

**Forest Restoration Collaborative Group Meeting
October 16-17, 2006
John Day**

Meeting: Monday, October 16

El Teulitio Restaurant, 7-9pm

Objectives

- Identify common interests of group
- Develop operations manual for collaborative group, including principles, mission, membership, decision-making and name
- Relationship building among group participants

Participants (*see appendix for affiliations*)

John Bastian, Lindy Bastian, Mike Billman, Dan Bishop, Boyd Britton, Rick Brown, Susan Jane Brown, Diane Browning, Mike Browning, Karen Coulter, Lisa Doolittle, Royce Dotson, Walt Gentis, Peggy Gray, Tad Houpt, Irene Jerome, James Johnston Tim Lillibo, Ted Merrill, Emily Platt, Dave Perry, Curt Qual, Brooks Smith, Karen Steer Bill Toop, Dave Traylor, Mark Webb, Mary Lou Welby, Tina Welch

Summary

Meeting facilitators Karen Steer and Boyd Britton started with introductions, meeting objectives, and background information.

Participants broke up into small groups to share their interests in working together and explore areas of commonality in interests. They discussed what the mission of the group should be and what 'success' will look like on-the-ground.

1. Report-out of key themes covered in small groups

(note: the intent of these discussions was to share individual perspectives and not to come to agreement on issues)

- Recreation should be part of the considerations
- Focus on thinning young trees based on the Historic Range of Variability; reduce fuel loads and stand densities
- Develop resilient forests
- Select a project that can be handled by the group, that we can agree on
- Make time to share information
- Reduce threat of catastrophic fire
- Improve communication with Forest Service
- Better utilize wood products
- Balance a vibrant economy and forest health
- Consider aquatics
- Consider healthy old growth
- Focus on forest *ecosystem* health and not just forest health

2. Developing the Operations Manual (Group Process, Structure and Function)

Karen Steer explained the function of an Operations Manual for a collaborative group: The Operations Manual is collaboratively developed and agreed upon, and defines the structure and function of the group: mission, goals, guiding principles, scope of working together, groundrules to be held accountable for, decisionmaking process, roles of

members, and other information. It is a binding agreement of how the group will work together and deal with issues and concerns as they arise.

Based on information gathered from previous collaborative group meetings, Karen developed a DRAFT Operations Manual for the group. This draft was intended to be a starting point for discussion, and to help guide the group to finalize a manual that everyone can agree upon.

Due to time constraints, the group was not able to discuss and provide feedback on the entire Manual. The following topics were covered: Mission, Scope, Goals, Principles, Groundrules for Collaboration, Group Structure. Based on feedback, modifications were made to the Manual so that it would be reflective of what everyone agreed upon. This document is attached (or enclosed) with this meeting summary. **The rest of the manual will be discussed at the next meeting.**

Action: Review manual up to the point where we covered in the meeting and confirm that you are in agreement with it. If you cannot yet agree with what is stated, note any additional changes that might need to be made for discussion during the next meeting.

Action: The group agreed that it would be helpful to have a common 'vision'. It was suggested that each person write a paragraph of their vision for the forest in 50 years. Send your paragraph to Diane Browning. She and Karen Steer will summarize them, anonymously, and present their findings to the group at the next meeting.

Field Tour: Tuesday, October 17

Participants met at the Fairgrounds at 8am to depart via bus on the field trip. The field tour is a follow-up to our last meeting's tour, when the group directed a subcommittee to select several potential projects for consideration.

Objectives

- Visit potential project sites and discuss opportunities: scope, scale of desired project; Identify one site as a first project.
- Seek common understanding of restoration issues, goals, points of agreement
- Explore common vocabulary for speaking about restoration

Participants

Dan Bishop, Boyd Britton, Rick Brown, Susan Jane Brown, Diane Browning, Mike Browning, Mike Billman, Steve Cross, Ed Clark, Matt Carter, Karen Coulter, Richard Corchene, Steve Dahl, Lisa Doolittle, Royce Dotson, Walt Gentis, Jerry Hensley, Phil Jenkins, Irene Jerome, James Johnston, Tim Lillibo, Rene Mabe, Charlie Ororke, George Meridith, Ted Merrill, Emily Platt, Dave Perry, Curt Qual, Ken Schuetz, Karen Steer, Bill Toop, Dave Traylor, Tina Welch, Eric Wunz

After introductions, the group discussed expectations for the day: At the end of the day, we want to agree on a site for our first collaborative project. We also want to discuss the type of activities and treatments that might occur on the site.

To guide discussions in the field and the project selection process, participants were asked to reflect on the following questions during the four stops:

- Looking at the given area, what do we want it to look like in the end?
- What does 'success' look like in this area?
- What are the objectives for the area?
- What level of complexity do we want to work with? What should the project scale and scope entail?

Before leaving, Eric Wunz gave an overview of each tour stop. Ed Clark gave an overview of fire classification determination.

Stop 1: Dad's Creek/Dixie Creek

Key issues discussed (note that these are people's individual perspectives and not points of consensus):

- Mistletoe problem
 - This problem should be addressed for at least ¼ mile long the road from the highway to Dixie Creek. This would create a corridor that would slow and possibly stop the mistletoe spread.
 - Mistletoe might make stands more susceptible to fire and disease, and weakens trees.
 - It is important to remember that mistletoe, even though it causes harm to trees, also plays an important role in the ecosystem and provides nutrients for certain organisms.
 - Larger trees spread mistletoe to smaller trees. Mistletoe can be treated by removing infected trees, leaving healthy trees and increasing the spacing between trees.
- Over-stocked stands
 - Small trees are most susceptible to fire.
- Adjacent private land was treated for mistletoe and looks good
- There is an opportunity to market chips from this area; to make that possible the road would need to be fixed to allow a chip truck in.

Stop 2: Highway 395

Key issues discussed (note that these are people's individual perspectives and not points of consensus):

- Need to remove hazard or potential hazard trees
- Need to reduce fuels along the highway corridor for a potential fire break.
 - This could include both sides of the Highway including the Old Growth or just the west side of Highway 395 which wouldn't include the Old Growth.
- Importance of protecting old growth, and the role of old growth in the ecosystem. Sometimes thinning around old growth is important for protecting it.
- Forest Service personnel said this project will get done even if the group picks another project.

Stops 3/4: Little Scotty/Damon Creeks

Matt Carter (rancher) and Jack Southworth suggested this project. Key issues discussed:

- Stand treatments to return it to a more historic Ponderosa Pine stand
- Stream restoration

- Need for fence: Cattle get into streams and drainages during the fall when they return to the ranch from their allotments.
- Need to develop springs to allow riparian area to return to natural state
- This area also includes old growth areas and archaeological sites
- Located in WUI and two sub-watersheds.
- This is a more complex project than the other ones visited.

Project Selection

After viewing all four projects, participants discussed which area was best suited to be the first collaborative project. There was general agreement that the selected project should provide ecological and community benefit, and also not have too much complexity that it would slow down project implementation and trust building.

The group agreed that the Dad's Creek project should be the first project. As the planning process for this first project gets underway, the Forest Service will begin to collect information for the Scotty/Damon project, which will be the group's second priority for collaborative work. It was emphasized that we do not need to wait for one project to finish before the other starts, but that we should first make progress on the first project before we start working on the second one.

The old growth and restoration issues at the Hwy 395 stop were interesting to some participants, but became the lowest priority for collaboration because of its possible level of controversy and the fact that the Forest Service plans to implement this project anyway.

A subcommittee was established to visit the Dad's Creek project and develop some suggestions around project scale and size, scope of work, key objectives, possible units to treat, etc. The subcommittee includes: Karen Coulter, James Johnston, Mike Billman, Charlie Ororke, Eric Wunz and Irene Jerome. Everyone is invited to participate. This group will bring their suggestions to the next meeting. See attached document for information that will guide their work in the field.

Action: The Subcommittee will meet in the field asap to discuss project specifics. Diane Browning will coordinate date, time and place.

Next Meeting

The group agreed to hold regular monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. There was some concern about local participants not being able to make this date, and we will revisit this schedule during the next meeting.

However, the next meeting will not follow this schedule... the next meeting will be held:

Monday, November 20

Time: 4-8pm

Location: To be determined; Diane Browning is searching for a meeting space and will contact the group with a confirmation.

Agenda items: 1) Continue developing Operations Manual; 2) Presentation from project subcommittee and discussion; 3) Other issues and information-sharing; 4) Group name

Thanks and please contact Diane, Karen Steer or Boyd with any questions or comments.