

**Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
Implementation Advisory Committee**

September 13th, 9:00 – 10:30AM, Middle Fork Ranger District

“Coming together for healthy forests and communities”

Participants: Kevin G., Kyle S., Laurie P., Loren H., Paula H., Don H., Sarah M., Fergus M., Molly J, Rob M., Johan H. **Staff:** Sarah A-P,

Agenda Item #1 - FY19 Committee workplan

FY19 Workplan

(the Forest Service fiscal year is Oct. 1 – Sept. 30, the committee will work on a similar timeline)

- Charter – the committee will spend the next several months finalizing a charter that clarifies committee membership, voting, and operating procedures. This is important because this committee will eventually be providing recommendations for hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- FY19 GNA project recommendations
 - ODF is putting an Outlook project contract together with the goal to sell Spring 2019. There hasn't been an opportunity to give recommendations for restoration projects, but the goal is to figure out the process and make sure there is enough program income to pay for administration for this project and future projects.
 - ODF will keep this group informed of the process and lessons learned
- Identify Restoration Projects & Priorities
 - The committee is tasked to provide recommendations for Rock stewardship receipts (\$380K), available FY20 to FY21, and Burnt stewardship receipts (\$1.8M), available FY22 to FY25. Knowing these funds are on the horizon it is important that the committee have a clear idea of restoration priorities in the watershed – and understand what projects are NEPA ready and what projects need NEPA. NEPA takes on average 6-12 months so it is important to know NEPA status.
 - Off forest projects can be funded through the Wyden authority. These projects do not require full fledged NEPA but there is some analysis that needs to be done such as archeology. The projects need to “benefit national forest systems” (i.e. water).
 - It is important that the committee have incoming funds “allocated” to projects so they do not get borrowed/ swiped for other Forests and Districts.
- Identify Matching Funds
 - The committee will work to find matching funds from partners and grants to leverage stewardship retained receipts and GNA program income for restoration projects.
 - The projects themselves are restoration projects, but they may also raise retained receipts that can be for additional restoration work across the District.

Agenda Item #2 FY19 Stewardship project discussion

Stewardship update

- Johan: Now stewardship projects can be approved at the Forest level, where they used to have to be approved at the Regional level. The Forest has a stewardship committee that is working on streamlining the process for considering collaborative recommendations and approving restoration projects.
- Q: is it still the intention that retained receipts will stay on the District that they were earned? It is on the table, the forest is already starting to use receipts across District boundaries. The Forest will listen if collaboratives have strong recommendations for funds to stay on District, but there may also be situations where there is collaborative support to share/ borrow between Districts.
- The McKenzie collaborative group/ District has recently borrowed stewardship dollars from another Forest. The group has a large restoration project, South Fork Floodplain project, and bids came back much higher than expected. The McKenzie does not have enough retained receipts to pay for it. Tracy Beck, the Forest Supervisor, asked the Region for additional funding for the project. The Region advised working with other Forests with untapped stewardship funds. The Willamette was able to borrow from Hood and Gifford Pinchot but the funds will need to be paid back from future stewardship project on the Forest. Must be paid back in 2020.

FY19 stewardship project – Rob M.

- The District is still talking about a FY19 sale. It will most likely come from the Little Fall Creek planning area. There are 3 timber sales scheduled from that area with estimated timber volume of 8-9 mbf. Timeline for sale would probably be end of Q2 or beginning of Q3.
- The three Little Fall Creek sales were all planned with a helicopter component. As they are prepping the sales some of the helicopter work might end up getting dropped. In the past, the collaborative committee has been less interested in helicopter logging sales for stewardship because there tends to be less revenue generated and available for restoration work.
- The District needs to decide if it wants to use up all retained receipts w/ embedded restoration work or have a mix of embedded and post project retained receipt work.
- Previously discussed trying to use all proceeds w/ embedded work so there wouldn't be a large pot of receipts in another 3-5 years.
 - Inevitably there will always be some receipts because the FS builds in a cost buffer so the project will not be underwater.
- Purchasers prefer to have stewardship sales posted earlier than later. It takes the purchaser more time b/c they need bids for subcontractor work for the technical proposal. Generally Q2 better than Q3 or Q4. March – May good.

- Q: Is it possible for the District to consider building the FY19 stewardship contract with optional service items? This would allow for more work to be completed within the stewardship project if funds are available.
 - Note: industry does not like optional stewardship items because they are being asked to solicit bids and write technical proposals for work that might never get done. The committee recognizes this and doesn't want to complicate the contract – only asking for option items for easy to assess projects such as roadwork. More of the same type of work that might already be embedded.
 - The District used optional items for Rock but heard loud and clear during the pre-bidders meeting that the purchasers did not like this method – due to the time crunch – and it was dropped when Rock was pre-packaged.
 - Yes, the District can consider doing this. There is an efficiency because the equipment is mobilized and it is all one contract. Would need to consider what work makes sense to maximize efficiency.
 - Work that is familiar to purchasers is best to embed (road work, fall and leave)

- Forest Service is leaning towards doing a stewardship sale next year, but there is some hesitancy to earn more stewardship retained receipts if the existing funds are not allocated.
 - The District has been asking the different resource shops to think about potential projects, and with the collaboratives help, there is confidence that there will be enough projects to expend the funds.
 - Johan: regarding urgency on projects – It is ideal to have projects identified, it was once even a requirement on the Siuslaw that projects be identified within 1 year of a sale, but since then there has been much less urgency. Of course, don't want to bank huge pots of money but we still have plenty of time and the timeline on the workplan makes sense.

- GNA – although GNA service work will not be completed until after the GNA sale, ODF does need to identify the potential restoration projects for the Forest Service/ ODF supplemental project agreement (SPA).
 - For this first project, ODF and FS wants to pick a list and then come to the IAC with the menu of projects and get collaborative feedback
 - Projects are simple ones to build on soils, weeds, etc.

- Q: Does workforce preference apply on the backend? This has not been made clear if the “local area” map made for the IRTC applies for the service workers for retained receipts? There isn't a local area preference mechanism for the service work contracts. Once money is handed back to the agency as retained receipts then the FS uses its standard contracting mechanisms.
 - IDIQ – indefinite delivery indefinite quantity – a FS contract mechanism that is speedier and the agency often relies on. IDIQ is a list of predetermined contractors on retainer at an established rate. When the FS has a project it needs completed then cut a

task order. The key is for local contractors to get on an IDIQ lists – because they last for 5 years.

- This is something that the collaborative needs to keep a close eye on. The intention of stewardship contracting is to utilize local workforce so whenever service work is going to be implemented we need to revisit how the contracts are advertised.
- The collaborative can always recommend to Forest Service when it is more friendly to local contractors to not use IDIQ if it does not include local workers.
- These issues will come up again when the collaborative is doing socioeconomic monitoring of stewardship (a requirement) and we can track the impacts of stewardship projects on local areas.

Next Steps:

- Start charter discussions
- Next month we will talk about planning to learn from FS specialists and partners about restoration projects
- Sarah will start reaching out to communities in the watershed to assess if there are potential restoration projects that would qualify for the Wyden authority
- Continue to track FY19 stewardship project development
- Keep in the loop regarding Outlook GNA restoration projects

Next committee meeting Thursday, October 11th, 9:00 – 10:30 at MFRD