

A federal forest field tour presented by the Oregon Department of Forestry:

## **From Collaboration through Implementation:**

*A Partnership to Increase the Pace and Scale of Federal Forest Health*

<b>Date and Time</b>	October 22, 2014 9:30 for Coffee & Conversation 10:00 for Introductions & Context
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection Community Hall 301 Elm Street, Sisters, OR 97759
<b>Bus transportation will be provided for the field tour. All participants are strongly encouraged to ride the bus. The agenda includes content along the tour route.</b>	

### **Goal:**

As a result of the tour, Legislators will gain insight into how the State of Oregon is working with local communities and collaborative groups to positively influence federal forest planning and on-the-ground treatments. The tour will highlight key investments of the 2013 Oregon Legislature's \$2.88 million Dry Side Federal Forest Health Program administered by the Department of Forestry.

Legislators will have the opportunity to engage local collaborative group leaders including local elected officials, conservationists, timber industry personnel, other business and community leaders, and US Forest Service staff regarding the important role that the State has taken to support their local efforts and discuss possible next steps for a continued State role in accelerating forest health treatments on National Forests.

### **Themes:**

1. Collaboration is building common ground among diverse interests and serving as a springboard for accelerated forest restoration.
2. Ecological, economic and social urgencies demand active forest health treatments.
3. There is a strong business case for a continued State role.

### **Objectives:**

1. Understand and recognize Oregon's national leadership to increase the pace and scale of active forest restoration on National Forests.
2. See first-hand how the Legislature's Federal Forest Health investment is
  - o Fostering partnership of local collaborative groups, the US Forest Service and the Department of Forestry to positively influence project-level planning and implementation.

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- Being invested to evaluate new business practices intended to reduce the cost and time of project-level planning.
- 3. Discuss the make-up, role and function of local collaborative groups; and the common ground that these diverse interests – including forest industry, conservation and local government leaders – are advancing to achieve simultaneous social, economic and environmental outcomes.
- 4. Visit an active forest harvesting operation to discuss the economic contributions of forest health treatments.
- 5. Identify and discuss additional roles, investments and efforts Oregon could use to amplify initial successes.

### **Tour Route Overview:**

The field tour will begin at the Sister's Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection Community hall (see *address below*) with coffee and pastries available at 9:30. The tour agenda will start promptly at 10:00 am with a welcome and overview by Alan Unger, Deschutes County Commissioner. A panel featuring the USFS Regional Forester, State Forester, local elected officials, and collaborative group participants will set the context for increased pace and scale of restoration. Lunch will be provided en route to the first field stop up on the Cascade Lakes Highway west of Bend. At this stop, we will visit a stand marked to be thinned and discuss the economic opportunities and social benefits of restoration treatments. The tour will proceed to a second field stop outside of Sisters where the US Forest Service, ODF and Deschutes County will lead a discussion about a partnership approach to have meaningful impact on forest health at the landscape-scale. The tour will conclude with a discussion of the State's continued role in partnership with the US Forest Service to increase the pace and scale of restoration across Oregon.

### **9:30 – 10:00 Coffee and Informal Conversation**

Location: Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection Community Hall  
301 Elm Street, Sisters, OR 97759

### **10:00 – 10:20 Welcome and Field Tour Overview**

*Alan Unger, Deschutes County Commissioner*

*John Allen, USFS, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor*

*Doug Decker, ODF, State Forester*

### **10:20 – 11:30 Context for Accelerated Restoration: Partnership and Collaboration**

This initial panel will occur indoors and provide context for accelerated restoration and the partnership approach being implemented in Oregon. Jim Pena, US Forest Service Regional Forester, and Doug Decker, State Forester, will articulate the need and opportunities of accelerating the pace and scale of forest health treatments. The second half of the panel will include a cross-section of the diverse perspectives that drive eastern Oregon collaboratives, including a forest products representative, a conservation community representative, and a leader of a community-based organization.

### **11:30 - 12:15 Travel to first field stop (west of Bend) & Lunch (provided)**

**12:15 – 1:15 West Bend Project: Grounding Collaboration in Action**

At the first field stop, the Deschutes Forest Collaborative and Deschutes National Forest staff will translate collaborative agreement to a forest health treatment marked for implementation. In addition, collaborative group members and community leaders will discuss economic opportunities and social perspectives. After an introductory presentation, Legislators will have 30 minutes of discussion time with the group.

*Presenters: Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, led by:*  
*Pete Caligiuri, The Nature Conservancy*  
*Chuck Burley, Interfor Pacific*  
*Sally Russell (invited), Bend City Council*

**1:30 – 2:15 Travel to second field stop in Sisters Area**

On the route, Paul Barnum (Oregon Forest Resources Institute) will discuss public polling conducted in central Oregon regarding perspectives on active forest management to restore forest health, along with other relevant OFRI work.

**2:15 – 3:15 Landscape-Scale: Partnering for Significant Impact**

This second field stop will occur in the context of an active logging operation. Discussion will feature how State funds are being used to leverage the USFS Eastside Restoration Strategy to plan and implement large scale projects. Weather permitting, Legislators will also have the opportunity to walk into a forest stand and watch forest harvesting equipment operate.

*Presenters: Bill Aney, USFS, Eastside Restoration Coordinator*  
*Ed Keith (invited), Deschutes County Forester & Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project*  
*George Ponte (invited), ODF, Central Oregon District Forester*  
*Forest contractor TBD*

**3:15 – 3:45 Oregon's Role in Accelerating Pace and Scale**

The final session will concentrate on a continued leadership role for Oregon to partnering with local collaborative groups and the USFS to significantly increase restoration across the state. The State Forester will lead a discussion about possible next steps for Oregon to play a key leadership role in increasing the pace of implementation of forest health treatments.

**3:45 – 4:00 Summary and safe travels!**

Summary perspectives from local elected officials and State Legislators.

**4:00 – 4:30 Return travel to Sisters**

**4:30 Adjourn for now!**