



### May 9, 2015 FFAC-IWG Meeting: Action Items and Updates

- Federal/State Business Partnership. Brett discussed the proposed new partnership model in more detail and offered to share the conceptual schematics that Chad Davis has been working to capture for clarity and more discussion. Two schematics *are attached*. Note the Partnership model is more relevant to the Governor's Recommended Budget discussions. The Biz Model version is more general use.
- Stewardship contracting reauthorization: Moving forward in the Farm Bill. Senate Agriculture has passed their Farm Bill which includes a clean (no changes from current authority) permanent authorization of Stewardship Contracting. After the Chairman's mark in House Agriculture, Stew Contracting sits currently as a clean 5-year extension on that side. More information will be available at the June meeting.
- USFS Region 6 budget: The Regional Office is expecting to receive a final budget on 5/10 for the current Federal Fiscal Year ending 9/30/13. Expected to include \$4.6M extra for the Region out of the Chief's focused funding allocation.
- USFS staffing: Jeff Walters is on assignment as the Deputy Regional Forester until 6/30. Kate Klein will be the acting Natural Resources Director. Tracy Beck and Debbie Hollen will be switching their assignments during this time as well. It's hoped that both Kate and Debbie will be able to attend our June meeting.
- Malheur 10-Year Stewardship contract: "New, never been done before". # staff in RO are working on the contract development. Technical workshop still on track for June, exact date TBD. Selection committee will also be identified in June. Randy Gould is the MNF point person for the contract. Expected to be an IRTC that adds tasks/volume in later years.
- Mill Creek A-Z, Okanagon NF. Project out for solicitation (an IRSC project).
- Blues Project: Bill Aney expects vacancy announcements out in the next week "or so", after Malheur NF announcements are completed. Will be working to identify areas for \$200k additional LIDAR to be flown in the Blues, to add to existing data. "Coalition of Collaboratives" formation underway. Steering Committee to include representatives from each of the existing 5 collaboratives. County Commissioners to initially convene the coalition, tentative date is June 11. Will follow up with OWEB to understand former and ongoing efforts to build regional coalitions from local watershed councils to apply lessons learned to the forming Blues Mountain Collaboratives Coalition.
- SB 357: SB 357 has passed the Oregon Senate. House held public hearing this morning (5/14). Public testimony was sparse but only on supportive side (Senator sponsor, Gov Office, ODF, Bill Kluting). Kevin Birch, Chad Davis and Pete Dalke will work with Brett to further refine the expectations about staff time, budget and work products embedded in SB357, and to begin shaping the FFAC-IWG's work plan going forward that will be informed by the bill.
- Performance metrics related to the Governor's Dry-Forest initiative. Nathan Poage will continue analyzing data from the Malheur NF in the USFS databases (PALS, FACTS, TIMS) to inform baseline and trend performance measures. Curt Qual and Nathan will work together to provide more information about how collaborative participation was defined for replication of similar analyses on other dry-side National Forests.



- Collaborative networking: Patrick Shannon will share summary feedback from surveys and evaluations completed at the CFLRP network meeting in Hood River. Next steps for networking to be discussed at the June FFAC-IWG meeting.
- NFF Community Capacity and Landscape Stewardship grants: expect award announcements in June.
- Board of Forestry 7/25 meeting in LaGrande. ODF and the Governor's Office will be coordinating on the agenda, and a panel presentation from the FFAC-IWG may be included.

### **New Publications**

- Forest Guild Pacific Northwest Biomass Working Group has developed a recent publication for practitioners, entitled, "Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Pacific Northwest": [http://www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2013/FG\\_Biomass\\_Guidelines\\_PNW.pdf](http://www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2013/FG_Biomass_Guidelines_PNW.pdf)
- The Nature Conservancy has developed an Eastside Restoration Principles field guide and is looking for partners to print the information for widespread distribution.
- OFRI will be releasing a report on biomass in June (prior to the 6/20 meeting) that reflects broad participation and input to inform future opportunities regarding electrical and thermal energy, fuels application and the integrated campus approach.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- May 13 AOC Public Lands & Natural Resources Committee. Agenda topics include pending legislation in Salem, proposed NACO resolution on stewardship contracting.
- May 13 – 17 Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition: Western Week in Washington
- May 15-16<sup>th</sup> Legislative revenue forecast anticipated to be announced that will shape the finalizing 2013-15 state budget.
- June 10 AOC Public Lands & Natural Resources Committee.
- June 20 FFAC IWG Meeting in Portland at PSU.
- July 25-26 Oregon Board of Forestry meeting in LaGrande and field tour on National Forest ground.
- August 1 Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project: Multiparty monitoring review of Glaze Forest Restoration Project, Sisters.