



## *Declaration of Cooperation* *11/30/12*

### **UMATILLA FOREST COLLABORATIVE GROUP**

#### **I. Summary**

The Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group developed out of informal conversations with forest stakeholders in 2010 and 2011. The discussions, sponsored by Umatilla Forest Supervisor Kevin Martin and Oregon Solutions, were focused on measuring interest in creating a more collaborative environment for forest management in a context of appeals and litigation, diminishing federal resources, community economic decline, and mounting ecological restoration needs. At a July 16 2011 “Listening Tour”, participants were asked about their primary concerns with vegetation management practices on the Umatilla National Forest, and whether or not they would be interested in forming a standing collaborative group to engage on these issues and work towards solutions. A critical mass of those in attendance elected to form the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (UFCG).

The group began meeting formally on September 26, 2011 at which time they selected two projects – the dry forest Kahler Basin project and an as-yet-undefined “cool/moist” forest project – and created an Administrative Committee to help guide their work. The UFCG then submitted an Oregon Solutions project designation request letter on December 11, 2011 and received project designation from Governor Kitzhaber on February 1 2012 (see Attachment A). The group requested Oregon Solutions assistance in achieving the following goals:

- Developing a purpose and need statement and implementation plan for the 30,000-acre Kahler forest restoration project on the Heppner Ranger District; (Section III)
- Assisting the North Fork John Day Watershed Council in developing protocols, standards, and practices to host, administer, and fiscally manage the UFCG; supporting the drafting and group adoption of an Operating Principles document, including ground rules; (Section II and Attachment B);
- Developing sustainable funding for one year of UFCG activities, and a plan for future funding;
- Developing a road map for seeking stakeholder common ground on cool/moist forest restoration and identify the opportunity for a 2<sup>nd</sup> project focusing on previously-clearcut plantation stands.

Section III outlines the proposed Kahler Purpose Statement and the group’s work plan for Kahler going forward. Section II and Attachment B present the group’s norms as codified in the Operating Principles. The North Fork John Day Watershed Council has successfully applied for and received a Ford Family

Foundation grants as well as a National Forest Foundation Community Capacity and Land Stewardship Program grant to sustain and staff the UFCG. After their first few meetings, the group elected to focus on the Thomas Creek area on the Walla Walla District as their cool/moist forest project, and Section IV presents the group's "road map" for collaborating in Thomas Creek.

Oregon Solutions has developed a web site for the project, including agendas, notes, and major project documents: <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/ufcg>

## **II. Oregon Solutions and the D.O.C.**

Oregon Solutions (O/S) is a program of the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University. The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop solutions to community based problems that support sustainable objectives for the economy, the community and the environment and are built through the collaborative efforts of citizens, businesses, government and non-profit organizations. The O/S approach integrates and makes efficient use of public and private investments, elevates the visibility of the project and engages communities in creating solutions. The process provides a neutral forum – a place where various interests and stakeholders can come together as parties in a "Project Team," in a manner that is more neutral than a meeting sponsored or hosted by one of the parties at the table.

Through the Oregon Solutions process described above, collaboration among parties on the Project Team is anticipated to develop and evolve as the process continues, with the intent to foster or facilitate agreements amongst the parties about which potential actions, or suite of potential actions, may be taken to cumulatively lead to successful project outcomes, including preliminarily identifying which party may be appropriate to take specific potential actions, how and when. This collaborative work product is documented at the end of the O/S process in the "Declaration of Cooperation," which can be understood as a non-binding implementation plan. The Declaration, including the stakeholder commitments, is considered to be a "living" document that shall continue and may evolve with the opportunities for parties to amend by unanimous consent from time to time, to represent changing situations often found during project development, until project completion or until suspended by mutual agreement.

## **III. Group Mission, Vision, Values**

The UFCG has developed and adopted an "Operating Principles" document codifying the group's mission, vision, values, ground rules, decision-making practices, and other norms to guide the group. The document was finalized at the June 28 2012 meeting, and it is reproduced in its entirety in Attachment B, including a list of groups that have signed on to the document to date. Additional groups may sign on to the Operating Principles at any time. The following is excerpted from the document:

**Mission**

To develop and promote balanced solutions from a diverse group of stakeholders to improve and sustain ecological resiliency and local community socioeconomic health in and near the Umatilla National Forest.

**Vision**

UFCG recommendations meaningfully contribute to lasting ecological, economic, and social [alphabetical] resilience in and near the Umatilla National Forest.

**Group Values**

Participants in the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (UFCG) agree that their collaborative efforts should:

- a. Recognize the legitimacy of the interests and concerns of others, and expect that their interests will be represented as well.
- b. Work on tangible, implementable projects in the short-term while also building information and engaging in deliberative dialogue on other issues which appear to have more potential for conflict.
- c. Focus on projects:
  - i. with the highest restoration need,
  - ii. which can demonstrate long-term benefits,
  - iii. which are aimed at restoring ecological resiliency and natural disturbance regimes,
  - iv. that provide economic benefit to local communities and reliable/stable supply of material, and
  - v. that protect and restore clean water, stable soils, native vegetation and quality habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- d. Incorporate landscape-scale and wholistic information and analysis before making collaborative recommendations; including specifically
  - i. adjoining private lands
  - ii. grazing allotments
  - iii. wildlife habitat and corridors.

## **IV. Kahler Project Proposed Purpose Statement and Management Guidelines/Considerations**

### **Proposed Purpose Statement:**

- Restore or maintain ecological resiliency and natural disturbance regimes, and reduce/mitigate the risk of uncharacteristic disturbances (fire, insect, weather events, and disease) to federal land and adjacent state and private lands through the use of a variety of tools such as fire, thinning and harvest.
- Protect and restore or maintain clean water, stable soils, native vegetation and quality habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- Provide a sustainable supply of forest products and jobs through landscape-scale ecological restoration that will contribute to maintaining industry infrastructure and socioeconomic stability for local communities.

The UFCG has also created a draft list of “Additional Management Considerations” for the Kahler project. Because this list is considered to be a “living document”, subject to revision with new information, it is not included in this Declaration of Cooperation.

### **UFCG Next Steps for the Kahler Project:**

The Kahler Basin Project is currently slated for a 24-month implementation timeline. At their September meeting, the UFCG requested that the Forest Service consider moving Kahler onto a 12-month timeline, pending discussions about the impact of increasing the pace of the project. As of the development of this DOC, the UFCG and the Umatilla National Forest are still determining whether and how to increase the pace of implementation.

Regardless of the final timeline for implementation, the UFCG will continue to participate in the Kahler Basin project in the following ways:

- Receive information debriefs from Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meetings and provide feedback on project priorities.
- Support the development of priority ecological restoration and economic objectives for the Kahler Basin project.
- Help identify and mobilize resources to support the project and engage the community.
- Provide collaborative proposals and feedback on implementation prescriptions.
- Work to engage adjacent private landowners and other interested parties.
- Provide collaborative proposals and feedback on contracting mechanisms.
- Monitor implementation.

## **V. Road Map to Collaboration on the Thomas Creek/Cool Moist Project**

At their October 25 2012 meeting, the UFCG agreed to the following draft "Road Map" for the Thomas Creek cool/moist forest project:

- Follow a two-track process:
  - Develop action proposals on a faster timeline for areas with the greatest potential for early collaborative consensus;
  - Continue to explore and develop greater scientific knowledge of cool/moist forest restoration principles and considerations on a longer-term process of collaborative scientific inquiry
- Obtain and integrate current science as it relates to cool/moist forest types:
  - Receive debrief from late August cool/moist forest science synthesis tour (Sept. 2012 meeting)
  - Identify additional questions and request scientific literature review to answer questions. (Resources: EOU students/professors, PNW Research Station, etc.)
  - Help develop and participate in proposed Spring 2013 Mixed Conifer Summit (NW Fire Consortium)
- Specific to Thomas Creek:
  - Hold a Thomas Creek Virtual Field Tour at the October 25 2012 UFCG meeting.
  - Continue to receive and process information from the Forest Service about a wide variety of factors in the Thomas Creek area, including historic range of variability, economic/sale viability, prescription modeling, fish and wildlife issues, landscape wildfire strategy and values at risk, road networks and access issues, recreation, and other considerations.
  - Scope: Analyze conditions (i.e. not just plantation stands) ridgetop-to-ridgetop. Include forested and non-forested lands.
  - Develop a collaboratively-proposed Purpose Statement for Thomas Creek in Winter 2012/13.

**VI. Support Statements**

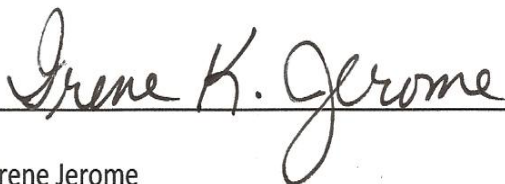
**American Forest Resource Council**

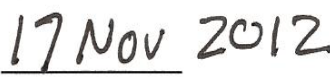
The American Forest Resource Council's (AFRC) mission is to enhance the health of public and private forests through enforcement of sound forestry practices. By participating in the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group, AFRC has the opportunity to engage in discussions with a diverse set of stakeholders to develop management strategies that support long term forest health as well as provide pathways to a more sustainable yield for industry partners.

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of American Forest Resource Council.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Provide insight on current and future forest industry conditions and needs in relation to local, regional and national trends.
- Share best practices and case studies as appropriate from other regions.
- Assist project partners in the identification of economically viable activities for the processing of fiber associated with forest health activities.

  
Irene Jerome

  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

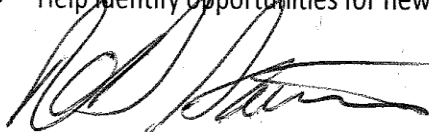
UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**Associated Oregon Loggers**

I, or my alternate, agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek project, the cool/moist science inquiry process, and other future projects that are consistent with the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. (AOL).

Furthermore, I or my alternate will work with project partners and provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Provide insight on current and future forest industry conditions, needs and opportunities in relation to local, regional and trends
- Share best practices and technical input involving forest operations, harvest systems, forest engineering, and transportation
- Share best practices and technical input involving forest silviculture, protection, restoration, and habitat enhancement
- Assist in the identification of economically viable activities for growing, tending, harvesting, and accessing sawlogs, fiber and forage associated with healthy forest & range management
- Assist in the identification of socially viable activities that integrate active timber, range, fire, natural resources, and road management to achieve desired future forest conditions
- Help to identify market-based solutions for forest & range management challenges
- Help identify opportunities for new project areas on the Umatilla National Forest



Rex Storm, Certified Forester

11-26-12

Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**Blue Mountain Lumber**

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Blue Mountain Lumber.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Continue to provide the group with insight on current and future forest industry conditions and needs.
- Provide expertise on the viability of proposals both from a purchaser and seller perspective.
- Assist with outreach to the contractor community and public.
- ID opportunities to utilize restoration products from the Kahler Basin and Thomas Creek projects.
- Help identify opportunities for new projects areas on the Umatilla National Forest.

*Ed Pearson*

Ed Pearson

*11/21/12*

Date



ATTACHMENT A

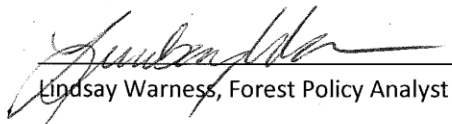
UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

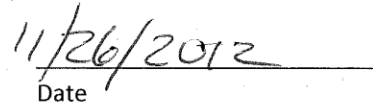
**Boise Cascade Wood Products**

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Boise Cascade Wood Products.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Continue to provide the group with insight on current and future forest industry conditions and needs
- Provide expertise on forest management for all projects involved, including:
  - Access to peer reviewed science
  - Ecological recommendations based upon current science
  - Economic assessment of viability of proposals both from a purchaser and seller perspective.
- Assist with outreach to contractor community and public.
- ID opportunities to utilize restoration products from the Kahler Basin and Thomas Creek projects.
- Provide expertise in harvest systems and project design.
- Help identify opportunities for new projects areas on the Umatilla National Forest.

  
Lindsay Warness, Forest Policy Analyst

  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

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**Hells Canyon Preservation Council**

Hells Canyon Preservation Council (HCPC) works to protect and restore the natural treasures of the Hells Canyon-Wallowa and Blue Mountain ecosystems.

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Hells Canyon Preservation Council.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Continue to provide information on conservation practices and goals to shape proposed management strategies
- Provide guidance, as needed, on landscape-scale analysis including setting restoration goals and developing monitoring strategies
- Contribute scientific data as available to help inform anticipated impacts on local and regional ecosystems

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Kelly, Restoration Coordinator

11-26-12  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**Jean Cassidy, Community Member**

I agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation on behalf of those who live, work, and recreate in the Umatilla Forest area.

In addition, I will:

- Volunteer with the Forest Service to assist with field work (surveys, marking, etc.) to help meet earlier timelines for Collaborative projects



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Jean Cassidy, Community Member

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Date

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UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**The Nature Conservancy**

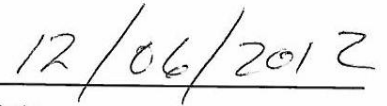
I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of The Nature Conservancy.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- provide linkages to broader statewide forest restoration efforts, including policy initiatives and processes
- provide guidance, as needed, on landscape-scale analysis and restoration processes
- provide insight and expertise on ecological restoration practices
- if needed and TNC staff are available, provide staff support to build restoration priority area maps.



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Mark Stern, Forest Initiative Director



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**North Fork John Day Watershed Council**

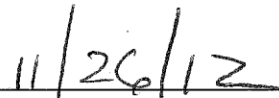
The North Fork John Day Watershed is proud to be the host organization for the Umatilla Forest Collaborative. We support the broad representation that this group makes available to the Umatilla National Forest. The National Forest recognizes the interconnection of diverse stakeholders with the daily management of the forest, and has welcomed this varied group into the process of collective understanding. The Collaborative Group provides an educated, shared voice of expression, expectations, consensus, compromise and creative alternatives to forest officers and staff. Forest personnel provide professional knowledge and scientific updates.

We honor the efforts of the participating individuals and the collective group that they form. We commend the ideas and solutions that the group proposes in the effort to identify pragmatic solutions to ongoing challenges. The Watershed Council is pleased to function in a staff role to support the worthy efforts of the Collaborative process. Depending on the future availability of funding, and as part of our commitment to supporting the UFCG effort going forward, the NFJDWC will provide the following services:

- Continue to serve as the host organization and fiscal sponsor of the UFCG;
- Provide full group meeting notes and other meeting support as needed and appropriate;
- Complete the UFCG web site to organize meeting materials and other content; and
- Provide community outreach efforts to better integrate the effort with the community at large



Elaine Eisenbraun, Executive Director



Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

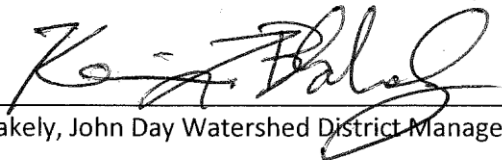
**Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife:**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's mission is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations." Healthy forests and ecosystems across the State are vital components for meeting this mission and working with the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group supports these conservation goals.

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Identify ODFW staff to work directly with the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (subject to availability).
- Provide relevant information related to potential wildlife and fish impacts of proposed actions.
- Provide guidance, as needed, on landscape-scale analysis and restoration processes.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Blakely, John Day Watershed District Manager

26 Nov 2012  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER


***Oregon Department of Forestry***

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) works with public and private landowners to improve the health of forests throughout the state. As part of the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee (FFAC) ODF works with a diverse set of stakeholders to make recommendations for how federal forestlands should be managed to contribute to sustaining all the values produced by Oregon's forests. The FFAC reached consensus on a set of recommendations – in *Achieving Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands* – that were adopted by the Oregon Board of Forestry in January of 2009. ODF has taken an active role in implementing those recommendations through policy advocacy and by participating in collaboratives to increase the level of agreement for active management on federal forests.

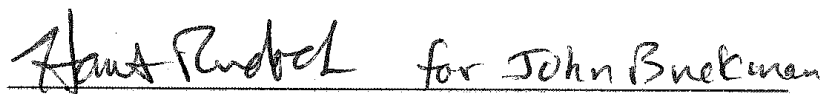
I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table as time and budget allow and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Oregon Department of Forestry.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Identify ODF field personnel to work directly with the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (subject to available funding).
- Ensure that Community Wildfire Protection Plan goals and objectives are incorporated into UFCG projects
- Help the UFCG coordinate activities with adjacent private landowners
- Provide technical support to assess forest conditions (subject to available funding and request from the UFCG):
  - As needed, request assistance from the Interagency Mapping and Analysis Project working group to use their tools and data for project analysis.
  - Provide GIS data from ODF and other participating agencies as available.
- Project implementation services (subject to available funding and need):
  - If needed, act as general contractor for Stewardship Contracts:
    - Implement contracted activities (i.e., fuel reduction, road maintenance, timber sale layout, etc.)
    - Perform watershed restoration and maintenance
    - Restore wildlife habitat
    - Control exotic weeds and species
  - Identify funding opportunities as appropriate through the Clean Water Fund Program.

  
George Porte, District Forester- Central Oregon District

11/16/12  
Date

  
John Buckman, District Forester-Northeast Oregon District

11/26/12  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

***Oregon Governor's Office/ Regional Solutions Centers***

The Governor's Natural Resource Office staffs the Federal Forest Advisory Committee Implementation Work Group (FFAC IWG) which has been meeting since 2008 to implement recommendations from the "Achieving Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands" which includes supporting local collaboratives to ensure Oregon's federally-owned forests contribute to the health of economic, ecological and social aspects of communities statewide. To achieve these goals, the report recommends engaging local collaborative groups in cooperation with state and federal agencies to assess forest health conditions and plan projects at the landscape scale in order to address high priority needs. Since 1990, over twenty five collaboratives have emerged statewide to inform sustainable forest management practices on public lands and ensure forest resources support community values. The Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group represents a proactive, holistic approach to forest management that seeks consensus at multiple levels to identify integrated solutions.

In a speech before the Oregon Board of Forestry in November 2011, Governor Kitzhaber emphasized the need for a balanced approach to active forest management on state and federal forests to address the economic and environmental urgencies facing communities statewide. He specifically described the worsening forest conditions in Eastern Oregon at a time when capacity is shrinking for both private and public organizations. Providing long-term community benefits from federal forest management continues to be a regional priority for Eastern Oregon that the Governor's Office is committed to addressing at the state and community level.

On behalf of the state of Oregon, the Governor's Regional Solutions Centers will:

- Assist with state agency coordination of resources as appropriate to help support collaborative goals



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Scott Fairley, Coordinator for Eastern Oregon

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Date



ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board:**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) recognizes the need for improving stream habitat while protecting the regional forest economy in Eastern Oregon. OWEB supports the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group as an opportunity to address these restoration goals while also improving forest conditions, recreation opportunities and local economies.

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Identify OWEB program representatives to work directly with the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (subject to availability).
- Help UFCG coordinate activities that are consistent with local, regional and statewide watershed management priorities.
- Provide technical support as needed to assess watershed conditions for impact analysis of forest management activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

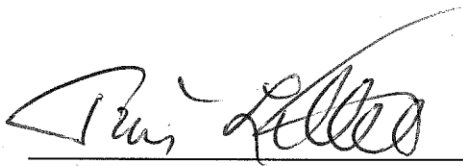
**Oregon Wild**

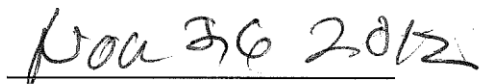
As part of its mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife and waters, Oregon Wild is committed to the conservation, restoration and management of national forests .

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Oregon Wild.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Continue to provide information on conservation practices and goals to shape proposed management strategies
- Help the group adopt systematic approaches to identifying restoration needs and analysis and management tools to achieve restoration goals
- Provide guidance, as needed, on landscape-scale analysis and restoration processes
- Contribute scientific data as available to help inform anticipated impacts on wildlife and watersheds

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Lillebo, Eastern OR Wildlands Advocate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**Union County**

Union County is committed to providing a high quality of life for its citizens by maintaining a diverse economy that balances the management and protection of natural resources. By working with the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (UFCG), the County can increase the level of engagement of local leaders to reflect community priorities for forest management.

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Union County.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Provide County resources as available and appropriate for collaborative projects
- Help define community values in forest management policies that ensure public infrastructure and natural resources are appropriately utilized
- Help identify opportunities to realize economic opportunities and incomes from ecological restoration projects.
- Work with collaborative members to coordinate county processes as needed
- Help coordinate UFCG activities with the emerging Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Collaborative Group



Mark Davidson, County Commissioner

11-26-2012

Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

**USDA USFS Umatilla National Forest**

I or my alternate agrees to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of the Umatilla National Forest.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Ensure that the Kahler Basin and Thomas Creek Watershed Projects planning efforts are open and accessible to the Collaborative and public at large.
- Continue to support USFS staff in attending UFCG meetings in order to provide
- the group with insight on current and future issues concerning the management of the Umatilla National Forest conditions and needs.
- Provide expertise on National Forest management for all projects involved, including:
  - Access to peer reviewed science
  - Ecological recommendations based upon current science
- Provide meeting space and logistical support for meetings and field trips.



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John Laurence Acting Forest Supervisor  
Umatilla National Forest

November 2, 2012  
Date

ATTACHMENT A


UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

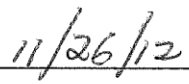
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Share relevant, updated information on species of interest with the Collaborative;
- Continue to work with the Collaborative partners to assist understanding of the regulatory environment, including documents that provide regulatory assurances;
- Inform the Collaborative about relevant Service grant opportunities and provide technical assistance with the application process;
- Provide survey protocol guidance to ensure surveys are consistent and compatible with species data types collected by the agency; and
- Work with the Collaborative partners, if necessary, to improve the quality and consistency of land management plans and their implementation.

  
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Gary S. Miller, La Grande Field Office Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

UFCG PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LETTER AND DESIGNATION LETTER

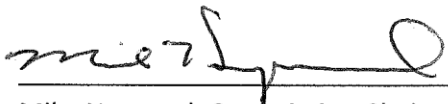
**Wallowa County**

Wallowa County is committed to providing a high quality of life for its citizens by maintaining a diverse economy that balances the management and protection of natural resources. The Board of Commissioners raises awareness about resources and services available in order to keep the community informed about ongoing opportunities for businesses and citizens. By supporting the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group, the Board has the opportunity to expand its capacity to engage in forestry issues in the Umatilla National Forest to reflect community values and concerns.

I or my alternate agree to continue to participate at the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group table and will provide honest, solutions-oriented input into the process to develop the Kahler Basin project, the Thomas Creek watershed project, and the cool/moist science inquiry process outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, on behalf of Wallowa County.

Furthermore, I or my alternate will provide the following skills and expertise in support of the development of these projects:

- Provide County resources as available and appropriate for collaborative projects
- Help define community values in forest management policies and projects that ensure public infrastructure and natural resources are appropriately utilized
- Help identify opportunities to realize economic opportunities and incomes from ecological restoration projects.
- If requested, provide guidance on watershed analysis processes and tools used in Wallowa County
- Work with collaborative members to coordinate county processes as needed



Mike Hayward, Commission Chair



Date



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#### **Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group – Kahler Restoration Planning Project**

#### **Executive Summary & Recommendations**

**December 16, 2011**

#### **The Opportunity:**

In July of 2011, the US Forest Service sponsored a Listening Tour on the Umatilla National Forest with public, private and non-profit stakeholders to discuss the opportunities and challenges on the forest that stretches between Central and Northeastern Oregon and Southeast Washington. In September a follow up meeting explored the collaborative opportunities for diverse stakeholders working together to address forest health issues. On December 1, 2011 the “Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group” (UFCG) had an initial meeting. The UFCG has crafted a restoration planning project proposal which aims to develop a purpose and need statement and implementation plan for the 30,000-acre Kahler forest restoration project on the Heppner Ranger District. At this meeting, the stakeholders present reached consensus on requesting an Oregon Solutions project designation.

An Administrative Committee for the UFCG was formed at the December 1 meeting as well. The first meeting of the Administrative Committee was held December 16, 2011. The Committee reaffirmed the 12/1 UFCG consensus for an Oregon Solutions project designation consistent with the recommendation outlined below.

#### **Recommendation:**

Oregon Solutions (OS) staff conducted an assessment and recommends the governor’s designation of the *Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group- Kahler Restoration Planning Project* as an OS project. The project will support formalizing the UFCG as a stand-alone, well-supported collaborative. This includes:

- Assisting the North Fork John Day Watershed Council in developing protocols, standards, and practices to host, administer, and fiscally manage the UFCG;
- Developing sustainable funding for one year of UFCG activities, and a plan for future funding;
- Supporting the drafting and group adoption of an Operating Principles document, including ground rules;
- Developing a road map for seeking stakeholder common ground on cool/moist forest restoration and identify the opportunity for a 2<sup>nd</sup> project focusing on previously-clearcut plantation stands.

The NE and Greater Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committees are aware of this emerging collaborative and have recommended requesting an Oregon Solutions project designation.

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February 1, 2012

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD  
Governor

Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group Administrative Committee  
c/o Elaine Eisenbraun  
North Fork John Day Watershed Council  
691 N Highway 395  
P.O. Box 444  
Long Creek, OR 97856

Dear Commissioner Davidson, Judge Webb, Ms. Warness, Mr. Lillebo, and Mr. Kelly:

I have received the request for the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group's (UFCG) Kahler Restoration Planning project to be designated as an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing the project and the assessment conducted by Oregon Solutions staff, I believe this project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives. Therefore, by this letter, I am designating this as an Oregon Solutions project and appointing **Eastern Oregon University President Bob Davies** as the convener for this effort.

The Oregon Solutions approach helps bring together potential partners in a neutral and collaborative way to address issues and opportunities. The project will support formalizing the UFCG as a stand-alone, well-supported community forest health collaborative. By identifying common interests and opportunities to integrate and leverage investments and resources, this project has the potential to strengthen the ties between non-profit interest groups, private sector and government agencies on the ground.

I am pleased to see that you are working collaboratively to find a sustainable solution to the forest health issues on the Umatilla National Forest and thank you, the Administrative Committee, for taking a lead role in this approach. Please keep the Governor's Office updated on your progress and thank you for your work and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
Governor

JAK:lrb

c: UFCG Administrative Committee Members  
Commissioner Mark Davidson, Union County  
Judge Mark Webb, Grant County  
Tim Lillebo, Oregon Wild  
Scott Fairley, Governor's Office, Eastern Regional Solutions Coordinator  
Brian Kelly, Hells Canyon Preservation Council  
Jim Johnson, Oregon Solutions  
Lindsay Warness, Boise Cascade  
Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Natural Resource Office

254 STATE CAPITOL, SALEM OR 97301-4047 (503) 373-3111 FAX (503) 378-4863  
WWW.OREGON.GOV



**Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group  
Operating Principles**

June 28, 2012

**I. Group Mission and Vision**

**Mission:**To develop and promote balanced solutions from a diverse group of stakeholders to improve and sustain ecological resiliency and local community socioeconomic health in and near the Umatilla National Forest.

**Vision:**UFCG recommendations meaningfully contribute to lasting ecological, economic, and social [alphabetical] resilience in and near the Umatilla National Forest.

**II. Group Values**

Participants in the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group (UFCG) agree that their collaborative efforts should:

- a. Recognize the legitimacy of the interests and concerns of others, and expect that their interests will be represented as well.
- b. Work on tangible, implementable projects in the short-term while also building information and engaging in deliberative dialogue on other issues which appear to have more potential for conflict.
- c. Focus on projects:
  - with the highest restoration need,
  - which can demonstrate long-term benefits,
  - which are aimed at restoring ecological resiliency and natural disturbance regimes,
  - that provide economic benefit to local communities and reliable/stable supply of material, and
  - that protect and restore clean water, stable soils, native vegetation and quality habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- d. Incorporate landscape-scale and wholistic information and analysis before making collaborative recommendations; including specifically
  - adjoining private lands
  - grazing allotments
  - wildlife habitat and corridors.

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### FULL TEXT OF UFCG OPERATING PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT

#### **III. Representation, Participation, Committees**

The UFCG will actively seek to involve representatives of diverse perspectives, needs, and expertise. This includes:

- Community support organizations
  - Concerned community members
  - County Commissioners and other elected officials
  - Economic Development agencies
  - Environmental/Conservation Groups
  - Federal Agencies
  - Forest Contractors
  - Forest industries
  - Landowners
  - Recreation interests
  - State Agencies
  - Tribes
- [alphabetical order]

The UFCG will be an open meeting organization. We will seek to include a diversity of stakeholder interests and geographic representation. UFCG meetings will occur on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. The public will be invited to participate in meetings of the full Collaborative.

Because the group will communicate via email and phone between regularly scheduled meetings, it is recognized that any direction taken, or decision made during meetings will supersede alternative direction or decisions that develop outside of facilitated meetings.

The UFCG will not develop standing subcommittees outside of the Administrative Committee, and the entire group will participate in group decision-making. Ad Hoc committees may be formed, as needed, to deliberate on areas of disagreement, to do research, and/or draft procedural documents, etc. Recommendations from ad hoc committees shall be brought to the entire UFCG for deliberation and approval.

#### **IV. Ground Rules**

##### A) Basic Rules for Collaboration

1. Respect each other in and outside of meetings.
2. No backroom deals.
3. Personal attacks will not be tolerated.
4. The personal integrity and values of participants will be respected.

## ATTACHMENT B

### FULL TEXT OF UFCG OPERATING PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT

5. Stereotyping will be avoided.
6. Commitments will not be made lightly and will be kept; agreements will be honored.
7. Disagreements will be regarded as “problems to be solved,” rather than as “battles to be won.”
8. Participants are representative of a broad range of interests, each having concerns about the outcome of the issues at hand. All parties recognize the legitimacy of the interests and concerns of others, and expect that their interests will be represented as well.
9. Participants commit to keeping their colleagues/constituents informed about the progress of these discussions.
10. Participants commit to stating interests, problems, and opportunities. Not positions.
11. Participants will air problems, disagreements and critical information during meetings to avoid surprises.
12. Participants commit to search for opportunities and alternatives. The creativity of the group can often find the best solution.
13. Participants agree to verify rumors at full groupmeetings before accepting them as fact.

#### B) Meeting Behavior - all participants will:

1. Come to meetings prepared
2. Respect the basic rules of collaboration (as stated above)
3. Voice their concerns during meetings and take the time to resolve those issues
4. Refrain from side conversations during the meeting
5. Participants will make sure only one person speaks at a time – let individuals finish their thoughts and then take a deep breath before responding
6. Respect the facilitator and meeting agenda

#### C) Meeting planning and coordination

1. As a general rule, full group collaborative meetings will be scheduled for the fourthThursday of each month
2. Meetings where key decisions will be made will be announced well in advance (2 weeks)
3. Meetings will be announced via email and available on the calendar located on the UFCGwebsite (or by phone and/or mail for members who do not have email)
4. Meeting agendas will be sent out approximately 10 days prior to the meeting to allow for group input and suggestions.

#### D)Record keeping

1. Minutes will be taken at each meeting and shared with members who are on the list serve or have requested them by mail no later than 3 weeks following any meeting.
2. Minutes from the prior meeting will be reviewed at the beginning of the next meeting and any issues (clarifications, other) will be discussed; meeting minutes will be approved.
3. Member organizations and representatives will be listed in minutes, with information indicating their presence or absence.

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#### E) Internal communications protocol

1. A website will be maintained for storing and sharing all information. Partners are encouraged to help develop content for the website. The address is: <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/ufcg>

#### F) External communications protocol

1. Information about the collaborative will be made available to external stakeholders via the website and other venues as appropriate; all efforts will be taken to ensure that the group's work remains transparent to external audiences. Non-members will have access to all information and the ability to share thoughts and comments with the group.

## **V. Decision-Making System**

### A) Participation

While anyone may participate in meetings and deliberations, only persons signing this Operating Principles document may participate in group decision-making. Individuals must have attended at least 2 of the last 4 meetings to formally participate in group decisions (while allowing the use of "alternates" from the same organization if needed).

Committee members are encouraged to prioritize attending meetings in person. If this is not possible, members are encouraged to ensure a proxy is in attendance or to submit written input to the facilitator ahead of time. Committee and full group agendas should note if the group will be asked to make a decision during that meeting. Materials and information that will help inform committee or full group member decision-making should be distributed at least a week before the group is asked to discuss it.

Rather than establishing formal quorum rules, the group has agreed that substantive decisions should not be made at meetings where the full spectrum of stakeholder interests are not present. The group may make tentative decisions at such meetings, or may delay decisions until the following meeting..

Forest Service staffs are extremely important to this effort, but will only participate in an advisory capacity for the decision process.

### B) Consensus-Seeking

The UFCG agrees to be a consensus-seeking group. Consensus is defined as decisions that all parties can support, or at a minimum, agree to live with. When dissenting from what appears to be a group consensus, members should provide a constructive alternative that they think will meet everyone's needs. If no consensus can be achieved, an ad hoc committee may be formed to find a resolution. If the ad hoc committee is unable to find a resolution, the full UFCG may issue more than one recommendation or report. In this event, each report will include a full list of persons and/or organizations supporting each recommendation as well as the actions that each supporter expects to

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take, if any. All decisions that were made at a meeting will be documented at meetings end and the level of agreement with decisions will be recorded.

Consensus on a decision about a project, recommendation, or action the group plans to take will be reached when all meeting participants can make one of the following statements about a decision:

- I agree with the decision and will publicly support it.
- I agree with the decision but will refrain from publicly supporting it.
- I can live with the decision (and won't disparage it in public).

As decisions are being made by either the full group or an ad-hoc committee, eligible members will be asked to indicate their support either by a show of hands or verbal confirmation. Each participant has the ability to disagree with elements of decisions as they're being developed, but must offer a constructive alternative that seeks to meet the needs of all participants involved.

#### C) Reversability of Decisions

Decisions made during meetings will not be revisited by the UFCG unless significant new ecological, economic, or social information that may affect the decision becomes available.

#### D) Outcome of Group Decision

Once the full group has ratified a decision, a report will be given to the USFS for their consideration in their role as decision makers for USFS managed lands and waters.

#### E) Administrative Committee

The UFCG will utilize an Administrative Committee to assist in the following functions: developing draft documents for full group consideration, fiscal administration oversight and assistance to the NFJDWC, discussion/feedback for staffing and other contracts, and agenda-setting for full group meetings.

The Admin Committee will strive to include diverse representation from amongst the full group, and will include at least one forest industry, one environmental organization, and one local community representative. Admin Committee members will serve one-year terms and may serve consecutive terms if desired by the participant and supported by the full UFCG group.

## **VI. Staff Roles**

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC) is the "host organization" of the Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group, and will provide, as funding allows, fiscal administration, neutral facilitation, outreach, minute-taking, and other functions desired by the group. The NFJDWC may enter into contracts with other entities to perform desired functions.

ATTACHMENT C

**GROUPS SIGNING THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT AS OF OCTOBER 2012:**

- Associated Oregon Loggers
- American Forest Resource Council
- Blue Mountain Lumber
- Boise Cascade Wood Products
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council
- Jean Cassidy, community member
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Wild
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Vince Naughton, community member