

Letter of Agreement

I. Purpose and Goal

This document serves as a framework for collaboration that allows the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (OCCFC) and the Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) to work together efficiently and effectively on forest and watershed management projects on the SNF. The purpose of this document is to facilitate expanded communication, clarify roles, and hold both the OCCFC and the SNF accountable to their agreements.

Collectively the OCCFC and SNF define collaboration as a working relationship between one or more public agencies and non-state stakeholders that is based on consensus-oriented engagement on a variety of management and planning activities.

The OCCFC and SNF both have individual goals and values in working with the Collaborative that are provided in Appendix A.

The SNF and OCCFC recognize the continuing need to ensure a diversity of voices and perspectives are included in the development and planning of projects to achieve outcomes that meet our shared objectives. Through plans and projects, the SNF and OCCFC work together on forest management among a wide range of interested individuals.

II. Communication

Open communication between the SNF and the OCCFC, regardless of differences in opinion, is key to ensuring shared understanding and achieving our goals.

The SNF will engage in dialogue with the OCCFC early in relevant project planning to allow the OCCFC to provide feedback and to allow for opportunities to incorporate stakeholder interests into project design.

Both the OCCFC and SNF agree to frequent communication through regular participation in shared meetings and field trips. In addition, the OCCFC hosts two meetings with SNF leadership per year, and meets quarterly with District Rangers.

In addition to early and continued avenues for communication, the SNF and OCCFC agree to respond to requests for information or follow-up discussions via the specified points of contact. This response is agreed upon within reason and in regards to collaborative projects.

Should conflict arise, a meeting will be scheduled with both OCCFC and SNF for open discussion on the disagreement. This will be done in meetings and not over email correspondence between individuals.

The SNF and OCCFC will maintain a shared file where both parties agree to store field data, reports, governance documents, and other documents of significance. This shared file will be used as a way to streamline communication and decrease the amount of email correspondence between the SNF and Collaborative related to projects.

The SNF and OCCFC will each identify primary points of contact who have been agreed upon by each respective party. Technical questions may go to NEPA Planners; all other questions should be directed at District Rangers or the Public Affairs Staff Officer.

Points of contact:

Siuslaw National Forest

- Public Affairs Staff Officer - Lisa Romano
 - lisa.romano@usda.gov
 - 541-750-7075
- Central Coast District Ranger - Michele Holman
 - michele.holman@usda.gov
 - 541-563-8445
- Central Coast District Natural Resources Staff Officer
 - donni.vogel@usda.gov
 - 541-563-8416
- Hebo District Ranger - Bill Conroy
 - william.conroy@usda.gov
 - 503-392-5117
- Hebo NEPA Planner - Hannah Smith
 - hannah.smith@usda.gov
 - 503-392-5136

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

- Collaborative Coordinator - Kailey Kornhauser
 - Kailey.Kornhauser@gmail.com
 - 847-828-1458

III. Roles and Responsibilities

OCCFC:

The OCCFC is composed of individuals and organization representatives, with diverse skill sets and deep knowledge of the landscape they live and work in, who can provide critical support during agency transitions and turnover. The OCCFC agrees to support the SNF by providing resources and expertise as requested and appropriate. The OCCFC will work with the SNF to

identify opportunities to support public engagement efforts including hosting field tours, workshops, and meetings open to the public.

SNF:

The SNF ultimately retains all decision-making authority over actions on SNF-managed lands. Engagement with the Collaborative will help deciding officials gain confidence in their decisions and how they align with the needs and values of a diverse subset of the public. Suggestions from the Collaborative provide valuable information to the deciding official on where there is mutual agreement among a range of stakeholder interests. When applicable, the SNF will seek to engage the resources and skill sets of the members of the OCCFC to help inform land management planning, monitoring, and other national forest activities. As a multiple-use land management agency, SNF deciding officials must balance the needs and concerns of all citizens; some of which may be in conflict with the desires of the collaborative members.

IV. Engagement

The OCCFC and SNF will engage early and on an ongoing basis with SNF projects and planning. The SNF and OCCFC agree to participate in a collaborative process with an open mind and to be transparent about limitations outside of their control. The OCCFC and SNF will respect each other's input throughout all engagement opportunities.

The SNF and OCCFC will meet annually to discuss programs of work and shared areas of interest. Additionally, the SNF will engage the OCCFC, as appropriate, during project identification and identify gaps and needs in project development to which the OCCFC may add value or provide resources. The OCCFC hopes to engage in monitoring efforts that help inform and improve processes. The OCCFC plans to coordinate public field tours and meetings that will be of benefit to the SNF by aiding in better informed decision-making and project outcomes.

At the start of each project, the SNF and OCCFC will create a project level agreement that sets clear expectations about roles, responsibilities, and objectives. This project-level agreement will include more detailed descriptions about engagement that go beyond what is described in this Letter of Agreement. The OCCFC will initiate the project-level agreement process by creating a draft agreement and working with the appropriate SNF staff to come to an agreement before engaging on a project. This process will begin in the months before a project begins. A template for project level agreements can be found here (insert link when draft is completed).

The SNF will provide the OCCFC with relevant updated organizational charts to help the Collaborative track changes in personnel.

Engagement with the OCCFC does not restrict the SNF or OCCFC members from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals. Similarly, engagement between the OCCFC and SNF does not take the place of the public NEPA process where all U.S. Citizens have the right to comment on Forest projects.

V. Revisions and modifications

This is a living document that will be formally revised every five years, with an informal review period annually, and can be modified with shared consent at any point in time.

Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor

Kailey Kornhauser 10/22/21

OCCFC Coordinator

Central Coast District Ranger

Hebo District Ranger

Appendix A: Goals of the OCCFC and SNF

Below are the goals and values that OCCFC and SNF have developed independently. Goals listed in this appendix are not necessarily agreed upon by both organizations and instead reflect the intentions of both OCCFC and SNF.

OCCFC Goals:

The OCCFC is a group of stakeholders with diverse interests who work together with the SNF and other agencies around shared values of ecological health, economic opportunities and community well-being. The OCCFC works to improve the development, implementation, and monitoring of forest and watershed management projects that align with the values of the group. The OCCFC provides a space for open discussion and communication amongst stakeholders and agencies, while providing a platform for education and shared learning.

The OCCFC members have agreed to 5 value statements in their Operating Protocols to which any project they engage on as a Collaborative must adhere to:

- Our work is rooted in science and follows principles of adaptive management.
- We provide a space for open and honest communication between members of the Collaborative, invited public, and encourage this between the public and agencies.
- We seek well-balanced win-win solutions based on common zones of agreement that represent the interests of our members.
- The outcomes of our work result in a landscape that is more resilient to climate change, increased biodiversity, and socioeconomic stability.
- We practice inclusivity and respect while striving for robust engagement with diverse stakeholders who inform our project selection, planning, implementation, and multi-party monitoring. When possible we acknowledge, value, and consider the public and broader collection of interests outside of the Collaborative, but we do not represent the general public.

Siuslaw National Forest Goals:

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is a natural resource agency that is charged with sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Siuslaw National Forest is guided by the mission of the agency and has established some strategic goals for how to meet that mission. They include:

- We have strong, positive relationships with a range of stakeholders who contribute to forest natural resource activities through project development, implementation, and monitoring.
- We continue to restore wildlife habitat and riparian reserves and provide a sustainable, ecologically based program of wood and special forest products.

- We pursue landscape-scale shared stewardship in partnership.