Brett Brownscombe
Natural Resource Advisor to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber

and

Dr.Thomas Maness
Dean of the OSU College of Forestry

Invite your participation in a Science-Policy Workshop:

MANAGING EASTSIDE MOIST MIXED-CONIFER FORESTS

Presented by the National Policy Consensus Center
Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University

December 4 and 5, 2013
Wildhorse Resort - Pendleton, Oregon

Workshop Sponsors:
U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon State University College of Forestry, Wallowa County, Union County, Boise-Cascade Co.

This 2-day Workshop is intended to bring together scientists, technical specialists, forest collaborative and policy-makers to discuss management strategies for eastside moist-mixed conifer forests.

Goals:

- Review the latest research findings on moist mixed-conifer forests, utilizing the Pacific Northwest Research Station's just-completed "Science Synthesis"

- Determine where the scientific community largely agrees, as well as where there is still significant disagreement or uncertainty, to guide policy and near-term activities related to management of moist mixed-conifer forests.

- Identify further technical studies or projects that would help fill gaps in the science and help resolve some of the uncertainty or disagreement regarding these forests.

Geographic Scope: The specific area of focus for the workshop will be the Blue Mountain area of eastern Oregon, although the science and policy may be applicable to other moist mixed-conifer forests in Oregon and other western states.

Framing Question:

"Can active management of moist mixed-conifer eastside forests maintain or restore resilience and other ecological values while also helping sustain economic viability of our forest products infrastructure? If 'yes', what management strategies would best meet these goals?"

Day 1 – Review "Status of Science"

Leading scientists and technical experts working on moist mixed-conifer forests will discuss recent studies and understanding of moist mixed conifer forests in the eastside of the Pacific Northwest, with an emphasis on the Blue Mountain area. There will be brief panel presentations, followed by group discussion, on each of three main focusing questions. *Day 1 is intended to be a time for discussion among members of scientific community, though others may attend and observe as well.*

8:30 AM   **Registration and refreshments**

9:00 AM   **Welcome and review of the agenda: Opportunities to engage**
                     Brett Brownscombe, Oregon Governor's office, and *Dr. Thomas Maness, OSU*

9:30 AM   **A Virtual Tour of Oregon moist mixed-conifer forests**
                     Tom Spies, PNW Research Station and Oregon State University

9:50 AM   **Scientific Question 1: What is the landscape and climate context within which moist mixed-conifer forests function?**

- The role of climate on moist mixed conifer forests- *Marc Kramer, University of Florida*

- The landscape perspective and its implications – *Paul Hessburg, PNW Research Station*

10:45 AM   **Group discussion and Summary**

Noon   **Lunch**

12:45 PM   **Scientific Question 2:   Looking forward, what does a "properly functioning" moist mixed conifer forest look like?**

- Background on the historic range of variability – composition, structure, density, resilience - *Jerry Franklin, University of Washington*

- Fire ecology and resilience in moist mixed conifer forests- *Penny Morgan, University of Idaho*

- Wildlife and moist mixed-conifer forests – *Peter Singleton, PNW Research Station*

1:45 PM   **Group discussion and Summary**

2:45 PM   **Break**

3:00 PM   **Scientific Question 3: How much do today's moist mixed-conifer forests require treatment to restore them to "proper function"? What scale and types of treatments will emphasize ecological benefits, including resilience?**

- Current versus historical conditions - *Andrew Merschel, Oregon State University*

- Treatments to maximize resilience and other ecological benefits – *Theresa Jain, Rocky Mountain Research Station*

- Silvicultural innovations in moist mixed conifer forests – *Derek Churchill, University of Washington*

4:00 PM   **Group discussion and summary**

5:00 PM   **Summary and reflection on Day 1: Highlights, insights, and what we want the policymakers to know -** *Group discussion*

5:30 PM   **Adjourn**

Day 2: Implications for moist mixed conifer forest policy

Policy-makers will hear the results of the previous day's scientific discussion for each focusing question, and explore the implications for policy and the forest collaboratives related to the Framing Question. *Just as the discussion on Day 1 was primarily limited to members of the scientific community, the discussion on Day 2 is largely relegated to the policy community.*

8:00 AM   **Refreshments and Preparation Time for science teams reporting out.**

9:00 AM   **Report out and discussion of conclusions from Session 1: What is the landscape and climate context in which moist mixed-conifer forests function?**

- Key findings from the science community: points of agreement, disagreement, uncertainty
- Discussion among policy-makers regarding findings: Identifying "aha" moments, highlights, insights, and policy implications

10:30 AM   **Report out and discussion of conclusions from Session 2: Looking forward, what does a "properly functioning" moist mixed conifer forest looks like?**

- Key findings from the science community: points of agreement, disagreement, uncertainty
- Discussion among policy-makers regarding findings: Identifying "aha" moments, highlights, insights, and policy implications

Noon   Lunch

1:00 PM   **Report out and discussion of conclusions from Session 3: How much do today's moist mixed-conifer forests require treatment to restore them to "proper function"? What scale and types of treatments will maximize ecological benefits, including resilience?**

- Key findings from the science community: points of agreement, disagreement, uncertainty
- Discussion among policy-makers regarding findings: Identifying "aha" moments, highlights, insights, and policy implications

2: 15 PM   **Break**

2:30 PM   **Workshop Summary: Revisiting the Framing Question**:

"Can active management of moist mixed-conifer eastside forests improve ecological values while also helping sustain economic viability of our forest products infrastructure? If 'yes', what management strategies would best meet these goals?"

- New insights and important facts
- Policy conclusions: The big take-away, questions for further investigation
- Reflection from forest collaborative and policymakers

3:15 PM   **Follow up actions and priorities:**

- What research or pilot projects are needed to further understanding and advance science on moist mixed-conifer forests?
- What are the next steps collaboratives, agencies and organizations can take?
- What issues may require further discussion?

4:00 PM   **Adjourn**

To Attend:

There is no charge for attending the workshop, however registration is required in advance.

To register: Please contact Lauren Beeney: 503-725-9092 (lbeeney@pdx.edu)

Lodging

A special lodging price is available at Wildhorse Resort and Casino for Workshop participants who register prior to **November 4**.

- Tower rooms on December 3rd & 4th at a rate of $77.00 + 9 % tax;
- Courtyard rooms on December 3rd & 4th at a rate of $66.50 + 9% tax;

For Reservations:
                                        800-654-9453 | 46510 Wildhorse Blvd, Pendleton, OR 97801
http://www.wildhorseresort.com
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Ask for Special rate for Forest Workshop.