

**Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
Implementation Advisory Committee**

Thursday Jan. 10th, 9:00 – 10:30AM, Greenwaters Park
“Coming together for healthy forests and communities”

Attending: David C., Mike B., Sarah D., Trisha M., Loren H., Thalia L., BJ K., Don H., Susan K-O., Kyle S., Fergus M., Sarah A-P.

Notes

GNA Update:

ODF is currently working on a deck sale advertised in Feb and awarded in March, Terwilligar fire hazard trees, funds will help to build up program income (PI).

- Kane timber sale – MFRD, advert in March 650,000Bdf.
- Twins timber sale, Upper Little Fall Creek area, advert in Sept. award Oct.
 - 5MBF
 - some embedded restoration such as culvert replacement

General discussion about the process of determining GNA restoration projects – right now, it is being developed by the FS and ODF. Collaborative members are concerned that these decisions are being made without involving the collaboratives. Particular concern that the GNA program will be administered at the Forest level and PI made on the District will not stay local.

The SWFC was very active in promoting GNA at the State level. In 2017, the SWFC wrote support letters for the ODF FFR program, cohosted a legislators tour, and testified alongside the Regional forester, Jim Pena, and ODF forester, Peter Doherty, in support of the FFR and GNA. The collaborative has been told many times over the years that they would be directly involved in developing projects, but these first projects and the overall process has been moving forward without consultation. The committee would like ODF and the FS to work closer with the collaborative to develop this program.

- **Purpose of GNA:** it was lobbied to legislators as a way to increase the pace and scale and quality of restoration on Federal Forest lands and support local economies.
- **Implementing projects:** Right now, it is in the SPA that once there is program income built a forest level review committee will determine how to grant funds to the Districts for restoration projects. These decisions will be made with input from collaboratives.
 - Can collaborative members sit on the committee? Not sure.
 - Will the money raised in each district in those watersheds? Not determined at this time.
 - Will there be money put towards NEPA or planning? Yes this is possible with PI from timber SPA.
 - There is a second service SPA that is funded through KV dollars. Do the dollars have to meet KV limitations? Don't believe so, believe the money can be used

forest wide for service projects. Looking at road decommissioning projects right now.

- **Need to determine what qualifies as “service” work
 - **contracting mechanisms – Collaborative interested in what contracting mechanisms ODF will use for these projects and if they employ local workers.
 - **SWFC has a social economic monitoring protocol developed by the UO ecosystem workforce program – collaborative’s can help do socioeconomic monitoring for these projects to determine local benefits
 - Right now, there are preliminary discussions happening to use service spa funds to fund ODFW to do projects on federal lands.
- Timber SPA agreement will generate program income that will fund most restoration work.
 - ** need to determine if NEPA work has to be funded with PI from the timber SPA or if NEPA surveys can be considered service work.
 - **Kyle will share the SPA with the committee.
 - **Sarah and Kyle will work w/ FS to develop the agenda for the Willamette Collaboratives Workshop.
 - GNA has already been identified as a topic and some of these discussions would be good to have with FS and ODF leadership and all the collaboratives.

Upper Willamette Watershed Restoration Project List

Over the next several months the IAC will hear from stakeholders and partners about the projects and priorities in the watershed. From this input, the IAC will develop a spreadsheet of all the projects that lists location, type, cost, partner funds, NEPA readiness, etc. This will help the committee give recommendations to prioritize restoration work across the watershed – as well as identify projects that need NEPA.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Restoration projects and priorities

Sarah Dyrdaahl – Sarah been with the watershed council for 5 years and with the SWFC since 2016. (see power point presentation)

The MFWWC has 3 core programs – Youth Ed, Community Engagement, Habitat Restoration

- Watershed councils – allow for a bottom up approach for local communities to help address issues with listed species
- Local, volunteers, not regulatory, balanced leadership, consensus decision making
- Guided by the Oregon plan

Youth Education – next generation stewards

Students throughout the watershed, 71 classroom lessons, 53 field trips

Every project has youth education and community engagement built into it.

Community Engagement – involve broader community to volunteer in restoration work

- Learning events
- Community events
- Science pubs

Habitat Restoration:

About the Upper Middle Fork Watershed

865K acres, most managed by public landowners – how to choose where the projects should be?

- 2011 Upper Middle Fork Willamette Watershed 10 Yr. Action Plan
 - looks at current watershed conditions, prioritize by ecological merit, social support (i.e. landowners support), economics (cost vs benefit)
 - conditions and limiting factors
- Emerging priority habitats:
 - Lower Middle Fork below dams – Oak habitat and floodplains
 - Fall Cr: only place in watershed with downstream passage for spring Chinook and now lamprey introduced
 - North Fork and Salmon Cr. watersheds: cold headwaters and considerations of reintroducing bull trout and possibility of spring Chinook
 - Upper Middle Fork: Bull trout, spring Chinook and dry side like forests
 - 20% of spring Chinook for Willamette return here
 - dry side forest type, oak, mixed conifer, prairies
- Watershed wide:
 - Western pond turtles (entire lower watershed up to Staley)
 - Oregon chub – delisted but still a very important key indicator – Middle fork has some of the key populations
 - Other native fishes

Current and Recent MFWWC Projects:

- Lower Middle Fork –projects below lookout dam
 - Wallace creek oak enhancement – near Jasper
 - Dorris Ranch managed by Walamalane parks – prairie and oak woodland restoration
- Upper Middle Fork – above lookout dam
 - Staley Cr – floodplain restoration ~750K project funded by OWEB and FS (time and trees to introduce wood), PGE salmon recovery fund
 - Harvested trees from ¼ openings
 - Coal Cr: ~ 480K project
 - Reroute 3-4 miles and a bridge of the middle fork trail
 - Prebidder tours next week
- Funded: Coal Creek
- Opportunities: single projects and congregation of projects
- ** SWFC can also do socioeconomic monitoring of these MFWWC projects to learn about the local economic impact

Upcoming MFWWC Projects:

- Elijah Bristow
 - 15 person technical team currently funded by Meyer Memorial Trust and OWEB
 - similar concepts to Staley and Coal Cr.
 - raising water surface
 - adding roughness
 - project will be in phases
 - this next year working w/ community for stakeholder engagement
 - equestrian, river guides, flyfishing groups
 - 31 neighboring landowners
 - general public outreach
 - pending grant to fund this part
 - ground work starting in 2021

Sarah will present more about this project and other projects in February....

- **Road deposits and low value forest byproducts**

Review CFP white paper and we will talk more about it at the next IAC.

- **Next Steps**

- Next meeting February 14th, 9:00-10:30am (most likely at Middle Fork RD)
- Continue MFWWC presentation, discuss road deposits, discuss Willamette collaboratives workshop, review charter
- **Save the Date: Willamette Forest Collaboratives workshop**, Willamette Supervisors Office Springfield, February 27th, Time TBD