



Federal Forest Working Group

12/4/2014 Work Session: **Draft Summary**

Brett Brownscombe discussed the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) with the FFWG.

The Governor's Natural Resources budget invests \$28 million to develop new tools and partnerships to:

- conserve working forests and farms,
- reduce poverty in rural areas,
- strengthen communities, and
- improve ecological and environmental values.

This initiative includes the next iteration of work begun in the 2013-15 biennium to invest in federal forest restoration through collaborative efforts that accelerate the pace and scale of federal forest management, providing a sustainable supply of timber for mills and creating jobs in rural areas, while also reducing the risk of wildfire and enhancing forest / watershed health.

(Note: Brett will be transitioning to Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife to serve as the Department's acting Deputy Director during the upcoming Legislative session. His direct involvement with the FFWG may be curtailed during this time.)

The GRB includes \$6M for this effort, slightly less than the ODF request. Related biomass and rural infrastructure investments are also included in the GRB.

ODF Federal Forest Health Package

Chad Davis discussed the GRB request of \$6.05M between 2 buckets:

1. Collaborative Support – consisting of a grant program and technical assistance/science support contracts similar to 2013-2015 package. ODF's intent is to continue w/ OWEB relationship on grant awards and administration.
2. State/Federal Implementation Partnership (aka "new business model) - Focused on pre-NEPA and pre-sale work. Budget growth will be more significant in this piece.

The key differences in the 2015-17 budget are:

- ODF is carrying budget package. ODF is proceeding with the expectation that the Federal Forest program effort will continue into 2017 and beyond as part of ODF's core business of work.
- Expansion of program to support collaborative approach statewide (vs dryside National Forests in 2013-15). Note that the USFS dryside forests have leveraged the state's \$2.9M at 5:1 so far.
- Look to implement Good Neighbor Authority - may try different ODF role in different parts of the state to test process efficiencies. Use to touch eastside and westside.
- Funds 4 new positions at ODF; some to be in the field. In addition, extend seasonal employees during shoulder seasons (total of 8 FTE rolled up with new positions).

The GRB details will be available in the coming days. In the meantime, a summary of the original ODF 2015-17 Agency budget request for \$6.5M: Restoring Federal Forests can be found at:

<http://orsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ODF-FF-5-2015-2017-Agency-Budget-Request-Overview1.pdf>



Q&A

It was noted there are now at least 25 forest collaboratives at all different levels of capacity and need. Question about consideration of circuit rider for collaboratives - "Office of Collaborative Support", perhaps in coordination with OSU Extension. Example – the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts used circuit riders in the past to raise up to a consistent level of performance.

There is a recognized need to sort through this w/ collaboratives. Recognize needs for facilitators, moderators, neutrals vs relying on those locally that have a substantive interest and need to advocate. How to address disparity in collaborative community to reach variety of objectives is a concern.

A point was made that intermediaries need to coordinate, collaborate better and this is improving, but room to get better, more effective. Dr. Emily Jane Davis asked for input about her position at OSU Forestry Extension - where can she be most effective? re-configure existing entities, service providers to be more effective. Can FFWG do this?

A Blue Mountains Restoration Calculator is being developed by Eric White, OSU, and Cass Moseley, University of Oregon. This tool is intended to help document the value of restoration work to local economies. Can help determine economic impact of pre-NEPA investments such as heritage and botany surveys. Calculator will spit out X number of jobs. First run example - \$1.3M for surveys, LIDAR, etc = 20 jobs, \$2M impact in local economy.

The list of performance measures discussed with the 2013 Legislature is being worked on. More discussion on this at the FFWG January work session. Specifically, volume of sawlogs and how are we doing following list of measures agreed to? Incumbent on this group to measure what's on the list. Messaging is important:

- state sending signal that status quo is not sustainable. As a result of taking leadership, things are happening.
- must have photos.
- have to also talk about the pre-NEPA work. Value of state-infused dollars exceeds impact of Fed \$ (IMPLAN).
- compare and contrast examples.
- add in restoration acres.
- work w/ legislators that were on the October field tour and former legislators to "tell the story"

Accelerated Restoration Status – Chad Davis, Tracy Beck

Tracy Beck, USFS, shared information regarding the Oregon dryside National Forests and their initial target assignment in FY15, as well as the prior year funding and target information. The attached spreadsheet contains this information for the National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region. USFS met 180% of target for fuels reduction in 2014. Will have a commercial acres number soon. \$4M additional in final budget went to [Malheur National Forest](#) (MNF) accelerated program, plus \$ added during the year went to eastside – in the neighborhood of \$8m. For 2015 – the Pacific Northwest Region's target is up 10% to 664MBF. Budget levels are likely to be static. Hoping for extra \$ coming out of Washington DC. MNF more expensive due to biomass that needs to be removed, taking some risk. Will fill MNF first with new budget \$. If don't get extra \$, the 664 mbf won't get met in 2015.

Bill Aney, USFS, discussed the [Eastside Strategy](#).

- [Colville NF - stewardship contracting pilot](#) is moving ahead and may provide more options for achieving pace and scale.
- Generally project areas are getting bigger - 30/40k acres for restoration projects.
- More being done with collaboratives.



- Blues Strategy
 - methods, tools, applications to work at larger scale.
 - 10 mos to develop [DEIS for Lower Joseph project on the Wallowa-Whitman NF](#). Open house this week
 - 100 people attended the last one, 4-5 attended this one. The public seems to better understand that the focus of this project is not about closing roads vs honest effort to restore land. NRAC, Nez Perce - closely worked with his team. There was a request for Bill to write up how this EIS was successfully accelerated once the EIS decision is finalized.
- His team has requested combining next 2 projects into 1 - set up projects to address fire - low elevation pine and fire breaks. Board of Directors, Coalition of collaboratives, Forest Supervisors are supportive and the projects have been consolidated into one. Timeline - proposed action to be done by the end of this coming field season. Concern was expressed that pursuing fire breaks in mixed moist could bring down the whole effort if combined w the low elevation pine project. Bill noted that the USFS could break the EIS into two decisions, one on low elevation pine and one on in mixed-moist. How will this impact work of the BMFP doing watershed level projects using Retained Receipts for meadow restoration, etc. If take all dry pine at once, seems the opportunity to use retained receipts projects goes out the window and receipts leave the state? Bill indicated this is a good question about the potential affects on the stewardship contract aspects, and will run down some answers.

Next Steps

Several FFWG stakeholders are leveraging resources and coordinating to produce a 3 minute video in time for showing at the [Oregon Leadership Summit](#) to be held Tuesday, 1/6/15 at the Oregon Convention Center.

OFRI/Paul Barnum is leading the effort. The video will convey

“as a result of the state’s investment in federal forest health restoration, we are:

- o Breaking through barriers to speed the planning process
- o Putting boots on the ground to increase sawlog volume
- o Treating more acres for forest health and fire resiliency”

More information about the Summit and how to register is online at:

<https://www.etches.com/ehome/105487/234062/>

The Summit is held annually as a part of the [Oregon Business Plan](#) effort.

Dr. Emily Jane Davis, OSU Forestry Extension, discussed her current research and other research on collaboratives. One of her goals is to generate applied practical info; do research in ways that aren't fatiguing to the collaboratives. There has been little study in Oregon particularly around forest collaboratives. She is working now on a governance study with Lee Cerveny at the Pacific Northwest Research Station. One of their interests relates to how is success being defined in the collaboratives? and how do collaboratives organize around that? She has completed 4 indepth case stuies of inividual collaboratives. Goal is for research to be of utility to the FFWG and looks forward to the opportunity for disucssion. Additional discussion about research efforts will continue at the January 29 work session.

There was also particular interest in research completed by Brent Summers. [“The Effectiveness of Forest Collaborative Groups in Eastern Oregon.”](#) Thesis for Masters of Environmental Management, Portland State University completed in 2014.



Although the working draft of the FFWG Purpose & Vision Statement was not explicitly discussed during the work session, several have commented independently. The following edits noted with strikeover and underlining have been suggested for consideration as the Group goes forward:

Federal Forest Working Group Purpose & Vision Statement

**December 2014
Working Version**

“The purposes of the FFWG are to:

- Advance collaboratively driven landscape-scale, active restoration of federal forest lands;
- Identify and remove policy and financial barriers; and
- Promote innovative ~~policy and financial~~ solutions to restoration of forest and watershed health.

We will:

- Provide a forum for collaborative groups, federal and state agencies, counties, tribes, and interest groups to raise and solve barriers to accelerated restoration on federal lands (Forest Service and BLM);
- Support and contribute to maintaining and growing our innovative Federal-State Partnership that demonstrates new governance structures and ways of doing business together;
- ~~Identify and test~~ Discuss and foster implementation of new and emerging governance structures that provide for meaningful involvement of community and collaborative leadership, including identifying the resources and conditions necessary to implement these collaborative structures;
- Articulate the need for a consistent supply of timber offered through restoration and forest management that is collaboratively supported; and,
- Work together to identify and secure increased, consistent, and/or diverse funding of collaborative approaches and implementation of landscape scale restoration projects.

These activities will restore forests, help sustain communities by creating jobs and maintaining forest-sector infrastructure, and enhance Oregon's energy independence. The IWG will initially focus on the dry, fire-prone forests found east of the Cascades and in the southern interior of Oregon.”



12/4/14 Work Session Participation included:

In person

- Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Natural Resources Office
- Chad Davis, ODF
- Emily Jane Davis, OSU Forestry Extension
- Paul Barnum, OFRI
- Amanda Rich, TNC
- Mark Stern, TNC
- Linc Cannon, OFIC
- Dylan Kruse, SNW
- Chuck Burley, Interfor
- Zach Williams, Iron Triangle
- King Williams, Iron Triangle
- Brian A. Kittler, Pinchot Institute for Conservation
- Tracy Beck, USFS
- Nav Dayanand, TNC, Director, Federal Government Relations
- Rob Molinelli, American Forest Resources Council
- Brent Summers, PSU Dept of Environmental Science & Mgmt

By Phone

- Kevin Birch, ODF
- Gil Riddell, AOC
- Greg Seiglitz, OWEB
- Bill Aney, USFS Eastside Strategy
- Pam Hardy, Oregon Wild
- Johnny Sundstrom, Siuslaw Institute
- Sarah Altemus-Pope, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
- Jane Barth, Marys Peak and Hebo Stewardship Groups
- And additional others...