



Blue Mountains Forest Partners

Our Mission

“Blue Mountains Forest Partners is a diverse group of stakeholders who work together to create and implement a shared vision to improve the resilience and well-being of forests and communities in the Blue Mountains.”

Full Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting Overview:

- **Date of Meeting:** July 16, 2020
- **Time:** 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Location:** The Zoom Room (via video)
- **Facilitator:** Mark Webb
- **Minutes Scribe:** Susan Jane Brown

- **Call to Order: Introductions, changes to the agenda, agenda approval (all):** moved approval of the agenda, seconded, approved unanimously. Moved approval of the April meeting minutes, seconded, approved unanimously.
- **Ops’ update (Pam):** ops received a financial report from the executive director; discussed reducing Mark’s time to less than full time; discussed Oregon Wild and Greater Hells Canyon Council’s departure from the Northern Blues Collaborative; discussed submitting scoping comments on the 21” rule amendment; discussed commencing strategic planning for BMFP in December 2020.
- **Field trip update (Mark):** good USFS turnout on our field trip to visit the Cow Fire (2019), a wildland fire use fire. Looked at the severity of the fire and used a drone to see the area from the air. Discussed how to implement managed fire into the future, and how to expand the Forest Service’s toolbox to increase our restoration footprint. ~~Also visited a prescribed fire area that had been mechanically treated beforehand. Discussed the need to implement all of our treatments in order to maximize restoration benefit and to maximize the limited dollars we have for this work.~~ Effects are variable, but all agreed that it was a good fire with a lot of ecological benefits. Forest Service took a risk with this fire, but it turned out well. Communication during the fire is very important, and the USFS worked with a number of partners during the burn. Also visited an aspen treatment in Elk 16 prescribed fire area that had been mechanically treated beforehand. Discussed the need to implement all of our treatments in order to maximize restoration benefit and to maximize the limited dollars we have for this work.
- **Forest Service project work and other updates (BMRD & PCRD staff):** Prairie City: Cliff Knox: working on the draft EIS and expect to publish in the next couple of months. Upper Bear Lake: team is working on proposed action, and will be more streamlined of a project (i.e. not addressing recreation in the project and other issues because of a lack of staff capacity) than Cliff Knox to focus on veg treatments; scoping notice will be a little more general than in the past, and expect to get that out soon. Folks would like the USFS to provide as much information as



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possible in the scoping notices, so we can structure our involvement. Blue Mountain: Camp Lick is in implementation, Ragged Ruby is in consultation, Austin is working on alternatives, Bark is working on a proposed action for scoping, and Laycock Creek finished scoping last week.

- **CEQ NEPA regulations (SJ):** CEQ has finalized the NEPA regulations binding on all federal agencies including the Forest Service. Concerns about how the new regulations will affect our planning, the lack of agency training and prep for the new rule, and that it will result in a stoppage of planning while the agency figures out how to implement the new regulations. Complicated by the fact that the USFS is also finalizing their revised NEPA rules. Roy will pass along our concern to Craig.
- **Upland Forest Restoration ZOA revision update (James):** James is working to integrate our ZOA and should have a draft for review later this summer. Prescribed fire ZOA is in draft. Drafting carbon storage ZOA, but in early stages. Anyone who is interested in these efforts should contact James (james.johnston@oregonstate.edu).
- **Potential amendment to the 21-inch rule (James & others):** working with the 21” rule amendment team on the revision, and providing science support. Also preparing scoping comments addressing a number of issues, including 1) there is not a deficit of large trees, but rather of old trees; 2) active management is necessary to conserve old growth trees, particularly old pine and larch; and 3) monitoring is necessary to track results. Timeline: expect to have the EA available by late summer, with a decision in early 2021. USFS web page for the amendment: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSEPRD710229>.
- **CFLRP update (Roy):** should see a request for the next round of projects later this fall, and would like to involve BMFP in that work.
- **Title II update (Roy):** RAC hasn’t had sufficient nominations to populate the committee, so the RAC can’t meet to delegate funds. There are some nominations now, but still need more. Have been told that existing projects can be considered for the current round of funding, so Craig is looking at those projects, meeting with the counties, and discussing some potential options. There is 3 years of funding to be delegated.
- **Adjourn**



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Blue Mountains Forest Partners Vision, Guiding Principles, and Grounds Rules for Collaboration

Our Vision

The Blue Mountains Forest Partners represents a broad constituency of stakeholders interested in healthy forest ecosystems, economic vitality and quality of life in Grant County, Oregon. We provide the US Forest Service with proposals for management of National Forest lands, and we support the utilization of forest resources and related opportunities to strengthen local economies.

Guiding Principles

- *To promote forest restoration in Grant County, integrating ecological, economic and community needs that have been developed and/or prioritized through collaboration.*
- *To improve our ability to work collaboratively and participate actively in these issues, finding common ground for our work. Our process will be open, inclusive and encourage participation of diverse stakeholders; our meetings will provide a 'safe' space for discussion and sharing of ideas.*
- *To overcome gridlock in forest planning and implementation. The success of our work is tied to long-term sustainability of forests and communities.*

Ground Rules for Collaboration and Meeting Participation

Members and nonmembers alike are expected to abide by these ground rules

- *Respect each other in and outside of meetings.*
- *No backroom deals.*
- *Personal attacks will not be tolerated.*
- *The personal integrity and values of participants will be respected.*
- *Stereotyping will be avoided.*
- *Commitments will not be made lightly and will be kept—agreements will be honored.*
- *Disagreements will be regarded as “problems to be solved” rather than as “battles to be won.”*
- *Participants are representative of a broad range of interests, each having concerns about the outcome of the issues at hand. All parties recognize the legitimacy of the interests and concerns of others, and expect that their interests will be represented as well.*
- *Participants commit to keeping their colleagues/constituents informed about the progress of these discussions*
- *Participants commit to stating interests, problems, and opportunities. Not positions.*
- *Participants will air problems, disagreements and critical information during meetings to avoid surprises.*
- *Participants commit to search for opportunities and alternatives. The creativity of the group can often find the best solution.*
- *Participants agree to verify rumors at the meeting before accepting them as fact.*
- *Respect the facilitator and meeting agenda.*