecasted to decline.

Other budgetary adjustments include scaling back funding for local planning grants, reflecting the slowing and reevaluation of periodic review of comprehensive plans through the urban growth reform program.