

Federal Forest Advisory Committee: Ad Hoc Implementation Work Group

**August 2, 2012
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
PSU Urban Center, Meyer Memorial Room 710
506 SW Mill St, Portland**

ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment Key Dates:
 - 10/25 Presentation of initial findings at FFAC IWG Meeting
 - 10/25-11/19 Peer Review period
 - 11/19 Report Issued
 - 12/11 presentation to the Joint Legislative Committee on County Payments
- Mature Forest Study Field Workshop for Policymakers will be held in Corvallis August 28, 2012 contact Mike Cloughesy (cloughesy@ofri.org) for more information.
- Next Funding Subcommittee is set for September 13, 2012 PSU Meyer Memorial Room
- Oregon Business Summit date set for December 3, 2012
- Please find additional dates on FFAC IWG 2012 Calendar below

BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY

National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment – Status

A meeting was held this morning at the Mason, Bruce and Girard offices (8/2) with representatives from collaboratives to review and discuss some of the assumptions being used to demonstrate the economic impacts of increased restoration. The consultant team is working with a broad base of forest experts from academia, industry, government and community based natural resource management organizations to inform work including a peer review panel.

For more information, including a letter from legislative leadership requesting the assessment as well as a list of FAQ's visit the FFAC IWG Oregon Solutions webpage:
<http://orsolutions.org/osproject/federal-forestlands>

Budget Proposal – Support for local collaboratives

Originally proposed as a policy option package, it is likely that the budget proposal will instead be presented in the jobs and economy funding subcommittee. The proposal has 3 major components as follows:

1. Staffing – Deputy Natural Resources Advisor for East Side National Forest Health Restoration

2. Technical Assistance – Provision to fund statewide organizations that support forest collaborative groups to effectively participate and contribute to landscape-scale restoration in the Dry Forest Zone of eastern and southwest Oregon
3. Small Grant Program – Establishment of a Small Grant Program to directly fund DFZ collaboratives' own needs

The proposal is framed with an understanding that there will be larger investment (a “big” dollar ask) needed for USFS to implement collaborative supported treatments.

There was a lot of discussion about how supporting collaboratives can only accomplish so much without staff capacity and fundamental organizational changes internal to USFS in order to implement restoration goals agreed upon by collaboratives.

O&C Lands Update

Tom Tuchman with the Governor's Natural Resource Office has been meeting with stakeholders over the last 60 days in Oregon and D.C. to understand challenges and opportunities around O&C lands. A major issue is developing forest management activities that are acceptable to a broad representation of stakeholders while providing certainty to the timber industry as well as counties about expected timber sales. The state is still developing the process to engage with community and organizational stakeholders over the next 6 months to develop a resolution in early 2013 that addresses current challenges.

Mark Brown from BLM provided a brief update on the six Western Oregon Resource Management Plans under revision. The scoping period ended July 5th and BLM is committed to an open, transparent planning process with full public input and comment opportunities. The timeline for this effort is posted on BLM's website here:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/>

Thus far FFAC IWG has kept the federal lands discussion separate from O&C lands though many participants are interested in being involved in future discussions and a submeeting may be scheduled for more information. Tom also provided his contact information as follows: 503-220-8103 or Tuchman@usforestcapital.com

The Nature Conservancy and Wild Salmon Center recently published the “Atlas of Conservation Values on Bureau of Land Management Holdings in Western Oregon” available online here:

<http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/ExternalContent/TNC>. The Atlas provides an overview of the conservation values supported by more than 2.4 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Western Oregon.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program– Work session

CFLRP awarded two forests funding in 2010; Deschutes Skyline and Tapash. There has been some frustration around these projects in delivering timber harvest as neither had a lot of “NEPA ready” acres for treatment.

2012 recipients from the Deschutes, Fremont Winema and Malheur National Forests provided information at the meeting about opportunities and challenges they face in meeting the goals set forth in their proposals. Some common challenges included:

- The lack of funding for planning and capacity development
- Major capacity issues within the Forest Service to balance programs
- The restoration needs for our lower elevation federal forestlands have found a high level of agreement through the collaborative process. Generally, these lands have or are being addressed in the USFS planning process and associated management activities on the dry Federal Forests. However, these forests are faced with more difficult management decisions to build consensus around as many stands are more complex than the low elevation dry forests characterized by pine and related plant communities (e.g. higher elevation, different plant association groups).

Participants

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

Agency/Organization

Governor's Office
Governor's Office
AOC
AFRC
BLM
Clackamas Stewardship Group
COIC
Defenders
Grant County
High Desert Partnership
Lake County Resources Initiative
Mason, Bruce and Girard
ODF
ODFW
ODOE
OFRI
OWEB
PSU
S.Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative
Sustainable Northwest
Sustainable Northwest
Sustainable Northwest
TNC
TNC
TNC
TNC
USFS
USFS
USFS
USFS

Attendee

Tom Tuchman
Greg Wolf
Mike McArthur,
Ann Forest Burns
Mark Brown
Nathan Poage
Phil Chang
Rick Brown
Mark Webb
William Renwick
Jim Walls
Brandon Vickery
Chad Davis
Rod Krahmer
Matt Krumenauer
Paul Barnum
Greg Sieglitz
Jennifer Allen
George McKinley
Martin Goebel
Dylan Kruse
Patrick Shannon
Russ Hoeflich
Mark Stern
Amanda Rich
Pete Caliguiri
Curt Qual
Margaret Petersen
Tracy Beck
Teresa Raaf

By Phone:

Crag Law Center
Oregon Business Plan

Ralph Bloemers
Jeremy Rogers

Staff:

Oregon Solutions
Oregon Solutions

Pete Dalke
Julia Babcock

FFAC IWG CALENDAR 2012

- 8/2/12 *FFAC IWG work session – meet with collaborative representatives from the 3 CFLR projects in Oregon*
- Continue to outline current interactions with collaboratives, existing communications loops, and consider:*
- a) collaboratives' knowledge of the IWG and the opportunities to address needs, leverage resources at the table, and*
- b) whether the IWG is getting up-to-date correspondence on the needs of the collaboratives and barriers they are facing including:*
- *Funding to stabilize staffing.*
 - *USFS planning resources to engage collaboratives, complete NEPA work.*
 - *Technical assistance & capacity building.*
 - *Science delivery and support.*
 - *USFS - President's budget, implications.*
 - *Networking for shared communications, efficiencies in meeting scheduling, sharing of info and lesson learned.*
 - *USFS staff turnover.*
- Summer 2012 Oregon Solutions expands work on draft Oregon Statewide Forest Collaboratives Inventory.
- For discussion with the IWG, dialogue with collaboratives, and identifying new stakeholders.
- August – coordinate information with OWEB staff for development of a staff report for the upcoming Board meeting in September. Update map of collaboratives with ODF.
- 9/11/12 OWEB staff report on federal forest health, OS & TNC work, presented to the Board.
- 9/13/12 FFAC IWG meeting & work session. PSU, Meyer Memorial Conference Room. *Focus for the work session TBD.*
- 10/15/12 National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment. Draft completed. Out for peer review.
- 10/25/12 FFAC IWG meeting. Location: Smith Memorial Union, PSU.
Tentative work session: National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment.
- 10/29/12 National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment - Peer review panel comments due.
- 11/ TBD 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. Central Oregon location. FFAC IWG participation TBD.
- 11/19/12 National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment published.

Late Nov Governor's Recommended Budget released.

12/3/12 Oregon Leadership Summit. Presentation & Discussion: National forest health restoration economic assessment presentation. (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 – economic assessment presentation
& discussion.

2013

Early 2013 Sustainable Northwest wraps up DFIZ project, reports out. Start of 1 year monitoring period.

2/4/2013 State Legislature convenes.

May 2013 Forest Restoration Forum – Sustainable Northwest, OFRI, other FFAC IWG sponsors. ??