

Meeting Notes

Harney County Restoration Collaborative

Pine Room Restaurant, Burns, OR

Tuesday, Feb 23rd, 2016

Introductions

- There weren't a lot of people showing up for these meetings and now there is a good turnout so that is a good thing
- Louis Smith – has a ranch in Crane; sure woke up me up quite a bit; made me more aware of what needs to be done; every meeting he has been to lately has been more attended lately than before; people want to be more involved and understand what is going on with everything
- Cheryl Smith – here to learn and get involved and disturbing to her that the whole thing could happen and how out of control it got
- Dan Bishop – lumber company; the occupation he agreed with the objectives as far as the Hammonds were concerned; opened a few eyes back East
- Leon Pielstick does wild horses; tore up the community and that was the biggest part for him; been involved in the community for a long time and it was hard to see it ripped apart
- Dana Skelly – wasn't directly affected except for worrying about friends and colleagues down here; really concerned about the crew retention in Burns and in forest as a whole; hard when there is a nonstop inundation of high energy, makes it really tiring; has reinvigorated civic discussion; looking forward to us telling our stories better
- _____ - Upset about how this whole community has been affected; had friends on both sides; upset about how government workers have been affected by this;
- Lindsay Cawfield – Want to get involved because she doesn't want to be a theorizer and a complainer; wants to get her hands dirty
- Brenda Smith – gave explanation of how HDP and HCRC meld together; HDP is an organization that is dedicated to the collaborative process and we don't do projects ourselves; work in ecological, social, and economic components in the community; find funding to find facilitators, improve communication among initiatives.
- Karen Wagner – work for US Senator Merkley; affected emotionally, spiritually, and politically; a citizen that had to watch from a distance and only participate in short bursts; affected by passion and heart was put in by everybody no matter where they stood; gave her job as a representative a new meaning and understand how the federal government does figure in this equation and where the short and long term opportunities might be
- Mike Stearly – spent 7 years on MNF and was brought back because of the occupation; took him away from his family for a while; been a great experience and got to learn about the community; have heard a lot of good things about the collaboration; hope that it keeps bringing more people to the table and more ideas; open up more dialogue; here to learn more about what you folks do and absorb
- David Bohnert – ruminate nutritionist by training; professionally it made it more challenging, federal component couldn't be at work, made logistics and work that had to get done hard, juggling to get that done, security another issue; personally it is hard seeing the community torn apart; I think they made clear the frustration that is in the community from a control/natural resources standpoint; frustrated about lack of local control; hoping this can be used that we do need local control –need flexibility at national level; hoping colla
- Zack Williams – Iron Triangle – affected company in many ways; forest did a great job working with us; divided Grant as much as it did in Harney; felt horrible there; worried about keeping local people; need to have people on the ground that know things locally, we have this now and he is worried we will lose them because they aren't feeling support
- Mark Webb -Blue Mountain Forest Partners – occupation didn't affect him directly personally; very mad at how

- the occupiers handled the situation and how it tore apart the community; there is a significant challenge in Grant that could sideline all the work being done there over the past decade; people need to step up and responsibly talk with one another and be respectfully
- Dana McLamb –can't help but be affected; if it can happen here it can happen anywhere; disturbing and unsettling that that could take place
 - Scott Frost –frustration and hoping things settled down and we can get back to work in a normal manner; personally as many of you here mentioned a desire to be more informed and participate more in government and in the community and being more aware of the law in general
 - Christy Cheyne – affected because she is from a small town in Oregon that is similar to Burns and some of her family took side or the other; affected here because she was trying to keep facility and everyone safe; lots of people were able to work at home or in John Day; one thing she was upset about from the very beginning is that we have so many successes here with this group and we have failed to communicate that; social media depicted a different picture; hoping we can diversify voices in this group, even the ones that think they will never agree with you and having them a part of the conversation
 - Josh Giles –wasn't here at first, personally I felt that there were a lot of voices there at first that were negative; this could become a good thing, we are here in this collaborative to get the best product from our resources
 - Jack Southworth –the thing he has always liked about facilitating meetings in Harney County was that people are so respectful; amazed and saddened by having this progress disrupted; hoping to go forward to have a healthy, fire tolerant forest that benefits the community; have an interesting journey ahead of us
 - Peter Walker – Study land use politics – affected in the sense that he was in the middle of a different project and he recognized the importance of what was happening here not just for us but for communities all over the west; where did the anger and far out ideas come from? Would it succeed or fail? It failed largely; seemed to him starting out that it could steer people towards a more radical direction or it could reinforce the importance of collaboration; HC has a well-earned reputation for working collaboratives; one of the first thing he said when they first came here was that they picked the wrong place for revolution
 - Melissa Ward – really cool to see a lot of people here and hopes they keep coming back
 - Lori Bailey – affected her like it did everybody else and it is nice to see a lot of different folks here today and we will just see where it goes
 - Fred Hellebusch – been coming to these meetings the last 2 to 3; didn't lose any good friends but did lose some casual friends; no big deal really; shocked at how much hate there was towards government employees; they aren't the government they just work for the government; most of this has been brought on by special interest groups and not BLM or FS themselves; will see in 3 months how many people that are sitting here today are still here; have seen people jump on the bandwagon before; hope they are all still here
 - Gene Scrivner –attended some of the meetings this summer; retired and very much interested in the collaborative process; from human resources background and if you want to think about conflict think about child abuse and wanting to protect kids; the last nine years he was the director of symmetry care; really concerned about how this is affecting the human resources side of things; lots of school positions open and administrators leaving; 4 people withdrew their applications towards the hospital; much of our human resources in the community is funded through government funding (very little comes from Harney County); human resources if you are going to have a viable community needed to support the natural resource industry; made him very angry and very sad; to know that friends were followed and harassed; hope we can hang together human and natural resource development; backcountry horseman –been using that to keep him sane
 - Wayne Kinney – works with senator Wyden – trying to get reimbursements for law enforcement; was there for Georgia Marshall speech about the benefits of working together
 - Phil Jenkins –I appreciate that our FS partners did the best they could to keep things moving forward for us and I am optimistic going forward that positive things will happen
 - Melody Molt – just here for information
 - Jessica Habein- been a long time since she has been a meeting facilitated by Jack; have a range of emotions as far as the occupancy affected her and her family; we live out of town and because we are a ranching family we didn't have a lot of information that was presented to people in town and people in government agencies that was preparing people for the militia group coming to town; there was a real chasm in information transfer; felt a little severed off from what was happening; at some point felt it was very difficult to have and communicate at

meetings and speak openly about having differences in opinion; really disturbed by some of the realities of the human condition that were happening in our community; only had information from FB and media; very disturbed by the representation by the spin and representation of the media; it was happening on both sides of the situation; as a whole though she really feels the divisiveness is representative of some different issues that are going on; just understanding that when people don't have a voice or wrongfully labeled there is a lot of hurt that surfaces when a crisis like this happens; feels this created a venue for people to vent their issues; the great risk is that we somehow learn to simmer down and cope with this but then we survive in a coping mode, which is not a thriving mode and lays out the opportunity for the scab to be scratched and this is not a healthy place for communities to operate

- Steve Beverlin –talked with Kristy and others twice a day over 45 days; working to keep people safe but keep work going at the same time; trying to provide guidance to employees, difficult when the job you choose is somehow wrong; that is difficult to take; tried to ensure and provide guidance so that we weren't judging when we engaged and that all sides were okay; it is going to delay projects, had to skip a meeting because it, it effected collaborative positively in that it can grow in new ways, in what other ways can the collaborative help the community heal and grow ecologically and more; time will tell in 3 months; who isn't here that should be today
- Travis Swaim –emotionally very sad to see negative emotion directed at law enforcement and government employees; were forced to work from home after a while, which got old after 1, 2, and 6 weeks; overall hopefully we see some more positive interest in what we are doing
- Patty Shultz – pioneer born and raised; the occupation brought me to my knees, became a weeping mess; grandson in school that was terribly affected by it, more so than I think we realize; here today because the call came out, "What can we do?"; doesn't know if this is her niche; in her church with the senior center, garden club, and loves our forest and the community members; hopes to be here in 3 months if this where she belongs
- Daniel Dean – lived here since 1945 with a short stint in Idaho, been a forester and logger for 50 years, the forest is my cathedral; have a particular affinity to the yellow pine; have a particular interest in seeing that our resources are managed as wisely possible; have made a million stumps but that doesn't mean he has taken all the trees; lucky to have the regeneration here; wants to see the forest managed as wisely and widely as possible
- ? Temple–occupation message of the overreach of federal government is something that should be looked at; the occupation at the airport might have had a larger effect on us and being followed down the road and all the stuff; rubbed us a little the wrong way in how it was handled; weren't real proud of the way they handled taking over the refuge but we got a voice for it and hopefully we will be able to carry on
- Jerry Temple – do have a ranch scattered all over HC; do live across the airport; definitely a military occupation here and it was the FBI; they dressed very military and they acted military and they met you at the gate in a military fashion; the federal overreach in the ranching industry has been going on for years and the only reason that his started was that Steven and Dwight Hammond were tried as terrorists; whenever there is a US government versus anyone you know how it is going to come out, it isn't going to come out anywhere; the cows ate every day this occupation went on, we didn't run away from it, we knew we had to do this, this was our job; have to think that a federal person is coming from a different background; being threatened was a different thing, and the Harney County militia was what kept this thing sane; feel sorry that people were and felt threatened about this deal; some in the county that think this is a thing that is going to continue and should continue; thing those working on collaborative issues need to hang in there; the word constitutional situation applies but that is has become backwards, does have a FS and BLM permit and some private ground; hope that it gets to his son

Review proposed changes to Common Ground Principles – See document attached – comments and changes are listed in this document

- This is a constitution for HCRC. This is what we want to see on the Southern Forest of the Malheur. At the last meeting in November I asked if there was one thing you could change about management in the Southern Malheur Forest what would it be? Seemed to be a 50/50 split between more fire on the forest and need to be able to cut trees over 21".

Presentation by James Johnston: *Burning Questions about the Southern Blues Forests*

- Used James data to support 2 plan amendments and allowed us to harvest 21" primarily grand fir on Big Mosquito and Upper Camp.

- The collaborative using the science and data is very helpful in getting us through these plans
- The rings from 1266 tree that is dead at the top of Crane creek. Oldest living tree is 1299 knowing we are going to warmer and drier.
- There is enormous amount of uncertainty of how the climate will change in this area precipitation is unknown; temp might be 2-3 degrees higher. Think like n insurance adjuster – best insurance risk on the forest is old growth ponderosa pine the more resilient the forest will be.
- Is there a point for basal area that is sufficient for the prescriptions we are doing now? Most sites of 50 sq. feet/ acre for basal area is not sustainable. Some folks think it is opening up the stand too much but I don't think so. What about the wildlife corridors – is there a way to inform for wildlife habitat? The primary difference of forest on the Westside has similar water across this area. All forests have these large patches.
- We have no species like spotted owl in this forest. There is no need for coherent large scale patch variability. It is mostly fine scale. Disappointed in the wildlife connectivity is a construct theory with no basis.
- Are we really in a period of climate change – it has to do with the Pacific Ocean. To what extent is there in a climate trend – over 700 years is a slight cooling trend. Most climate change is an increase in climate change over the last 100 years and this is a real thing.
- **Presentation available on request – Brenda Smith – hdpdirector@gmail.com**

Review of NEPA Timeline for Dove and Flat Projects

- Finished scoping at the end of October and since then have looked at all the comments and have found a few issues so we did develop another alternative, right now the specialists are working on their specs analysis, hoping to come out with a draft in April and have a final EA and draft notice in June. And after the 30 day objection notice than we will have a 30 day objection resolution so that it will finally be signed sometime in August.
- The Flat Project, I believe everyone has collected their data, the silviculturist are ahead of everyone else and have what are the proposed vegetation treatments, the rest of the specialists haven't really looked at it yet; scoping in September or October of 2016 so it will be somewhat on the same schedule that Dove is on now; they will be just about a year apart.
- Don't believe we will have a plan amendment for cover, hopefully developed the propose action to meet cover analysis, most likely if we are proposing any replacement of old growth so that would be a plan amendment there; haven't really thought about Flat yet.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, March 22 – Harney County Community Center Time: TBD

Speaker Suggestions for Future HCRC meetings

- Alan Ager (research scientist with the FS) did research looking at tradeoffs on stand selection between economics, fire objectives, wildlife objectives, etc. how you can't get everything with the same treatment
- Michael Jennings –developing new insect invasion maps; would be happy to share
- Would be nice to hear some wildlife rebuttal or comment to James' proposal that it wasn't appropriate to the Malheur
- I think it might be beneficial to have a social scientist talk about a sense of place and ownership, think the social aspects tie into economics, will help them understand externalities and internalities
- through of Nancy Langston who has written two books on sense of place she is the go to authority, has that long term historians perspective, and she would love to be here, she has watched the whole incident with great interest and would like to support this effort
- Iron Triangle just finished logging the first task order, Phil should tell us about lessons learned
- Trent Sager from wildlife, some of the same concerns about 21" rule and wildlife rules he can help you understand, trying to move that forward so we can get some understanding
- Hannah Gosnell, does rural communities,
- Michael Eisner
- Paul Doescher
- Kerry Kemp
- Would like a speaker who could talk about managing the economics
- Phil Jenkins to help public understand the complexities of the economics behind this,

- Another speaker could be Josh who did a special view with Dove, would be really cool to have Travis do this with Flat/Upper Camp
- Matt Cawlfie is able to explain things in laymen terms. The general public doesn't understand the process of harvesting timber and how decisions are made to ship it to a mill or pile burn it
- Someone to speak about it from an economic stand point. It isn't cost effective to harvest every single tree.
- Peter Walker. He is the professor of the Dept. of Geography and environmental studies for University of Oregon. He was at the last meeting and maybe someone already mentioned him.

How was the meeting?

- First meeting that he has attended, liked the discussion and hearing the direction that it is going, and the way I look at it I want to be informed and learned, learned something today
- First meeting today, depends on how long the detail lasts, hopes the crowd keeps showing up, great presentation
- Really appreciated all the interaction has cause her to question what opportunities are available at the federal level to institutionalize it, likes that it is a grassroots effort and that it could be lead at the local level, where is the right balance and long term opportunities here?, how do this transfer to the other block of land
- First time here, no ideas on guest speakers, but it was very informative
- Meeting was good
- First time here and so don't have a suggestion for a speaker, learned a lot, it is given me hope coming out of situation that was so hopeless at times, to see us all here and that we all have different opinions, this is my community and I want our grandchildren to enjoy it as much as I do, will probably be back, only question is that we need this with the BLM too, there is a disconnect between the people in town and those out of town, the communication, two cities in this whole community that are right side by side,
- Thought speaker has some good information, has some really serious questions about economics, thought the forest was being harvested, killing all the little trees doesn't allow them to grow up into bigger trees, understand about having wildlife trees, worked for H&H logging always left certain trees, being able to help the government financially, there are some issues there that he is concerned about.
- Have had a fear of coming because of what the facilitator might say, I like the collaborative effort, I hope that information that comes gets put to use in the field, that is his big fear, what I have seen and feel is that there is managing with fear of litigation, which bothers him terribly, I go out on the forest and big things that are going to fall down, to keep the herd healthy, managing by appropriate science far outweighs by doing it by litigation
- Always learn something new, as far as the guest speaker it is a three legged stool, feels the economic is the biggest piece that is missing
- One parting thought, thinking about communicating what we are doing and why, there might be some value sharing why each factor is of value socially, economically and ecologically;
- Don't have any recommendations; enjoyed what went on here; will be back; don't know if he can contribute anything to this effort but we will see
- Thought the meeting was great, great to see a lot of people in the room today, guess I would second Gunner's suggestion of Alan Ager, think the study would be really relevant to the Malheur
- Don't know how many we usually have but this looks like a nice group, talking way over my head because I have absolutely no idea what you do or what you are doing and what you are going to do in the future, do you have a mission statement that tell you what your mission statements are, like what she saw, keep up the good work and keep going
- Surprised how well this went with this size of group, how nobody walked over each other; he group never agreed whether we were going to take on a grazing project, are we going to go into the grazing arena or not
- Great meeting, great discussion with common ground principles on statement about managing large trees, Nice forum to have people speak and be safe enough to have that happen, there has been a lot of talk recently about government overreach an collaboratives offer a great venue for allowing people to have local control.
- Good meeting Jack and appreciate your facilitating, James has me mesmerized today; don't have any input on speakers
- Impressive array of talent, willingness, and commitment to reach out to the future and make it work and I

appreciate being part of it

- Thought it was a good meeting, going to continue on principles next weekend,
- Really good meeting
- Disappointed that a lot of the people left
- First meeting; thoughts were to commend everyone, gives me hope considering everything that has been happening, clocked a lot of miles between here and the refuge, during this meeting I was thinking about the enormous contrast between what is happening on the refuge and what is happening in this room in terms of the issues that face rural communities and the rural west, people are always going to have differences of opinions in how they get used and how do we move forward in constructive ways, couldn't get more contrast between armed revolutionaries and the slower paced less dramatic but more successful and important work that is being done in places like this; spent a lot of time at the refuge and it was a bit of a circus, it was nuts, and we managed to keep the cameras out of the room; this is the slower more methodical, less dramatic work that gets things done, take a look at the outcome, what did the armed occupiers accomplish? Didn't succeed in any of their goals; hat goes off to everyone.
- Want to thank everybody, this is hard work, appreciate the interaction
- Liked the discourse and discussion but we don't have some people that need to be here to hear this and help shape the future;
- Also am full of hope for the number of people that turned out and the diverse interest, hopeful to see today some vocal members and she hopes they continue to come; group needs to consider having evening meetings; could
- Wonderful time here today, enjoyed getting to know everybody, especially appreciated James' presentation; second the desire to hear from Iron Triangle as well
- Appreciate being able to see how we do this
- I benefited; I am in collaboration a lot; learned some things from it.
- My other input would be not spending so much time dissecting every word. Have people complained in the past about specific words?