

Umatilla Forest Collaborative

Meeting Notes: February 23, 2012

Forest Supervisor's Office, Pendleton, OR

Attendance: Jim Archuleta, Joy Archuleta, Wynn Avocette, Scott Aycock, Kevin Blakely, Joani Bosworth, Todd Buchholz, Jean Cassidy, Kimpton Cooper, Mark Davidson, Bob Davies, Jonathan Day, Elaine Eisenbraun, Scott Fairley, Joan Frazee, Monte Fujishin, Mark Henjum, Irene Jerome, Angela Johnson, Brian Kelly, Dan Kinney, Tim Lillebo, Kevin Martin, Gary Miller, Rick Minster, Vince Naughton, Ed Pearson, Mike Poulson, Dave Powell, Mike Rassbach, Bill Richardson, Hans Rudolf, Elizabeth Scheeler, Greg Silbernagel Carrie Spradlin, Mark Stern, Robert Varner, Lindsay Warness.

Introductions were made around the table.

The Agenda was reviewed with opportunity for additions.

Oregon Solutions Designation was reviewed to explain standard protocol including the final "Declaration of Cooperation". Greg Wolf is contact in Governor's Office. The designation lasts through August and may be extended. Bob Davies of E.O.U. is chair of the advisory committee and sits as our convener. The role is unique due to UNF's pre-existing structure. Bob Davies was introduced and commented on his perception of the convener role including what he brings to the group.

Handouts: O.S. Designation Letter; Executive Summary

Website: A Umatilla Forest Collaborative website has been established through Oregon Solutions. It contains all meeting notes. The URL will soon be provided to everyone.

Operating Principles:

Focus was on mission and vision.

Vision: Scott reminded everyone that a vision is a statement of a future state of being as opposed to an action statement. Discussion revolved around the weighting of ecological, economic and social benefits. The possibility of adding the phrase, "long-term" was considered to tie all three elements together followed by a suggestion to use "continuous" to indicate all time frames.

Mission: With minor wordsmithing, option number four satisfied the group.

Principles: Changes from the last revision were reviewed: Reviewed Decision Making process of full consensus with a fall back. We still need to decide who will participate in voting. Discussion included the need to reach out to more stakeholders and to include young people through internships or participation. Joanie, Scott and Elaine will work on this.

Administrative Committee: Meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Kahler Review:

The meeting at Heppner was primarily informational. Discussed the framework for decision making. Scott explained the different options: A) The group could just review the data collection of the forest service and use that as the foundation for decisions. B) The group could acquire data and analysis from other sources. The critical issue is what we care about and need.

Forest service will be looking at purpose and need this summer.

General USFS Work flow:

Existing condition – Project initiation letter with timeline - develop a purpose/need - proposed action – (scope to public) – alternatives developed – analysis (by specialists of effects of alternatives) (This might help group choose where to step in.)

Kahler is not scoped yet and needs purpose and need followed by a field season to collect data for proposed action.

Summary opinion – Group will work with forest service cooperatively, be pro-active (not just reactive) and recognize that the purpose and need is the critical step.

Field trips will become important as we move forward.

Group agreed to a fun gathering on the night before a field trip.

Young Stand –

The group was reminded of the two different scale foci that are options in moving forward.

Dave Powell – Forest Silviculturalist explained moist forest silviculture. The southern forest tends toward cold forests, the north tends toward moist forests. He described the major disturbance regimes of the Umatilla N.F. including: spruce budworm, douglas fir tussock moth, mountain pine beetle, and fire. Minor disturbances include mistletoe, rust, armillaria root rot. Climate change will likely have the greatest effect on lodgepole, spruce, and larch.

Mark Henjum – Forest Wildlife Biologist described the great diversity of the Blue Mountains. Big game plays a significant role in the forest plan and old growth/mature tree habitat is a critical piece of that with a predetermined number of acres to exist at all times. Indicator species include: pine martin, pileated woodpecker, three toed woodpecker, [other?] cavity nesters, black bear, mountain goat, and elk. Elk are particularly critical to the overall forest management. Newly returning and unique mammal species are enjoying a resurgence on the UNF.

Joan _____ - Forest Botanist – Explained threatened and endangered plants and identified some sensitive vascular plants. Invasive weeds are a problem requiring many resources to treat. There is also a native plant program with seed being grown by contractors. Huckleberry would be a good focus for a group project and could interact with the tribes' interest in that area.

Tracy Hickman – Threatened/Endangered species coordinator, explained the need to prevent any movement toward T/E for any species. This work is closely coordinated with other agencies such as

Fish & Wildlife. The quantity and quality of water coming off the forest has critical affect on recovery for fish. "Take" is harm, harass or affect critical habitat. We can not kill or indirectly affect fish.

Threatened – in danger of becoming endangered

Endangered – are threatened with extinction in foreseeable future.

Sensitive – forest service definition: Higher risk of impacts for a project.

Chris Johnson – Fire Staff explained the primary duty to consider fire fighter and public safety.

Fire moves according to stand conditions and landscape fuel breaks.

Stacia Peterson – Acting Forest Hydrologist explained the high ridge research with included 29 years of data through 1995. The purpose was to determine harvest effects on flow (total, peak, and seasonal). There was no significant changes in water yield after harvest. This project could be an opportunity to get access to data.

Jim Archeleta – Soil Scientist explained that the level of harvest resilience may change when we look at soils. Reducing legacy impacts from temporary roads and landings is important. Many times planned temporary roads remain causing an impact on stand development. Subsoiling helps. Organic amendments augment too. Biosolids can outcompete noxious weeds and biochar creates new bonding sites for plants and immediate water retention benefits. It improves site quality.

Next steps:

Work plan for Kahler

Operating Principles

Determine reality of two projects

Poll the group on process and direction