



**FFAC IWG**  
**March 3, 2012**  
**9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**

- Proposal to map forest vegetation and change in Oregon and Washington: contact Kevin Birch for more information and with offers/ideas for filling the \$75K funding gap.
- Compendium of Science: ODF, USFS to continue dialogue (Jeff Walter, Jackie Andrew, Kevin Birch).
- Federal Forest Health Economic Assessment: Interviews 5/8 (Matt Krumenauer). December 11, 2012 – presentation to the Joint Legislative Committee on County Payments regarding the Federal Forest Health Economic Assessment report (Mike McArthur).
- Next Funding Subcommittee: Tentative date 5/29.
- Next FFAC IWG meeting will be held 6/11, PSU Meyer Conference Room, 9 – noon.

**BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY**

**Develop a Landscape Assessment Tool Kit**

*PNW and OSU Research Proposal: Map Forest Vegetation and Change in Washington and Oregon from 1990 to 2012*

- OSU and PNW are working to gather data for a variety of conditions and trends across land management areas (not only FS land) to map Forest Vegetation and change in WA and OR from 1990-2012 using GNN, LandTrendr and TimeSync.
- Tools are not new and have been used before for mapping and indicators.
- The FS has already produced data for all of the NW Forest Plan area.
- Looking for funding for eastside work, currently around \$75,000 short. Gretchen Nicholas is lead on funding to reach out to others interested in using the data.

**Funding Subcommittee**

*Federal Forest Health Economic Assessment Update*

- RFP closed April 20<sup>th</sup>, received three high quality proposals.
- Interviewing all three teams May 8<sup>th</sup> in Portland and then will negotiate budget with finalist (not required to accept lowest bid).

*Letter from Governor & Legislative Leadership Requesting an economic study*

- Members of FFAC IWG presented and received feedback on the Federal Forest Health Economic Assessment rfp to gain support from legislative leadership. Letter of support is being finalized with Legislative leadership and the Governor.

*Discussion of Current state spending related to Federal forest health and identification of new ideas on funding work on Federal ground*

*ODOE Biomass Tax Credit Program*

- The state has provided millions in tax credits since 2006 with \$10 million provided in just the last two years for biomass utilization on both private and federal forests. This includes implementation equipment such as grinders and trucks.
- Demonstrates value, precedent in state funding work to utilize resources on federal land
- More information can be found here:  
[http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/RENEW/Biomass/docs/BPC\\_FAQ.pdf?ga=t](http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/RENEW/Biomass/docs/BPC_FAQ.pdf?ga=t)

Members of the group proposed a few options below to explore mechanisms to create new funding sources or increase capacity to scale up forest health work.

- Governor's Strategic Reserve (Jane Unit, Malheur NF).
- County road funds (Grant County is currently exploring w/ USFS).
- TIF (Tax Increment Financing) to freeze property taxes and leverage property value increases to provide funding for forest health work.
- Embed fee for forest health work in homeowner's fire insurance policies.
  - Part of premiums currently go directly to the State Fire Marshal.
  - *Public support for additional funding for wildfire protection signaled in recent OFRI survey.*
- Utilize fire crews to do more restoration work
  - Inactive Fire crews are used for marking and thinning on some forests, could look at opportunities for scaling up.
- Natural infrastructure approach. For example, City of Denver partnered with USFS to add small surcharge for water users in order to fund forest health/wildfire risk reduction work to protect watershed.
  - Case study info here:  
<http://www.denverwater.org/supplyplanning/watersupply/partnershipUSFS/>
  - Questions arose around who ran the political campaign to raise fees, what political steps were required to create surcharge

Planning Efficiencies Subcommittee (PLANES)

*Compendium of Science Letter*

- Kent Connaughton sent letter response to Compendium of Science proposal from the IWG.
- Great idea, no funding. Issue of staffing considerations for on-going updating, maintenance.
- Kevin Birch will work with Jackie Andrew and Jeff Walter to explore next steps.

### *Colville NF pilot- private sector funding for NEPA*

- The Regional Office is working with the Forest on an RFP for NEPA work that will be funded by private, outside dollars. Boise Cascade, Vaagen Brothers, others involved.
- Jeff Walter indicates feedback on the pilot approach will be available in about 6 months.

### Support for Collaboratives: Work Session

#### *Statewide Inventory of Forest Health Collaboratives*

- Started in 2009-10 by Scott Aycock and updated in early 2012 by email and phone contact with collaborative leads, the Inventory provides a platform to collect information across collaboratives. Fiscal agent and funding source info was added and organized in the Funding Overview and Summary Tables.
- Working to engage collaboratives in future FFAC IWG funding discussions with the Inventory serving as a first step to understand accomplishments, next strategic steps and basic information about geography, stakeholder participation and supporting infrastructure
- The inventory is a work in progress. Looking for input on how to make it more useful.

#### Feedback:

- Clarify the funding table information.
- Clarify what the CFLR grants fund as it is not allocated directly to collaboratives and can't be used for planning
- Additional information should be gathered on how funding is allocated within collaboratives to better understand staffing levels and roles
- Identify additional sources of funding (by collaborative, summary)
- Capture the types, size of projects worked on
- More discussion of staffing levels (full-time, part-time, volunteer)
- More on participating stakeholders (by collaborative, summary)
- Status of operating principles that help better assure collaborative accountability and outcomes (metrics?)
- Discuss the use of facilitators (set process, structure, id weaknesses, leverage resources, etc) and how facilitation is provided

#### *2012 Budget Proposal Development: Status, Issues, Timelines*

Reviewed memo from the Funding subcommittee.

- Suggestions and considerations include:
  - Outcomes based approach (jobs created, acres treated, etc)
  - Perspective of westside state legislators if focus is more on dry forests
  - Is the collaborative approach going to address the scale of the problem of overstocked forests?
  - Clearly demonstrate the USFS partnership and support for collaboratives.

Discussion of a grant-based approach vs. an approach more similar to the 2009 Policy Option Package developed by ODF.

- Continue dialogue of grants (OWEB-type approach, local, fostering entrepreneurship) and need for state-level staff to direct, manage, administer, coordinate, engage in policy discussions.

Agency legislative concept and Governor's Recommended Budget timelines were presented and reviewed.

*Next meeting being held June 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Meyer Memorial Room 7<sup>th</sup> floor Urban Center at PSU*

### **Participants**

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

#### Agency

Governor's Office  
 ODF  
 USFS  
 USFS  
 NRCS  
 OWEB  
 OFRI  
 TNC  
 AFRC  
 Sustainable Northwest  
 Coquille Tribes  
 High Desert Partnership  
 Clackamas Stewardship Group  
 Defenders of Wildlife (retired)  
 BLM

#### Attendee

Brett Brownscombe  
 Kevin Birch  
 Kerwin Dewberry  
 Jeff Walters  
 Bill White  
 Renee Davis-Born  
 Paul Barnum  
 Amanda Rich  
 Tom Partin  
 Maia Enzer  
 Tim Vredenberg  
 William Renwick  
 Nathan Poage  
 Rick Brown  
 Mark Brown

#### By Phone:

AOC  
 ODOE  
 TNC  
 Oregon Business Council  
 USFS  
 USFS

Gil Ridell and Mike McArthur  
 Matt Krumenauer  
 Russ Hoeflich  
 Bruce Daucsavage  
 Curt Qual  
 Jackie Andrew

#### Staff:

Oregon Solutions  
 Oregon Solutions

Pete Dalke  
 Julia Babcock