

October 22, 2014

## **From Collaboration through Implementation:** *A Partnership to Increase the Health of our National Forests*

### **Goal:**

As a result of the Tour, Legislators will gain fresh insight into how the State of Oregon is working with local communities and collaborative groups to positively influence federal forest planning and operations, including implementation of 2013 Oregon Legislature's \$2.88 million investment in the Dry Side Federal Forest Health Program administered by the Department of Forestry.

Legislators will engage local collaborative group leaders including local elected officials, conservationists, timber industry personnel, other business 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.
  - o 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.

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## **Tour Route Overview:**

The field tour will begin at the Sister's Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection Community hall (*see address below*) with coffee 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*

### **10:25 – 10:45 Partnership for Accelerated Restoration**

Federal and State leadership will provide opening comments and context for accelerated restoration and the partnership approach being implemented in Oregon. The topics and initial discussion will set the stage for the remainder of the day's dialogue.

*Presenters:* *Jim Pena, USFS Regional Forester*  
*Doug Decker, ODF State Forester*

### **10:45 – 11:30 Perspectives from Collaborative Group Members**

This panel will highlight a few perspectives from participants in collaborative groups.

*Presenters:* *Jim Walls, Lake County Resources Initiative*  
*David Stowe, Sierra Club*  
*Zach Williams, Iron Triangle*

*Discussion:* *20 minutes*

### **11:30 – 12:30 Travel to first field stop & lunch**

### **12:30 – 1:30 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

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implementation. In addition, collaborative group members and community leaders will discuss economic opportunities and social perspectives.

*Moderator: John Allen, USFS, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor*

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

*Discussion: 20 minutes*

### **1:30 – 2:30 Travel to second field stop**

### **2:30 – 3:30 Landscape-Scale: Partnering for Greater 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.

*Moderator: Jerry Ingersoll, USFS-Region 6 Natural Resource Director*

*Presenter(s): Bill Aney, USFS, Eastside Restoration Coordinator  
George Ponte, ODF, Central Oregon District Forester  
Scott Melcher, Melcher Logging Company*

*Discussion: 20 minutes*

### **3:30 – 4:00 Oregon's Role in Accelerating Pace and Scale**

The final session will concentrate on a continued leadership role for Oregon in partnering with local collaborative groups and the USFS to significantly increase restoration across the state. Presenters will lead a discussion regarding the possibilities using new tools for Oregon to play a key role in increasing implementation of forest health treatments.

*Moderator: Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Office*

*Presenters: Doug Decker, ODF, State Forester  
Jim Pena, USFS Regional Forester*

*Discussion: 10 minutes*

### **4:00 – 4:15 Summary and safe travels!**

Close-out comments:

- *Commissioner Alan Unger, Deschutes County Commission*
- *Members of the Legislature*

### **4:15 – 4:45 Return travel to Sisters**

### **4:45 Adjourn for now!**