

**Grant County Forest Restoration Collaborative Group Meeting
November 20, 2006; 4-8pm ~ Guernsey Building in Canyon City
Meeting Minutes**

Participants (please see appendix for participant affiliations)

Facilitator/Coordinator: Karen Steer, Sustainable Northwest

Recorder/Coordinator: Diane Browning

Boyd Britton, Dan Bishop, Mark Webb, Scott Myers, Curt Qual, Al Hahn, Eric Wunz, Shawn Robertson, George Meredith, Mike Bilman, Jeff Maben, King Williams, Lisa Doolittle, Jeff Fields, Tim Lillebo, Jack Southworth, Walt Gentis, James Johnston, Laura Mayor, Cindy Brown, Tad Houpt, Bill Toop, Royce Dotson, Rick Brown, Dennis Reynolds, Karen Coulter, Irene Jerome, Karen Steer, Matt Carter, Gregg Jackson, Ken Schutz, Bob Crisler, Dave Traylor, Ed Clark, Diane Browning.

I. Welcome and Old Business

After a welcome by County Commissioner Boyd Britton and group introductions, Karen Steer reviewed the meeting agenda (see attached), ground-rules, and asked for approval of the minutes from last meeting.

II. Group Operations Manual

The group reviewed and finalized the Operations Manual that defines our structure and function, including mission and guiding principles, collaboration, decision-making, roles and responsibilities, among others. While this document serves to guide us as we move forward as a group, it is very much a 'work in progress', and will be revisited within the next six months to make sure it remains current and accurately reflects the group's vision and scope of work. A copy of this document is attached to these minutes; please contact Karen Steer or Diane Browning with questions or comments. The final version will be distributed at the next meeting – if you have any feedback to provide on the document please do so before the next meeting.

Key points of discussion:

- Membership - Members will be encouraged to attend meetings, but will still be considered active if they remain informed and maintain communication with the group.
- Subcommittees will be formed for specific tasks (Meeting planning, Project Planning, for example)
- External communication protocol – While we are not yet actively seeking media attention, they are invited to attend meeting. We also need to be clear on how we communicate to the media, clarifying when we are talking 'for the group' rather than providing our individual perspective. We will work on talking points and a possible press release. ***For now, Karen Steer and Diane Browning will be the primary media liaisons. Please refer media questions or comments to them.***
- Decisions will be made by absolute consensus. Every effort will be made to find absolute consensus. If a time comes when absolute consensus cannot be reached and a project cannot move forward without it, then the language on absolute consensus will be revisited.
- The Forest Service is an active member of the group, though not a voting member. It will remain critical to the success of this collaborative that the land

Comment [RTB1]: It seems like we discussed several alternatives to consensus. You don't want to mention them all, but I don't think you should highlight just one, either.

management agencies are fully engaged, working with, and committed to, this process.

- Members representing an organization, company or larger ‘entity’ must identify this and make sure that they are speaking on behalf of that entity. ***It was requested that members share their mission statements and purpose for being part of the collaborative during the next meeting.***

III. Project Planning: Dad’s Creek

After the last full group meeting and field trip, a subcommittee was created and tasked with visiting the first project site selected by the collaborative group, Dad’s Creek, and providing recommendations to be used in a full group discussion on project scale, scope, information needs and other issues. Subcommittee members and other interested group members who were able to visit the project site included: James Johnston, Jeff Fields, Charlie O’Rorke, Dan Bishop, Asante Riverwind, Tim Lillebo, Irene Jerome, and Eric Wunz.

James Johnston and Jeff Fields presented the findings of the subcommittee, followed by a full group discussion. Key points included:

- This area had been heavily logged about 70 - 80 years ago.
- The subcommittee felt that there was a definite need for treatment in the area, particularly in treating ladder fuels and mistletoe. Main objectives for this project are to increase fire resiliency and decrease stand density, move stands towards old growth conditions, enhance and maintain hardwoods, and reduce extreme fire behavior near adjoining private land structures. Further, the group recommends that wood utilization be considered in project planning to enhance economic viability of the project.
- The road system should be taken into consideration when planning.
- The group recommends that both sides of the highway be included in this project (3000-4000 acres). Project size will inform the type of analysis needed by the Forest Service (CE, EA, or EIS) and role of HFI and HFRA
- We need to consider wildlife (salmon and other) in the project planning, paying close attention to Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
- Without causing unnecessary burden on the Forest Service, there is still some data that needs to be provided to the group in order to better inform our input to the planning process. Information requested from the Forest Service on existing conditions of the Dad’s Creek subwatershed (both sides of the highway) include:
 - Potential soil erosion impact
 - Historic extent of steelhead and trout use
 - Listed plant and animal species
 - Presence, absence of interior-forest-dependent species
 - Stream surveys
 - Historic and current condition vegetation maps
 - Presence, absence of cavity-nesting species
 - Section 303d list status
 - Available neotropical bird species data
 - WUI/CWPP boundary

- Location of unique habitats (aspen stands, old growth, dense riparian hardwoods, wetlands, etc)
- Big game corridors and use maps
- Viewshed constraints
- Weed locations
- List of existing ongoing monitoring efforts
- Location and type of passage barriers on Dad's Creek system, down to its confluence with the John Day River
- Road system map, including designation of road categories (type 1-5)
- Fireshed modeling
- Any relevant information on cumulative effects, and activities being implemented in adjacent subwatersheds, that we should know in developing this project
- Criteria for choosing among NEPA documents

Action: The group recommended that the Forest Service begin the analysis process for this project, guided by the following 'Purpose and Need' developed by the group:

- *Reduce fire behavior (fire threat?) near houses and community infrastructure*
- *Increase stand diversity*
- *Enhance hardwoods*
- *Maintain/enhance aquatic ecosystem*
- *Restore forest to be more fire resilient*
- *Enhance old growth characteristics*
- *Do better than 'break even'*

The group asks that the Forest Service gathers the information requested and presents it to the group. The group may appoint a subcommittee to review and synthesize this information. Concurrent with this review, the group also asks the Forest Service to develop a project timeline and begin to draft a project proposal that addresses the agreed upon Purpose and Need given above. , This information should be presented to the Collaborative Group as soon as possible. The Collaborative will appoint a subcommittee to work with the Forest Service, to further refine the project proposal, and then present their work to the larger group.

IV. Next steps

Group members felt that a December meeting would not be possible given the time needed for the Forest Service to gather the information and other analysis requested from the group. The group decided to wait until January for the next full group meeting. During this time:

- The Forest Service will begin the analysis process guided by the purpose and need developed by the collaborative group.
- The Subcommittee and Forest Service will meet to review the information, further develop the project proposal, and develop recommendations and discussion points for the next full group meeting. This meeting will likely occur during the first

two week of January. This meeting is open to anyone interested; please contact Karen or Diane to RSVP and/or for more information.

The next full group meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17th at 4pm. We will try to finish before 7pm. Please send possible agenda items to Karen Steer or Diane Browning.

Thanks, everyone, for a truly productive meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone in January.