

Meeting Notes
Roseburg District Collaborative Forestry Initiative
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Roseburg BLM District Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd

Attendees

Members of the Public Attending:

Buzz Long, Cindy Haws, Dennis Morgan, Don Hardwick, Doug Heiken, Francis Eatherington, Hawk Bluetear, Jake Ritter, John J. Patrick, Joseph Patrick Quinn, Ken Carloni, Laura Long, Mary Scurlock, Mary Oleri, Michael Kaech, Mike Barkhuff, Mike Bormuth, Patrick Starnes, Richard M. Chasm, Rick Sparks, Ron Yockim, Stan Martindale, Stan Vejtasa, Stanley Petrowski, 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, Susan Carter

US Fish and Wildlife Service Employees Attending:

Scott Center

Facilitator

Karen Bolda

Meeting Ground Rules—Karen Bolda

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

- Cell phones silent or turned off
- Raise hands before speaking
- Address the issue and not the person
- Keep questions and comments brief
- No side conversations

Karen asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Welcome and Opening Remarks —Jay Carlson

Jay Carlson welcomed the attendees and then made the following remarks:

- Has been invited to talk about collaborative forestry with various groups, including Umpqua Watersheds, the Executive Board of the O&C Counties, and a group of BLM retirees.
- Jay asked Cindy Haws, Executive Director of Umpqua Watersheds, to give her impression of the meeting with him. Cindy said she wants to support the process but is concerned about it. She says that it is difficult to focus just on the two units and wants to look at the context around them. At least the extent of the Range of the northern spotted owl nest within the area because that is tied to the objective. We need to bring the landscape picture in. We also must ensure that we are integrating very good science—e.g. down wood and prey base.
- Ken Carloni, President of Umpqua Watershed's board of directors, added additional comments about the meeting: the decision to look at the Halfway and then Major Glasco projects—these areas were chosen by criteria not known to him. He would have liked to have been in on this at the beginning. He is also frustrated that we don't know what is going on with the owls in this area. Until we have more information or an experiment, we don't know if we are going to march down the road doing the wrong thing. We need to take two steps back if we are going to go forward.
- Jay stated the BLM has been receiving input between meetings—a letter from OregonWild for example. This letter and other comments will be posted on the web site.
- Jay commented that the weather was great for Saturday's field trip [March 6th] and that there was good dialogue. However, he wishes that there had been more diversity of views among the attendees.
- Jay asked if the group would like to have field trips on week days instead of weekends. About half the group said yes, and half the group said no. Therefore the next field trip will be on Saturday, April 10th as previously scheduled.

Overview of Tonight's Meeting—Meagan Conry

Meagan Conry explained the purpose of this meeting was for the attendees to help the BLM develop alternatives:

- What do each of you want to see in the Foghorn/Cleghorn units given the objectives of this process? And we want your ideas on how we can get there.
- We will automatically look at a no-action alternative as a baseline against which to compare the other alternatives.
- The alternatives will depend on the breadth and scope of your ideas.

- We came up with questions to guide your efforts (See attached Handout #1).
- We will be looking for some common and consistent themes among your ideas.

Attendees expressed concerns with the breakout session:

- If we don't have all the information, how can we proceed with this.
- We need the context in order to proceed. Also some stand information about the adjacent stands.
- Karen Bolda encouraged the attendees to incorporate their concerns into the discussions in their breakout groups.
- I have been hearing "we" instead of "I" and would like to state that not all of us share the all of the views being stated. We should be clear on this when saying "we" or "us" vs. "I" or "me."
- Will the process be interactive after tonight? Jay answered that we scheduled additional meeting(s) as desired by the attendees.

Breakout Session: Provide Input for Alternatives—all attendees

Karen broke the group out into three sub-groups and asked each to answer a set of six questions provided by the BLM (See attached Handout #2). Groups had approximately 45 minutes to discuss the questions

Group Reports—all attendees

Each group was asked to report back to all attendees. Various individuals from each group contributed to the reports.

Group #1

[The statements below reflect how individuals interpreted the group discussion and not a consensus of the entire group]

- The objectives should include integrating aquatic objectives with the upland objectives. Should also include carbon storage as an objective.
- Group all agreed that the objectives were as defined: to create spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat
- Group agreed that additional meetings [beyond those scheduled] will be necessary.

- I can't do a prescription without more landscape information.
- Liked the group retention approach rather than the thinning the BLM typically does.
- Three members of the group felt that in preparing the prescription we should stay within the current management direction of the Northwest Forest Plan. And we thought that the objectives should state that the project will comply with the Northwest Forest Plan.

Group #2

[The statements below reflect how individuals interpreted the group discussion and not necessarily a consensus of the entire group]

- Not nearly enough information regarding the owls, their prey base, etc. Also, I've been watching processes like this for 40 years and the end they usually fall apart in the form of a lawsuit.
- Northwest Forest Plan Standards should not be violated. Consider the logistics of how the job might be done, for example using old skid trails vs. new roads. Without enough information I am not able to get a grip on what could be done—specifically regarding the owl.
- We had a serious discussion about the economics of it [the proposed project].
- Why did the BLM choose these plots? Could there be a opportunity to choose plots that wouldn't be near owls?
- There should be more on riparian protection. Is it better to stay out or enter them to make better structure?
- On this specific site and rolled up to whole district, is the premise of restoring habitat compatible with making the project pay for itself. Opinions in the group differed.
- The group discussed canopy closure and what is healthy for owls and what wasn't.

Group #3

[The statements below reflect how individuals interpreted the group discussion and not necessarily a consensus of the entire group]

- We [members of environmental groups] had Ron Yokum outnumbered. But we agreed that we need a landscape view. If we could look at the Forest Service demonstration site [Little River and Diamond Lake], that might be helpful.

- A member [Richard Chasm] submitted a specific alternative for a unit, including a map: I would stay off of existing habitat at the top of the unit and would use existing skid roads. I would want to promote diverse tree species and would hunt for natural clearings that could be enhanced with heavy thinning. I would horse log it; it's quiet, cheap, and creates jobs. I would thin some areas and leave others alone. I would come back again and again, which will lead to bigger and bigger trees. I do this on my own property.
- We talked about overstory cover and the need for at least 80 percent for owls. We also discussed light thinning vs. heavy thinning. Heavy with fewer entries might make sense. What are the long term plans for this unit? Will it be thinned forever?
- A member of the group asked if the Northwest forest plan is the ultimate guide for the BLM or is it the Endangered Species Act or the O & C Act? Which one does the BLM feel is the priority? What drives the bus for the BLM?
- The BLM should consider helicopter logging because it eliminates disturbance to the ground.
- The BLM should check for other species of trees: consider planting if there is a lack of them now—for owls or other wildlife.
- The BLM should check for wolf or other habitat trees and, if necessary, cut tops out or girdle to allow for long term die off.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps—Jay

Jay stated what he had heard from the group reports:

- I have heard that seeing demonstration sites would be useful and will do some research on these to see if they would be representative of this project.
- I have heard that we need some more landscape level data, that we must elevate this proposal to a larger scale.
- I have heard that we need to work within the constraints of the Northwest Forest Plan. However, there is much latitude within this. Bear in mind, that in Matrix land use allocations in the Northwest Forest Plan [the project area is within this allocation], this area should be managed for timber production. The Matrix allocation was not for habitat development.

- I would like the group to think creatively, but he does not intend to violate the Northwest Forest Plan.
- I have heard that we need to integrate aquatics into the project. It will be. Since 2000, we have invested millions in aquatics with watershed councils and have done outstanding work on this front. Because of this I am not as worried about the aquatics side of the house. We haven't done as much on the terrestrial side.
- I was heartened with the level and kind of discussion that occurred tonight. But it is unfinished work. If people want, to do this [meet an additional time], March 31 is available.

An additional meeting was scheduled on March 31, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at the BLM office.

Meeting Adjourned