

## **Blue Mountains Forest Partners**

### ***Declaration of Commitment***

This Declaration of Commitment represents the interest of signed members to advance the mission of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP) and to honor the agreements that were collaboratively developed, as defined in the BMFP Operations Manual.

*Individuals who do not wish or are unable to sign this Declaration of Commitment and be a voting member, yet want to remain informed and involved with BMFP to a lesser-degree are encouraged to sign up as an Observer.*

### **Mission of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners**

The Blue Mountains Forest Partners is committed to enhancing forest ecosystem health, economic opportunities and public safety in Grant County through collaboration.

### **Our Goals and Guiding Principles**

- To promote forest restoration in Grant County, by integrating ecological, economic and community needs that have been developed and/or prioritized through collaboration.
- To improve our ability to work collaboratively and participate actively in these issues, finding common ground for our work. Our process will be open and inclusive, and will encourage the participation of diverse stakeholders. Our meetings will provide a ‘safe’ space for discussion and sharing of ideas.
- To overcome gridlock in forest planning and implementation. The success of our work is tied to long-term sustainability of forests and communities.

We agree to:

- Adhere to the above mission, goals and guiding principles; and, abide by the ground rules, decision-making process, and communications protocol jointly developed in our operations manual.
- Work collaboratively on multiple phases of forest restoration projects, including identification of priority areas, project planning, support to developing contracting mechanisms, and multiparty monitoring
- Actively participate in the Blue Mountains Forest Partners through its meetings, committees, field tours and other activities.

## **Details of Participation**

### ***Participating Members***

- Participate actively, as defined in the Operations Manual
- Be well-informed of group's activities
- State whether they are an individual partner or are representing a larger entity (i.e. organization or company)
- Provide input from each individual constituency; communicate back to constituents and organization; resolve internal conflict with other members of the representative's organization (to avoid two opposing opinions from one member organization)
- Suggest ideas or initiatives
- Offer to take leadership on ideas and initiatives
- Provide technical resources
- Abide by ground rules, scope, mission, desired outcomes
- Attend meetings, as possible; send alternate if necessary; RSVP for all meetings
- Commit to long-term involvement (by partner or their representative)

### ***Federal Partners***

- Serve as non-voting members
- Be committed to collaborative process and maintain active engagement at meetings, project planning, etc.
- Offer resource information
- Share historical data
- Share contract writing expertise
- Share experience working with local contractors
- Share technical resources and expertise
- Conduct NEPA
- Do not facilitate the collaborative group; (thus are not legally bound by what the group decides)
- Participate actively in project discussions; clarify scope of recommendations acceptable to the agencies early on and consistently

### ***Observers and Guests***

- May fully participate in discussions leading up to votes, but do not vote
- Offer resource information
- Share historical data
- Abide by ground rules
- Participate, listen actively and share expertise when present

Information will be made available to observers and guests on the background of the collaborative group, and all observers and guests will be introduced at the beginning of each meeting. Landowners adjacent to projects and other project stakeholders will be considered guests at meetings and will be encouraged to attend and participate in relevant meetings.

***Proxy Participation:*** Participating group members can send proxies to participate in decision-making. Proxies must be an informed affiliate or member of the organization, business, or entity being represented.

### **Participating Members**

George Meredith  
Resident, Grant County  
Mt. Vernon, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Mike Browning  
Bear Creek Timber  
Seneca, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Deanna Nelson  
Resident, Grant County  
Canyon City, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

Karen Coulter  
Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project  
Fossil, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Bryan Nelson  
Resident, Grant County  
Canyon City, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

Mat Carter  
Crown Cattle Company  
Seneca, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

W. Toop  
Resident, Grant County  
Mt. Vernon, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

James Johnston  
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics  
Eugene, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Glenn Johnston  
Backlund Logging Company  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Emily Platt  
Gifford Pinchot Task Force  
Portland, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Diane Browning  
Bear Creek Timber  
Seneca, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Dave Traylor  
Grant County Forest Commission  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

Dave Hannibal  
Grayback Forestry Inc.  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Jeff Maben  
Malheur Lumber Company  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

Irene Jerome  
Jerome Natural Resource Consultants  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Tim Lillebo  
Oregon Wild  
Bend, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

King Williams  
King Inc.  
Canyon City, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Charlie O'Rorke  
O'Rorke Logging  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Art Andrews  
Malheur Lumber Company  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

Asante Riverwind  
Sierra Club  
Bend, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Mike Billman  
Malheur Lumber Company  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Alden Boetsch  
Sustainable Northwest  
Portland, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

Maia Enzer  
Sustainable Northwest  
Portland, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

**Federal Partners**

Elaine Kohrman  
Malheur National Forest  
Prairie City, Oregon  
Signed: March 17, 2008

Eric Wunz  
Malheur National Forest  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

Brooks Smith  
Malheur National Forest  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: October 25, 2007

## **Observers**

Ted Merrill  
Resident, Grant County  
John Day, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

Bob Parker  
Oregon State University Extension Service  
Baker City, Oregon  
Signed: January 24, 2008

## **Background**

Grant County, Oregon is in the process of redefining the community's role in forest management. Opportunities exist to address ecological restoration and stewardship needs while providing new types of quality jobs for local workers, and woody restoration 'byproducts' for local manufacturing. Accomplishing these goals requires a new approach to natural resource stewardship; one that is locally-supported, incentives-driven and that relies on the power of solutions that integrate the environmental, economic and social needs of communities. Collaboration between diverse stakeholders, and with the land management agencies, is an essential tool in this approach. The trust that is developed through collaboration will also lead to stable, long-term solutions that will hold through the shifting political winds.

Formed in April 2006, the Blue Mountains Forest Partners is a partnership of diverse local and regional interests who have come together to address and resolve the impassioned social gridlock and controversy surrounding natural resource management in the region. This nascent group, which includes all parties that have had a role in forest management in the area, is committed to the collaborative process. It is a crucial and exciting time to build positive, forward momentum with this nationally-significant collaborative group. Through monthly meetings, field trips and other activities, this group has begun to build trust and relationships, identify common interests, and advance an agenda defined by restoration and collaboration.