

**Forest Restoration Collaborative Initiative  
The Outpost in John Day ~ July 19, 2006  
Draft Meeting Summary**

***Participants:***

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Diane Snyder, Wallowa Resources  
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Rick Brown, Defenders of Wildlife  
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**1. Meeting Objectives**

1. Advance collaborative involvement in natural resource stewardship and restoration by further defining collaborative group structure, goals and priorities
2. Discuss and reach agreement on next steps for moving forward

**2. Actions and outcomes to date**

A summary of the previous meeting (date?) was given. During that meeting, participants each discussed what motivated them to come to the meeting, their thoughts on forming a nonprofit to work on forest and community health issues, and whether they would be interested in a follow-up meeting. The strong interest in meeting again and moving the conversation forward led to the decision to hold this meeting. Martin Goebel (Sustainable Northwest) and Diane Snyder (Wallowa Resources) were also on-hand to share stories of community-based and collaborative forest restoration and economic development efforts in the region, including Wallowa County, Oregon. Minutes from the first meeting are available by contacting Mike Browning.

**3. Why are we here?**

During introductions, participants shared reasons for participating in the Collaborative. These included:

- Want to know what will happen to Grant County
- See more projects get off the ground
- Forest health – affects the economy
- Fed up with the way resources are being wasted
- The forests are in bad shape; we need to fix them
- Collaboration is one option for a new approach to get stuff done
- Loss of infrastructure needed for forest restoration

#### **4. Groundrules for Participation**

A list of groundrules was developed collaboratively by meeting participants. These groundrules will serve to guide our behavior and beliefs throughout this Collaborative initiative. They include:

- Listen with respect
- Separate who you are and the beliefs you hold
- Speak your thoughts at meetings
- Difference between opinion and fact
- No backroom deals
- When we disagree – set aside and figure out how to deal
- Pursue inclusivity
- Open door policy
- Honesty and trust

#### **5. Participant roles**

Forest Service representatives pointed out that their key role is to provide information that will help inform the debate, and to listen to recommendations and ideas from the group on what they would like to see happen on-the-ground.

Community participants expressed a more active role in the Collaborative, and mentioned that there is also a role for environmental representatives and others.

#### **6. Defining Goals and Process**

Using post-it notes, participants described what they care about, what they are aiming to achieve by working as a collaborative, and how they would like to work together.

##### ***What are we about?***

- Forest Health
- Identifying forest health problems and providing solutions to resolve the issues
- Finding a way to work with agencies to improve forest health and local economy for the benefit of both
- Seeking projects that will improve the health of our forests and the projects developed will in turn create jobs that will enhance Grant County
- Improving the forest health of the Malheur which will create jobs
- Collaboration and leveraging our interests

- Facilitating answers to, and activities for, addressing issues
- Stimulating duplication of natural processes for the benefit of impacted resources, resulting in the community becoming what it can be
- A forum for understanding the views and values of others, looking for areas of commonalities and possible action
- Ecosystem and community health and sustainability achieved through open, collaborative and inclusive processes
- Synergy: all of us together can come up with a better project than any of us singly
- Coming together with diverse groups to reach consensus about forest issues and have success in achieving our mission
- Citizens of Grant County seeing to have healthy forests, healthy communities, healthy families through active management and utilization of our resources
- Forest restoration
- Creating a healthy community that we can be proud of
- Long-term community health
- Forest health, jobs, schools
- Economic diversity

*Key themes:*

- *Promoting projects that improve forest health*
- *Community economic development through forest-related work*
- *Coming together with diverse groups and agencies in an open and inclusive process to find consensus and commonality for action*

***What are we aiming for?***

- Healthy forests that reflect minimal man-caused impacts while communities enjoy the financial benefits associated with minimizing the negative resource consequences associated with employing a do-nothing management approach
- Healthy, fire-resistant forest providing watersheds, habitat and resources that sustain a vibrant economic long-term community well-being
- On-the-ground projects that contribute to ecosystem and community health and an expanding cycle of involvement and agreement
- Healthy forests for the environment and our community
- Maintenance of infrastructure for forest health work
- A group that works together with respect and trust, and focused on a project that will help build and maintain a healthy forest along with a growing vibrant community
- A collective effort between agency and citizenry to restore forest health, which in turn will support an improved economy
- Clean up the forest and not burn it up
- Sustainable community and ecosystem
- Multiple use of federal lands resulting in a healthy, diverse economy and community
- A self-sustaining community with a healthy sustainable forest.

- A place for our children and grandchildren to work and play and develop again the heritage to pass on
- Improved forest health and improved economy of local areas through work provided by forest projects
- No more large fires= forest health
- The ability of people with different values to communicate and work together toward goals they have in common
- A healthy forest that contributes to a healthy economy and communities, and vice-versa
- Opportunities to work on forest health for those here now and those who will come
- Success and project implementation
- A 10-12 year plan to remove and treat our fuel load problems and stand density problems, which will solve all other problems we have
- Patience, honesty and inclusivity
- Equal weighting on economy and resource protection
- The first projects should result in some commodities such as saw logs
- Hazardous fuels reduction and restoration of forests
- A strategic plan for treating fuel loads and stand density problems

*Key themes:*

- *Hazardous fuels reduction for both forest health reasons as well as community safety*
- *On-the-ground projects that contribute to ecosystem and community health*
- *Maintenance of jobs and forestry infrastructure*
- *Improving our ability to work collaboratively and participate actively in these issues, finding common ground for our work.*
- *A strategic plan for our work*

***How do we want to work together?***

- Consensus among diverse groups in how we manage our natural resources so we can move forward expediently in restoring the health of our ecosystems
- Collaboratively and through consensus
- Seek areas of mutual concern, then carry out the projects with adaptive management monitoring
- Start small and implement
- Let resource needs guide discussion and project design and implementation
- Ensure that the process doesn't become an end in itself....the process must move forward
- Work together in a consensual way with the goals of community health and forest health always in mind
- Form a non-profit or join an already formed nonprofit. Don't re-invent the wheel and learn from other successful groups and get started on a project
- Meeting in each other's homes, having conversations with people of opposite values, coming to know and value 'enemies' as friends

- Have agencies attend meetings to discuss problems
- Meet and tour areas, discussing the best approach to management and then present it as a group to the agency for implementation
- Prioritize projects so that we are working in most impacted areas
- Shared assumptions, shared and agreed upon values, mission statement and concise goals
- Encourage managerial investments in scientifically peer-reviewed techniques at an intensity dictated by historic analysis of resource needs
- Focus on community fire protection and fuels reduction
- Include the environmental community as soon as possible to eliminate lawsuits later
- Visit and critique ongoing projects, and then work collaboratively as an advisor
- Use collaborative field trips on site-specific projects either selected by the group or offered by the Forest Service
- Work with agencies, state forests, community fireplan and community leaders to develop a strategy for treating fuel loads and stand density problems
- List in order of importance the priorities towards forest health and economic well-being that comes from stewardship.
- Be aggressive (in terms of scope and scale of project) but within the comfort level of the group as a whole.

*Key themes:*

- *Collaboration with diverse interests*
- *Decisions made by consensus*
- *Decisions of the collaborative group will serve as advice and recommendations to the Forest Service as they select and implement projects*
- *Project implementation:*
  - *Projects of mutual concern*
  - *Projects that have agreement*
  - *Start small and implement*
  - *Focus on fire and community protection*
  - *Prioritize based on ecological needs and economic opportunities (product removal)*
  - *Field trips and meetings, monitoring*

## **7. Project Ideas**

The Forest Service was asked to provide some ideas of possible projects that the collaborative group might be involved in. These projects reflected the themes listed above. Project ideas included:

- Select some projects identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Canyon Creek – use a stewardship contract for aspen reintroduction
- Treatment along 395
- Try different, small projects to build trust and relationships with interest groups. Different prescriptions in different stands, with monitoring to see effects.

## **7. Who's missing?**

The group felt strongly that we need more diverse participation in the collaborative, particularly from the environmental community. Their involvement should start as early as possible so that projects can be identified and implemented that reflect common ground, agreement, and trust. Possible participants include:

- Tim Lillebo and Doug Heiken
- Jeff Fields
- Susan Jane Brown
- Asanti and Karen Colter
- Linda Driscoll and Frasier Nichols
- Eva Harris
- Ted Merrill
- The tribes

### **8. Issues to further consider, define, and/or discuss**

A broad range of issues were discussed during this meeting. It will be important that we begin digging deeper into some of these issues during the next meeting in order to gain better clarity on our vision and mission, roles, project priorities, etc. Among the issues that need further discussion, participants mentioned:

- Scale and scope
  - What is the geographic boundary of our work?
  - What specific role does the Collaborative group want to play?
  - Do we want to start with small projects or jump right into a large one?
- What do we mean by ‘forest health’
  - In addition to hazardous fuels reduction, what are the other forest health issues?
  - What are landscape needs and priorities?
- What do we mean by ‘economic development’ and ‘community vitality’
  - What is the demand for jobs doing restoration work?
  - What is the demand for jobs in processing and manufacturing?
  - What are community needs and priorities?

### **9. Next steps**

The next meeting will be held in late August, and Mike Browning will set the date and send out invitations. An ‘agenda committee’ will help develop agenda items for the next meeting. To prepare for this meeting, next steps include:

- The Forest Service will identify possible projects and bring maps to the next meeting. It might be helpful to have an overview of the resource issues in the area to help us understand priorities for action.
- Mike, Peggy, Sustainable Northwest, and others will extend invitations to representatives of the environmental community.