

Meeting Notes
Roseburg District Collaborative Forestry Initiative
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Roseburg BLM District Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd

Attendees

Members of the Public Attending:

Anne Dorsey, Arnie Kieffer, Art LeVasseur, Bob Progulske, Buzz Long, Cindy Haws, David Parker, Dennis Morgan, Dick Hanlin, Doug Heiken, Erich Reeder, Francis Eatherington, Gary Coelyn, Gary Groth, Glenn Lahti, Grant Ruhlman, Heidi Rogers, Jake Ritter, James Mahaffy, Javier Goirigolzarri, John J. Patrick, Kathey Linn, Ken Carloni, Laura Long, Mary Scurlock, Maxwell Wightman, Michael Kaech, Mike Barkhuff, Mike Bormuth, Patrick Starnes, Richard M. Chasm, Rick Sparks, Ron Yockim, Scott Center, Stan Vejtasa, Stanley Petrowski, Steve Erickson, T. J. Hammersmith, Thomas McGregor, Tim Moore

BLM Employees Attending:

Jay Carlson, Crag Kintop, Meagan Conry, Jake Winn, Lisa Renan, Abe Wheeler, Liz Gayner, Scott Lightcap, Rex McGraw, Ward Fong, Ariel Hiller, Jonas Parker, Kristen Thompson

US Fish and Wildlife Service Employees Attending:

Bob Progulske, Scott Center

Facilitator

Karen Bolda

Welcome and Recap of Last Meeting—Jay Carlson

Jay Carlson welcomed the attendees and then recapped the previous week's meeting and commented on the overall process:

- Pleased with the high turnout—an indication of interest in finding solutions
- Also heard some frustration regarding the large group size and limited opportunities for attendees to speak. Jay asked that people bear with us; we will offer more opportunities for folks to speak in the coming field trip and meetings.
- Jay noted that a number of participants had been raising issues with BLM team members one-on-one. He encouraged participants to bring these issues to the entire group.

- Jay has received a number of invitations to come and address various groups in a more private setting. He is happy to do this. But, if the issues raised are important, they need to come back to the entire collaborative group.
- Jay explained that these meeting notes are not intended as transcripts. Rather they are intended to provide a general record. They will be posted on the website (which was up and running as of March 4th), along with contact information, reference material, and the schedule. The points of contact are Jake Winn and Bob Hall. If they can't answer the question, they will direct it to the right person.
- Jay observed that when empirical scientific data is presented, one group may accept it, while another may reject it. So don't be surprised if your data is not immediately embraced.

Jay described the purpose of this meeting:

- BLM staff will lay the ground work for the field trip—i.e. the existing conditions—which will enable us to have robust discussions in the field.
- Encouraged attendees to be thinking about different alternatives and their pros and cons.
- Stated that attendees will get much more opportunity to talk on the field trip on Saturday (March 6, 2010) and next week's meeting (March 10, 2010).
- If this still is not enough time for dialogue, then let us know; we can adjust the schedule.
- Jay introduced Bob Progulske and Scott Center from US Fish and Wildlife Service and explained that he has asked their them to provide technical advice on this project.

Meeting Ground Rules—Karen Bolda

Karen worked with the attendees and established the following list of meeting agreements:

- Cell phones silent or turned off
- Raise hands before speaking
- Limit side conversations
- Keep questions and comments brief
- Address the issue and not the person

Presentation about the Project Area

BLM staff made four presentations about the project area, all of which are available on the project web site: http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/collab_forestry/maps-ppts.php

Presentation #1: Existing Conditions

Craig Kintop [BLM Silviculturist] described the current conditions of the stands in the proposed Johnson-Cleghorn moist forest project site (see his presentation for more detail). Attendees asked the following questions:

- Q. This [referring to the presentation] means you will just be considering Matrix lands?
A. No, the project will consider treatments on both Matrix lands and Riparian reserves.
- Q. Are there noxious weeds in the area, and, if so, could they spread?
A. Yes, that will have to be a consideration in project design.
- Q. Douglas fir is currently the dominant tree. If the area had never been logged, would the same proportion of trees be there?
A. Other species would be there in higher proportions. Forest stands in this area naturally average about 70% Douglas fir.
- Q. Will there be an attempt to reintroduce other species as part of this project?
A. That could be part of the project design.
- Q. What is the landscape context for this project—roads, habitat, ownership, etc?
A. That depends on the definition of landscape and which varies by the type of resource being considered.
- Q. What is the status of disease, such as Swiss needle cast, in the project area?
A. It could be here but is not known to be and is not likely in this area.
- Q. Is this project area within the range of the marbled murrelet?
A. Yes, it is.
- Q. What is the percentage of Riparian Reserve [as defined by the Northwest Forest Plan] in the project area?
A. We don't know that yet.

Presentation #2: Desired Habitat Features

Liz Gayner [BLM Wildlife Biologist] described the habitat features important to spotted owls and marbled murrelets (see her presentation for more detail). Attendees asked the following questions:

- Q. Do they [marbled murrelets] return to the same nest?
A. Yes, very often they do?
- Q. How many of these birds [marbled murrelets] are out there?
A. In 2008 there were 18,000 birds in an area ranging from Canada to California.
[Answered by Bob Proguske of the US Fish and Wildlife Service]

- Q. How much do we set aside for birds when we don't really know how many there are?
A. A stand that is occupied becomes a Late Successional Reserve, and a nest site receives a proactive buffer with a ½ mile radius. [Answered by Bob Progulske of the US Fish and Wildlife Service]
- Q. How many barred owls are in the equation?
A. They are present in about a 3:1 ration [to spotted owls] in the Smith River Area. Therefore, there are about 4 to 6 pairs in the general range of the project area.
- Q. Do marbled murrelets share territory?
A. You can find multiple nests within a stand, especially near the coast, but we really don't know how territorial they are.
- Q. Haven't you been surveying for murrelets since about 1990?
A. Yes, since 1992.
- Q. From this can you determine the population trend?
A. No, because we are only looking for the birds within proposed project areas. We depend on the at-sea surveys [conducted by US Fish and wildlife Service] to determine population trends.
- Q. How about owl population trends?
A. Spotted owl populations have been plummeting. Within the Smith River area the population is down to about 2 to 3 pairs from 10 to 13 pairs.
- Q. Large woody debris benefits prey species. Do these sites have down wood and what percent of the trees would we plan to leave for this?
A. We don't have a set number for that yet.

Presentation #3: Tools for Developing Habitat Characteristics

Craig Kintop [BLM Silviculturist] described potential treatments that could be used to promote the development of desired habitat characteristics (see his presentation for more detail). Attendees asked the following questions:

- Q. If we did one thinning today and one in the future would this lead to the development of different age classes?
A. Light thinning, even multiple times, would not be likely to get us there.
- Q. What about the impact of treatments on the soil?
A. This can be an issue, depending on soil type and timing of the on-the-ground work. In addition, sequential treatments create a higher risk of this.

- Q. Conceptually if the desired future condition is multi-storied forests, we can't achieve this in 15 year increments. Instead we need 30 to 50 year increments in order to get multiple forest stages.
- A. N/A

Presentation #4: Operational Considerations

Abe Wheeler [BLM Forester] described operational issues to consider when planning and conducting a timber sale (see his presentation for more detail). Attendees asked the following questions:

- Q. How does making a forest less vulnerable to thinning play into thinning?
- A. We will discuss that extensively, when we plan the dry site project.
- Q. The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers [a local watershed council] spends lots of money putting logs into streams. Could we put logs in streams as part of this project?
- A. On the field trip on Saturday, we can talk about this.

Field Trip Logistics

Meagan Conry described the logistics of the field trip on Saturday, March 6th.

Meeting Adjourned