

March 5, 2010
Meeting notes

Ann Walker, Western Governors' Association, walked the Work Group through the Forest Health Advisory Committee membership and work plan. Scott Aycock will follow up with Ann to share information and explore opportunities for coordination with the IWG and local collaboratives.

Kevin Birch discussed comments and his analysis of Sen. Wyden's "Oregon Eastside Forests Restoration, Old Growth Protection, and Jobs Act of 2009". The impression is that the bill is consistent with the FFAC recommendations. Discussion touched on timing, targets, funding and resource needs to implement, specificity of bill in some areas and need for clarification of language/terms in others. Those participating with the IWG are asked to consider Kevin's analysis, and those entities able to do so are encouraged to provide their individual comments and perspectives on the bill directly to Senator Wyden and his staff. An initial hearing for the bill is set for March 10.

Paul Barnum asked if the FFAC report is on the record w/ Congress. The Governor has indicated support for the bill. ODF will be asked to follow up and confirm the Oregon delegation is aware of the report and on-going discussions with the Federal agencies. Secretary of State Kate Brown has sent a letter to the Governor on behalf of the Sustainability Board indicating the Board's support for Sen. Wyden's eastside forest health bill. (Attached)

The status of Statewide Forest Collaboratives "of interest" discussion followed Scott Aycock's review of the recurring needs of local collaboratives identified in the course of investigating landscape-scale projects. Common needs are identified in his staff report (attached again to this email). These needs may be the basis for productive dialogue among the IWG on how to strategically coordinate assistance among all of the partners around that table. Comments were heard concerning the resources that will continue to be needed to assist collaboratives with "getting up to speed" and replicating successes.

Scott continues to dialogue with collaboratives "of interest" (Central Oregon, SW Oregon and Grant/Harney/Malheur NF in particular) regarding their status and needs. "FFAC Action Plans" may be recommended by the Statewide Collaboratives Subcommittee to the IWG to clearly identify local needs and the resources and activities that could be delivered by the IWG partners.

"Hazardous Fuels Management on Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest"

The attached 2 page collaborative project proposal was received through the Umpqua NF Supervisor's office. The Umpqua was not initially identified as a "geography of interest" by the Work Group. The Statewide Collaboratives Subcommittee will discuss the request at their next meeting (late March/early April timeframe). Scott Aycock will be following up with the Forest and local stakeholders to consider how this request might be addressed and action coordinated with the resources around the FFAC Work Group table. It's expected the Subcommittee's review of the request will be included in their recommendations back to the Work Group at the next meeting (5/14).

Jon Pugsley, Rep. Schrader's Office, discussed the recent biomass utilization roundtable the Representative hosted at Chemeketa CC and the biomass incentives legislation introduced in the House. Email attachments:

- HR 4227 – Biomass Heat Utilization Program
- Incentives to Increase Use of Renewable Biomass Act of 2009:Section-by-Section Summary

Updates:

- OFRI special report on Federal Forests in Oregon will be available in the coming weeks. OFRI Board tour of fed lands scheduled for their 8/27 meeting in Bend. OFRI is working w/ ODF on a survey of Oregonian's values for forestlands. Due to the Board of Forestry at their September meeting.

- BLM – ARRA projects (\$35M) are statewide procurement priorities. Reviewing reductions in the President’s budget for O&C accounts and fire budget. Special Task Force Report on track to be completed by the end of March.

- Forest Summit – The Governor’s discussions continue regarding a summit in southwest, timeframe may be as soon as late April or early May.

- USFS updates:

- o FLRA “pre-proposals” are due 5/14. More info to be available via the Region 6 Office in the coming days.
- o Acres treated. Region 6 is working on a summary that will have information similar to that provided by BLM (distributed via email prior to the meeting).
- o An initial draft report, “Responding to Climate Change: Integrated Plan for Landscape Conservation for the Pacific NW (OR, WA and AK)” Ver.1.0 prepared by Regions 6 & 10 and Pacific NW Research Station, is available in hard copy and can be obtained from Jose’s office now, or via the Region 6 website soon.
- o Ashland Resiliency Project – TNC/Russ expressed an interest to assure the economic and community impacts of the project are adequately documented. USFS, ODF, PSU/UofO to follow up and coordinate on status w/ TNC.
- o Many of you may already have this information regarding the 4/6/10 Region 6 Roundtable on the development of a new Planning Rule. From the Region 6 office:

=====
SAVE THE DATE
Forest Service Region 6 Roundtable
Tuesday, April 6 -- Portland, Oregon
=====

"Please join us on April 6 in Portland, Oregon for an interactive meeting hosted by the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Forest Service (Region 6). The National Forest Service recently announced its intention to develop a comprehensive new Planning Rule to meet modern and future management needs for the 155 national forests and 20 grasslands in the National Forest System. Your participation in collaborative regional discussions is designed to provide meaningful input to the development of the proposed Planning Rule.

The Region 6 roundtable will be held at the Doubletree - Lloyd Center, Portland's first sustainable hotel. We will send you updates, including specific times and agendas, as they are finalized.

=====
The new Planning Rule will have environmental, economic, and cultural impacts on our nation's future, and with your help, the Forest Service is committed to formulating an effective Planning Rule that endures over time.

As part of the rule-making process, the Forest Service is providing a variety of collaborative opportunities to encourage and collect public comments, concerns and suggestions. Venues for these public discussions include a national science forum, numerous national and regional roundtable discussions, and interactive online opportunities.

Your participation is requested because input from key stakeholders, as well as the general public, is critical to the successful development of an effective new Planning Rule. More information is provided on

the Forest Service website (www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule). We will continue to keep you informed of specific meeting details with email updates as the April 6 meeting approaches.

In the meantime, we hope you will set aside April 6 to join us in Portland and feel free to forward this information broadly as you see fit. We look forward to seeing you there!

NOTICE: The Forest Service is committed to providing equal access to this meeting for all participants. For questions about accessibility or to request alternative formats or other reasonable accommodation, please contact ForestServiceMtg@LSAResults.com or telephone 206.408.7129. Advance notice of two weeks (by March 22) will allow us to provide seamless access."

Corrections, clarifications and additions to this follow up are all welcome. Thanks all.