

**Meeting Summary March 6, 2018**  
*Harney County ESD Meeting room, 25 Fairview Heights, Burns OR*

**Attendance:**

Roy Simpson, Howard Richburg, Roy Walker, Deb Roy, Travis Swaim, Mel Hall, Steve Beverlin, KD Burman, Roy Sutcliffe, Melanie Finch, Alyson, Kral, Andy Hart – USFS, Francis Preston, Jim Sproul, Billie Jo George- Grant Co. citizen, Guy Sproul- Log trucker, Kerry Kemp- TNC, Phil Jenkins, Zach Williams- Iron Triangle, George Heinz- Harney citizen, OFRC, Glen Johnston-Backlund Logging, Rick Minister-BMFP, Jim Campbell-Harney citizen, Tony Hauth- H Timber Contracting (Harney), Bruce Dunn- Gypo Logging, Gary Marshall- HDP, Caleb Sturgill- ODF, Pam Hardy- West. Env. Law Center, Jack Southworth- facilitator, Brenda Smith- HDP

**Actions Items:**

- **Plan a field trip to the Wolf project – visit the aspen stands that are already treated.**
- **Committee of Pam, George, Tim, Roy, Sarah Bush review the common ground principles and revise to reflect the collaboratives current view on “managed” fire to present at April meeting.**
- **Managed fire community outreach meeting – Jack, Tim, Brenda to meet to outline.**

**Question for the Group: When is the forest restored?**

Jack asked each person as part of the introduction When do we know the forest is restored? Following is a compilation of the answers:

- When there are more big trees
- When we are not afraid of stand replacing fires
- When we hear from the public that they can recreate and economy is more stable
- When we are confident about managing a lightning strike
- Restoration is never ending
- When we have sustainable timber harvests
- When we don't get too excited about insect outbreak
- When there is aspen all along the riparian areas
- When the streams are proper functioning
- When there are no invasive species
- When we reach historic range of variability for tree species (2)
- When we have a stable, sustainable local economy that includes people that live here (3)
- When there are more log trucks on the road

**Update on the Rattlesnake, Soldier and Hazard Tree projects - Travis Swaim**

Currently, laying the project out and moving forward with implementation. The prescriptions are written as everything up to 21” are harvestable. No 21” trees will be cut. We don't know slash treatment yet (Travis doesn't make that call, didn't specify in the NEPA document so could go anyway). Drainages are fir, rest of the project is Ponderosa, Old growth dead and dying. We have no salvage component the idea is to take the pressure off good green trees, density management is the goal to let trees protect themselves. Beetle killed trees.

Q. How about spraying the beetles? A. This is very expensive and with the stage of the outbreak, it is too late in the life cycle. However, in the campgrounds we are putting together a spray program to save old trees.

Q. Is the Good Neighbor Authority an option for this project? A. No, not for Soldier.

Rattlesnake Project – HEFRA has taken out the Soldier units and the main commercial treatment is commercial thinning treatments. Shelterwood treatment is actively converted to Grand Fir. We will remove the Grand Fir to take it back to Ponderosa. Bald eagle winter roost projects – big Ponderosa pine, this is a noncommercial treatment.

Historically this forest had more open areas it is at the very southern edge of the forest. The idea is to take all the pine in those areas, may be commercial treatment. For getting these projects approved, the better you can make the case that it was a wet meadow system and provide evidence to believe there was no conifers. The better it will be received.

This project is very similar to what we have done with projects that are on the boundaries, there is a lot of objection included language we leave in the project.

Q. Did you analyze for juniper? A. No specific Juniper treatments, unless it is an old growth (don't cut old growth juniper). The mahogany prescription has a lot of juniper. Is the juniper a commercial product now? Possibly. The juniper business would be new to us. For aspen restoration, we are getting away from aspen fencing and trying to use residual slash to get away from the maintenance of fence around aspen. Use slash to keep ungulates out until it gets above browse height.

Q. Is no treatment the preferred treatment in Goshawk nest? A. "No treatment" is not preferred. It would be nice to treat but it is expensive it boils down to economics and this isn't a priority.

Regarding designated old growth areas, we do revisit and examine the legitimacy. We routinely see if they meet designated and then see if we can go to new replacement old growth stands. In this project we are looking to designate new areas for old growth. Old growth must be 300 acres, we revalidate all old growth stands and it is politically hot to change old growth stands.

Melissa – we had 2 or 3 tours out in this project last year. CE was developed last season.

Trying to create some breaks, getting into some flat ground and get in as soon as we can.

The authority only allowed 3000 acres, so we went for that.

Pre-commercial thinning – we will pile and burn. In the aspen stands we may remove commercial trees.

Slash could be considered a fuels problem, but we won't actively be lighting a prescribed fire in the aspen stands.

Timeline – Currently, laying out Soldier and put it out to bid by end of Sept. Not sure if it is stewardship or outright sale.

It is a priority, is there going to be an incentive to get it done quickly. It is not considered salvage?

Road density issues – hasn't been scoped, still working on it.

Q. Is there consideration of cleaning up an area with woodcutters to clean up the area before the road was closed? A.

You can't wood cut when the sale is active, when the sale is done you close the roads. We could consider keeping the roads open until woodcutting is finished.

Entire project is in Harney county.

**District wide danger tree project** Harney County asked us to do this project because they were seeing these dead trees.

Trying to respond to the county concern. This project is on all 2 and 4-digit roads – all likely and imminent danger and will do campgrounds.

Allows us to get ahead of the curve here. All methods of removal. In riparian cut and leave, others commercial fire wood cutting. EA should come out soon. We use the Region 6 danger tree identification manual. Q. Will the trees be identified with paint? A. Probably. "Imminent and likely" are well defined and we probably wouldn't need to mark them.

Q. What about a Citizen Salvage to ease the burden on FS, help with economy? A. Steve Beverlin - this won't happen.

Comment: Just as an FYI on Rd. 4115 – bumps on the road from tree roots pushing up. They are a problem to navigate the road. Trees were not imminent. Q. How will the sale go? All timber sale? Stewardship? A. Will contract this a couple of different ways.

### **Review our Common Ground Principle regarding Fire:**

2 types of fire – prescribed and wildfire. Managed covers prescribed and wildfire. There were questions around definitions of prescribed and managed fire. Jack asked a committee to put together some language at the next meeting for the group to review.

### **HCRC's role in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) – Roy Walker**

Roy presented a PowerPoint on the CFLRP program. Presentation is available on request (contact Brenda Smith).

Getting 4 million dollars a year and most restoration is coming from CFLRP. Next year the 4 million goes away after next year. 4 million for implementation or monitoring. 10% of funds goes to monitoring.

In 2017, 20,290 footprint acres completed, 43 million board feet.

Q. What does 20K acres represent for total CFLRP acres? A. Total is about 1 million acres – still have a lot of work to do in this area.

### **Permission to deactivate the Prescribed Fire committee – consensus reached.**

### **Heritage Program relationship to restoration projects – Alyson Kral, acting ECRD archaeologist**

With regard to the Heritage Program, FS can't survey all the Rattlesnake acres. But we can use prior surveys, known area, GIS modeling, proximity to water, slope, government to government surveys. Programmatic agreements focusing on the intangibles – such as sacred areas and traditional cultural properties. It is a very broad designation, it can be areas for gathering for basket weaving, also rich ranching traditions and mining districts.

Q. Do we have any traditional cultural maps? A. Yes and no – some historical documents. Tribal sovereignty “traditional cultural properties” this is an official designation. Traditional cultural properties is for federally recognized tribes.

Q. Does Malheur have LIDAR flown? A. All upcoming projects will have LIDAR. North end of Malheur just used it for an old mining district.

We have over 5000 sites on the forest – lithic scatter, no actual tools. Cambium peeled trees – a lot of tribes has placed value on these and what that means for them. A single tree could be a site then.

Precontact and postcontact with Euro Americans – depends on when they came through 1850 pre/ post 1850 – evaluate the eligibility and significance in the same way.

How are buildings protected – full assessment for listing on the Historical Preservation Act, Architectural historians do the evaluations, not archeologists. – i.e. Allison Gauard Station was recently listed on the HPA.

Programmatic agreement with the state and the forest – there are definition of what is a site and what is an eligible site. Historical is defined as 50 years from present day.

### **Oregon Forest Federal Reserve Program funding and opportunities for the Malheur NF and the two collaboratives – Kerry Kemp**

Oregon Dept. of Forestry has \$800K to spend across the state. The idea of these funds was to use to help with FS bottlenecks, also looking for new ideas. Proposals are due March 16.

Nathan Poage and Kerry have proposals to submit, there are opportunities for the collaborative as well. Kerry and Nathan propose to take Lidar acquisitions derive new measurements, to look at different treatments, work with a group out of Washington on structural metrics we will work with them on treatment or planning areas. TNC is putting a proposal together for a website and a link to fire lookouts and view a photo from a lookout in the 1930s – makes it accessible to the public and take a current picture to see how forest has changed over the years.

### **Community outreach meeting regarding managed fire in 2018 – Jack**

Reason for meeting: *Inform and get feedback from the public regarding managed fire and the possibility of associated smoke issues.* Jack and Tim will meet to determine timing and outline of program.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday, April 3, Harney County Community Center, 478 N. Broadway Ave. Burns**

Topics: Juniper Encroachment and Water Talk – *Ryan Niemeyer (confirmed)*