



FFAC IWG

January 5, 2012

2:00-4:00 p.m.

DRAFT Meeting Notes

ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- OWEB Board Meeting will be held January 18th and 19th. Agenda and staff reports can be viewed here: http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/board_meeting_info.shtml
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program has moved through Congress with a \$40 million budget. More information to follow in the coming months.
- Meeting to assess economic assessment/study opportunities with USFS Region 6 staff on January 9th
- SNW Survey results from Collaborative Capacity Initiative
- Umatilla National Forest will host next collaborative meetings January 26th and February 23rd
- PLANES subcommittee to revisit response to USFS Region 6 regarding the need for a “compendium of science”
- Follow up with WGA around Large Scale Forest Restoration Resolution
- Next FFAC IWG meeting will be a work session set for February 16th 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY

FRAMEWORK FOR AN ACTION PLAN:

Planning Efficiencies Subcommittee (PLANES) Update

Single-Condition Focused NEPA (SCFN)

Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (UFCG) had a very preliminary discussion to gauge interest in piloting SCFN at its 1/5 meeting. It is still unclear if there would be funding for this effort and how to determine which collaboratives are best suited to pilot the process. The stakeholders expressed interest to continue to consider planning efficiencies as a regular topic at their meetings.

Region 6 is in discussions about how to permit the contracting out of NEPA work including treatment of vegetation. One proposal is to allow stewardship contracting projects to include a third party NEPA paid

for by the project developer. USFS has been legally authorized to find other ways to process NEPA applications, potentially looking at Fremont Winema and other forests with potential for a pilot.

“Compendium of Science”

PLANES has worked on a draft letter to request Region 6 support PNW research station in developing Compendium of Science. USFS has an operational need for a tool that can limit time sorting citations to determine relevancy in order to perform analysis and move EA's and EIS's through approval more efficiently. Cost to develop estimated under \$50,000 with ongoing maintenance estimated at roughly \$20,000/year.

There was discussion about how FFAC IWG can partner with USFS to edit the letter of support to reflect an intention of partnership rather than simply a request for funding. There could be additional national interest if Region 6 created the database as a pilot which could attract outside funding. PLANES will address these ideas at the next meeting to rework proposal and revise draft letter of support.

Support for Collaboratives - Update

NFF Community Capacity and Land Stewardship Program

NFF CLSP applications were due in December. Total equaled over \$500,000 in funding requested for about \$290,000 in funds available this year. There were 21 applications from Oregon. Initially about half of the available funds will be allocated for this year's first round of applications. The remaining funds will be awarded after a second application period in June. There is potential for NFF to create a national program based on Region 6 process. Collaboratives asked for a variety of assistance related to capacity including monitoring equipment. In general some collaboratives are seeking to become 501(3)c's, while others will have shorter term project-based governance structures and rely on a third-party fiscal agent.

Funding Subcommittee Report

The issue at hand is that there is around 150-180,000 acres of treatment occurring per year. The FFAC discussed treating 500,000 acres per year, how do we bridge the gap from the current budget and acres treated to the range that will enable the additional capacity for more treatment. It doesn't seem appropriate to have a subset of the IWG working on funding issues. Instead it is proposed that the full group meet and have a series of work sessions focused on funding. It is recognized that the federal government can only provide so much funding for planning. An economic study, similar to what was outlined in the Prospectus document circulated to the IWG, is needed to provide a compelling case for state investment. Subcommittee members including TNC, OFRI, ODF, SNW will be meeting with USFS staff economist on Monday the 9th to discuss study objectives. Ensure making all connections to leverage information; Cass Moseley offered to sit in on meeting.

Updates to the IWG

CFLRP Bill

Interior bill went through Congress with request for full funding at \$40 million for CFLRP which FFAC IWG supported through a letter last month. There is a shared interest in Congress to see jobs on the ground as well as improve ecosystem benefits related to forest health. Secretary of Agriculture will make decision about how money is allocated. Oregon in favorable position with the #1 & 2 ranked projects coming out of CFLRP steering committee recommendations. The decision date has not yet been announced but Oregon delegation is closely supporting local project funding.

WGA Large Scale Forest Restoration Resolution

WGA has convened a group across 19 Western states to develop policy and management directives around forest health issues. The resolution is intended to modify existing processes and not duplicate efforts. Will stay in close contact with FFAC IWG to learn of progress being made that will inform resolution such as efficiency gains in NEPA work. Looking to build active management models through progressive practices of subsets of federal forestland. Couer d' Alene Idaho example of state trust lands working for forest restoration work.

Oregon Forest Biomass Work Group

Chad Davis mentioned Oregon Forest Biomass Group also kicking off Monday Meeting concluded at 4:00 p.m.

Future Meetings

Future meeting date set for February 16th. Schedule meetings/work sessions every 6 weeks to the end of 2012.

Participants

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

Agency

Governor's Office
USFS
USFS
ODF
BLM
TNC
OFRI
ODFW
AOC
Sustainable NW
AFRC
Defenders of Wildlife (retired)

Attendee

Brett Brownscombe
Tracy Beck
Jeff Walter
Kevin Birch
Lee Folliard
Russ Hoeflich
Mike Cloughesy
Rod Krahmer
Mike McArthur
Chad Davis
Tom Partin
Rick Brown

By Phone:

Benton County
AOC

Annabelle Jaramillo
Gil Ridell

USDA
Sustainable NW
Ochoco Lumber
OWEB
WGA

Jill Rees
Maia Enzer
Bruce Daucsavage
Greg Sieglitz
Ann Walker

Staff:

Oregon Solutions
Oregon Solutions
Oregon Solutions
Oregon Solutions

Pete Dalke
Jim Johnson
Julia Babcock
Peter Harkema

DRAFT