



**FFAC IWG**  
**October 25 2012**  
**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

Location: University Place Hotel & Conference Center, 310 SW Lincoln Street, Portland, OR

**ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**

- USFS consideration of request to provide a summary/memo of specific examples from the east side forests regarding how the presence of a forest collaborative group on a forest has led to fewer appeals.
- Next Funding Subcommittee meeting: week of 11/9.
- 11/16 Timeframe for final decisions for Governor's recommended budget.
- 11/19 Release of the National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment.
- 11/28 Discussion of the Assessment and the funding proposal to support local collaboratives at the Fire Learning Network workshop, Location – near Bend.
- 12/3 Oregon Business Summit: December 3, 2012.
- 12/6 FFAC IWG meeting will be held in Portland.

**BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY**

**USFS Pacific Northwest Region (R6) Planning Approach: Current Thinking**

Part of Ric Rine's role as Director of Resource Planning and Monitoring in Regional Office is to assess NEPA capacity. The Region is working to develop more efficient and transparent NEPA. Economic conditions in rural communities and ecological conditions driving conversations about making NEPA more efficient. Examples discussed included:

- 1) large-scale NEPA for Black Hills NF, South Dakota, and beetles. Extension of approaches to R6 (e.g., Malheur). Collaboratives' involvement is key. R6 has good NEPA track record.
- 2) focused EIS
- 3) iterative EIS versus "Jack-in-the-Box" NEPA approach

Concerns about reduction in interdisciplinary planning teams (ID teams) were noted. The Region recognizes there are fewer staff available to sit on ID teams. Positions, not teams, are funded. Are looking at East-Side forest "block" approaches to ID teams, but note that new NEPA tools may test collaborative.

The Region was asked if there is a way to quantify the effect of collaboratives on the rate of appeals? That is, where a local collaborative exists and is effectively engaged with the USFS,

has there been a change in the number of appeals, objectives and/or litigations? Likewise, is there any evidence that Forests with a history of active forest collaborative groups have been able to complete NEPA more efficiently, be it a shorter timeline to getting a ROD, or even simply doing more EAs and fewer EISs.

The FFAC asked R6 to provide a memo documenting how the presence of a forest collaborative group on a forest has led to fewer appeals. For example, the Fremont-Winema is often held up as an example of that, as is the Colville National Forest,... but the information is anecdotal and it would be helpful for the FFAC and partners to have summary that demonstrates the value of collaboratives, both to potential funders and to skeptics who may be reluctant to invest time in the collaborative process.

- The FFAC made a specific request of USFS to provide a summary/memo supported with data of specific examples of how collaboratives have benefited or expedited NEPA and planning on the east side forests, and to do so sometime in the next few weeks.

Brent Summers, an incoming Portland State University graduate student, was in attendance and will be addressing similar questions as part of his Masters work. Brent provided a brief overview of his project and noted that he has just begun his program, but has already met with Margaret Petersen (USFS) and others to discuss.

#### Work Session: National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment

Matt Krumenauer, Brandon Vickery and Mark Rasmussen discussed the draft report currently undergoing peer review. Preliminary numbers were presented, discussed, clarified and questions raised. Final report due November 19, 2012. Kudos were expressed to USFS R6 and the National Forests for their incredible assistance in conducting this economic study.

#### Funding Subcommittee Update

Brett Brownscombe provided an overview of:

- 1) Funding proposal to support collaboratives (“small dollar ask”) – as discussed at previous meetings, the funding would be used to support technical needs of collaboratives, small grants, and a state-level staff position to act as Federal Forest liaison. Consensus in subcommittee is in moving this forward through governor’s budget. Final decisions of Governor’s budget made on November 16, 2012.
- 2) National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment (“Big \$ ask”) -- discussion of State’s role in moving issue forward on ecological and economic fronts through, in part, collaboratives. How does State take step in partnering State dollars with Federal dollars? A Policy Subcommittee probably needs to be convened for these discussions.

Brett Brownscombe notes resolving Malheur Lumber issue has had a galvanizing effect on dry side federal forest discussions. Judge Mark Webb noted that Counties need to be at the table for on-going and emerging discussions.

Several examples of already existing State / Federal cooperative efforts were provided by Bill Renwick (highways and National Guard) and Ric Rine (OHV fees, snow-parks).

## Updates for Consideration

- USFS Region 6 has agreed to continue contribution to the Community Capacity and Land Stewardship (CCLS) grant program administered by the National Forest Foundation. Unsure about USDA NRCS' continued participation.
- Sustainable Northwest, The Nature Conservancy provided an overview of “*Resilient Forests and Communities Workshop*” November 27-30, 2012, Bend, Oregon. Interest expressed in having MB&G present the economic assessment on 11/28. The funding proposal to support collaboratives will also be discussed on 11/28.
- R6 is working with NFF and Sustainable Northwest to create a CFLRP learning network. There will likely be a workshop on this in Spring 2013. Perhaps could use this as an opportunity to more broadly to create a forest collaborative network.
- The Board of Forestry will meet in John Day on November 7-8, 2012. November 7<sup>th</sup> = in-door meeting; November 8<sup>th</sup> = field tour.
- The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest-wide Collaborative is a rapidly emerging collaborative effort that is picking up speed. Oregon Solutions has been invited to work with Sustainable Northwest to assist with capacity assessment and building.
- Oregon Solutions staff request that FFAC-IWG members please look at the next draft of the Oregon Statewide Forest Collaboratives Inventory (OSFCI) that will be circulated in the coming days. Staff will also be contacting some of those involved with the Collaboratives Subcommittee in the past to assess re-purposing the subcommittee going forward.

## Participants

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

Paul Barnum, Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)

Kevin Birch, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

Rick Brown, Defenders of Wildlife (retired)

Susan Jane Brown, Western Environmental Law Center (call-in)

Carrie Ann Capp, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (call-in)

Bruce Daucsavage, Ochoco Lumber (call-in)

Lisa Friedman, United States Forest Service (USFS)

Russ Hoeflich, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Matt Krumenauer, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)

Dylan Kruse, Sustainable Northwest

Mike McArthur, Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) (call-in)

Nathan Poage, Clackamas Stewardship Partners (CSP)

Mark Rasmussen, Mason, Bruce & Girard (MB&G)

Bill Renwick, Harney County Restoration Collaborative (call-in)

Amanda Rich, TNC

Ric Rine, USFS

Patrick Shannon, Sustainable Northwest (call-in)  
Greg Sieglitz, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) (call-in)  
Mark Stern, TNC  
Brandon Vickery, MB&G  
Jeff Walter, USFS  
Judge Mark Webb, Grant County

Staff:

Oregon Solutions

Pete Dalke, Nathan Poage

## FFAC IWG CALENDAR

### Fall 2012 – Summer 2013

- 9/13/12 FFAC IWG meeting & work session. PSU, Meyer Memorial Conference Room.
- 9/13/12 Joint Legislative Task Force on County Payments – economic assessment presentation  
& discussion.
- 10/15/12 *National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment*. Draft completed. Out for peer review.
- 10/25/12 FFAC IWG meeting. University Place Hotel, Portland.  
Work session: *National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment*.  
Discuss FFAC-IWG role at the 12/3 Oregon Leadership Summit.**
- 10/29/12 *National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment*. Peer review panel comments due.
- 11/\_\_/12 FFAC IWG subcommittees meet: Funding, Planning Efficiencies
- 11/7-8 Board of Forestry meeting and tour in John Day.
- 11/19/12 *National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment published*.
- 11/ 27 - 30 Sustainable Northwest - DFIZ meeting w/ collaboratives. TNC – NW Fire Learning Network meeting focused on restoration treatments, plant association group- level prescriptions for ponderosa pine and dry-mixed conifer. Bend, Mt Bachelor.
- 11/28/30 FFAC IWG participation with workshops to discuss the funding proposal to support collaboratives and the National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment.
- Late Nov Governor's Recommended Budget released.
- 12/3/12 Oregon Leadership Summit. Oregon Convention Center. Presentation & Discussion: *National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment*. (Consider possible FFAC IWG role with collaboratives at the Summit.)

- 12/6/12 FFAC-IWG meeting & work session. Location: TBD.
- 12/11/12 Joint Legislative Task Force on County Payments – *National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment* presentation & discussion.

**2013**

- 1/\_\_/2012 FFAC IWG meeting (January 17 or 24?)
- Early 2013 Sustainable Northwest wraps up DFIZ project, reports out. Start of 1 year monitoring period.
- 2/4/2013 State Legislature convenes.
- Early March FFAC IWG meeting
- Mid-April FFAC IWG meeting
- Spring 2013 CFLRP Learning Network meeting (USFS, National Forest Foundation, Sustainable Northwest).
- Late May FFAC IWG meeting
- Mid-July FFAC IWG meeting