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## Federal Forest Advisory Committee: Ad Hoc Implementation Work Group

Conference Call  
June 20, 2013  
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

### DRAFT – SUMMARY NOTES

#### Participating on the call:

Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Office  
Rick Brown, retired, Defenders of Wildlife  
Nathan Poage, Clackamas Stewardship Group, Oregon Solutions  
Paul Barnum, OFRI  
Tracy Beck, USFS  
Debbie Hollen, USFS  
Mike Billman, Malheur Lumber  
Kevin Birch, ODF  
Tom Partin, AFRC  
Chad Davis, ODF  
Bill Aney, USFS  
Dylan Kruse, Sustainable Northwest  
Ann Forest Burns, AFRC  
Melanie Knapp, University of Oregon, OS intern  
Pete Dalke, Oregon Solutions staff

#### Action Items:

- Next FFAC-IWG meeting: Please HOLD Friday, July 19 for a 3-hour meeting to debrief on Legislative actions, budgets and plan next steps. (This will be in place of the meeting originally scheduled for 7/25 that conflicts with the Board of Forestry meeting. The period July 10-18 is full of conflicts for those that were on the phone today).
- Malheur 10-year stewardship contract: The solicitation was posted today. <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=b8d6d867115da14ce60c491e1ae8c119&ab=core&cvview=1>  
Integrated resource services contract (IRTC). Pre-proposal workshop July 9<sup>th</sup> in John Day. Bids due July 31st. Plan to make award by end of September.
- Blues Strategy: Coalition of Collaboratives initial meeting set for July 22-23 in Baker City
- Oregon Board of Forestry - July 25/26, in LaGrande. National Forest field tour "focused on issues and opportunities within federal forests policy and Oregon's forest sector". More information about the meeting will be posted on the Board of Forestry webpage as it becomes available.  
[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/board/board\\_info/2013\\_meeting\\_schedule.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/board/board_info/2013_meeting_schedule.aspx)

USFS: Eastside Restoration/Blues Strategy

Overview of Eastside Restoration/Blues strategy (Bill Aney). Vacancy recruitments for ID Team just closed. 50-60 applicants to date. Intend to have team in field this year.

Website is up.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5423597>

Opportunity to provide feedback embedded in website.

Meeting of 5 collaboratives being convened by “Organization of Eastern Oregon Counties”. Coalition meeting will be held in Baker City July 22-23. Looking for “FACA-free” discussions. Steering committee has representatives from each of the 5 collaboratives. Facilitated by Patrick Shannon, Sustainable Northwest and Vernita Ediger, executive director, Blue Mountain Forest Partners. (See article printed in the Blue Mountain Eagle about the BMFP this week:

[http://www.bluemountaineagle.com/free/blue-mountains-forest-partners-take-dialogue-to-next-level/article\\_f791df58-d85e-11e2-a4f2-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.bluemountaineagle.com/free/blue-mountains-forest-partners-take-dialogue-to-next-level/article_f791df58-d85e-11e2-a4f2-0019bb2963f4.html) )

USFS will present at least 5-7 project proposals at that meeting. The proposals to date are outlined on the Eastside Restoration website in Bill’s updates. This info is from his “Eastside Restoration Strategy Update 4, 6 June 2013”:

“Project ideas – in the last update, we shared the four types of ideas we were developing for the team:

1) a single large landscape, 2) “conditional” NEPA resulting in decisions that could be applied wherever certain conditions existed (aspen, dry pine, etc.), 3) a four-forest strategic fuels treatment plan, and 4) creation of diversity in young forest areas (regenerated clearcuts) in the northern Blues.

After soliciting project ideas from the forests and others, several new ideas have come up:

- a. Forest plan amendments – related to eastside screens (21-inch rule), big game winter range standards, etc.
- b. “Fireshed” analysis, implementing cohesive strategy projects – not just restoration, but also protection of communities and infrastructure
- c. Adaptive NEPA, preparing us for future post-fire salvage projects - analysis that would expedite the process for implementing salvage work, similar to approach done by the Black Hills for pine beetle salvage.
- d. Insect response – there is an area on the southeast end of the Wallowa-Whitman and northeast portion of the Malheur where there is a fair amount of mountain pine beetle activity, affecting mostly lodgepole pine but also ponderosa pine. Is there a need/opportunity here to salvage dead trees and treat stands that might be in harms’ way?
- e. Restoration of LOS, conversion of multi-story to single-story – because of controversy, is there a need to do this at a small scale and monitor results before going larger scale?
- f. Thinning in snow zone to retain snow longer, reduce interception/sublimation losses
- g. Restoring species composition where early successional species (pine/larch) have been removed and grand fir left to stock site.
- h. Long term sustained yield implications of restoring single story LOS conditions and maintaining this with prescribed burning
- i. White-headed woodpecker habitat restoration and development”

Participated in a Malheur field tour this week – Included a science panel with John Bailey, OSU; Kerry Metlen, TNC, and Miles Hemstrom, Institute for Natural Resources.

USFS R6 is working with TNC to produce and publish a dry forest restoration field guide (Franklin and Johnson) for distribution to eastside forests.

Regarding Forest Management Plans - will apply whatever forest plan is in place. Not afraid of forest plan amendments if supported by collaboratives.

## NFF Community Capacity and Land Stewardship Grant – 2013 awards

USFS R6 through NFF made available just shy of \$170,000 to spend. Comparable funding to the past 2 years of the program. However, NRCS did not participate in this year's funding pool, making fewer awards possible this year. More than \$550,000 in requests were received from 25 applicants. Pete Dalke sits on the grant application review team on behalf of the FFAC-IWG. The review team had to make some tough funding decisions. The applications were widely varying, of varying quality / relevance to the FFAC-IWG interests. 7 awards made, including several to applicants from Washington state. NFF has not publicly announced awards as of yesterday. The maximum grant award is \$24,000.

Brett expressed thanks from the Governor's Office to the USFS for moving the Eastside Restoration/Blues strategy. Everything still in play for Governor's dryside forest health budget request. \$2.87 million recommended forward as part of ODF budget. This funding is focused on the New Biz model and Blues Strategy. Not on State program manager and Collaboratives Capacity small grant program Working to move Collaboratives Capacity small grant program forward. Feels the need for all to help make sure this happens. SB357 moved forward and is on Governor's desk for signing. Bill Aney reflected on his 30 years of USFS experience and the work of collaboratives that has given social license to do restoration work. Regional office echoes this. "Without collaboration we are dead in the water."

Although the US Senate passed a Farm Bill, we learned that the US House voted down their version of a Farm Bill earlier today.

11:30 Adjourn