

Federal Forest Advisory Committee- Ad Hoc Implementation Work Group

2/28/2013

Meeting at Oregon Department of Forestry

Draft Notes

ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- March 13, 2013 OWEB meeting will include a panel presentation for education purposes on forest collaboratives. Working to have collaborative representation there to share success stories. ([Agenda item O. Forest Collaboratives](#))
- Next Collaborative Subcommittee meeting will be held March 20 at PSU.
- Next FFAC-IWG Meeting is scheduled for April 4. Location: Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem.

Welcome & Introductions, Agenda Review

State Legislative Update and Discussion

- The Ways and Means Co-chairs' budget is coming out next week which will include the Governor's budget recommendations. There is still a lot of work to be done to educate legislatures about the benefits of state investments in forest restoration work on National Forest lands.
- [HB2050](#) the Wildfire Protection Act has initial support from a broad spectrum of interests because it has been framed as both a rural and urban issue with goals to protect wildlife and habitat as well as save lives.
- SB 257. Senator Roblan, chair of the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development, is convening a work group to discuss possible long-term funding sources and additional administrative mechanisms that will allow partnering with the USFS. The understanding is that a "Forest Products Loan Fund" as originally drafted in the bill is unworkable at the Federal level.
- [Governor's Natural Resources Office Inter-agency Budget Memo](#) drafted 2/4/2013 outlines the proposed investment in sustainable forest management. Identifies need to reduce fire risk and address decline in forest health on public lands as part of an all lands approach. The Governor's Office has been engaging stakeholders from a number of FFAC-IWG member organizations to develop the expected mechanisms and measures for implementing the proposal to meet forest health goals and develop a new business model.
- Since USFS Regional Forester Kent Connaughton sent his [letter](#) to Senator Wyden in September 2012, there have been several follow up discussions about how to build relationships to maintain Oregon's mill infrastructure. Malheur National Forest is being allocated resources to hire 2 NEPA interdisciplinary (ID) teams. A Board of Directors has been set up within Region 6 to increase the program on the Blues (Wallowa-Whitman,

Umatilla, Ochoco, Malheur NF), help steer decisions and share lessons learned across other forests. Bill Aney has been identified by the Board as the Eastside coordinator to accelerate restoration. Plans include hiring a Blues large-landscape level ID team and an implementation team (for surveying, inventories and marking) to add capacity for forest restoration work. There is a need to discuss how to continue funding this level of effort beyond the current Federal Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2013. This ties to the importance of the State-level discussion about a new business model and leveraging state/federal funding.

Federal Legislation Discussion

- The Nature Conservancy is drafting a white paper for distribution that will help coordinate information and the message about the work on a new state/fed business model for restoration of National Forests. Contact: Mike Dennis.

Collaborative Subcommittee Discussion

- Sent around a draft fact sheet to illustrate outcomes from collaborative work on the Malheur National Forest.
- USFS staff has been working with Nathan Poage, Ph.D. and PSU graduate student Brent Summers to provide access to the PALS (Planning Appeals and Litigation System), FACTS (Forest Service ACTivity Tracking System), TIMS (Timber Information Management) and TSA (Timber Sales Accounting) databases for future queries from FFAC-IWG.

Board of Forestry – Subcommittee on Federal Forests

- The Board recently formed this Subcommittee. Chair Tom Imeson's memo on scope and direction is online at:
http://www.oregon.gov/odf/BOARD/docs/BOF_SubC_FedF/BOF%20Subcommittee%20on%20Federal%20Forests%20Direction%20Memo.pdf

Subcommittee agendas and meeting packet are on the Board's webpage:

http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/board/index.aspx#Board_of_Forestry_Subcommittees

Coordination with the Subcommittee work will be part of the on-going FFAC-IWG agendas.

"The Biomass Dilemma" – Presentation & Discussion

- See Powerpoint presentation from Irene Jerome
- Discussion about the benefit of subsidies to reduce volatility of the timber market and encourage restoration projects.

Participants

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

Tracy Beck, USFS

Chad Davis, ODF

Kevin Birch, ODF

Patrick Shannon, Sustainable Northwest

Russ Hoeflich, TNC

Mike Dennis, TNC

Irene Jerome, Jerome Natural Resource Consultants, AFRC

Susan Jane Brown, Western Environmental Law Center

Gil Ridell, Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)

Rod Krahmer, ODFW

Karl Morgenstern, EWEB,

Melanie Knapp, U of O intern

By Phone:

Jackie Andrew, USFS

Becky Rine, USFS

Curt Qual, USFS (retired)

Jeff Griffin, Regional Solutions

Alice Williamson, Sustainable Northwest

Staff:

Oregon Solutions

Pete Dalke, Nathan Poage and Julia Babcock