



Federal Forest Advisory Committee: Ad Hoc Implementation Work Group

**August 6 2014
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Work Session

**Meyer Conference Room, PSU
Urban Center, 7th Floor
Portland, OR**

**Conference Call-in Number: 1 888 585 9008
Conference Participant ('Room') Code: 322 674 124**

Work Session AGENDA

Work Session Purpose: To review implementation of the state's Dry-side Federal Forest Health Program to date, focus on identified collaborative interests, capacity, barriers & needs, and available resources, and begin discussing a 2015-17 program.

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A

Grass-roots Collaboration Brief

Staff for east side forest collaborative groups convened on May 17th at the Wilson Ranch in Fossil, Oregon to share successes and challenges, discuss emerging opportunities, and explore shared needs. The group engaged in free-flowing and creative thought about the past, present, and future growth and evolution of forest collaboration across the east side of Oregon. Participants identified shared principles, opportunities, and challenges. We are sharing those concepts through this brief to help inform future local, state, and regional discussions of effective and sustainable forest collaboration.

Context and Rationale:

Collaboration on national forests is now practiced across much of Oregon. It recently has become an important means for achieving increased ecological restoration and socioeconomic impact on the east side. The urgency of accelerating the pace and scale of restoration is broadly recognized, bringing new resources and strategies. It is an exciting time. However, this also places pressure on the ingredients that underpin successful collaboration, such as trust, relationships, local capacity and shared visions.

Who We Are:

As collaborative staff we are interested in broadening support for our collective missions to improve the resiliency of the forested landscapes and local communities across eastern Oregon. We do not represent all of the values and interests of eastern Oregon collaborative group participants. However, we see ourselves as able to help facilitate the identification and elevation of local collaborative needs and priorities to ensure state, regional, and inter-collaborative partnerships, peer-learning, and support are mutually beneficial. We can also translate regional, state, and national objectives and programs into site specific and place appropriate initiatives and programs at the local level.

Shared Principles, Opportunities, and Challenges:

The success of collaborative forest restoration across the eastside hinges upon a productive dialogue and exchange across all levels, with a focus on strengthening productive relationships from the grass-roots along with regional, statewide, and national organizations and agencies. This should take the following into account:

- Local collaborative needs vary from place to place, ranging from under-represented interests to questions of science to lack of local capacity. Solutions at all levels should stem from needs identified and elevated by local collaboratives and community-based organizations, rather than assuming that local collaboratives can or should utilize uniform approaches. Local collaborative solutions should be found through grassroots input from local citizens.
- The opportunities and outcomes of collaboration also vary. Collaborative forest restoration should not be viewed as a single phenomenon that repeats across the landscape but as a unique expression of place with unique metrics of achievement in different communities.
- State and regional initiatives and partnership are vital to realizing collaborative vision on the ground and supporting place-based initiatives, yet to be effective and sustainable such efforts must integrate with and provide meaningful roles and leadership for local voices.

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Next Steps:

The group plans to meet again within the next 2-6 weeks and then anticipates expanding the conversation with additional voices and perspectives. We have identified the following as valuable future endeavors that we wish to undertake:

- To identify and clarify mutual needs and best practices at the grass-roots level, explore future opportunities, and identify those which may be best realized through joint ventures or partnerships among east side forest collaborative groups while recognizing that solutions and strategies are not one-size-fits all.
- To add value to place-based forest collaborative efforts by working more effectively with valued regional-level partners and service providers in clarifying roles, identifying needed resources, and together exploring new, innovative approaches to relevant partnerships, coalitions, and/or networks.
- To enhance leadership skills and professional learning through in-depth, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and engaging in lively and active discussions about the theory and practice of collaboration across eastern Oregon.

Participants:

Elaine Eisenbraun, North Fork John Day Watershed Council (Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group)

Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources (Wallowa-Whitman Forest Collaborative)

Phil Chang, COIC (Deschutes Forest Collaborative Project and Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative)

Pete Caligiuri, The Nature Conservancy (Deschutes Forest Collaborative Project and Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative)

Sara Jones, High Desert Partnership (Harney County Restoration Collaborative)

Vernita Ediger, Blue Mountains Forest Partners

Staff Support:

Scott Aycock, Independent Facilitator

Emily Jane Davis, Oregon State University (Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group and Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative)

ATTACHMENT B

Purpose & Vision Statement

Changes proposed to the 2011 Purpose & Visions Statement for our work going forward:

Federal Forest Working Group - Purpose & Vision Statement:

“The IWG is focused on supporting landscape-scale, active restoration of federal forest lands by identifying and removing barriers to restoration of forest and watershed health.

We will:

- ~~1. help collaboratives identify local forest health priorities, develop landscape scale forest restoration plans, and find agreement for active management;~~
- ~~2.1. coordinate an on-going working dialogue of policy considerations and changes needed to address barriers brought forward from the collaboratives; and provide a conduit to the USFS Regional Office for direction and/or support to expedite collaborative landscape scale project implementation,-~~
- ~~3.2. advocate for sustainable and predictable supply of biomass and merchantable timber, and~~
- ~~3. advocate for continued funding and new supportive state and federal policy to advance these efforts, and~~
- ~~4. pursue a new collaborative governance structure including local collaboratives, the State and the Federal government to implement forest restoration and management activities.~~

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."

8/6 Participation

In person

- Brett, Chad
- Emily Jane Davis
- Paul Barnum (by phone, arrive late)
- Maia Enzer
- Elaine Eisenbraun

By Phone

- John Amaroso, OWEB (Greg Seiglitz)
- Vernita Ediger
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Unavailable

- Tom Partin, Ann Forest Burns (“AFRC’s staff retreat and summer board meeting take place at Eagle Crest in Redmond Aug. 6---8, so we will not be able to participate in this meeting.”)
- Gil Riddell
- TNC – Russ, Mark, Amanda
- Pete Caliguiri
- Scott Aycock
- Nils Christoffersen
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