



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:** August 19, 2021
- **Time:** 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Location:** Virtual: Zoom (Zoom invite sent in a separate email)
- **Facilitator:** Mark Webb
- **Minutes Scribe:** SJ Brown

- **Call to Order: Introductions, changes to the agenda, agenda approval (all):** Dave Hannibal moves approval of the agenda, Rick Minster seconds, approved unanimously.
- **Approval of June 2021 Full Group minutes (all):** Glen moves approval, Pam seconds, approved unanimously.
- **Ops’ update (5 minutes, Pam):** Ops received a finance report, discussed SB 768, Oregon’s recently enacted comprehensive wildfire risk mitigation and adaptation legislation: there will be a lot of money coming from this legislation, and we would like to talk with the USFS and other partners – particularly landowners – about restoration and community preparedness work. Discussed our CFLRP application, which was ranked #6 in the nation, and should receive funding soon to continue our CFLRP project upon approval by the Secretary of Agriculture. Both James and Trent are working towards a revised comprehensive vegetation ZOA and a new wildlife ZOA. Ops approved our strategic plan for 2021-2024. Discussed the River Democracy Act.

Forest Service is in touch with ODF re: programs and funding, and will work with BMFP when the details of the programs are known so that we can pursue funding for our work.

- **Forest Service project work and other updates (USFS):** Austin: working on the draft EIS; Bark: working on getting the scoping package out; Laycock Creek: laying out units; Cliff Knox: release is imminent (next week), presentation in September; Upper Bear Lake: gathering information. Several details on the forest, so projects are delayed. Ranger Ed is retiring, USFS has flown the position, and hopes to hire someone soon (shouldn’t need a detailee).
- **Black Butte Fire update (USFS):** about 21,000 acres have burned, slow growth in recent days. There is a lot of overlap with this fire and Elk 16, and it will be great to see how our treatments performed (early reports suggest that they performed well). The USFS will be doing a post-fire analysis to determine how our projects did in the fire as they have in the past to help tell the



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story. Hannibal has drone footage of before treatment, after treatment, and post-fire: will be great to analyze this footage too. Might be able to go look at it in September.

- **Camp Lick lawsuit update (USFS):** The complaint is available [here](#). Work is underway at Camp Lick, but the Plaintiff has not moved for an injunction. Next step in the litigation is to set a briefing schedule: briefing will likely take place over the winter. BMFP Ops has discussed intervening or appearing in the case as amicus, but has tentatively decided to stand aside for now. If the litigation develops in such a way that our input would be relevant, we can revisit that decision. More information on the litigation process is available [here](#).
- **Update on the Upland Forest Restoration ZOA and associated work (James Johnston):** James is updating the “upland zones of agreement” to be a more comprehensive ZOA, which will include other types of restoration work such as meadow (opening) restoration. James’ research on openings will be published soon and informs the revised ZOA. James shared a [presentation](#) on the openings research that shows that many stands on the Malheur were much more open in the past, and that we had larger openings on the forest in the past. This gives us a sense of the stand density that we should be shooting for in our restoration treatments. Discussion followed. How do we know that the historical openings were long-term features on the forest as opposed to ephemeral? Often soil type will tell us part of the answer here, but also our fire history tell us that fire was much more frequent.
- **Wednesday Big Mosquito field trip report (Mark):** visited Big Mosquito to look at treated areas to discuss implementation of our prior work. We looked at the prescriptions for that project and how they differ from Ragged Ruby, and visited the riparian treatments on Big Creek. The response to the riparian treatments has been mixed, but seems to be coming along. Our prescriptions are evolving, and we’re now simplifying them as well as moving towards lower basal areas.
- **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.*



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- *Respect the facilitator and meeting agenda.*