



FFAC IWG

February 16, 2010

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

DRAFT Meeting Notes

ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- Compendium of Science proposal being sent with letter of support to Kent Connaughton. If you wish to sign-on please send to Peter Harkema by 2/23
- Economic Assessment RFP moving forward, please send edits back by Monday 2/20, in advance of IWG presentation to the Joint Legislative Task Force on County Payment
- Umatilla National Forest will host next collaborative meeting 2/23
- Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition March 6-8 Vancouver, WA (includes keynote panel with 5 regional foresters on March 6th)
- Consider how best to align resources and consolidate services towards the shared goal of developing a restoration economy – ongoing committee task
- Portland Wood Solutions Fair 3/13
- Opportunity to partner on the Restoration Economy Forum, contact Maia Enzer (menzer@sustainablenorthwest.org) for more information. Next FFAC IWG meeting will be a work session set for 3/22 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Future meeting dates: 5/3, 6/14, 7/26, 9/13, 10/25, 12/6
- Next PLANES subcommittee meeting being scheduled in March

BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack awarded full funding to the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program with two projects in Oregon; the Southern Blues receiving 2.5 million and Lakeview Stewardship Group receiving 3.5 million. Congratulations to those communities, collaboratives and everyone who supported project development!

The OWEB Board Meeting was held last month in Newport to set budget direction for the agency over the next biennium. At the meeting, TNC and OS presented a funding request to advance forest collaborative work including forest restoration aligned with recommendations from FFAC IWG. OWEB approved funding in two phases with a total of \$700,000 over the next two years for TNC and OS to continue supporting collaboratives, including Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group. The Board made it clear that there needed to be a clear long-term vision for

collaboratives and wanted to see the roles of other organizations partnering on these efforts to ensure OWEB is not the sole funder, supporter.

It was noted that long term stability of forest collaboratives will require a conversation to determine the most efficient and effective way to align resources, consolidate service delivery, and build a restoration economy across agencies and organizations, including forest collaboratives, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and land trusts. FFAC IWG will want to consider how to incorporate these system changes and priorities in a budget proposal for the next biennium.

FRAMEWORK FOR AN ACTION PLAN:

Follow up on Tasks Identified in the “Framework for an FFAC Action Plan”

A series of work sessions have been scheduled between now and December 2012 to build the link between federal, state and collaborative priorities and create forest health outcomes at a larger scale. The funding subcommittee is holding the following dates for work sessions:

Funding Subcommittee

There are two core components to building funding for FFAC IWG and associated work: 1) an economic assessment to determine costs and benefits of increasing treatment and 2) developing budget scenarios to progress capacity for implementation at the state and collaborative level.

Building a new budget is based on the presumption that the Forest Service will not be receiving substantial new resources in the coming years and that the state will likely take a more active role in funding necessary restoration work. In light of this, the funding subcommittee has developed an rfp for a consultant to perform an economic assessment of the cost and benefits of treating more acreage to build a case for the state investments. The timeline shows target to complete economic assessment in time to present findings at December 2012 Oregon Leadership Summit and then in February for the 2013 Legislative Session.

Discussion:

- Scope defined as 11.4 million of the 18 million acres managed by BLM and USFS on the east side of the cascades defined as moderately or highly departed from historic fire regimes, excluding O&C lands and all of Mt Hood NF. Trying to work in areas of high level of agreement to limit controversy.
- There is a need to assess the existing people and infrastructure capacity as part of the context of scaling up treatments. Make sure to account for existing assessments of

collaborative capacity. SNW is conducting survey which will close by next meeting as an example.

- Investing state funds may become a public decision or process and will be an open conversation with state
- USFS role being defined, there may be an opportunity to utilize existing staff capacity but no additional funding is likely. Subcommittee is reaching out to Kent for input.
- Expected cost of study \$100,000, seeking broad participation and support. Please contact Paul Barnum if you are interested in providing financial or technical or if you have suggestions for additional partners including members for an advisory committee.

Planning Efficiencies Subcommittee (PLANES)

Last PLANES meeting was held 1/21. The Compendium of Science proposal is moving forward through a letter of support to Kent Connaughton. The Single Condition Focused NEPA is still being explored through Umatilla Forest Collaborative as well as opportunities to pilot broader scale NEPA through other collaboratives. Staff is working to gather information about how collaboratives currently participate in NEPA and their recommendations for process efficiency that could be piloted with FFAC IWG support. Curt Qual is developing a proposal for the Malheur NF to assess funding support for NEPA done through the collaborative. Its not clear yet if USFS will have budget to support this work.

5 mile bell on Siuslaw provides an example of a NEPA conducted by a collaborative with the field inventory work conducted in 2010-2011 and an EA expected by 2012. The project area was relatively small at 5,000 acres but the NEPA work was done for free allowing USFS ID teams to work on other projects. There could be some lessons learned from that project to share with other collaboratives.

4FRI in Northern Arizona where Wallowa fire occurred is attempting to pursue 1.78 million acres of treatment, with a first phase of 1 million acres through collaborative that has been meeting for over seven years. First step was developing a supply side analysis. 4FRI does not have the mill infrastructure or labor force in comparison to OR which has an urgency to support mill infrastructure before it disappears.

Both serve as anecdotal case studies about collaborative approaches to NEPA.

Support for Collaboratives

There is a need to create consistent, long-term funding to support collaborative work in addition to the NFF grant program. Building from existing outreach Scott Aycock conducted, as well as information from the NFF proposals and SNW work in capacity building, we are trying to understand the needs and barriers collaboratives face to make a case for legislative consideration

of long-term funding mechanisms. This is part of the conversation about service delivery aligned with watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and land trusts which so far have not been able to become self-sustaining orgs.

State Biomass Strategy Planning Effort

The Biomass Working Group has been working since 2005 to explore and promote opportunities for biomass utilization with a focus on energy. BWG was formed through SB1072, which was the same legislation which led to the FFAC IWG. Based on significant changes in the economy, BWG decided there needed to be a discussion with experts around the state about how those changes affect the market and what the strategy will be moving forward. Bringing in experts from around the state to have round tables with a focus on a number of areas including thermal energy, wood-based heat, distributed generation, emerging technology, biochemicals, biofuels, biochar and other emerging products and technologies as well as harvesting guidelines and developing a sustainable supply of biomass. Meetings occurring in February and March, with invites being sent out this week. Beginning of April, there will be a review of the draft strategy through public engagement and broad stakeholder outreach with a target to finalize the strategy by late June/early July. Hopefully align with State Energy Plan, Forest Cluster Economic Team and FFAC IWG work to create policy recommendations for 2013 legislature.

UPDATES

O&C Lands, Secure Rural Schools and Stewardship Contracting – Reauthorization status

Press Conference held today (2/16) to discuss draft release of The O&C Trust, Conservation, and Jobs Act, which proposes a long-term plan for the O&C counties. The bill will go before the House and Senate but is not currently tied to Congressman Hastings Bill though it may be linked back together. Governor's office is working at federal level to support reinstatement of SRS, but staff is also not relying on Congress and is preparing for the worst case scenario to ensure there is a strategy in place if some counties face fiscal insolvency. Secretary Salazar will be in Medford next week to meet with state agency staff about O&C lands and we'll have more to report at next meeting.

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition upcoming conference (SNW)

11th Annual Policy Meeting being held in Vancouver, WA March 6-8th.

Restoration Economy Forum

SNW has developed a proposal for a forum to “convene a critical conversation among community-based leaders, agency representatives and key decisionmakers to enhance the collective understanding and opportunities of a restoration-based approach to natural resource management.” SNW is reaching out to FFAC IWG for potential partners and will decide in June

if there is enough support to hold event. Estimated budget \$120,000 for 100-200 people for a two-day meeting to be held in a rural community in Oregon.

Portland Wood Solutions Fair 3/13

One-day event including 19 seminars, a trade exposition and design awards which is free and open to the public. Register at woodworks.org

Participants

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

Agency

Governor's Office
Governor's Office
USFS
USFS
ODF
TNC
TNC
TNC
OFRI
ODFW
AOC
Sustainable NW
Defenders of Wildlife (retired)
Coquille Tribe
Oregon Business Council

Attendee

Brett Brownscombe
Greg Wolf
Tracy Beck
Jackie Andrew
Kevin Birch
Russ Hoeflich
Amanda Rich
Mark Stern
Paul Barnum
Rod Kraemer
Mike McArthur
Maia Enzer
Rick Brown
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