

**Meeting Minutes**  
Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Meeting  
1/13/2023 9:00am – 12:00pm Hybrid

**Attendees:**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Jim Fairchild	Audubon Society	Robert Sanchez	SNF Supervisor
Fran Recht	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Kelly Guerrant	Central Coast District Ranger
Andy Geissler	AFRC	Jeremy Augero	CCD Deputy Ranger
Paul Lulay	Hampton Lumber	Chuck Fisher	SNF CCD Hydrologist
Rhonda Black	Umpqua SWCD	Lisa Romano	SNF Public Relations
Paul Engelmeier	Portland Audubon	Hannah Smith	SNF Hebo District Planner
Kelly Fuller	Oregon Wild	Kirk Shimeall	CPRCD Exec. Director
Jordan Latter	Interested Citizen	Jane Brass Barth	Interim Coordinator
Mike Brioli	Mid-Coast Watershed Council		

*Minutes Key*

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- Highlighted items are typically those that require follow-up.

**Updates**

Forest Updates

1. Robert Sanchez, Forest Supervisor, shared that he will be leaving his current position to become the Deputy Regional Forester for Region 6 in mid-February. He also reported that the Forest has created a new Community and Partner Engagement position. Eric Anderson will start in that position in February. Staff transitions continue to be the standard; aquatics will be particularly tight for the next several months.
2. Hannah Smith, Hebo Ranger District Planner, reported that the District has decided to do additional research before initiating the Yamina EA. She will keep the OCCFC apprised of progress.

Q: Are there trees over 80 years of age in the planning area? If so, the conservation community will scrutinize planned actions. A: The trees are a mix of plantation and “off-site” stands. Some >80 year-old “off-site” stands might be planned to treatment.

Cmt: Interested in the issue of connectivity within the EA.

Cmt: Interested in access to neighboring land as relates to planned road maintenance actions

3. Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD Executive Director, shared that they have the permanent Coordinator position out and are trying to hire someone in the next month or so. He also reported that a new WIN coordinator was hired to replace Troy Abercrombie who left for a position with the OR Dept of Agriculture.
4. Paul Engelmeyer shared a link to the 10-year Cascade Head Symposium document.

#### North Fork Smith EA Purpose and Need Statements

Summary: Chuck Fisher, IDT leader, walked the OCCFC through his thinking about how OCCFC input could be integrated into Purpose and Need Statements and what input was more appropriate for issues analysis. He showed one document with Track Changes and one clear version that was his synthesis.

Follow-up Action: At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that the OCCFC would receive the Track Changes version and also the Synthesis (once Kailey Guerrant, District Ranger) approved it. OCCFC members would look over the documents and aim to finalize engagement on this part of the EA during the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The sentiment at the end of the discussion was that input was considered and also that much shared learning had been achieved. UPDATE: As of Feb 1, the full IDT is reviewing the P&N synthesis. Once they have given input, Kailey will work on it. Still aiming to address on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, but will delay if we don't have the document back before that meeting.

#### Discussion Points:

- General: The key question to determine if something goes into Purpose and Need is “what actions would be proposed that would relate to xx?”
- General - Not all specific actions need to be included in the Purpose and Need statements in order to be able to do them.
- Climate change – This will be part of Effects Analysis within EA. The Oregon Coast Climate Adaptation Partnership report still in process. Sections are under peer review. Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild, will circulate a new emissions-related rule that she has just learned about.
- Soils – Soils are part of the aquatics conservation strategy that has 9 objectives and are typically dealt with via design criteria.
- Beaver – Important in relation to improving water quality and recovering species complexity. Can relate to riparian planting, perhaps be part of the planned Stage Zero project.
- Economics – There are economic opportunities other than timber sales. Interested in promoting the broader value of old growth, such as walking through the forest, tourism.
- Specialty forest products – How would any proposed actions affect these products? This will be considered in effects analysis.
- Ecosystem Services – relate to recreation goals and watershed health goals
- Road Effects Analysis – possibility for USFS to put funds into maintaining road system for variety of needs into the future.

## February 8<sup>th</sup> North Fork Smith Field Trip Priorities

- Beaver – Paul Burns comment that the area is not beaver friendly due to steepness
- Interior patches, canopy cover, and connectivity as they relate to benefits for a suite of species
- Skips
- Roads – design requirements, best management practices, conditions, road interactions with old growth stands
- Possibly see nearby stands treated in Five Mile Bell

Reminder: Documents related to the EA can be found on the USFS's project website:

[<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122>]

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### **Annual Declaration of Commitment**

Jane will clarify whether the Operations Manual listed within the Declaration is different from or the same as the Operations Protocol (which can be found on the OneDrive). Once that is clear, she will recirculate for all to sign. UPDATE: The Protocol is the document that should be referenced.

### **OCCFC Contact List**

- Jane sent a note to people who are on the contact list she received from the prior Coordinator but who have never attended OCCFC meetings. Jane asked if they want to continue to receive OCCFC information. So far she has heard back from one person that he wants to be kept on the list. Before removing anyone from the list, she will reach out again. She will encourage them to attend learning opportunities such as the science panels and possibly field trips.
- Who is missing and should be invited? Ideas were people associated with other parts of the Forest, for example the Yamina EA project area. Other tribes like the Siletz and Grand Ronde. It was pointed out that there are people connected with those tribes on several stewardship group email lists so they have been made aware of the Collaborative and were given the initial opportunity to join. Still valuable to do another reach out. What about OSU folks? Follow-up: Individuals make contacts with people you believe would be interested in participating and who would be beneficial to have in the group. It's also fine to suggest people for the Coordinator to connect with.

### **Science Panels**

These panels are a key tool for the Wildlife ZOA committee to make progress on issues. Therefore, instead of its regular monthly meetings, it next will hold some panels. The first panel will have Brenda McComb and Martin Raphael and possible 1 other person. Topics will be interior forest, connectivity, buffers as these relate in particular to marbled murrelet and their prey species. This will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

For Roads, Paul Engelmeyer suggested inviting Chris Frissell to the next regular meeting. He and Jane will connect with Chris to make this invite.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Full OCCFC Meeting will be on **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am until noon**. It will be a hybrid with the in-person meeting at the Supervisor's Office in Corvallis and others via Zoom.
- Roads ZOA Subgroup will meet Monday, **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am – 1:30pm** hybrid.
- Wildlife ZOA subgroup will meet on Monday, **March 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm** hybrid. This will be a science panel with Brenda McComb (Dean Emerita, Oregon State University), Martin G. Raphael (Emeritus Scientist, Pacific Northwest Research Station), and Klaus Puettman (*Edmund Hayes Professor in Silviculture Alternatives*, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University). All OCCFC participants are invited as are SNF staff.
- Full OCCFC meeting on **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am – noon**; hybrid

**Meeting Notes**  
 Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Meeting  
 2/10/2023 9:00am – 12:00pm Hybrid

**Attendees:**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Jim Fairchild	Audubon Society	Robert Sanchez	SNF Supervisor
Fran Recht	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Kelly Guerrant	Central Coast District Ranger
Chuck Willer	Coast Range Assoc	Jeremy Augero	CCD Deputy Ranger
Paul Lulay	Hampton Lumber	Chuck Fisher	SNF CCD Hydrologist
Rhonda Black	Umpqua SWCD	Lisa Romano	SNF Public Relations
Paul Engelmeier	Portland Audubon	Hannah Smith	SNF Hebo District Planner
Kelly Fuller	Oregon Wild	Darren Cross	Acting SNF Supervisor
Marc Barnes	IRM	Katie Richardson	SNF Natural Resources Officer
Dave Eisler	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Eric Andersen	SNF Community Engagement & Partnership
Kirk Shimeall	CPRCD Exec. Director	Jane Brass Barth	Interim Coordinator

*Notes Key*

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- Highlighted items are typically those that require follow-up.

**Updates and Information Exchange**

Forest Updates

1. This is Robert Sanchez’s last day as the Forest Supervisor, a position he has held for four and a half years. He introduced Darren Cross, McKenzie River District Ranger on the Willamette NF, who will be the Acting Supervisor until the position is filled. The permanent position has been advertised.
2. The Forest has created and filled a new Community and Partner Engagement position. Eric Andersen started in that position and was in attendance at this meeting. He will become the liaison to the OCCFC as Lisa Romano is leaving for a position with the Region.
3. This also is Paul Burns last day with the SNF. He is taking a position with the USFS Enterprise Team. The SNF will have a gap in fisheries specialists for a couple of months.
4. The Sand Lake EA Phase 2 is still under consultation. Phase 1 has been signed.

CPRCD - Interviews have been scheduled with 2 applicants for the permanent Coordinator on Feb 22. Marc and Kelly have agreed to serve on the interview panel along with Kirk, Lisa

Romano, and Jane Barth. Eric Andersen may also participate. Anyone else whose interested, let Kirk or Jane know asap.

### Members

1. A monitoring workshop for practitioners will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Fran will get the information to Jane who will forward it to the group. All invited to attend.
2. Marc voiced appreciate to the IDT for their time and responsiveness to questions on the recent field trip.

### **North Fork Smith EA Purpose and Need Statements Status**

The OCCFC and SNF need to come to a shared understanding of what closure on phases of engagement in EAs looks like. The OCCFC will discuss this more in the second part of this meeting and aim to reach closure at the March meeting.

Chuck Fisher pointed out some changes within the current draft document, including the fact that they dropped the Recreation statement. The SNF will get the current document to Jane who will forward it to the OCCFC members. They will look at it against the earlier Track Changes version to get final clarity of what was/wasn't incorporated.

### Other EA points:

The original GIS staff on the EA is now on a detail. Ed Hall is now in the position.

Reminder: Documents related to the EA can be found on the USFS's project website: [\[https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122\]](https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122)

Q: What is the USFS' main goal in engaging with the Collaborative on EAs. A: If diverse stakeholders can find areas of agreement through involvement in the collaborative, this can result in fewer and more focused comments on EAs from the individual organizations.

In the future, the OCCFC could work to agree on pre-scoping issues they want an IDT to deal with. This would put on record issues that the Collaborative as a whole is interested in.

Looking ahead, want to think about a 3<sup>rd</sup> conservation option. The opportunity for the OCCFC to propose an alternative is in the project agreement letter.

### **Process Check-in on NF Smith Engagement**

The Project Agreement Letter timeline included a chance for the OCCFC and USFS staff to check in on how the process of engagement was going. This learning will help improve latter steps of this EA, but engagement on future EAs. Comments from the discussion are captured in the table on the next page.

**What has gone well, would do again**

**What would you improve, do differently**

<p>Field trip – key specialists were there, lots of explaining; well-chosen stops, open dialogue; got to know each other on 1-to-1 basis, relationship building  Useful to discuss stands that Iain and Howard had clear ideas on what to do and also one where didn't know yet and asked for group's thoughts</p> <p>Grew a lot together by working on Purpose &amp; Need together  Learned about documents that USFS must use for P&amp;N</p> <p>Learned what fit and didn't fit at what point in the process and why.</p> <p>USFS learned a lot; got through assumptions of things that UFSS thought they knew, what's important.</p> <p>Have a venue to express and have the agency hear</p> <p>Diverse set of folks in the same room; each get to hear others' concerns and input</p>	<p>Field trip –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have handouts: silviculture stand data; maps of stands we walked in</li> <li>• Timing – maybe earlier to see it before try to write about; maybe go on multiple trips</li> <li>• Maps with a bit more detail- e.g., dropped units, interior forest</li> <li>• Have analysis reasoning in a format that can be made available to anyone not able to go on the trip</li> </ul> <p>Access to data behind decision-making (note: working on getting this ready to share via Story Map and possibly ArcGIS on line)</p> <p>Idea: Bring a GIS person to a future OCCFC meeting</p> <p>Talk about P&amp;N and Proposed Actions at the same time; upfront discuss goals of OCCFC in this process</p> <p>Help OCCFC have sideboards. Don't be afraid to tell us the limits and why.</p> <p>Challenging to get to one voice input</p>
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**Annual Declaration of Commitment**

Meeting participants signed the document. Jane will figure out how to mesh with signatures from people who attend virtually. NOTE: After the meeting, it was pointed out that people who want to become voting members must attend 2 of last 3 meetings and be voted in by current voting members. During the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will hold a vote for Jim Fairchild and Rhonda Black/Umpqua SWCD and anyone else who is interested and not yet a voting member.

**Approve meeting notes from October, November, December and January**

Kelly moved and Marc seconded (I think!) that the meeting notes from October through January be approved. Approved unanimously. Jane will upload these onto the OneDrive.

## Ongoing Work

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing how the OCCFC wanted to continue working on the EA between now and when the draft NEPA document is released for combined 30-day scoping and comment period in July (according to the timeline in the project agreement letter).

- Jane stressed the importance of the collaborative members working with each other to find areas of agreement. A lot of the focus in OCCFC meetings and activities has been on influencing what the USFS decides to do, but that influence will be more possible when it comes as a single voice from the Collaborative.
- How can the OCCFC use more of its time to address the interests of, tensions among different stakeholders? How can it find the areas that all can get behind, what is on the table and what is off the table. These questions lead to more emphasis and time on zones of agreement work alongside attention to the EA.
- Jane also urged everyone to remember how, after the IDT meeting and the field trip, they felt the IDT was considering key issues as it approached the EA. Perhaps ok to give them time to do additional work while the OCCFC does its internal work?

In short, several members want to dig into the GIS data layers and to in essence perhaps conduct their own EA analysis parallel to what the IDT is doing. Others are unsure about doing this level of work due in part to time constraints and also lack of confidence that there will be sufficient participation by people with the necessary depth of knowledge.

Outcome and next steps: There was not clear agreement on and comfort with proceeding on this work yet. The group will have to continue figuring out how to make this an agreed-upon process of the collaborative as a whole over the coming weeks. In the meantime,

- Jane will request the USFS make specific data available to the OCCFC. Marc will create the list of items for Jane to relay to the USFS. Items mentioned were: Geo database, interior forest blocks of habitat (PE), information from 1997 Watershed Analysis, and Silviculture data but in more specific terms. [Data note: The group recognizes that some data cannot be shared with them due to legal restrictions. This is Northern Spotted Owl nest areas and archeological resources.]
- See next page for a process framework and timeline based on today's discussion.



Potential process:

Steps	Timing	Who?	
1. Small group looks at the data. Review for potential changes to units (e.g., deferred, proposed for treatment); look for low-hanging fruit (areas of potential agreement within collaborative). Talk with Iain and Howard.	Feb - March	Marc Chuck Paul E ? Jim ? Andy ? Pau L	<i>Assemble a picture from the data</i>       
2. Bring to full OCCFC for discussion → modify based upon input and degree of agreement	April 14 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All	 
3. Meet with the full IDT to discuss	Mid -April	All, reps?	<i>Vet picture with the agency</i>     
4. OCCFC determines what, if any, alternative to propose	May 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All	<i>Decide together</i>

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Roads ZOA Subgroup will meet Monday, **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am – 1:30pm** hybrid.
- Wildlife ZOA subgroup will meet on Monday, **March 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm** hybrid. This will be a science panel with Brenda McComb (Dean Emerita, Oregon State University), Martin G. Raphael (Emeritus Scientist, Pacific Northwest Research Station), and Klaus Puettman (*Edmund Hayes Professor in Silviculture Alternatives*, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University). All OCCFC participants are invited as are SNF staff.
- Full OCCFC Meeting will be on **Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am until noon**. It will be a hybrid with the in-person meeting at the Supervisor’s Office in Corvallis and others via Zoom. The project timeline includes a presentation on the EADM process. Jane will talk with Kailey about getting this onto the agenda. At this meeting, will aim to get back to the USFS attending for at most the first hour to maximize Collaborative work time.
- **TBD** – Meeting with the IDT to learn their proposed actions

## Meeting Notes

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Meeting  
3/10/2023 9:00am – 12:00pm Hybrid

### Attendees:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Jim Fairchild	Audubon Society	Katie Richardson	SNF Natural Resources Officer
Fran Recht	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Kelly Guerrant	Central Coast District Ranger
Andy Geissler	AFRC	Jeremy Augero	CCD Deputy Ranger
Paul Lulay	Hampton Lumber	Chuck Fisher	SNF CCD Hydrologist
Rhonda Black	Umpqua SWCD	Shawn Rivera	SNF Hebo District Ranger
Dave Eisler	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Eric Andersen	SNF Community Engagement & Partnership
Kelly Fuller	Oregon Wild		
Marc Barnes	IRM		
Jordan Latter	Interested citizen	Kirk Shimeall	CPRCD Exec. Director
Paul Engelmeyer	Portland Audubon	Jane Brass Barth	Interim Coordinator

### Notes Key

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- Highlighted items are typically those that require follow-up.

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### Updates and Information Exchange

#### Forest Updates

1. Forest wide/Supervisor's Office: They are hiring to backfill for the Public Affairs position formerly held by Lisa Romano. Eric Andersen has taken on liaison duties with the OCCFC that were part of that position.
2. Hebo Ranger District:
  - Hannah Smith, NEPA Planner, is going on a detail through June.
  - Have hired a permanent hydrologist for the District, but will be sharing that person for a while as they continue to help with N. Fork Smith EA.
  - They are on a holding pattern with the next big EA, Yamina, pending results from genetic testing being conducted by the university. It could take 3-6 months to get results.
  - The District is on track to start a Restoration CE in the Little Gauldy area southeast of Cloverdale; waiting to get approval from the Washington Office (WO). This is a new tool so approval from the WO is required. Shawn will share more information on this planned CE and the Restoration Tool during the April OCCFC meeting.
  - The Sand Lake EA Phase 2 is still under consultation with USFWS; main issues relate to plans for mountain bike trails.

CPRCD – The new Coordinator, Alyssa Bonini with Triangle Associates, will be under contract as the new permanent Coordinator soon. Kirk will share her information soon. Note: later in the meeting Kirk got permission from OCCFC members to share their phone numbers with Alyssa so she could start reaching out.

### Members

Paul Engelmeyer shared that a groups of Central Coast conservation activist organizations are putting together land acquisition priorities in response to the 30x30 Executive Order. Katie Richardson will connect Paul with Andrew (Drew) Mayer who now has land acquisition responsibilities in his portfolio. The USFS is deciding what its land acquisition priorities are for this year. Katie reminded people that the USFS has constraints on what lands it can acquire. Fran offered to share resources about funding opportunities that she got from a recent webinar about the Infrastructure Bill. [Note: Jane forwarded after the meeting.] Paul also drew the group's attention to potential fire hazards due to human behavior and encouraged the USFS to take effective action as it did last year. He also pointed out the issue of garbage being dumped in the forest. Q: Who should be called when an imminent danger is observed? A: State Police, Sheriff, USFS (but only 1 officer)

### **North Fork Smith EA Purpose and Need Statements Status**

- The IDT will send out preliminary proposed actions to the Collaborative and the Public in the next couple weeks. The plan is to give the OCCFC a couple weeks to review the actions and related data before holding a joint meeting to discuss. After looking at calendars, **April 19<sup>th</sup>** was identified as potential meeting date. Jane will query all OCCFC members to ensure enough members are available to attend on that date.
- Specialists are putting together their Project Design Criteria for all resource areas.
- All public comments received to date can be viewed on the USFS's project website: [\[https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122\]](https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122)
- On that same page is a link that people can use to make comments. This will be the mechanism for making comments once the formal comment period is open, but comments can be made now, too. Chuck Fisher is tracking and responding to comments.
- Howard Hoyt, IDT Silviculturist, is working on a data layer for "mature, natural" stands in an effort to respond to requests from the OCCFC and another person who submitted comments. Chuck Fisher will post this data layer in the project file and notify the Jane that it is there. [Note: file uploaded Friday afternoon, OCCFC notified by Jane same time]
- Today is Kailey Guerrant's last day on detail as the CCD Ranger. Michele Holman is returning from her detail on Monday, March 13.
- Rob Lorenz is the temporary District Hydrologist.
- Chuck shared a link to a document from the Elliot Research Forest Document: [https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/ESRF%20HCP\\_Administrative%20Draft\\_September%202021.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/ESRF%20HCP_Administrative%20Draft_September%202021.pdf) in response to a question in the chat during the recent science panel about canopy cover and buffers. Cmt: Still need to define buffer and discuss canopy cover in relation to blow down.

**EADM (Environmental Analysis and Decision Making) topic was deferred to April meeting.**

### **Annual Declaration of Commitment**

Rhonda Black/Umpqua SWCD was voted in as a member. [Note: In reviewing documents after the meeting, Jane discovered that Jim Fairchild also needs to be voted on. This can happen during the April meeting.]

### **Approve meeting notes from February**

Kelly moved and Fran seconded that the meeting notes from February. Approved unanimously. Jane will upload these onto the OneDrive.

### **Ongoing Work**

Roads ZOA update – The subcommittee (Fran, Paul Lulay and Paul Engelmeyer) spent its last meeting working through a list of draft statements. *They reworked four draft statements and part of a 5<sup>th</sup> one, reaching a greater degree of comfort with the wording and getting closer to having a draft product to further deliberate with the full Collaborative.*

Rather than share this partial product now, the subcommittee will use its April meeting to work through the remaining 3 and a half statements. The subcommittee also wants to get more information on Project Design Criteria related to roads as it works on these draft ZOAs. Ideally the IDT will share those and preliminary proposed actions related to roads prior to this meeting. Jordan pointed out that PDCs for past EAs likely can be found on SNF website and they will be similar for N. Fork Smith.

- To further inform this work, a panel will be convened with Chris Frissell and a couple others. Jane and Paul E will work on arranging that, ideally for the May 8<sup>th</sup> ZOA meeting time.
- Once the subcommittee is comfortable with the draft, the Coordinator will forward the document to the full OCCFC. The task then is for all members to review, make comments and come to a future OCCFC meeting ready to discuss and eventually decide what all can support.

Wildlife ZOA update – The recent science panel was convened to help inform the development of wildlife ZOAs. The panel was recorded. Jane will share the link, presentations by all panelists and notes soon. Many comments about the usefulness of the panel were shared.

This subcommittee is challenged in moving forward on drafting ZOA statements due to the breadth of the chosen topic area. The meeting discussion focused on ways this subcommittee might modify its work to make progress more feasible.

- Kelly Fuller has been contacting participants in other forest collaboratives. She also had a conversation with outgoing Ranger Guerrant and some of the OCCFC members. She shared some findings and thoughts for the group to consider:
  - Don't just recreate what the USFS already is required to do in the ZOAs.
  - No other collaborative has written wildlife ZOAs on a forest-wide basis. Rather they write them on a project -by-project basis.

- With such a long list of species considered by the SNF, should the ZOAs be by species?
  - Should ZOAs be created by activity, such as plantation thinning, aquatics, etc.?
  - Is Wildlife ZOA the right name? Andy suggested Vegetation Management might be better. Jordan commented that this approach might be better since the SNF manages for habitat, not for species.
  - The overarching question to answer seems to be: What is the subcommittee trying to achieve? Suggestion: Conduct a survey of OCCFC members to answer this question. Useful to do at this time of transition to a new Coordinator. Possibly the new Coordinator can use such a survey about not only the purpose of this subcommittee, but also overall purpose and member expectations to get oriented. **Follow-up:** Jane will discuss with Alyssa.
- The discussion shifted to considering the idea of focusing wildlife ZOA work on a project level. The group decided that this was a good approach.
    - Agreement: The Wildlife ZOA subcommittee now essentially will be the N. Fork Smith EA subcommittee (as described in the Project Agreement letter but never formed). This subcommittee will NOT have final decision-making power for final OCCFC comments to the USFS. It will be the small group that does analysis and drafts comments for the full OCCFC to deliberate, modify as needed, and decide on. This approach seems worthwhile as the most challenging areas needing continued work to find agreement among members relate to wildlife: buffers, interior forest, connectivity, canopy cover.
    - The project area approach will put a focus on proposed treatments for priority species; wildlife of concern in relation to land use allocation.
- Next steps: Jane will develop an agenda for the next Wildlife ZOA subcommittee meeting to reflect this new focus and process with respect to interaction with the EA.
    - Return to the initial work of this committee, defining terms. This is important because during all meetings, terms create confusion and angst, and thus derail productive conversation. To start this, revisit exchange with the USFS about terms: interior forest, mature, etc. Paul Engelmeyer can bring up the definitions in a 1995 document he referred to during this meeting. Work to get agreement within the subcommittee on how terms are defined and then create a glossary. This agreement on terms can be a basic ZOA in Coordinator's view.
    - Discuss preliminary proposed actions and GIS data from IDT related to wildlife. Agree on steps and timeline to analyze and come up with questions/input prior to the joint IDT meeting tentatively set for the morning of April 19th. (See Appendix A below for Jane's attempt to modify the Feb draft proposed process to reflect new thinking during this meeting.)
    - **Follow-up:** Request Iain Emmons, IDT Wildlife Biologist, explain how they go through the long species list. Q: At the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting or later?

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Roads ZOA Subgroup will meet Monday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:30am – 1:30pm** hybrid.
- Wildlife ZOA subgroup will meet on Monday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2-4pm** hybrid.
- Full OCCFC Meeting will be on **Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am until noon**. It will be a hybrid with the in-person meeting at the Supervisor’s Office in Corvallis and others via Zoom. The project timeline includes a presentation on the EADM process. Shawn Rivera will share information about the Restoration CE on the Hebo District
- **April 19 9am – noon** proposed – Meeting with the IDT to learn their preliminary proposed actions

Appendices

**A: Potential revised process. Feb draft modified by Jane post March meeting**

Steps	Timing	Who?
1. Do initial look at preliminary proposed actions and related data from IDT.	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting	Wildlife ZOA: Marc, Kelly, Paul E, Andy, Jim, Dave, Chuck
2. Bring initial thoughts to full OCCFC for discussion	April 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All
3. Continue to analyze data and devise questions/input for the IDT.	April 8-17	Wildlife subcommittee
4. Circulate planned question/draft input to full OCCFC	April 17	Coordinator
5. Meet with the full IDT to discuss preliminary proposed actions	April 19	All
6. Further deliberation towards potential areas of agreement for the OCCFC to provide formal input to IDT.	May 8 <sup>th</sup> ; June 5 <sup>th</sup> May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Subcommittee, All
7. OCCFC determines what, if any, alternative to propose	June 9 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All

**B: Zoom Chat Summary**

Note: It turns out that only “private” chats that included me were copied. Any private chats between others that didn’t include me weren’t copied. Glad to see this privacy aspect rather than what I had heard that meeting “owner” would see all private chats.

What is EADM? =Environmental Analysis and Decision Making

09:29:43 From Chuck Fisher - USFS to Everyone:  
Work with the dumps to have a free dump day.

09:29:46 From Fran Recht to Everyone:  
Who enforces on USFS land or roads? Would OR State Police respond to complaints? Is there a cooperative agreement? What is the local enforcement presence look like?

09:40:35 From paulengelmeyer to Everyone:  
Where is the link to the public comments?

09:41:38 From Jordan Latter to Everyone:  
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(under Get Connected)

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Thanks FS folks

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Great idea - thanks Paul

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Thanks Paul-- that seems to me to hark back to working on those things where the USFS has gaps and needs to move

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Good point Fran - we can ask them to incorporate the issues and define the issues from our perspective.

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**  
 Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Meeting  
 2/10/2023 9:00am – 12:00pm Hybrid

**Attendees:**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Jim Fairchild	Audubon Society	Robert Sanchez	SNF Supervisor
Fran Recht	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Kelly Guarrant	Central Coast District Ranger
Chuck Willer	Coast Range Assoc	Jeremy Augero	CCD Deputy Ranger
Paul Lulay	Hampton Lumber	Chuck Fisher	SNF CCD Hydrologist
Rhonda Black	Umpqua SWCD	Lisa Romano	SNF Public Relations
Paul Engelmeyer	Portland Audubon	Hannah Smith	SNF Hebo District Planner
Kelly Fuller	Oregon Wild	Darren Cross	Acting SNF Supervisor
Marc Barnes	IRM	Katie Richardson	SNF Natural Resources Officer
Dave Eisler	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Eric Andersen	SNF Community Engagement & Partnership
Kirk Shimeall	CPRCD Exec. Director	Jane Brass Barth	Interim Coordinator

*Notes Key*

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements, unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Highlighted items are typically those that require follow-up.

**Updates and Information Exchange**

Forest Updates

1. This is Robert Sanchez’s last day as the Forest Supervisor, a position he has held for four and a half years. He introduced Darren Cross, McKenzie River District Ranger on the Willamette NF, who will be the Acting Supervisor until the position is filled. The permanent position has been advertised.
2. The Forest has created and filled a new Community and Partner Engagement position. Eric Andersen started in that position and was in attendance at this meeting. He will become the liaison to the OCCFC as Lisa Romano is leaving for a position with the Region.
3. This also is Paul Burns last day with the SNF. He is taking a position with the USFS Enterprise Team. The SNF will have a gap in fisheries specialists for a couple of months.
4. The Sand Lake EA Phase 2 is still under consultation. Phase 1 has been signed.

CPRCD - Interviews have been scheduled with 2 applicants for the permanent Coordinator on Feb 22. Marc and Kelly have agreed to serve on the interview panel along with Kirk, Lisa



Romano, and Jane Barth. Eric Andersen may also participate. Anyone else whose interested, let Kirk or Jane know asap.

### Members

1. A monitoring workshop for practitioners will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Fran will get the information to Jane who will forward it to the group. All invited to attend.
2. Marc voiced appreciate to the IDT for their time and responsiveness to questions on the recent field trip.

### **North Fork Smith EA Purpose and Need Statements Status**

The OCCFC and SNF need to come to a shared understanding of what closure on phases of engagement in EAs looks like. The OCCFC will discuss this more in the second part of this meeting and aim to reach closure at the March meeting.

Chuck Fisher pointed out some changes within the current draft document, including the fact that they dropped the Recreation statement. The SNF will get the current document to Jane who will forward it to the OCCFC members. They will look at it against the earlier Track Changes version to get final clarity of what was/wasn't incorporated.

### Other EA points:

The original GIS staff on the EA is now on a detail. Ed Hall is now in the position.

Reminder: Documents related to the EA can be found on the USFS's project website: [\[https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122\]](https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122)

Q: What is the USFS' main goal in engaging with the Collaborative on EAs. A: If diverse stakeholders can find areas of agreement through involvement in the collaborative, this can result in fewer and more focused comments on EAs from the individual organizations.

In the future, the OCCFC could work to agree on pre-scoping issues they want an IDT to deal with. This would put on record issues that the Collaborative as a whole is interested in.

Looking ahead, want to think about a 3<sup>rd</sup> conservation option. The opportunity for the OCCFC to propose an alternative is in the project agreement letter.

### **Process Check-in on NF Smith Engagement**

The Project Agreement Letter timeline included a chance for the OCCFC and USFS staff to check in on how the process of engagement was going. This learning will help improve latter steps of this EA, but engagement on future EAs. Comments from the discussion are captured in the table on the next page.

**What has gone well, would do again**

**What would you improve, do differently**

<p>Field trip – key specialists were there, lots of explaining; well-chosen stops, open dialogue; got to know each other on 1-to-1 basis, relationship building  Useful to discuss stands that Iain and Howard had clear ideas on what to do and also one where didn't know yet and asked for group's thoughts</p> <p>Grew a lot together by working on Purpose &amp; Need together  Learned about documents that USFS must use for P&amp;N</p> <p>Learned what fit and didn't fit at what point in the process and why.</p> <p>USFS learned a lot; got through assumptions of things that USFS thought they knew, what's important.</p> <p>Have a venue to express and have the agency hear</p> <p>Diverse set of folks in the same room; each get to hear others' concerns and input</p>	<p>Field trip –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have handouts: silviculture stand data; maps of stands we walked in</li> <li>• Timing – maybe earlier to see it before try to write about; maybe go on multiple trips</li> <li>• Maps with a bit more detail- e.g., dropped units, interior forest</li> <li>• Have analysis reasoning in a format that can be made available to anyone not able to go on the trip</li> </ul> <p>Access to data behind decision-making (note: working on getting this ready to share via Story Map and possibly ArcGIS on line)</p> <p>Idea: Bring a GIS person to a future OCCFC meeting</p> <p>Talk about P&amp;N and Proposed Actions at the same time; upfront discuss goals of OCCFC in this process</p> <p>Help OCCFC have sideboards. Don't be afraid to tell us the limits and why.</p> <p>Challenging to get to one voice input</p>
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-----USFS Staff left -----

**Annual Declaration of Commitment**

Meeting participants signed the document. Jane will figure out how to mesh with signatures from people who attend virtually. NOTE: After the meeting, it was pointed out that people who want to become voting members must attend 2 of last 3 meetings and be voted in by current voting members. During the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will hold a vote for Jim Fairchild and Rhonda Black/Umpqua SWCD and anyone else who is interested and not yet a voting member.

**Approve meeting notes from October, November, December and January**

Kelly moved and Marc seconded (I think!) that the meeting notes from October through January be approved. Approved unanimously. Jane will upload these onto the OneDrive.

## Ongoing Work

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing how the OCCFC wanted to continue working on the EA between now and when the draft NEPA document is released for combined 30-day scoping and comment period in July (according to the timeline in the project agreement letter).

- Jane stressed the importance of the collaborative members working with each other to find areas of agreement. A lot of the focus in OCCFC meetings and activities has been on influencing what the USFS decides to do, but that influence will be more possible when it comes as a single voice from the Collaborative.
- How can the OCCFC use more of its time to address the interests of, tensions among different stakeholders? How can it find the areas that all can get behind, what is on the table and what is off the table. These questions lead to more emphasis and time on zones of agreement work alongside attention to the EA.
- Jane also urged everyone to remember how, after the IDT meeting and the field trip, they felt the IDT was considering key issues as it approached the EA. Perhaps ok to give them time to do additional work while the OCCFC does its internal work?

In short, several members want to dig into the GIS data layers and to in essence perhaps conduct their own EA analysis parallel to what the IDT is doing. Others are unsure about doing this level of work due in part to time constraints and also lack of confidence that there will be sufficient participation by people with the necessary depth of knowledge.

Outcome and next steps: There was not clear agreement on and comfort with proceeding on this work yet. The group will have to continue figuring out how to make this an agreed-upon process of the collaborative as a whole over the coming weeks. In the meantime,

- Jane will request the USFS make specific data available to the OCCFC. Marc will create the list of items for Jane to relay to the USFS. Items mentioned were: Geo database, interior forest blocks of habitat (PE), information from 1997 Watershed Analysis, and Silviculture data but in more specific terms. [Data note: The group recognizes that some data cannot be shared with them due to legal restrictions. This is Northern Spotted Owl nest areas and archeological resources.]
- See next page for a process framework and timeline based on today's discussion.

Potential process:

Steps	Timing	Who?	
1. Small group looks at the data. Review for potential changes to units (e.g., deferred, proposed for treatment); look for low-hanging fruit (areas of potential agreement within collaborative). Talk with Iain and Howard.	Feb - March	Marc Chuck Paul E ? Jim ? Andy ? Pau L	<i>Assemble a picture from the data</i>       
2. Bring to full OCCFC for discussion → modify based upon input and degree of agreement	April 14 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All	 
3. Meet with the full IDT to discuss	Mid -April	All, reps?	<i>Vet picture with the agency</i>     
4. OCCFC determines what, if any, alternative to propose	May 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All	<i>Decide together</i>

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Roads ZOA Subgroup will meet Monday, **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am – 1:30pm** hybrid.
- Wildlife ZOA subgroup will meet on Monday, **March 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm** hybrid. This will be a science panel with Brenda McComb (Dean Emerita, Oregon State University), Martin G. Raphael (Emeritus Scientist, Pacific Northwest Research Station), and Klaus Puettman (*Edmund Hayes Professor in Silviculture Alternatives*, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University). All OCCFC participants are invited as are SNF staff.
- Full OCCFC Meeting will be on **Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am until noon**. It will be a hybrid with the in-person meeting at the Supervisor’s Office in Corvallis and others via Zoom. The project timeline includes a presentation on the EADM process. Jane will talk with Kailey about getting this onto the agenda. At this meeting, will aim to get back to the USFS attending for at most the first hour to maximize Collaborative work time.
- **TBD** – Meeting with the IDT to learn their proposed actions

## Meeting Notes

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Meeting  
3/10/2023 9:00am – 12:00pm Hybrid

### Attendees:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Jim Fairchild	Audubon Society	Katie Richardson	SNF Natural Resources Officer
Fran Recht	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Kailey Guerrant	Central Coast District Ranger
Andy Geissler	AFRC	Jeremy Augero	CCD Deputy Ranger
Paul Lulay	Hampton Lumber	Chuck Fisher	SNF CCD Hydrologist
Rhonda Black	Umpqua SWCD	Shawn Rivera	SNF Hebo District Ranger
Dave Eisler	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Eric Andersen	SNF Community Engagement & Partnership
Kelly Fuller	Oregon Wild		
Marc Barnes	IRM		
Jordan Latter	Interested citizen	Kirk Shimeall	CPRCD Exec. Director
Paul Engelmeyer	Portland Audubon	Jane Brass Barth	Interim Coordinator

### Notes Key

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements, unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Highlighted items are typically those that require follow-up.

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### Updates and Information Exchange

#### Forest Updates

1. Forest wide/Supervisor's Office: They are hiring to backfill for the Public Affairs position formerly held by Lisa Romano. Eric Andersen has taken on liaison duties with the OCCFC that were part of that position.
2. Hebo Ranger District:
  - Hannah Smith, NEPA Planner, is going on a detail through June.
  - Have hired a permanent hydrologist for the District, but will be sharing that person for a while as they continue to help with N. Fork Smith EA.
  - They are on a holding pattern with the next big EA, Yamina, pending results from genetic testing being conducted by the university. It could take 3-6 months to get results.
  - The District is on track to start a Restoration CE in the Little Gauldy area southeast of Cloverdale; waiting to get approval from the Washington Office (WO). This is a new tool so approval from the WO is required. Shawn will share more information on this planned CE and the Restoration Tool during the April OCCFC meeting.

- The Sand Lake EA Phase 2 is still under consultation with USFWS; main issues relate to plans for mountain bike trails.

CPRCD – The new Coordinator, Alyssa Bonini with Triangle Associates, will be under contract as the new permanent Coordinator soon. Kirk will share her information soon. Note: later in the meeting Kirk got permission from OCCFC members to share their phone numbers with Alyssa so she could start reaching out.

### Members

Paul Engelmeyer shared that a groups of Central Coast conservation activist organizations are putting together land acquisition priorities in response to the 30x30 Executive Order. Katie Richardson will connect Paul with Andrew (Drew) Mayer who now has land acquisition responsibilities in his portfolio. The USFS is deciding what its land acquisition priorities are for this year. Katie reminded people that the USFS has constraints on what lands it can acquire. Fran offered to share resources about funding opportunities that she got from a recent webinar about the Infrastructure Bill. [Note: Jane forwarded after the meeting.] Paul also drew the group's attention to potential fire hazards due to human behavior and encouraged the USFS to take effective action as it did last year. He also pointed out the issue of garbage being dumped in the forest. Q: Who should be called when an imminent danger is observed? A: State Police, Sheriff, USFS (but only 1 officer)

### **North Fork Smith EA Purpose and Need Statements Status**

- The IDT will send out preliminary proposed actions to the Collaborative and the Public in the next couple weeks. The plan is to give the OCCFC a couple weeks to review the actions and related data before holding a joint meeting to discuss. After looking at calendars, **April 19<sup>th</sup>** was identified as potential meeting date. Jane will query all OCCFC members to ensure enough members are available to attend on that date.
- Specialists are putting together their Project Design Criteria for all resource areas.
- All public comments received to date can be viewed on the USFS's project website: [\[https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122\]](https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122)
- On that same page is a link that people can use to make comments. This will be the mechanism for making comments once the formal comment period is open, but comments can be made now, too. Chuck Fisher is tracking and responding to comments.
- Howard Hoyt, IDT Silviculturist, is working on a data layer for "mature, natural" stands in an effort to respond to requests from the OCCFC and another person who submitted comments. Chuck Fisher will post this data layer in the project file and notify the Jane that it is there. [Note: file uploaded Friday afternoon, OCCFC notified by Jane same time]
- Today is Kailey Guerrant's last day on detail as the CCD Ranger. Michele Holman is returning from her detail on Monday, March 13.
- Rob Lorenz is the temporary District Hydrologist.
- Chuck shared a link to a document from the Elliot Research Forest Document: [https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/ESRF%20HCP\\_Administrative%20Draft\\_September%202021.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/ESRF%20HCP_Administrative%20Draft_September%202021.pdf) in response to a question in the chat during the recent science panel

about canopy cover and buffers. Cmt: Still need to define buffer and discuss canopy cover in relation to blow down.

**EADM (Environmental Analysis and Decision Making) topic was deferred to April meeting.**

-----USFS Staff left -----

**Annual Declaration of Commitment**

Rhonda Black/Umpqua SWCD was voted in as a member. [Note: In reviewing documents after the meeting, Jane discovered that Jim Fairchild also needs to be voted on. This can happen during the April meeting.]

**Approve meeting notes from February**

Kelly moved and Fran seconded that the meeting notes from February. Approved unanimously. Jane will upload these onto the OneDrive.

**Ongoing Work**

Roads ZOA update – The subcommittee (Fran, Paul Lulay and Paul Engelmeyer) spent its last meeting working through a list of draft statements. *They reworked four draft statements and part of a 5<sup>th</sup> one, reaching a greater degree of comfort with the wording and getting closer to having a draft product to further deliberate with the full Collaborative.*

Rather than share this partial product now, the subcommittee will use its April meeting to work through the remaining 3 and a half statements. The subcommittee also wants to get more information on Project Design Criteria related to roads as it works on these draft ZOAs. Ideally the IDT will share those and preliminary proposed actions related to roads prior to this meeting. Jordan pointed out that PDCs for past EAs likely can be found on SNF website and they will be similar for N. Fork Smith.

- To further inform this work, a panel will be convened with Chris Frissell and a couple others. Jane and Paul E will work on arranging that, ideally for the May 8<sup>th</sup> ZOA meeting time.
- Once the subcommittee is comfortable with the draft, the Coordinator will forward the document to the full OCCFC. The task then is for all members to review, make comments and come to a future OCCFC meeting ready to discuss and eventually decide what all can support.

Wildlife ZOA update – The recent science panel was convened to help inform the development of wildlife ZOAs. The panel was recorded. Jane will share the link, presentations by all panelists and notes soon. Many comments about the usefulness of the panel were shared.

This subcommittee is challenged in moving forward on drafting ZOA statements due to the breadth of the chosen topic area. The meeting discussion focused on ways this subcommittee might modify its work to make progress more feasible.

- Kelly Fuller has been contacting participants in other forest collaboratives. She also had a conversation with outgoing Ranger Guerrant and some of the OCCFC members. She shared some findings and thoughts for the group to consider:
  - Don't just recreate what the USFS already is required to do in the ZOAs.
  - No other collaborative has written wildlife ZOAs on a forest-wide basis. Rather they write them on a project -by-project basis.
  - With such a long list of species considered by the SNF, should the ZOAs be by species?
  - Should ZOAs be created by activity, such as plantation thinning, aquatics, etc.?
  - Is Wildlife ZOA the right name? Andy suggested Vegetation Management might be better. Jordan commented that this approach might be better since the SNF manages for habitat, not for species.
  - The overarching question to answer seems to be: What is the subcommittee trying to achieve? Suggestion: Conduct a survey of OCCFC members to answer this question. Useful to do at this time of transition to a new Coordinator. Possibly the new Coordinator can use such a survey about not only the purpose of this subcommittee, but also overall purpose and member expectations to get oriented. **Follow-up:** Jane will discuss with Alyssa.
  
- The discussion shifted to considering the idea of focusing wildlife ZOA work on a project level. The group decided that this was a good approach.
  - Agreement: The Wildlife ZOA subcommittee now essentially will be the N. Fork Smith EA subcommittee (as described in the Project Agreement letter but never formed). This subcommittee will NOT have final decision-making power for final OCCFC comments to the USFS. It will be the small group that does analysis and drafts comments for the full OCCFC to deliberate, modify as needed, and decide on. This approach seems worthwhile as the most challenging areas needing continued work to find agreement among members relate to wildlife: buffers, interior forest, connectivity, canopy cover.
  - The project area approach will put a focus on proposed treatments for priority species; wildlife of concern in relation to land use allocation.
  
- Next steps: Jane will develop an agenda for the next Wildlife ZOA subcommittee meeting to reflect this new focus and process with respect to interaction with the EA.
  - Return to the initial work of this committee, defining terms. This is important because during all meetings, terms create confusion and angst, and thus derail productive conversation. To start this, revisit exchange with the USFS about terms: interior forest, mature, etc. Paul Engelmeyer can bring up the definitions in a 1995 document he referred to during this meeting. Work to get agreement within the subcommittee on how terms are defined and then create a glossary. This agreement on terms can be a basic ZOA in Coordinator's view.



- Discuss preliminary proposed actions and GIS data from IDT related to wildlife. Agree on steps and timeline to analyze and come up with questions/input prior to the joint IDT meeting tentatively set for the morning of April 19th. (See Appendix A below for Jane's attempt to modify the Feb draft proposed process to reflect new thinking during this meeting.)
- **Follow-up:** Request Iain Emmons, IDT Wildlife Biologist, explain how they go through the long species list. Q: At the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting or later?

DRAFT

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Roads ZOA Subgroup will meet Monday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:30am – 1:30pm** hybrid.
- Wildlife ZOA subgroup will meet on Monday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2-4pm** hybrid.
- Full OCCFC Meeting will be on **Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am until noon**. It will be a hybrid with the in-person meeting at the Supervisor’s Office in Corvallis and others via Zoom. The project timeline includes a presentation on the EADM process. Shawn Rivera will share information about the Restoration CE on the Hebo District
- **April 19 9am – noon** proposed – Meeting with the IDT to learn their preliminary proposed actions

Appendices

**A: Potential revised process. Feb draft modified by Jane post March meeting**

Steps	Timing	Who?
1. Do initial look at preliminary proposed actions and related data from IDT.	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting	Wildlife ZOA: Marc, Kelly, Paul E, Andy, Jim, Dave, Chuck
2. Bring initial thoughts to full OCCFC for discussion	April 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All
3. Continue to analyze data and devise questions/input for the IDT.	April 8-17	Wildlife subcommittee
4. Circulate planned question/draft input to full OCCFC	April 17	Coordinator
5. Meet with the full IDT to discuss preliminary proposed actions	April 19	All
6. Further deliberation towards potential areas of agreement for the OCCFC to provide formal input to IDT.	May 8 <sup>th</sup> ; June 5 <sup>th</sup> May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Subcommittee, All
7. OCCFC determines what, if any, alternative to propose	June 9 <sup>th</sup> meeting	All

**B: Zoom Chat Summary**

Note: It turns out that only “private” chats that included me were copied. Any private chats between others that didn’t include me weren’t copied. Glad to see this privacy aspect rather than what I had heard that meeting “owner” would see all private chats.

What is EADM? =Environmental Analysis and Decision Making

09:29:43 From Chuck Fisher - USFS to Everyone:

Work with the dumps to have a free dump day.

09:29:46 From Fran Recht to Everyone:

Who enforces on USFS land or roads? Would OR State Police respond to complaints? Is there a cooperative agreement? What is the local enforcement presence look like?

09:40:35 From paulengelmeyer to Everyone:

Where is the link to the public comments?

09:41:38 From Jordan Latter to Everyone:

Right side of page here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59122>

09:42:29 From Jordan Latter to Everyone:

(under Get Connected)

09:43:47 From paulengelmeyer to Everyone:

Why not include the Interior patches? -

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But we could at least put a 300' buffer around it in GIS ... as a first cut. Or is more info going to be coming before the EA is finalized?

09:49:42 From KatieRichardson SNF to Everyone:

soft edges are also an issue but I think the point is that the effects stop at somewhat less than one tree length

10:06:53 From Chuck Fisher - USFS to Everyone:

[https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/ESRF%20HCP\\_Administrative%20Draft\\_September%202021.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/ESRF%20HCP_Administrative%20Draft_September%202021.pdf)

10:20:31 From Jordan Latter to Everyone:

Thanks FS folks

10:36:15 From paulengelmeyer to Jane Barth, Interim Coordinator(Direct Message):

I thought I mentioned that we should have Dr. Fissell give a talk or be a part of a panel before we finalize the 'rods doc

10:47:01 From Jane Barth, Interim Coordinator to paulengelmeyer(Direct Message):

yes. just trying to dig out other names so we can have 2-3 panelists. Cheryl gave us some names

10:56:30 From paulengelmeyer to Jane Barth, Interim Coordinator(Direct Message):

Great idea - thanks Paul

11:35:21 From Fran Recht to Everyone:

Thanks Paul-- that seems to me to hark back to working on those things where the USFS has gaps and needs to move

11:38:20 From paulengelmeyer to Everyone:

Good point Fran - we can ask them to incorporate the issues and define the issues from our perspective.

**Meeting Notes**  
Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Meeting  
4/24/2023 9:00am – 12:00pm Hybrid

ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Jim Fairchild, Audubon Society Corvallis
- Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild
- Marc Barnes, IRM
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- *Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific RC+D (non-voting)*
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Anna Hamilton, Triangle Associates (meeting support, non-voting)*

*Forest Service:*

- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist
- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator
- Joni Schmidgall, Public Affairs Staff Officer
- Katie Isacksen, Forest NEPA Planner
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger

*Observers/Public:*

- Georgia Mitchell, Forest Bridges

**Notes Key**

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- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### 1. Forest Supervisor Updates – *Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer*

- Rebecca “Becca” Brooke has been selected as the new Forest Supervisor. She will be joining from the Bureau of Land Management. She does not currently have a start date, but USFS anticipates she will start in June. Darren Cross will continue as acting Forest Supervisor in the meantime.
- Joni Schmidgall is the new Public Affairs Staff Officer.
- Guenther Castillon, Forest Silviculturist, will be leaving on May 5. This position will be backfilled with detailer in coming weeks.
- EADM (Environmental Analysis and Decision-Making) Workshops took place last week. EADM is a USFS initiative to streamline on-the-ground work. The USFS Regional Office put out a guidebook on best practices for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Tribal Consultation, etc. Still working on the notes.
  - The Little Gaudy Categorical Exclusion (CE) project falls under the EADM scope. Shawn Rivera (Hebo DR) will speak more to this later in the meeting.
- General definitions of “mature” and “old growth” are now [available online](#). The definitions don’t speak to how to manage mature or old growth forests, or how management impacts climate change, and USFS is still waiting for unit-by-unit maps of inventory.
  - The Collaborative is encouraged to read the [Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) and comment on how these definitions might be applied to management. The 60-day comment period is now open.
  - The authors (technical team composed of USFS and BLM staff) analyzed acreage based on definitions and remote sensing. The analysis is intended to track general trends, not to be an on-the-ground management tool.
- The multi-agency Regional Assessment on Climate Change has been delayed again due to staff movement at the Regional Office level. USFS hopes to see the Assessment rolled out by June 2023.

### 2. Hebo Ranger District – *Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger*

- The Hebo Ranger District is waiting for genetic testing for the Yamina Project Plan, which remains in a holding pattern. In the meantime, they are focused on the Little Gaudy CE Project.

### 3. Central Coast Ranger District – *Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger*

- Staffing Updates:
  - Paul Burns has taken another job and will no longer be the Central Coast Ranger District Fish Biologist, although he will continue to work on Siuslaw through the Enterprise Team. There has been an offer and acceptance by someone outside of the USFS to replace him.
  - Kate Croman, Wildlife Technician, and Micah Scoggins, Wildlife Biologist will be leaving soon. There will be two vacancies in the biologist program in Waldport.

- The Central Coast Ranger District received approximately \$1.2 million in infrastructure dollars from the Regional Office for an aquatic restoration program.
- The District has received money to replace culverts and convert them to aquatic passage culverts. The Siuslaw Watershed Council has helped with the engineering design.
- There is money for Deadwood Creek, water point-source protection, and for a task force in Lincoln County to remove abandoned RVs.

#### 4. Cascade Pacific RC+D – Kirk Shimeall, Executive Director

- Cascade Pacific RC+D is working with a consultant to help them complete their annual federal audit.

#### 5. Collaborative Members

- Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild: Wednesday, April 26 at 6pm Oregon Wild is doing a webcast on Canoe Culture featuring Jesse Beers, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw. The webcast is free and open to the public. Those who are interested can sign up at the following link: <https://oregonwild.org/events/canoe-culture-confederated-tribes-coos-lower-umpqua-and-siuslaw>
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society: There will be a Marbled Murrelet training and survey on July 18 and 19, 2023. More information to come soon.

#### NORTH FORK SMITH EA UPDATES

- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger, shared that the USFS is continuing work on its Preliminary Proposed Actions (PPA) for the North Fork (NF) Smith Environmental Assessment (EA). Release of the PPAs has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.
  - USFS will strive to share PPAs with the Collaborative and the public by the end of May, along with high quality PDF maps and GIS information on the NF Smith project area.
  - A member of the Collaborative requested that the Collaborative have time to review and digest the PPA before discussing it with USFS.
  - USFS will share a proposed timeline for Collaborative members to reference during their PPA review. USFS anticipates moving into the formal NEPA process in September and would have until then to work through Collaborative feedback.
  - USFS followed up on a request from Marc Barnes for GIS information on the NF Smith. The requested data layers are available online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/siuslaw/?project=59122>.
- ❖ **Action Item:** USFS will strive to share NF Smith EA Preliminary Proposed Actions with the Collaborative by the end of May, 2023 and include a proposed timeline for the Collaborative to reference in its review.

#### LITTLE GAULDY RESTORATION CE

- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger, presented on the Little Gaudy Restoration CE. The CE is a tool that provides for forest and grassland management activities with a primary purpose of meeting Restoration objectives or increasing resilience.
- The purpose of the Little Gaudy Restoration Project is to restore young plantations, in Adaptive Management Areas, Adaptive Management Reserves, and Riparian Reserves, to accelerate the development of late-successional and old-growth characteristics. Shawn's presentation and supporting materials are available on the Collaborative's [OneDrive](#).

-----USFS Staff Leaves-----

## DEBRIEF USFS PRESENTATIONS

The Collaborative group debriefed about USFS updates and the Little Gaudy Restoration CE presentation and had the following takeaways:

- Given the quick turn-around time for input on the project, the Collaborative will not comment on the project collectively. Members should feel free to submit their comments to the USFS individually as needed.
  - It feels as though this process is happening quickly and there isn't enough time to digest this information and provide feedback. Notably, Collaborative members would like to receive more information about:
    - Critical resources to be protected in Hebo District.
    - The extent to which Carbon Accounting is considered in CEs.
  - There was interest expressed in more opportunities to ask questions of USFS.
  - Members expressed frustration with USFS information sharing procedure. Collaborative members would prefer to receive information as GIS data and map images that can be overlaid on GoogleEarth, rather than as PDF files.
  - Collaborative members observed that while the NF Smith project is taking a long time, it feels as though the pendulum has swung with the Little Gaudy project's relatively accelerated timeline.
  - Some members were surprised by this project and would have appreciated hearing this presentation sooner. The Collaborative would like to be looped in early so that they have time to absorb the information and provide meaningful feedback.
  - Paul Engelmeyer recommended that members review NF Smith comments submitted by Doug Heiken, Oregon Wild, as a reference. *[Update: Paul shared Oregon Wild's comments as a word document following the meeting. They are available on the Collaborative's OneDrive.]*
- ❖ **Action Item:** Alyssa will follow up with Shawn to see if there is public access to the lands up for consideration for this project, as well as connectivity and road density.

## APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 2023

- The Collaborative was not ready to approve March meeting notes as of April 24.
- The Coordinator noted that it may be helpful to memorialize the Meeting Minutes approval procedure in writing to assist with future staff transitions.

- As it stands, the Coordinator typically will circulate a draft copy of the minutes from the previous month's meeting to Collaborative members in advance of the upcoming monthly meeting. Collaborative members will review and vote to approve/suggest revisions during the meeting.
- The Coordinator will attach a copy of the March, 2023 meeting minutes to her follow up email and the Collaborative will vote to approve them and the April meeting minutes at the June Collaborative meeting.
- ❖ **Action Item:** Alyssa will send the March and April meeting notes before the June Collaborative meeting for members to review in advance.
- ❖ **Action Item:** Alyssa to memorialize the note approval process to review at the June Collaborative meeting.

#### VOTE IN NEW MEMBERS

- Collaborative members agreed on a motion to vote in Jim Fairchild as a member.

#### ONGOING WORK

##### 1. Roads Draft ZOA Progress Update – Paul, Fran, and Paul

- The Roads Subcommittee sought Collaborative Group feedback on its draft [Zones of Agreement statements](#).
  - Members discussed whether or not to frame the statements as positions of the Collaborative to share with USFS.
  - Collaborative member feedback was captured in the draft document.
- Oregon Wild had a question about Statement 9 (d) “Identify ridgetop roads that should be maintained to serve as firebreaks and control lines.” This statement was taken verbatim from the USFS’s Travel Analysis document.
- The Collaborative needs additional time to review the draft statements. The Coordinator will recirculate them and the group will revisit at its June meeting.
- ❖ **Action Item:** *The Coordinator will recirculate the Roads ZOA Subcommittee Draft Statements document for Collaborative review.*

##### 2. Wildlife Subcommittee Updates – Kelly, Andy, Marc, Paul, Dave

- The Wildlife Subcommittee previously discussed forming a working group to focus more intently on the NF Smith project. They were able to collect some GIS and stand data and are waiting for USFS to share its PPAs before the Wildlife Subcommittee provides their own analysis.
- In the interest of collaboration and effort, the Collaborative’s time might be better spent on providing focused feedback rather than a separate analysis.

##### 3. Report Out on Wildlife ZOA Research from Malheur National Forest – Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild



- The Wildlife Subcommittee previously discussed trying to do a standalone wildlife ZOA for the Siuslaw National Forest but has struggled due to the breadth of the topic.
- The Malheur National Forest Collaborative has done a [Goshawk Zones of Agreement](#) and is planning on doing a second one for other types of wildlife. The Collaborative contracted out this work with the purpose of presenting science to the Malheur National Forest (MNF), since the MNF is about to update its forest plan. The contractors prepared the science, which went to the Collaborative for review.
- The second ZOA that they are working on includes multiple species. First, the Collaborative prepared a vegetation management document and found that there were some species that were not provided enough protection.
- The resulting recommendation is for this group to clearly define the purpose of the document before doing the wildlife ZOAs.

#### 4. Proposed Topics to Incorporate into OCCFC Work: Beavers – *Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society*

- Paul shared a 1-pager ([linked here](#)) to support his proposal for the Collaborative to include beaver in its discussions.
- There is a lot of information about the value of the beaver as a keystone species.
- The previous SO signed a letter about ending trapping because of the value of beavers on the forest scale and national scale (water quality, water quantity, salmon recovery, etc.).
- Beaver discussion would be relevant for the wildlife and roads subcommittees.
- Paul suggested that the Wildlife Subcommittee continue discussing whether/how to incorporate beaver into its work.

#### WRAP UP

- The Collaborative’s next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Friday, May 12, 9am-12pm** and will be repurposed to continue the conversation with USFS about the Little Gauldy Restoration CE.
  - Collaborative members are asked to email Alyssa (cc Eric ([eric.andersen@usda.gov](mailto:eric.andersen@usda.gov))) with questions for Shawn by COB May 10 so he can arrive prepared.
  - It would be helpful if USFS could share GIS data with the Collaborative prior to May 12.
- ❖ **Action Item:** Alyssa will share a meeting hold for May 12 from 9:00-12:00pm and will follow up with Shawn for his availability.
  - The Collaborative will resume its standard monthly meeting cycle on **June 9 from 9:00-12:00pm**.
  - Alyssa will be out of the office from April 27 – May 8. Collaborative members can email Alyssa and copy Eric Andersen ([eric.andersen@usda.gov](mailto:eric.andersen@usda.gov)) with questions/requests during that time.
  - The Roads and Wildlife Subcommittees will reconvene after June 5.

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Timing/Status</b>
<b>1</b>	USFS will strive to share NF Smith EA Preliminary Proposed Actions with the Collaborative by the end of May, 2023. Include a proposed timeline for the Collaborative to reference in its review.	<b>USFS</b>	<b>End of May</b>
<b>2</b>	Follow up with Shawn to see if there is public access to the lands up for consideration for this project, as well as connectivity and road density.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>April 27</b>
<b>3</b>	Send the March and April meeting notes before the June Collaborative meeting for members to review in advance.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>April 31</b>
<b>4</b>	Memorialize the note approval process to review at the June Collaborative meeting.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>June 9</b>
<b>5</b>	Share a meeting hold for May 12 from 9:00-12:00pm and will follow up with Shawn for his availability.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>April 27/Done</b>

## APPENDIX B: ZOOM MEETING CHAT

09:02:16 From Anna Hamilton, Triangle, she/her to Everyone:

*Hello, everyone! My name is Anna Hamilton (she/her) and I'll be supporting Alyssa Bonini with the meeting today. Can folks online please rename yourselves with your name and affiliation, and whether you're a member. Thank you!*

09:13:15 From OCCFC Monthly Meeting to Everyone:

*Thanks for your patience everyone*

09:16:23 From Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

*Much better.*

09:16:48 From OCCFC Monthly Meeting to Everyone:

*Reacted to "Much better." with 👍*

09:20:35 From AC Paul Engelmeyer to Everyone:

*Will you send out the link to the information ie*

09:22:24 From Jim Fairchild, Audubon Corvallis to Everyone:

*The report gave acreages, wasn't that based on those definitions?*

09:26:00 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:

*<https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-forest-service-and-bureau-land-management-see-public-comments-definitions-other>*

09:27:57 From OCCFC Monthly Meeting to Everyone:

*Thanks, Chuck!*

09:31:37 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:

*Michelle - congrats on the money to remove abandoned RVs from the forest in Lincoln County. I often see them in the forest and it's a big problem.*

09:34:43 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:

*Sign up here for the Canoe Culture webcast 4/26 at 6 pm. Jesse Beers of Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw. Free and open to the public. <https://oregonwild.org/events/canoe-culture-confederated-tribes-coos-lower-umpqua-and-siuslaw>*

09:48:38 From OCCFC Monthly Meeting to Everyone:

*Chuck, are you able to share a link to existing GIS maps on this topic?*

*09:51:29 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:*

*<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/siuslaw/?project=59122>*

*09:55:21 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:*

*what act was the new CE provided in?*

*09:56:47 From Anna Hamilton, Triangle, she/her to Everyone:*

*Thanks for your question, Kelly! We'll add it to the queue to address after the presentation.*

*09:58:10 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:*

*<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/19/2020-25465/national-environmental-policy-act-nepa-compliance>*

*10:00:41 From Jim Fairchild, Audubon Corvallis to Everyone:*

*If temporary road decommissioning within 3 years is required under this CE, but not allowed w/o roads management which would need to be covered under an EA), how does actual road decommissioning take place under the CE? I am confused.*

*10:02:11 From Anna Hamilton, Triangle, she/her to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "If temporary road de..." with 👍*

*10:03:55 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*I didn't understand the differences between reserves and management landscape area allocations*

*10:04:10 From Anna Hamilton, Triangle, she/her to Everyone:*

*Thanks for your questions, Jim and Fran. We've added them to the queue!*

*10:04:29 From AC Paul Engelmeyer to Everyone:*

*I have a few questions*

*10:06:08 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:*

*The CE allows up a maximum miles of road construction but not required. If temp roads are constructed for the CE, they must be decommed within 3 yrs.*

*10:06:10 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*what are the buffers around Marbled Murrelet nesting trees?*

*10:07:54 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:*

*Riparian Reserves overly the other management allocations - the 2 Adaptive Management Areas he displayed.*

*10:09:44 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:*

*What date would the Forest Service like input by on Little Gaudy?*

*10:10:38 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:*

*for us to give input, we need time to go into the field and see the site*

*10:11:47 From Jim Fairchild, Audubon Corvallis to Everyone:*

*How do you go about identifying a marbled murrelet nest structure, and then go about choosing to buffer or otherwise protect it?*

*10:11:54 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:*

*who is the contact at SNF if we have questions after this meeting?*

*10:16:00 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:*

*Leave my blackberries alone.*

*10:16:13 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:*

*I love blackberries.*

*10:16:54 From Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "I love blackberries." with 🤔*

*10:19:49 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:*

*Thank you for this presentation but we really need more time to interact with the Forest Service on this project. This isn't enough.*

*10:54:47 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*I think this is related to USFS loss of staff on a continual basis!*

*10:57:46 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*i.e the long delays in N. Fork Smith is related to USFS loss of staff...*

*10:58:01 From Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "i.e the long delays ..." with 👍*

*10:58:51 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "i.e the long delays ..." with 👍*

*10:58:55 From Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Thank you for this p..." with 👍*

*10:59:00 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*Removed a 👍 reaction from "i.e the long delays ..."*

*10:59:01 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "i.e the long delays ..." with 👍*

*10:59:03 From Fran Recht to Everyone:*

*Removed a 👍 reaction from "i.e the long delays ..."*

*11:04:02 From Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:*

*I didn't see them.*

*11:36:59 From david eisler to Everyone:*

*got to run early,Dave*

*11:37:25 From Anna Hamilton, Triangle, she/her to Everyone:*

*Thank you, Dave!*

*12:07:52 From OCCFC Monthly Meeting to Everyone:*

*[https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-forest-service-and-bureau-land-management-  
seek-public-comments-definitions-other](https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-forest-service-and-bureau-land-management-<br/>seek-public-comments-definitions-other)*

*12:07:57 From Georgia Mitchell, Forest Bridges (non-member) to Everyone:*

*Many thanks for allowing me to observe today. I really appreciated the insight on your process and projects.*

**Meeting Notes**  
Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Meeting  
5/12/2023 9:00am – 10:30pm  
Online

ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Doug Heikin, Oregon Wild
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Marc Barnes, IRM
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- *Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific RC+D (non-voting)*
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

*Forest Service:*

- Adriana Morales, Fish Biologist
- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist
- Crystal Barnes, Hebo Wildlife Biologist
- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Hannah “Ruth” Halla, Hebo Silviculturist
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger

**Notes Key**

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Text in **red** denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#) of this document.

## WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS/ AGENDA OVERVIEW

The Coordinator for the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (OCCFC/ the Collaborative) welcomed participants to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. She led a round of introductions and reminded participants that Collaborative members decided at the April 24 meeting to repurpose the group's May meeting time to continue the conversation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) about the Little Gaudy Restoration Categorical Exclusion (CE) project.

## PRESENTATION: DEEP DIVE INTO RESTORATION CE'S

- Katie Richardson, USFS, gave a presentation covering the importance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and explained how the USFS is utilizing Restoration CE's in accordance with the 2020 NEPA updates issued by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Katie's presentation is accessible on the [OCCFC OneDrive](#).
- Federal agencies can create CEs 1) Legislatively; or 2) Through the NEPA statute.
- To create a CE though NEPA, federal agencies are required to present multiple Environmental Assessments (EA) / Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to CEQ that document conditions in multiple contexts and show that a proposed action does not have significant effects. Once CEQ approves, the agency publishes the proposed CE in the Federal Register for public comment.
- The legislative avenue is not utilized often in the Oregon Coast range.
- Project proposed action steps still happen in CEs, but the agency does not analyze the effects of actions on the landscape because CEQ had approved that the action likely would not have an effect.
- USFS is still required to meet the requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan, NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and other environmental, cultural and historic preservation laws when utilizing CEs.

### Questions

- 1) **How does USFS know if an impact is "significant" for purposes of NEPA and CEs? –** Demonstrating "significance" is a high bar to achieve because it depends on context and intensity. While impacts may occur on natural resources to be significant, courts prefer the impacts to be broad (more than 2800 acres) or of high importance (impacting a species or population at large, rather than individuals).

## PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: LITTLE GAULDY RESTORATION CE

- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger, introduced himself and shared his intentions towards working on the Forest and what he hopes to accomplish in collaboration with the OCCFC. He feels strongly about conservation and restoration and believes in the restoration work that the Siuslaw National Forest is doing. He spoke to his practice of assuming positive intent throughout his work and in the work of others.
- Shawn revisited the presentation he gave at the OCCFC's April meeting on the Little Gaudy Restoration CE. Participants were reminded that the purpose of the Little Gaudy project is to



restore young plantations, in Adaptive Management Areas, Adaptive Management Reserves, and Riparian Reserves, to accelerate the development of late-successional and old-growth characteristics. Shawn's presentation and supporting materials are available on the Collaborative's [OneDrive](#).

- Shawn walked through each of the proposed actions and took questions, provided below:

### **Questions**

- 2) Is it possible to share Little Gaudy project maps in KML/jpg format? Specifically, having access to an interior forest map (updated) to overlay onto the Little Gaudy Restoration Project Map will help inform habitat connectivity discussions in the future.** - Shawn has submitted a ticket request to USFS's Digital Resources Management (DRM) office and is awaiting a response.

*Action Item: Shawn will update the OCCFC on the status of his request to DRM for KML/jpg maps of the Little Gaudy project area.*

- 3) To what extent is carbon accounting considered in CEs?** - NEPA does not currently require an agency to include carbon accounting in its analysis. Little Gaudy will follow Forest Service policy in addressing carbons storage.
- 4) Are there any pure Alder stands in the project area?** –Alders appear in the project area along riparian areas or roads, but there are no pure stands in the project area.
- 5) Do you try to retain any diversity that is there? E.g. Cherry/Big Leaf Maple?** – Ruth Halla, Hebo Silviculturist, shared that her wildlife team does ground-truthing in concert with pre-sale and sale teams to identify unique habitat and protect those types of features on the landscape. There is also spruce in the stand. Ruth has seen one big leaf maple, but it won't be a cut species unless it poses a safety concern. Treatments would not remove a species that exists in the stand. USFS will go in and plant cedar, spruce and hemlock after treatments are complete.
- 6) What definition of "mature" is USFS using on this project?** – Whether a stand is considered "mature" for purposes of silviculture depends on the characteristics found in that stand. USFS definitions of "mature" and "old growth" are available [online](#).
- 7) Is there public access to the lands that are up for consideration for this project?** – There are currently blown down trees blocking some roads in the project area, but they should be cleared by May 24. Otherwise, access is open to the public.
- 8) How has USFS considered connectivity and road density in this project? I am concerned the Transportation proposed action doesn't go far enough. It should include watershed health and wildlife impact.** –There are two roads in the Little Gaudy project, both of which are in a storage status. USFS will not be adding any new roads. With respect to connectivity, Adriana Morales,

Fish Biologist, shared that USFS checks the impacts that proposed actions have on each corridor and have Project Design Criteria (PDCs) there that work to put erosion control measures in place that ensure water quality, wildlife and aquatic species are not impacted. Engineers and biologists are working together to minimize impacts.

- 9) (Slide 9) Are there ways to accelerate the creation of old growth habitat without negatively affecting the existing species and characteristics of remaining old growth habitat?** – Crystal Barnes, Wildlife Biologist, responded that the verbiage on Slide 9 is in Northwest Forest Plan. She noted that there is a difference between what USFS is required to do by the Forest Plan to protect for Late-Successional Reserve (LSR)/old growth, and what lands to use for production. All silviculture projects/treatments are designed to move towards LSR conditions with the goal to create more LSR for species and make the landscape better in the long term.

A Collaborative member clarified that the Collaborative does not exclusively want LSR conditions – it wants what is appropriate on the land. Collaborative members will discuss where on the forest LSR might be appropriate and share outcomes of that discussion with USFS.

*Action Item – OCCFC will discuss where on the forest LSR conditions are appropriate at its June meeting.*

- 10) I think using the CE in appropriate conditions is a great way to accomplish more treatments with a limited budget. Do you see more opportunities on the forest where these NEPA pathways can be used to gain efficiency?** – There are many activities covered by CEs, and each is used in accordance with rules that were given by CEQ. USFS strives to utilize whichever NEPA management pathway that is in the best interest of the project.

- 11) How was the Little Gaudy project area identified? Are there other stands available for similar CE projects?** – USFS's small sales forester contributed to where this project would be. When the project was identified, limiting factors included road/roadwork constraints and financial constraints. USFS doesn't want to create additional sedimentation, and including other nearby areas would have created too much roadwork from a cost standpoint or taken USFS past road restrictions of the CE. Other areas weren't ripe/ready or mature enough.

## WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS

The Coordinator shared results from a poll to schedule an early-summer field tour of the Little Gaudy project area. Based on responses to that poll and at the meeting, the field tour will be held on Friday, May 26. The Coordinator will work with Shawn and Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator, to organize details and logistics and will share a calendar invitation with the OCCFC and USFS after the meeting.

*Action Item: Alyssa will share a calendar invitation for the Little Gaudy field tour on May 26<sup>th</sup> with the OCCFC and USFS by COB 5/12/23.*

The Collaborative's next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Friday, June 9 from 9am-12pm**. The Coordinator will follow up with draft notes from this meeting by Friday, May 19.

**Action Item:** Alyssa will polish meeting notes and share with USFS and the OCCFC for comment/revision by Friday, May 19.

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Timing/Status</b>
<b>1</b>	Circle back with OCCFC on status of Little Gauldy CE maps in jpg and KML format	Shawn Rivera, Hebo DR	ASAP
<b>2</b>	OCCFC will discuss where on the forest LSR conditions are appropriate at its June meeting.	OCCFC/Coordinator	By 6/9/23
<b>3</b>	Share a calendar invitation for the Little Gauldy field tour on May 26 <sup>th</sup> with the OCCFC and USFS by COB 5/12/23.	Coordinator	Complete
<b>4</b>	Polish meeting notes and share with USFS and the OCCFC for comment/revision by Friday, May 19.	Coordinator	By 5/19/23

## APPENDIX B: ZOOM MEETING CHAT

KatieRichardsonUSFS to Everyone 9:33 AM

Doing an Environmental Assessment (EA) involves determining the significance or importance of likely environmental impacts. The regulations direct that this be done by considering two variables: "context" and "intensity."

"Context" is the geographic, biophysical, and social context in which the effects will occur. The regulations mention society as a whole, the region, and affected interests as examples of context. Considering contexts does not mean giving greater attention to, say, effects on society as a whole than to effects on a local area. On the contrary, the importance of a small-scale impact must be considered in the context of the local area, not dismissed because it does not have impacts on larger areas.

"Intensity" refers to the severity of the impact, in whatever context(s) it occurs. The regulations require that a number of variables be addressed in measuring intensity.

Fran Recht to Everyone 9:48 AM

It would be better for slide 9 to have accelerate the creating of old growth habitat WITHOUT NEGATIVELY AFFECTING THE EXISTING SPECIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF REMAINING OLD GROWTH HABITAT

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 9:48 AM

I think using the CE in appropriate conditions is a great way to accomplish more treatments with a limited budget. Do you see more opportunities on the forest where these NEPA pathways can be used to gain efficiency?

KatieRichardsonUSFS to Everyone 9:53 AM

Thanks for the question, Paul L! As we look to develop our program of work for future years we are always discussing what tools to apply. It is always a work in process.

Fran Recht to Everyone 9:58 AM

I don't disagree Paul L., but if we don't look for potential negative impacts of sales or actions within 300' of a nest, e.g. we might not see affects on soil drying, blow down, predation etc. for the first purpose and need

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 9:59 AM

Are you trying to say they are not doing that with a CE?

Fran Recht to Everyone 10:00 AM

It's not entirely clear... that they analyze blow down etc.

crystalbarnes to Everyone 10:01 AM

Hi Fran, we do analyze areas of blow down with our treatments. Ruth can talk about this further :)

Ruth Halla to Everyone 10:01 AM

I went ahead and pulled up the language from the North Coast Range AMA guide: management emphasis is on the "restoration and maintenance of late-successional forest, conservation of fisheries habitat and biological diversity"

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 10:01 AM

From my understanding, the CE is used because the USFS believes they have already investigated what they believe is important in past EAs that are similar to this new CE treatment area.

KatieRichardsonUSFS to Everyone 10:04 AM

Thanks for that clarification Marc! Another nuance to our discussion.

Fran Recht to Everyone 10:07 AM

do you try to retain any diversity that is there? e.g. cherry? big leaf maple?

crystalbarnes to Everyone 10:09 AM

Fran, yes, my wildlife team does ground truthing in concert with our pre-sale and silv teams to identify unique habitat and protect those types of features on the landscape.

Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone 10:12 AM

Recent definition

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/mature-and-old-growth-forests-tech.pdf>

Eric Andersen - USFS to You (Direct Message) 10:14 AM

Time check? Good conversation, Q&A.

You to Eric Andersen - USFS (Direct Message) 10:14 AM

We have about 10 min

Eric Andersen - USFS to You (Direct Message) 10:14 AM

ok

crystalbarnes to Everyone 10:18 AM

Adriana says that Little Gaudy only has 2 roads.

Marc Barnes -- Integrated Resource Management to Everyone 10:26 AM

A KML would be very helpful

Well Said Englemeyer!

Joan Hagar has a late seral GIS layer which might be very useful for this analysis

joan\_hagar@usgs.gov

Marc Barnes -- Integrated Resource Management to Everyone 10:32 AM

Here is a link to that layer:

<https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/5b071250e4b0ac450c98b538>

Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone 10:32 AM

There is a carbon accounting dashboard that are being drafted that should help.

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 10:32 AM

Will all stewardship projects that receive money from the USFS be performing the same carbon accounting as well? Such as projects receiving Stewardship off forest funding?

Chuck Fisher, USFS to Everyone 10:34 AM

Example

AC Paul Englemeyer to You (Direct Message) 10:34 AM

Does not work for me

Ruth Halla to Everyone 10:34 AM

I am not available on the 26th

AC Paul Engelmeyer to You (Direct Message) 10:36 AM

I will not be available until later in the summer -

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 10:37 AM

See everyone later. I have to go.

Marc Barnes -- Integrated Resource Management to Everyone 10:38 AM

doodle poll?

You to Everyone 10:38 AM

<https://doodle.com/meeting/organize/id/bWQ1YQJe>

Marc Barnes -- Integrated Resource Management to Everyone 10:38 AM

will do

AC Paul Engelmeyer to Everyone 10:41 AM

Just want to let folks know we are doing murrelet community event July 18/19th here around Cape P landscape - a flyer be sent around soon/

Marc Barnes -- Integrated Resource Management to Everyone 10:42 AM

KML

## Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday June 9, 9:00am – 12:00pm Online Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

##### *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Anna Hamilton, Triangle Associates (meeting support, non-voting)*
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) *(non-voting)*

##### *Forest Service:*

- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist
- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator
- Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger
- Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Staff Officer
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger

#### **Notes Key**

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.



## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### 1. Introductions: Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor

- Becca Brooke has been selected as the new Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor. Becca introduced herself to the Collaborative, noting that she joins the U.S. Forest Service (USFS/Forest Service) after working for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- Collaborative members had the chance to introduce themselves and ask questions.
- A Collaborative member suggested that Supervisor Brooke watch [Seeing the Forest](#), a short film about how early restoration efforts on the Siuslaw have benefitted communities and the forest ecosystem. Supervisor Brooke shared that she has begun reading *Toward a Natural Forest* by Jim Furnish and is doing her best to come up to speed.

### 2. Hebo Ranger District: Shawn Rivera

- The Hebo Ranger District is wrapping up its project design criteria for the Little Gaudy Restoration Categorical Exclusion (CE) project.
- Forest Service is preparing maps to upload to the Hebo Ranger District's website as soon as they are available. This will include shapefiles of Little Gaudy in addition to PDF maps.
- Recreation staff is preparing for field season and preparing recreation sites for public use.
- Information relating to the Little Gaudy Restoration CE is available on the Collaborative's [OneDrive](#).

### 3. Central Coast Ranger District: Jeremy Aujero and Joanie Schmidgall

- The Central Coast Ranger District was awarded a roof repairs contract for the Cape Perpetua Visitor's Center, Oregon Dunes Recreation Area, and other work centers. Contractors will begin at the southern end of the ranger district and work north. The district is working with contractors to give notice due to high public interest.
- The district is working to prepare for the summer tourism season and mitigating the impact to landowners and companies that operate in and around the Oregon Dunes Recreation Area. New special use staff and permitting will include conversations about the impacts of sound and notice about impacted areas.
- An aide from Representative Val Hoyle's office, Olivia Willhite, visited the Central Coast District the week of May 29. Representative Hoyle is interested in restoration thinning, specifically in the late successional reserve (LSR) allocation.
- Collaborative members asked USFS the following questions:

- a. **What is the status of the Snowy Plover so far this year, in terms of fledging and young identified in the Oregon Dunes Recreation Area?** - Some staffers roped off five new nests they found so it sounds like they're doing well. Additionally, USFS has recently completed the Siuslaw National Forest's Biennial Monitoring Evaluation Report (BMER) which includes research about the snowy plover from 2020-2021. Joanie will be sharing the BMER in an official news release later today (June 9, 2023).

[Update: Link to the USFS news release is available here:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1089772.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1089772.pdf)]

- b. **Why is Rep. Hoyle interested in thinning in LSR?** - This field visit was paired with Willamette National Forest fire impacts visit. The staffer was interested in that project and wanted to see how different Forests are taking different approaches to managing forestlands under the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP).
- c. **Did Rep. Hoyle's aide ask about the implementation of the NWFP or progress of the President's Executive Order on mature and old growth stands?** - Neither of these topics came up specifically. Ms. Willhite and USFS staff talked about LSR thinning and restoration, what the Siuslaw's niche was when the NWFP was created in 1994. They also discussed how the Siuslaw was seen as an area that could move towards LSR in a sea of intensive forest management on the coast.

#### 4. Collaborative ZOA Status Update: Collaborative Members

- The Collaborative Group's Roads Subcommittee and Wildlife Subcommittee met on Monday, June 5 to continue their work identifying Zones of Agreement (ZOAs).
- The Roads Subcommittee reached consensus on 10 draft ZOA statements, which the Collaborative will review later during the meeting and attempt to reach consensus as a full group.
- Eric Andersen (USFS) asked what timeframe USFS can expect for the Collaborative to review those draft ZOA statements and what the consensus process looks like.
  - The Collaborative Group Coordinator shared that the Subcommittee reached preliminary consensus on these draft statements. The Subcommittee will present the draft statements to the full Collaborative later in the meeting agenda.
  - If two-thirds of voting members are available to review the statements, they will test consensus. If consensus is reached, the statements can be shared with the Forest Service after the meeting. If not, they will return to the subcommittee for further discussion and revision.

- One Collaborative member asked how the Forest Service intends to use the ZOA statements.
  - Eric shared that ZOA statements help USFS understand what the Collaborative is thinking about specific topics and will inform future conversations related to forest management between the Collaborative and USFS.
  - It is important to the Collaborative Group that USFS understand that full group consensus on certain topics or projects does not negate diverse interests and opinions of Collaborative members as affiliates of the organizations they represent.

**5. NF Smith Status Update: Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger**

- Jeremy shared that the North Fork Smith Environmental Assessment (EA)'s preliminary proposed actions (PPA) were sent to the Tribes on June 6, 2023. The USFS anticipates sharing the PPAs with the Collaborative Group and the general public as part of the NEPA scoping process by the end of June.

**6. Report Out: May 26 Little Gaudy Field Trip: Collaborative Members**

- Collaborative members participated in a half-day field tour of the Little Gaudy Restoration CE area on May 26, 2023.
- Collaborative member, Kelly Fuller (Oregon Wild) shared highlights of the Little Gaudy Field Tour.
- Eric proposed that notes that participants took during the field tour be compiled and shared with the USFS and Collaborative Group. *[Update: Collaborative members discussed this request during the second half of the meeting and concluded that it would be helpful in the future to designate an individual(s) to take notes on behalf of the Collaborative Group if needed. Collaborative members that participated in the Little Gaudy Field Tour took personal notes on behalf of their individual organizations and do not feel comfortable sharing those notes with USFS.]*
- Notes and photos from the field tour are available on the Collaborative's [OneDrive](#).

-----USFS Staff Leaves-----

#### DEBRIEF USFS PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES (20 MIN)

The Collaborative group debriefed about USFS updates and had the following takeaways:

- It is important that Becca Brooke fully understand the rate and implications of staff turnover at the Forest Service. Kirk Shimeall (Cascade Pacific) offered to share the Collaborative's concerns with Becca in the coming weeks.
- ❖ **Action Item:** Kirk will speak with Becca about the Collaborative's concerns on USFS staff turnover and vacancies.
- There are broad cultural differences between the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. Collaborative members expressed interest in getting to know Becca better and reaching out on a more personal basis.

#### MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- The Collaborative approved meeting minutes from March, April, and May 2023.
- The Coordinator will convert the minutes to PDFs and share with Cascade Pacific to upload to the Collaborative's website.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will share approved minutes with Cascade Pacific to upload to the Collaborative's website.

#### REFLECTIONS ON THE LITTLE GAULDY FIELD TOUR, MAY 26 2023

- Two of the three Collaborative members that attended the field tour on May 26 expressed disappointment that more Collaborative members were not able to attend due to scheduling conflicts.
- In response to the USFS's request that Collaborative members share their notes from the Little Gauldy Field Tour, members shared that they do not feel comfortable sharing their notes retroactively but suggested that an official notetaker could be identified in advance if needed.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The OCCFC Coordinator will share with the USFS liaison that Collaborative members will not share notes this time, but will suggest that perhaps an official notetaker can be identified in advance of the next field tour.
- The Collaborative recognized that the Little Gauldy field tour was scheduled quickly to accommodate the accelerated process of a Restoration CE, but in the future would appreciate advanced notice to clear their schedules and help ensure more Collaborative members can attend. The Coordinator will relay this concern to USFS.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will request that USFS work with the Collaborative to schedule future field tours with as much advance notice as possible and ensure maximum attendance.

- It was suggested that “Ten Mile” might be a good field trip to illustrate how the Siuslaw NF is succeeding under the Northwest Forest Plan.
- Wildfire smoke and the potential for an early summer field season should be considered in scheduling future field tours.

## ONGOING WORK

### 1. Roads Draft ZOA Progress Update

- Collaborative Members reviewed the Draft Collaborative ZOA Statements proposed by the Roads Subcommittee.
- The Coordinator reviewed the Collaborative’s Operating Protocols for language on the consensus process and noted a quorum of voting members were present at the meeting.
- The Collaborative group reached consensus to support the following statements, provided in full in the Roads Subcommittee Draft ZOA Statements document.

#### **Consensus Reached:**

- **Statement 1:** Budget Allocation
- **Statement 2:** When performing an Environmental Assessment (EA), Categorical Exclusion (CE), and all project planning where road treatments or impacts may be considered, the SNF should prepare an accurate map layer of all roads, including legacy roads.
- **Statement 3:** Update the Road Risk Analysis Maps in the Travel Analysis Report Appendices G and H (2014) within the project boundaries with current condition information
- **Statement 4:** Evaluate the level of access needed for continuing or future uses to avoid inefficiencies in time and money that occur if a road must be reopened to get to areas that now need management or additional road decommissioning further up the system.
- **Statement 5:** Reduce road-associated problems (e.g., by road risk map layer) by:
- **Statement 6:** Promote Habitat Connectivity and Species Recovery
- **Statement 7:** Promote Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) *Note: Although the Collaborative reached consensus on Statement 7 as written as a “first step”, it may choose to revisit or expand this statement to reflect the interests below:*
  - This statement is narrow. It is important to the Collaborative that culverts on fish-bearing and non-fish-bearing streams allow for broad passage of fish, woody debris, sediment and amphibians.
  - **Question:** Are amphibians considered when Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) is not required on non-fish bearing streams?

- **Question:** What is the standard culvert/bridge size that will ensure ecosystem processes and passage of wood, sediment, and amphibians?
- **Statement 8:** Reduce the number of temporary roads built
- **Statement 10:** Reduce Fire Potential

**Consensus Not Reached:**

- **Statement 9:** Invasive Species
- The Collaborative did not reach consensus on **Draft Statement 9**, which will return to the Roads Subcommittee for further discussion on July 10, 2023.
- To help inform this discussion, the Collaborative would like to know what the USFS’s policy on using herbicides to remove invasive species (as opposed to manual removal). The Coordinator will relay this question to USFS.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will relay the Collaborative’s questions on invasives removal and the facilitation of ecosystem processes and organism passage through culverts to the USFS.
- The Coordinator will revise the Roads ZOA Statements to reflect that the Collaborative reached consensus on Statements 1-8, 10, and will remove Statement 9 for further discussion at the Roads Subcommittee’s next meeting on Monday July 10.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will revise the Roads ZOA Statements to reflect that the Collaborative reached consensus on Statements 1-8, 10, and will remove Statement 9 for further discussion.

**2. Wildlife Subcommittee Updates**

- Wildlife Subcommittee members are currently working to draft preliminary statements relating to the topics of Beaver, Threatened/Endangered Species, Wildlife Habitat, and Non-Endangered Species to inform ZOA discussions at the Subcommittee’s next meeting.
- The Subcommittee continues to struggle to align on priority ZOA topics.
- Previously, the Subcommittee had considered drafting a conservation option at previous Wildlife Subcommittee meetings.
- A Collaborative member expressed discomfort with an occurrence in a past Wildlife Committee meeting in which Collaborative Member suggested the possibility of legal action on the Forest.
- It was noted that Collaborative members are free to pursue litigation outside of the Collaborative at any point, members of this Collaborative group have agreed to participate in this Forest Collaborative through a process of collaboration.

- The Coordinator encouraged Collaborative members to continue show up in this Collaborative space in good faith and in accordance with the group's ground rules.

### 3. **Assessment Results & Recommendations**

- The Coordinator prepared a presentation of her findings from 1:1 interviews with Collaborative members that took place throughout the Spring of 2023. There was insufficient time at the June Collaborative meeting for a full presentation of those findings or for the Coordinator to share process recommendations with the Collaborative for its consideration.
- In the interest of time, Collaborative members requested that the Coordinator share her slides for the Collaborative to review outside of the meeting.
- The Coordinator will share a PDF of the slides summarizing her findings and recommendations for the Collaborative's review and comment at its July meeting.

❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will share a PDF of her findings and recommendations presentation with the Collaborative for review and comment.

### 4. **Wrap-Up**

- The Coordinator confirmed the dates below for the Collaborative's July meetings:
  - July 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00pm, Wildlife Subcommittee meeting
  - July 10<sup>th</sup> 11:30am-1:30pm, Roads Subcommittee meeting
  - July 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-12:00pm, Full OCCFC meeting
- The meeting was adjourned.

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Timing/Status</b>
<b>1</b>	USFS will strive to share NF Smith EA Preliminary Proposed Actions with the Collaborative by the end of June, 2023. Include a proposed timeline for the Collaborative to reference in its review.	<b>USFS</b>	<b>End of June</b>
<b>2</b>	Speak with Becca Brooke about the Collaborative's concerns relating to USFS staff turnover	<b>Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific</b>	<b>July 14</b>
<b>3</b>	Share approved March, April and May meeting minutes with Cascade Pacific to upload to the OCCFC's website	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>4</b>	Share that the Collaborative will not share notes this time, but will suggest that perhaps an official notetaker can be identified in advance of the next field tour.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>5</b>	Request that USFS work with the Collaborative to schedule future field tours with as much advance notice as possible and ensure maximum attendance.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>July 14</b>
<b>6</b>	Relay the Collaborative's questions on invasives removal and the facilitation of ecosystem processes and organism passage through culverts to the USFS.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>July 09</b>
<b>7</b>	Revise the Roads ZOA Statements to reflect that the Collaborative reached consensus on Statements 1-8, 10, and will remove Statement 9 for further discussion.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>June 30</b>
<b>8</b>	Share a PDF of assessment findings and recommendations presentation with the Collaborative for review and comment.	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>June 30</b>



## APPENDIX B: ZOOM CHAT

09:28:30 From Becca Brooke, USFS to Everyone:

The same staffer also visited BLM on the same trip, I think they are just familiarizing themselves with the local land management agencies

09:31:19 From Joanie Schmidgall USFS to Everyone:

I can drop the link in the chat, stand by

09:32:12 From Joanie Schmidgall USFS to Everyone:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1089772.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1089772.pdf)

09:44:41 From eric andersen - usfs to Everyone:

I'll follow up with Alyssa regarding a panel on roads or another topic.

09:52:19 From Alyssa Bonini to Everyone:

"Seeing the Forest": <https://alanhonick.com/seeing-the-forest-2/>

09:53:04 From Becca Brooke, USFS to Everyone:

I've seen Jim's video and I also just bought his book :)

09:53:13 From Alyssa Bonini to Everyone:

Reacted to "I've seen Jim's vide..." with 


09:57:54 From Joanie Schmidgall USFS to Everyone:

I hear you Chuck! The NWFP is central to our management decisions and still very much relevant.

10:32:59 From Kirk Shimeall CPRCD to Everyone:

am going to watch my son's thesis defense...will step back in shortly. keep notes about what you want/need from me/CPRCD

10:33:26 From Rhonda Black - Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "am going to watch my..." with 

10:37:27 From Alyssa Bonini to Everyone:

Thanks Kirk, will do!

10:50:09 From Kelly Fuller - Oregon Wild - W. OR field coordinator to Everyone:

Do we have quorum for approving the roads document today?

10:50:20 From Alyssa Bonini to Everyone:

With Paul we do, yes

11:04:20 From Kirk Shimeall CPRCD to Everyone:

I am not a voting member...but CPRCD is supportive of whatever the group can get behind! :>)

11:53:42 From Kirk Shimeall CPRCD to Everyone:

"History is made by those who show up"...lol

11:54:48 From Rhonda Black - Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to ""History is made by ..." with 😊

## Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday, July 14, 9:00am – 12:00pm Hybrid Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

##### *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Jim Fairchild, Audubon Society Corvallis
- Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Anna Hamilton, Triangle Associates (meeting support, non-voting)*
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)

##### *Forest Service:*

- Andrew Mayer, Recreation, Lands, Heritage Staff Officer
- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist
- Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer
- Katie Isacksen, Forest NEPA Planner
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Michele Homan, Central Coast District Ranger
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger

#### **Notes Key**

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- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### 1. Forest Supervisor: Becca Brooke

- Forest Supervisor Brooke is six weeks into her new position and has been able to visit each of the ranger stations.
- She shared that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is continuing to fill out Forest leadership and has recently added a forest safety officer, an administrative officer, and a fire management officer to its staff.
- She recently attended a regional leadership meeting where the following topics were discussed: wildfire strategy, employee housing, human resources contracting, and Inflation Reduction Act funding.
  - Fran Recht, OCCFC, shared that one of the Roads Subcommittee Zones of Agreement (ZOA) includes a suggestion about fire management.
  - Paul Engelmeyer, OCCFC, shared that the topic of fire management was contentious last year and emphasized the importance of knowing who among National Forest staff to call with news of fires.

### 2. Hebo Ranger District: Shawn Rivera

- The Hebo Ranger District is ready to initiate a scoping letter for the Little Gauldy Restoration CE project. The Collaborative will be able to comment individually on Little Gauldy and comments are due by August 14.
- There was a major landslide on the 1861 Road, which provides access to Cascade Head. The Hebo Ranger District is looking at courses of action to open the road back up but that will likely take a couple of years.
- The Hebo Ranger District has been doing meadow maintenance on Mt. Hebo to support the silverspot butterfly.
- The District's NEPA Planner, Hannah Smith is back from her detail.
- Kate Isacksen, Forest NEPA Planner, has been working on Little Gauldy.

*Update: USFS initiated the scoping period on the Little Gauldy Restoration CE project on July 14. Comments are due by August 14. The OCCFC has agreed to submit comments on the Little Gauldy Restoration CE individually and not as a Collaborative group.*

### 3. Central Coast Ranger District: Michele Holman

- James Pettett, District Hydrologist, is back from his detail.
- Jeff McPherson is the new Fisheries Biologist and will be stationed in Walport.
- The District's Fire Program has been active this year and has increased staffing to two prevention employees and three fuels employees. The District is currently focusing on education and fuels management, and recently took forest-wide fuels samples to get a sense of fuel moisture levels. The District is monitoring public use

restrictions moving through the summer dry months, and has two 10-person wildfire modules.

- Questions about fire suppression and management can be directed to Nathan Shinkel, Fire Management Officer, at [nathan.shinkle@usda.gov](mailto:nathan.shinkle@usda.gov).

#### **4. Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development Updates: Kirk Shimeall**

- Cascade Pacific received a 6-year, \$5.5 million grant from EPA for the [urban waters partnership](#), which is a group that works on storm water quality issues in the Eugene and Springfield area.
- Cascade Pacific looks forward to continuing to support the OCCFC on its work with the USFS.

#### **5. Collaborative Updates: Collaborative Members**

- Paul E. shared that there will be a Marbled Murrelet Survey event taking place at Cape Perpetua on July 18 & 19, 2023. He shared a link for those interested in attending to RSVP at <https://forms.gle/7sDJnSm7sPrSYiqZ8>.
- Fran announced that at the mid-coast water planning partnership meeting it was shared that there is going to be a level 2 drought announcement in Lincoln County soon.

### COLLABORATIVE ROADS ZOA DISCUSSION

- The OCCFC Roads Subcommittee shared the process by which they developed the 9 Zones of Agreement (ZOA) statements that the OCCFC reached consensus on and shared with USFS in June 2023.
- To develop its ZOA statements, the Roads Subcommittee reviewed ZOAs from the Hood River National Forest and Siuslaw Roads Analysis Report and worked to select, re-organize, and synthesize them.
- Michele asked if Subcommittee members could expand upon the intent behind the ZOAs. With respect to ZOA #3, for example, what does the OCCFC intend to achieve by asking the Forest Service to update the road analysis map? Is the process of how USFS gets the information important or is the priority the information itself?
  - Collaborative members clarified that access to LIDAR information is important to them. The goal is to use the most updated, fine-scale information available to capture legacy roads, which might not have shown up otherwise.
  - Eric Andersen, USFS Liaison to the OCCFC, shared that the USFS will be flying LIDAR over the Siuslaw National Forest in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 2024-2025. Data acquired during those flights will be publicly available and shared with the OCCFC.

- ❖ **Action Item:** USFS will share information about LIDAR flights projected to occur over the SNF in 2024-2025.
- It would be helpful for the USFS to compile remaining questions for the OCCFC on its Roads ZOAs and share them with the OCCFC Coordinator.
- ❖ **Action Item:** USFS will compile written questions for the Roads Subcommittee and share them with the OCCFC Coordinator before the OCCFC's next meeting.
- Katie Richardson, USFS, asked if there is interest from Collaborative members to hear a presentation on USFS Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPs) in the future. Collaborative members expressed interest and the OCCFC Coordinator will follow up with Katie to begin planning a presentation to take place at a future OCCFC meeting or separately.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The OCCFC Coordinator will work with Katie R. to organize a future WRAPs presentation.
- The Roads Subcommittee is interested in the USFS exploring ways to separate invasives treatment from timber contracts. It is important for the Subcommittee to hear from USFS about its approach to handling invasives, starting with documentation of who makes that call to implement manual versus herbicidal controls and how the decision is made.
  - Michele clarified that USFS uses manual controls including weed pulling and using a steaming machine to kill non-native invasives. USFS is constantly looking for new and state-of-the-art activities to manage non-native invasives.
  - Manual controls are typically used in limited, small, or new populations. There is a large area to manage and so the geographical scale and scope of contracting pose challenges to managing invasives through manual controls exclusively.
  - Collaborative members shared that The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative regularly organizes volunteers for hand pulling. USFS also supports hand-pulling volunteer days and weed pulling days within the Siuslaw school system.
  - Collaborative members requested clarification on agency policy on herbicide/pesticide use, a list of targeted invasives, and a list of strategies used to address each invasive and a statement of quantity.
- ❖ **Action Item:** Eric will gather information on USFS herbicide/pesticide policy for invasives management on the Siuslaw National Forest and share with the OCCFC Coordinator.
  - Given the scope of the conversation on invasives, it was suggested that it may be helpful for the OCCFC to consider focusing ZOAs on invasives specifically.

## NORTH FORK SMITH PRELIMINARY PROPOSED ACTIONS DISCUSSION

- Preliminary Proposed Actions (PPAs) on the North Fork Smith (NF Smith) project were shared with the OCCFC and the public on June 22.
  - Public engagement on NF Smith is scheduled to continue through the end of July 2023 as part of the pre-scoping period, not in the NEPA phase. After public engagement, USFS will begin conducting an effects analysis in August or September before releasing the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft decision notice during a combined scoping and 30-day comment period.
  - As a next step, it would be helpful for the FS to be able to hear reactions, such as a letter of support or disagreement on NF Smith PPAs.
  - The NF Smith PPA and supporting information/maps are available here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/siuslaw/?project=59122>
- Dave Eisler, OCCFC, requested an update from USFS on the scale of its DECAid analysis for large wood. DECAid is a silvicultural tool used to evaluate standing deadwood/downed wood. USFS will follow up with Dave with his requested information.
- ❖ **Action Item: USFS will report back on what scale is used in the DECAid analysis.**

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### -----USFS Staff Leaves-----

## DEBRIEF USFS PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

The Collaborative group debriefed the first half of the meeting shared the following:

- The Collaborative does not currently have the capacity to align on technical recommendations to the USFS on the NF Smith PPAs. It was suggested that the Collaborative should consider striving to link its Roads ZOAs to draft recommendations on USFS NEPA projects.
- In the short-term, Collaborative members expressed interest in drafting an official letter to the USFS expressing appreciation for the USFS's engagement with the OCCFC to date, as a gesture of goodwill. The OCCFC would like the letter to include a paragraph acknowledging the Forest Service's expanded time and effort including field trips, additional meetings, and general availability for their staff to engage with the Collaborative.
- Paul Lulay, OCCFC, volunteered to work with the Coordinator to create an initial draft to share with the full Collaborative by COB July 21. The full Collaborative will have 1 week to review and edit before returning a final draft to the Coordinator to share with USFS by COB Friday, July 28.

- ❖ **Action Item:** Paul L. will work with the OCCFC Coordinator to draft a “letter of goodwill” from the OCCFC to the USFS by COB July 21.

## ONGOING WORK

### Wildlife Subcommittee Updates:

- The Wildlife Subcommittee is still working to identify the scope of the group’s focus. The Coordinator will work with the Subcommittee via email over the next month to try and determine the group’s focus or whether the group should pause meetings temporarily.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will work with the Wildlife Subcommittee to gauge interest in continuing to meet and/or identify the desired scope of the Subcommittee’s work.

### Roads Subcommittee Updates:

- The Roads Subcommittee supports expanding the effort to control invasives and is awaiting USFS responses on how it determines whether to use manual or herbicidal controls on the forest. To provide space for OCCFC members to discuss this further, members supported a motion to create an Invasives and Herbicides Subcommittee.
- David, Paul E., and Paul L. volunteered to participate in the subcommittee.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will poll the Collaborative to see who would like to join the new subcommittee and will work to identify a date for the Subcommittee to meet.

### Science Panel:

- The Collaborative supports organizing a fall science panel featuring a presentation by Professor Chris Frissell on the impacts of Roads on aquatic habitat and connectivity.
- In addition to Professor Frissell, it would be helpful to invite a third-party (not USFS or OCCFC) roads engineer or specialist talk about road construction/design/layout.
- ❖ **Action Item:** Paul E will work with the Coordinator to begin scheduling a fall science panel featuring Professor Chris Frissell.

## SPRING 2023 ASSESSMENT REPORT

- The Coordinator provided a presentation summarizing the results of an assessment conducted in Spring 2023 and included several short, medium, and long-term recommendations for Collaborative members’ consideration:
  - **Short-Term:**
    - Improve communication: weekly/biweekly digests, shared calendar.



- Streamline Info sharing: Re—form the Operations Subcommittee to help reduce Coordinator bottleneck.
  - **Medium-Term:**
    - Reinforce decision-making processes: streamline ZOA process; agree on intended meeting outcomes consider biweekly subcommittee meetings.
  - **Long-Term:**
    - Team-building, collaboration trainings with USFS
- Collaborative members were requested to consider which (if any) of the proposed recommendations they would like the Coordinator to spend time on and to share those with the Coordinator before the Collaborative’s next meeting.
  - ❖ **Action Item:** Collaborative members will consider which recommendations they would like the Coordinator to prioritize by the group’s August 11 meeting.

## WRAP UP

### Meeting Minutes Approval

- The Collaborative prefers to approve the June meeting minutes via email. The Coordinator will follow up with a request for June meeting minutes approval via email after this meeting.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will share June meeting minutes with Collaborative members for approval.

### Final Comments

- Chuck Willer requested information on whether the USFS will be conducting a roads survey on the Siuslaw National Forest. He is particularly interested in roads that are primarily used for non-recreational purposes. The Coordinator will relay this request to USFS and report back with any information.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will ask the USFS whether it plans to conduct a roads survey focusing on primary use of roads on the Siuslaw National Forest.
- The Collaborative would be interested in understanding the Siuslaw National Forest’s budget relative to the USFS budget generally. The Coordinator noted that this information should be part of the public record and will follow up with USFS for helpful links.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will find out where Collaborative members can learn more about the USFS’s budget.

*Update: a line-by-line of the Siuslaw National Forest’s budget is accessible online:*

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance>

- Paul E. requested clarification on who to contact with questions about the USFS's monitoring report. He also requested that the Coordinator pass OCCFC information and meeting invitations along to two individuals that have expressed interest in joining the OCCFC:
  - Kody Osborn, National Wildlife Federation
  - Carol Van Strum, Author
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will share OCCFC information and meeting invitations with Kody Osborn and Carol Van Strum.

### Upcoming Meetings

- The Coordinator confirmed the dates below for the Collaborative's August meetings:
  - August 7, 2:00 – 4:00pm, Wildlife Subcommittee meeting
  - August 7, 11:30am – 12:00pm, Roads Subcommittee meeting
  - TBD, Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee meeting
  - August 11, 9:00am – 12:00pm, Full OCCFC meeting
- Coordinator OOO Update: Coordinator out of the country August 21-September 4.
- ❖ **Action Item:** The Coordinator will follow-up with a poll to confirm whether the next OCCFC meeting will take place in person.

The meeting was adjourned.

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Share information about LIDAR flights projected to occur over the SNF in 2024-2025.	USFS (Eric A.)	Complete, see below and attached.
2	Compile written questions for the Roads Subcommittee and share them with the OCCFC Coordinator before the OCCFC's next meeting.	USFS	8/4 (week before August Collaborative meeting)
3	Work with Katie R. to organize a future WRAPs presentation.	Coordinator + USFS (Katie R.)	8/4
4	Gather information on USFS herbicide/pesticide policy for invasives management on the Siuslaw National Forest and share with the OCCFC Coordinator.	USFS (Eric)	8/4
5	USFS will report back on what scale is used in the DECaId Analysis.	USFS (Chuck Fisher)	8/4
6	Draft a "Letter of Goodwill" from the OCCFC to the USFS. Share with OCCFC for review.	Coordinator + Paul L.	7/21
7	Coordinate via email with Wildlife Subcommittee to discuss the scope of the Subcommittee's work and identify next steps	Coordinator	7/21
8	Review, edit and finalize the draft Letter of Goodwill.	OCCFC	7/28
9	Send final Letter of Goodwill to USFS	Coordinator	7/31
10	Poll the Collaborative to see who would like to join the new subcommittee and will work to identify a date for the Subcommittee to meet.	Coordinator	7/21
11	Begin organizing a panel on the aquatic impacts of roads, featuring Professor Chris Frissell + a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party roads engineer/specialist.	Coordinator + Paul E	8/8

12	Consider which recommendations (if any) they would like the Coordinator to prioritize by the group's August 11 meeting.	OCCFC	8/11
13	Share June meeting minutes with Collaborative members for approval.	Coordinator	7/21
14	Get information from USFS on where OCCF can learn more about the SNF's budget.  <i>Update:</i> <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance">https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance</a>	Coordinator	Complete
15	Share OCCFC information and meeting invitations with Kody Osborn and Carol Van Strum.	Coordinator	8/8
16	Ask USFS whether it plans to conduct a roads survey focusing on primary use of roads on the Siuslaw National Forest.	Coordinator	8/8
17	Share updated USFS Organizational Chart with OCCFC	USFS	Complete ( <i>attached and on <a href="#">OneDrive</a></i> )

## APPENDIX B: ZOOM CHAT

00:35:58 Katie I: FYI - I will have to drop off at 10

00:39:45 Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild: Just a note that since these ground rules were written, we've acknowledged that some people have legitimate reasons for turning their cameras on and off during the meetings.

00:41:16 Michele Holman: My internet is sketchy this morning so I am off-camera.

00:44:26 Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild: Michele, that's exactly the kind of thing that's been acknowledged. There was a conversation of collaborative members a while back.

00:47:10 Katie I: for Little Gauldy

00:54:54 Michele Holman: Wow! That is fantastic. Congrats.

00:59:31 AC Paul Engelmeyer: Here's the correct survey form:  
<https://forms.gle/7sDJnSm7sPrSYiqZ8>

01:00:58 Coordinator Bonini, Coordinator: Thanks, Paul!

01:25:08 Joanie Schmidgall USFS: I apologize, but my internet isn't great and my zoom application has crashed twice now. Thanks for letting me back in!

01:26:21 Anna Hamilton, Triangle Associates, she/her: Replying to "I apologize, but my ..."

No worries Joanie, let us know if we can help or you could also try calling in on your phone if that would help?




01:27:11 Joanie Schmidgall USFS: Replying to "I apologize, but my ..."


It working ok now. If it crashes again, I'll call in. I hope it's not too distracting or annoying. Thanks!

01:27:11 Katie I: I have to drop off, thank you for letting me sit in


01:35:08 Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild: I lowered my hand to save time, but just a note that perhaps one reason the forest can do more hand pulling in the dunes is the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative. They regularly organize volunteers for hand pulling. I think they're doing more on July 22.

01:39:22 Michele Holman: Yes! Kelly- you are right. We have hand-pulling volunteer days and also, the Siuslaw School system have weed pull days.

- 01:39:35 Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD: Reacted to "Yes! Kelly- you are..." with 
- 01:43:50 Coordinator Bonini, Coordinator: NS Smith PPA + supporting information/maps available her: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/siuslaw/?project=59122>
- 01:44:21 Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD: Reacted to "NS Smith PPA + suppo..." with 
- 02:00:12 Chuck Fisher - USFS: I have always wanted a budget line item for removing trash from forest roads and off roads.
- 02:02:55 Joanie Schmidgall USFS: Thanks for letting me listen in this morning! Have a good weekend!
- 02:28:46 Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild: What Paul raised ties into what I raised my hand about so I'd like to be able to speak before we move off of it.
- 02:30:20 Coordinator Bonini, Coordinator: Reacted to "What Paul raised tie..." with 
- 02:31:04 Fran Recht: I think that general statement that Dave suggested about ESA species focus and avoiding short term risk is important and I would support in this general letter...
- 02:44:20 Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD: Reacted to "I think that general..." with 
- 02:58:03 Anna Hamilton, Triangle Associates, she/her: "Subcommittees: Formed as needed to focus on specific projects or topics approved by the full group. Subcommittees will provide regular updates at full group meetings."
- 03:33:32 Jim Fairchild: My apologies for not being able to attend in person today. We had our puppy sitter not show up....
- 03:34:38 Coordinator Bonini, Coordinator: Reacted to "My apologies for not..." with 
- 03:35:18 Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild: The Toledo gathering was the annual joint meeting of the forest's stewardship group's and this collaborative.
- 03:35:29 Coordinator Bonini, Coordinator: Reacted to "The Toledo gathering..." with 
- 03:37:37 david eisler: tight schedule, got to run

03:39:44 Anna Hamilton, Triangle Associates, she/her: Reacted to "tight schedule, got ..." with 

03:41:40 david eisler: got to run,good meetig

03:41:50 Coordinator Bonini, Coordinator: Reacted to "got to run,good meet..." with 

03:45:38 Fran Recht: I have to go....

03:46:26 Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD: Thanks!

## DRAFT Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday, August 11, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Online Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

##### *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Jim Fairchild, Audubon Society Corvallis
- Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild
- Marc Barnes, Integrated Resources Management (IRM)
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (meeting support, non-voting)*
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)

##### *Forest Service:*

- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist
- Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Ranger District
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Hannah Smith, Hebo NEPA Planner

##### *Observers:*

- Kody Osborne, National Wildlife Federation

#### **Notes Key**

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.



## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### 1. Forest Supervisor: Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor

- USFS has hired a new administrative officer to its forest leadership team. The new hire will begin on August 14.
- A newly-hired fire management officer is settling in. There are several serious fires burning currently, with four small -to- large fires on the Willamette National Forest. The Siuslaw National Forest has been lending support and resources to the Willamette National Forest.
- A first-year firefighter lost his life in a traffic accident on the Rogue River Siskiyou. The USFS is mourning his loss.
- The USFS has decided on a Deputy Fire Manager who will be supporting the fuels program and help with strategic planning for wildfires and community protection. The USFS is hoping to expand this in the future, especially with increased fire risk associated with climate change. This is something that the USFS would like to engage with the Collaborative on.
- USFS will continue to look at public use restrictions on a weekly basis with regard to fire risk as they do on a regular basis. Currently, campfires are only permitted at campsites in fire rings. Information is updated online:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/siuslaw/fire>
- Currently hired and yet-to-be hired fire specialists will help the Siuslaw National Forest with their fire prevention planning. They are considering looking into PODS (potential operational delineation) or PCLs (potential containment lines), a model of fuel / fire break.
- The Oregon Coast Climate Vulnerability Assessment is being reviewed currently. The USFS will use information from the Assessment to inform future NEPA documents.
- Fran Recht, OCCFC, shared a link to the Climate Change Adaptation Library for the Western United States and encouraged the USFS to reference it in its climate-related work. A link to the library is available here:  
<https://adaptationpartners.org/library.php>
- Katie Richardson, USFS, will send the full Assessment to the Coordinator to share with the OCCFC.

**Action Item:** Katie Richardson, USFS, will send the full Oregon Coast Climate Vulnerability Assessment to the Coordinator to share with the OCCFC.

- USFS is focusing on fire prevention since a high percentage of Siuslaw fires are human caused. They have hired fire prevention technicians this summer and are hopeful about being able to sustain this effort.

**2. Hebo Ranger District: Shawn Rivera, District Ranger**

- The scoping period for the Little Gauldy Restoration CE project is open until the end of the day on Monday, August 14. That deadline could be extended if need be.
- There has been Oregon Silver Spotted Butterfly habitat restoration work on Mount Hebo.
- There was a small, quarter acre, unplanned fire on Mt. Hebo, which was extinguished quickly. USFS will continue monitoring the impacts of fire on the meadows and its effect on the butterflies.
- Elk meadow mowing projects are taking place throughout August, and the district is currently working on snag and downed wood creation contracts so it can get downed wood on the ground soon.
- USFS is working on Plover surveys around Sand Lake. No nests have been spotted recently, so the survey is paused but will resume later in the season.
- Jim Fairchild asked whether Hebo has pursued butterfly larvae exclosures to help prevent predation. Hebo has expressed interest, but has not yet pursued this method.

**3. Central Coast Ranger District: Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger and Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist**

- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger, was unable to attend this meeting. Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger, provided updates from the Central Coast Ranger District on her behalf.
- Michele but gives her thanks and appreciation for the letter of goodwill that the OCCFC sent to the USFS on August 02, 2023.
- Jeff McPherson, the new fisheries biologist replacing Paul Burns, has started in his role. Jeff will be based in the Waldport office and covering the southern district.
- Public engagement is closing on North Fork Smith currently and transitioning into the Effects Analysis stage.
- The USFS has been reviewing comments submitted on the North Fork Smith Preliminary Proposed Actions (PPAs) and will continue to review next week. They are working on a comment response plan. Once comments are reviewed, the USFS will develop proposed actions.
- A combined scoping and 30-day comment period will begin in October, but may be pushed back.

#### 4. Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development: Kirk Shimeall

- The Stewardship groups will be hosting meetings over the next month and will be sitting down for a roundtable meeting on September 26.
- Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development received a 6-year, \$5.5 million grant from EPA for the [urban waters partnership](#), and will be working with the USFS on planning for the grant activities.

#### 5. Collaborative Updates: Collaborative Members/Coordinator

- Paul Engelmeyer shared that the Cape Perpetual Marbled Murrelet survey that took place on July 18 & 19 went well, with over 80 participants.
- Kelly Fuller is no longer working for Oregon Wild. Oregon Wild will remain involved with the OCCFC through a new representative. Appreciation was expressed for the time and work that Kelly has dedicated to the Collaborative during her tenure.  
*Update: Sean Stevens is the point of contract for Oregon Wild on the OCCFC until further notice.*
- Alyssa will be OOO from August 18 – September 4. Collaborative members and USFS staff should copy Dani Jochums ([diochums@triangleassociates.com](mailto:diochums@triangleassociates.com)), Anna Hamilton ([ahamilton@triangleassociates.com](mailto:ahamilton@triangleassociates.com)) and Kirk Shimeall ([kirk@cascadepacific.org](mailto:kirk@cascadepacific.org)) on all communications during this time.

### DISCUSSION: ROADS SUBCOMMITTEE ZONES OF AGREEMENT / UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 1. Roads Subcommittee Zones of Agreement

- USFS shared questions relating to the Collaborative's Roads Zones of Agreement (ZOA) document with the OFFCF on August 09, 2023. The OCCFC's Roads Subcommittee will review the questions and formulate responses at its September monthly meeting.
- It was noted that some of ZOAs include informal recommendations for management actions that the USFS is already undertaking.
- Roads Subcommittee members shared that it would be helpful to learn more about the USFS's management activities and agency decision-making process on the Siuslaw National Forest.
- The USFS is working to map all roads on a project-by-project basis, not on a forest basis. For the North Fork Smith Project, the USFS is mapping all roads, which will be made available [online](#).

#### 2. Upcoming Presentations + Events of Interest

- The Roads Subcommittee has proposed organizing a science talk on the effects of roads on aquatic habitat and connectivity. The OCCFC Coordinator and Paul Engelmeyer are working with Chris Frissell to organize a panel and date.
- Presentations have been offered by the USFS on the following topics: public use decisions and fire management, climate vulnerability assessment, and their watershed restoration action plan (WRAP).
- The Coordinator will work with the OCCFC to identify priority topics and communicate those priorities to the USFS.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will work with the OCCFC and USFS to organize presentations on public use decisions and fire management, climate vulnerability assessment, and/or the WRAP.

-----USFS Staff Leaves-----

DEBRIEF USFS PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

- A question was raised about whether it would be possible for the USFS to add acreage to the Little Gauldy Restoration CE.
- Andy Geissler, AFRC, plans to ask USFS about why it excluded certain areas from the Little Gauldy Restoration CE and offered to loop anyone interested into the response.
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon, talked about revisiting the Biennial Monitoring Report and wanting to know how the USFS is increasing blocks of habitat. There was discussion on the indicators being limited. Many members mentioned a hope to update / add indicators to habitat reporting for the next report in two years.
- The Wildlife Subcommittee will continue discussing possible questions relating to the Monitoring Report at its September meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Collaborative members reviewed and approved the July meeting minutes.
- Members discussed and adopted by quorum the following proposed amendment to the Collaborative's Operating Protocols:

*Voting Members*

- Sign declaration of commitment annually
- Actively participate in meetings
- Organizations/companies have one vote
- **In-person attendance at a minimum of one of the following events per calendar year is strongly encouraged as a demonstration of good-faith participation in the Collaborative Group:**
  - Full OCCFC Monthly Meeting
  - Subcommittee Meeting
  - OCCFC Field Tour
  - Science Panel/Presentation

**Action item:** The Coordinator will update and share the revised Operating Protocols with the OCCFC, Cascade Pacific, and USFS.

- The Coordinator addressed responses from the Collaborative on how the Coordinator can best support the group in the future. The following three suggestions were noted:
  - Creating a collaborative group calendar
  - Organizing team-building opportunities (e.g., field trips, in-person activities)
  - Organizing on a collaboration training (possibly in one from Sustainable Northwest)
- The USFS has expressed that they would like to join for any potential collaboration training.

## ONGOING WORK

### **Invasives & Herbicides Subcommittee Updates:**

- The Invasives & Herbicides Subcommittee will work on creating ZOAs on herbicides and invasives. This committee is still working on contacting USFS staff to get more information on current policy.

### **Roads Subcommittee Updates:**

- The Roads Subcommittee received questions on the Roads ZOAs from USFS this week to review and will discuss and respond to them in their next subcommittee meeting.
- There was a general request for more information about the current policies and operating procedures of the USFS on topics related to the subcommittees' focuses.
  - It was expressed that the lack of information might be related to high staff turnover at the USFS.
  - The subcommittee's ZOAs, even if their points overlap with the policies of the USFS, help the USFS know the Collaborative's values and what they want more information about.
- A question arose as to whether USFS has compared its roads layers to road layers produced by the Bureau of Land Management.

### **Wildlife Subcommittee Updates:**

- Fran and Paul E. have talked to Regional Officer Liz Berger to open dialogue about the [Private Forest Accord](#) and the value of Beavers (esp. in fire responsiveness).
- Beaver will continue to be discussed as a potential ZOA topic at the Wildlife Subcommittee's September meeting.

## UPCOMING WORK

- The Coordinator is working with Paul E. to organize a science panel on the effects of roads on aquatic habitat and connectivity, featuring Dr. Chris Frissell.
- The Coordinator asked members to weigh in on whether a fall field trip would be of interest and if so, to where.
- There was discussion on whether it is more valuable to revisit North Fork Smith area or to try to visit project sites of any NEPA project that may be upcoming.
- The Coordinator will follow up with USFS to see if there are any NEPA projects coming down the chute that the Collaborative should be aware of.

**Action item:** The Coordinator will follow up with USFS to see if there are NEPA projects that the Collaborative should tour this fall.

- Several Collaborative members expressed a desire to see any cutting-edge techniques employed by the USFS on the Siuslaw and wanting to see more examples of interior forest connectivity projects especially at the North Fork Smith site.

**Action Item:** Collaborative members will send their outstanding questions about North Fork Smith to the Coordinator to send to the USFS.

- The Coordinator shared the newly created calendar for the Collaborative. The calendar will be available on the Collaborative's [OneDrive online](#).
- September Subcommittee meetings have been rescheduled to the following dates and times, to accommodate the Labor Day holiday:
  - Wildlife Subcommittee: Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00
  - Roads Subcommittee: Monday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 4:00
  - *Update: The September Invasives & Herbicides Subcommittee meeting will take place on Friday, September 8 from 1:30-2:30pm.*

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Send the full Oregon Coast Climate Vulnerability Assessment to the Coordinator to share with the OCCFC.	Katie R., USFS	Complete
2	Work with the OCCFC and USFS to organize presentations on public use decisions and fire management, climate vulnerability assessment, and/or the WRAP.	Coordinator	9/8
3	Update and share the revised Operating Protocols with the OCCFC, Cascade Pacific, and USFS.	Coordinator	9/8
4	Follow up with USFS to see if there are NEPA projects that the Collaborative should tour this fall.	Coordinator	Complete
5	Send outstanding questions about North Fork Smith to the Coordinator to send to the USFS.	OCCFC	9/8
6	Share updated USFS Organizational Chart with OCCFC	Eric Andersen, USFS	9/8

## APPENDIX B: ZOOM CHAT

09:13:29 From Kirk Shimeall To Everyone:

Welcome Dani!

09:14:08 From Dani Jochums, Triangle, (she/her) To Everyone:

I can be reached at [djochums@triangleassociates.com](mailto:djochums@triangleassociates.com)

09:21:57 From Katie Richardson - USFS To Everyone:

Siuslaw Public Use Restrictions are updated on this website and announced on facebook: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/siuslaw/fire>

09:27:19 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

Let's get a presentation on that assessment

09:27:33 From Becca Brooke To Everyone:

Reacted to "Let's get a prese..." with 👍

09:30:34 From Fran Recht To Everyone:

Climate adaptation library <http://adaptationpartners.org/library.ph> please provide

09:33:41 From Katie Richardson - USFS To Everyone:

Alyssa I forwarded the climate vulnerability assessment to you. Please share with everyone :)

09:34:39 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

Reacted to "Alyssa I forwarded t..." with 👍

09:35:11 From Marc Barnes -- Integrated Resource Management To Everyone:

It depends what fish you like to eat...

09:35:46 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

Reacted to "It depends what fish..." with 👍

09:38:13 From Shawn Rivera - USFS To Everyone:

Reacted to "It depends what fi..." with ❤️

09:40:25 From Marc Barnes -- Integrated Resource Management To Everyone:

Org Cart Update?

09:52:49 From Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild To Everyone:

Kelly Fuller: [kelly@kellyfuller.net](mailto:kelly@kellyfuller.net), (928) 322-8449



09:53:13 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

Reacted to "Kelly Fuller: kelly@..." with ❤️

10:00:29 From Fran Recht To Everyone:

Reacted to "Kelly Fuller: kelly@..." with ❤️

10:00:53 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

NF Smith Project Website:

<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMipjbGljayIsInVybyCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZ2NjMDIuc2FmZWxpbmtzLnByb3RIY3Rpb24ub3V0bG9vay5jb20vP3Vybd1odHRwcyUzQSUyRiUyRnd3dy5mcy51c2RhLmdvdiUyRnByb2plY3QIMkZzaXVzbGF3JTJGJTNGcHJvamVjdCUzRDU5MTlyJmRhdGE9MDUIN0MwMSU3QyU3Q2EzZGExYTgxMwVmZDQwNzNkY2lyMDhkYjY3ZGM2M2I3JTdDZWQ1YjM2ZTcwMwVINGViYzgzN2VIMDNjZmEwZDQ2OTclN0MwJTdDMCU3QzYzODIxNzk2ODU0MzE0ODE2MCU3Q1Vua25vd24IN0NUV0ZwYkdac2IzZDhleUpXSWpvaU1DNHdMakF3TURBaUxDSIFJam9pVjJsdU16SWIMQ0pCVGIJNklrMWhhV3dpTENKWFZDSTZNbjAlM0QIN0MzMDAwJTdDJTdTdJnNkYXRhPXYIMkMwVJJOsUyRnNqRkJsTWpFRmR1N3kyciUyQnlS3ZSbkxkU1ZxRGo1N04zUTQIM0QmcmVzZXJ2ZWQ9MCIslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkljoiMjAyMzA2MjluNzg2NTMzOTEifQ. TNREE8L8KKFlrpZVuib1eNJ7uPco3ugCcebC5cSFH4/s/2169462783/br/207269933483-|>

10:06:38 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

OCCFC members please return from the break at 10:15am. Thanks!

10:16:08 From Kody Osborne, NWF To Everyone:

I'm back, but sans video!

10:18:24 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm back, but sans v..." with 👍

10:19:34 From Fran Recht To Everyone:

I'm without video temporarily sorry

10:19:46 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm without video te..." with 👍

10:26:05 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1089772.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1089772.pdf)

10:26:20 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

^ Monitoring report 2022 SNF

10:59:15 From Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild To Everyone:

What Fran just said is something that Kailey Guerrant recommended the Wildlife Zones of Agreement group find out so they didn't reinvent the wheel.

11:00:34 From Kody Osborne, NWF To Everyone:

Have to hop off for an-person meeting! Thanks all for letting me sit in. I'll be in touch with Paul E. soon.

11:00:38 From Kelly Fuller, Oregon Wild To Everyone:

Kailey suggested that the Wildlife committee ask the Forest Service for its guidelines. I don't know that we've ever done that.

11:07:05 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

Reacted to "Kailey suggested tha..." with 👍

11:11:42 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

PRivate forest accord link: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/documents/2022-odf-private-forest-accord-report.pdf>

11:34:49 From Andy Geissler To Everyone:

Accelerating the stand-scale patterns and composition toward desired future conditions would be intended to help adjust the fragmented landscape pattern and support short- and long-term landscape objectives

(USDA 1990a, [Siuslaw Forest Plan], p. IV-1) were interconnectivity between suitable old-growth forest ecosystem habitats is

fragmented and limiting (USDA/USDI 1994b, p. 5, 7)

11:38:15 From Jim Fairchild To Everyone:

Marys Peak Stewardship Group has arranged a field trip October 19, a Thursday, into the Corvallis municipal watershed. Would be a conflict for me. I'm sure OCCFC members would be welcome.

12:01:22 From Jim Fairchild To Everyone:

Thanks, I do have to take off, I'd like to try to stay engaged in invasives and pesticide use.

12:04:48 From Chuck Willer, Corvallis, He/Him To Everyone:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3854200.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3854200.pdf)

Is there a similar document for Region 6?

12:10:48 From Chuck Willer, Corvallis, He/Him To Everyone:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/protecting-forest/integrated-pest-management/pesticide-management/index.shtml>

12:16:27 From Alyssa Bonini To Everyone:

Reacted to "https://www.fs.usda...." with 👍

## Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday, September 8, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Hybrid Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

##### *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Marc Barnes, Integrated Resources Management (IRM)
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (meeting support, non-voting)*
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- Connie Barnes, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)

##### *Forest Service:*

- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Ranger District
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Hannah Smith, Hebo NEPA Planner
- Eric Andersen, USFS Liaison
- Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer
- Kami Ellingson, Watershed Program Manager

#### **Notes Key**

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.

## PRESENTATION FROM KAMI ELLINGSON

Kami Ellingson, USFS Watershed Program Manager, presented on hydrology work in the Siuslaw National Forest. The slides and presentation can be found [linked here](#).

Below are questions and answers from the Q&A that followed the presentation.

1. How does beaver fit into water quality in the watershed assessment?
  - Climate considerations were not a major part of the initial assessments. Beaver is a key species for climate adaptation. Due to lack of impoundments, the score for this was low, but SNF pays attention to Beaver based on other factors / their own assessment. We need to think about types of wetlands that would have been pre-settlement which would have been beaver-caused mostly due to lack of snow and geographical features that would cause “less flashy” wetlands. Beaver should be emphasized as an asset for climate change.
  
2. Is the connectivity policy relevant?
  - The 2012 FS Connectivity Policy may be relevant to connecting blocks of habitat for aquatic, not just terrestrial species.
  
3. Are salmon commonly observed in restoration sites?
  - Salmon have been making use of estuaries a lot more than anyone would have projected (estuaries were long ignored) and have great success and rapid growth in the estuary. They also stay longer in the estuaries than expected. They come back immediately when human structures are removed, sometimes as soon as the next tide. These habitats just weren’t available before. USFS is trying new monitoring techniques. The restoration sites are having a good impact on fisheries for Oregon Coast Coho. The lack of habitat seems to be one of the limiting factors for their populations.
  
4. How are these sites acquired?
  - In as many different ways as there are sites. Sites are usually acquired based on maps and USFS prioritization. It is sometimes directed and a very long, involved process. Sometimes landowners approach USFS to willingly sell. There has been some discussion about whether acquisitions can / should be outside of administrative boundary, and there has been some work with land trusts or working on private land.

- Paul Engelmeyer (Portland Audubon Society) extended an invitation to USFS to join efforts between Parks and FWS Lands Committee, which extends from Cascade Head to Heceta Head.
5. How might ocean acidification, changes in sea level, and other issues affect lower estuaries?
- USFS has had a focus on how changes in high level and salinity gradient moving upward may impact young coho. Data indicated that a bottom-up restoration strategy (eg lower to upper watershed) in Salmon River may be very effective. USFS has been thinking about how sea level rise may impact vegetation and other estuaries, but there are data gaps as the Coastal Range is not a snow-melt-driven system and flood timing is not factored in. Kami recommends a look to the past for resiliency ideas. However, this is hard to predict.
6. What climate adaptation measures does USFS analyze and prioritize?
- USFS has a focus on restoring natural systems, especially hydrology. Their strategy hasn't changed, but their understanding of the best way to restore natural systems has evolved.
7. Can the USFS connect with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Model for High Quality Habitat in the Salmon River?
- a. The ODFW Model seems to not be noting the efforts of USFS as well as watershed council, etc. Paul E. and Kami may connect about this disconnect offline.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Forest Supervisor: Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor**

- There was a lightning strike which led to the 12-acre Rock Creek Fire. There was under burn on old growth stands. There was also a lightning-caused 144-acre fire on Three Buttes which ate through old growth and underbrush.
- Folks from regional and national office came out to look at and talk about disaster recovery in the Siuslaw. They compared post-fire versus non-fire disaster recovery. The disaster recovery funding source was mentioned. USFS does expect an increase in non-fire related disasters due to climate change (such as landslides).
- USFS will focus on restoration work throughout FY23.
- There may be an updated organizational chart coming out soon.

### **Central Coast Ranger District: Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger**

- Michele's jurisdiction is still not out of field season. There is one more timber sale before being done for the year. USFS will then proceed to FY24 sales.
- There will be a helicopter log placement project on Deadwood Creek for the first couple weeks of October, weather permitting.
- USFS is working with the Siletz Tribe downstream of Five-mile Bell doing restoration work. USFS is helping specifically with technical support.
- The Three Buttes fire is uncommon since it is an old growth forest with trees 7-feet in diameter and the burning is in ferns and moss, crawling up trees. This will be a big learning experience due to the fire type and USFS will share information with collaborative and others to talk about natural fires in the coast range.
- Several wildlife technicians have left and USFS is working on refilling these positions.
- The North Fork Smith team is moving forward looking at and talking over the comments from the public. This review has been held up by the fires, but it is a priority.

### **Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist**

- The North Fork Smith project's timeline has moved out by 4 months. The combined scoping and comment period will probably be in January and will be a chance to provide comments, including administrative review and objections. If there is a change to final EA between the comment period and final EA, those who provided comment would have standing to object. This is under the Environmental Assessment and Decision Making (EADM) Process. *Update: presentation slides on the SNF's NEPA process are available on the OCCFC [OneDrive](#). A document on the Environmental Analysis & Decision Making (EADM) process is also available on the [OneDrive](#).*
- The EA has a 75-page limit so it will be shorter than what the collaborative is used to seeing.

**Action Item:** Katie Richardson, USFS, will send the full Katie Isaacson's presentation on the EADM Process to the Coordinator to re-share with the OCCFC.

- The USFS shared the North Fork Smith preliminary proposed actions in June, 2023. The Collaborative has not commented on these, but there is still time and opportunity to have specialists talk about these and for the collaborative to comment.

### **Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development: Kirk Shimeall**

- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funds will last through the end of this calendar year. It may be beneficial to do another collaborative training given the USFS staff turnover rate of 70% new staff in USFS leadership team. This was a request from

several collaborative members and USFS staff. There is a possibility to extend OWEB funding for training to possibly take place next calendar year.

- USFS will provide funding for OCCFC through 2024. Kirk is looking for more grant funding and asks Collaborative members to keep an ear out about these opportunities and come to him with what you hear.

### **Collaborative Updates: Collaborative Members/Coordinator**

- The Roads Subcommittee will meet on Monday to discuss USFS Zones of Agreement (ZOA) questions.
- The Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee met on 9/8 with presentation on Chelsea Monks, USFS Botanist.
- The Wildlife Committee met on 9/5 to draft some ZOAs concerning beavers.

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### **USFS Staff Leaves**

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

- Collaborative members reviewed and approved the August meeting minutes.

### **DEBRIEF USFS PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES**

- Comments from Collaborative Group Members: Kami and her presentation were great. She is probably responsible for changing more of the earth's surface than anyone they have met.
- There is a potential field trip opportunity to visit the Three Butte Fire as offered by USFS. Collaborative members asked if the USFS could provide access maps for individual layperson visits.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will contact the USFS about providing access maps to see the affected areas of the Three Butte Fire.

- The Collaborative would like to take USFS up on their offer to have a presentation followed by Q&A about preliminary proposed actions on North Fork project. It would be helpful if the USFS spoke about actions and changes since the Collaborative's fieldtrip, GIS maps, the current proposed solution, and how the actions will function from a connectivity standpoint. Collaborative members expressed frustration about the continuous delays on this project and that the process hasn't officially been initiated.



- Collaborative members are hoping for more answers from USFS Liaison about North Fork project about large wood and monitoring, especially as fire season wraps up.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will follow up with the USFS Liaison about previously emailed questions.

- Paul Lulay (Hampton Lumber) proposed revisiting the structure of the monthly OCCFC meetings, especially with regard to how much time is spent on working as a team versus receiving updates and hearing from USFS. The present Collaborative members agreed that important USFS presentations are helpful, but more working time would be beneficial. Paul L. suggested separating working meetings from presentation meetings when large presentations happen. Kirk mentioned that USFS also feels they might not have enough time during OCCFC meeting. Another suggestion was to focus meetings on a singular topic (for instance, to have entire meetings for presentation and discussion, brainstorming, troubleshooting, but also meetings that are only work time with Eric Andersen, USFS Liaison, present to note down questions for USFS). Another possibility is to note down more focused goals for each meeting.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will follow up for the next meeting about desired meeting formats.

- In case of government shutdown in October, the Collaborative would meet without USFS and may use the entire meeting as work time.

#### ONGOING WORK

There is a possibility of a collaboration training sometime in the spring. Kirk and Alyssa will work on this and keep OCCFC members updated.

September Subcommittee meetings are still ongoing and October meetings will be scheduled via email.

**Invasives and Herbicide Subcommittee:** Meeting Friday 9/8; Chelsea Monks, USFS presenting

**Roads Subcommittee:** Will meet week of 9/11

**Wildlife Subcommittee:** Met on 9/5 and drafted Zones of Agreement on Beaver

#### DISCUSSION: WILDLIFE SUBCOMMITTEE ZONES OF AGREEMENT

- The full collaborative meeting reviewed the new [Wildlife Committee Draft Zones of Agreement](#) (ZOA) with the Coordinator, and added comments.

- Paul E. noted that the ZOAs were drafted using the information from the climate adaptation library and the ODFW information on beaver.
- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council, reminded the group that USFS manages for habitat, not for species, and the collaborative may receive that statement from the USFS in response to these ZOAs.
- Members ironed out grammar and clarity of the first four ZOAs.
- Members of the collaborative brought up the following questions to be revisited later at the next Wildlife Subcommittee meeting:
  - a. What do terms like “keystone species” mean to USFS staff?
  - b. How can OCCFC members use the same terms as USFS staff for additional clarity?
  - c. What commitments has the USFS made to aquatic conservation and how specific and detailed should the ZOAs be when asserting their support of those commitments? For example, should specific efforts and successes be outlined in the ZOAs?
  - d. Generally, how narrow / broad should ZOAs be?
  - e. Should all ZOAs be actionable / have action words to direct the USFS?
  - f. Should all ZOAs be within the scope of actions that OCCFC members are willing to make or monitor?
  - g. What is the role of USFS in promoting environmentally friendly actions for private parties?
- The Wildlife Subcommittee will revisit the Beaver ZOAs and the questions above at its next meeting on October 10 from 2:00-4:00pm.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next full collaborative meeting will be October 13
- The subcommittees’ meeting will be moved to Tuesday due to having a holiday on Monday (Indigenous Peoples’ Day)

*The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm*

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Send the full Katie Isaacson’s presentation on the EADM Process to the Coordinator to re-share with the OCCFC.	Katie R., USFS	COMPLETE
2	Contact the USFS about providing access maps to see the affected areas of the Three Butte Fire.	Coordinator	10/13
3	Follow up with the USFS Liaison about previously emailed questions.	Coordinator	10/13
4	Follow up for the next meeting about desired meeting formats.	Coordinator	10/6

## APPENDIX B: CHAT TRANSCRIPT

09:02:37 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

Will you record Kami's talk?

09:05:52 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator To Everyone:

Reacted to "Will you record Kami..." with 👍

09:56:33 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

can we get a presentation on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment?

10:02:51 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

In terms of monitoring / evaluation - do we have streams miles improved in the Salmon River? ODFW uses high quality stream miles in the management concerning full seeding - I would to discuss this in more detail. When might be a good time to check in?

10:13:09 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator To Everyone:

USFS Organizational chart: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/Eblon3VTivpHgKSf6ZHjsZgBX\\_HXCWUE9AJ1AIJHnz07YQ?e=H9uOGn](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/Eblon3VTivpHgKSf6ZHjsZgBX_HXCWUE9AJ1AIJHnz07YQ?e=H9uOGn)

11:15:51 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

<https://largelandscapes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Planning-for-Connectivity-a-Guide-to-Connecting-and-Conserving.pdf>

11:17:42 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator To Everyone:

<http://adaptationpartners.org/library.php>

11:54:40 From Dani Jochums To Everyone:

<https://www.energytrust.org/renewable-energy/irrigation-modernization/>

11:55:08 From Dani Jochums To Everyone:

This organization came to mind for those interested in irrigation

## DRAFT Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday, October 13, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Online Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

##### *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Marc Barnes, Integrated Resources Management (IRM)
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Jim Fairchild, Corvallis Audubon Society
- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)

#### FOREST SERVICE:

- Eric Andersen, USFS Liaison
- Iain Emmons, Central Coast Wildlife Biologist
- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner/Hydrologist
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Rob Sanders, Forest Transportation Planner
- Hannah Smith, Hebo NEPA Planner

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- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.

## WELCOME, AGENDA, AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Coordinator for the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (OCCFC) welcomed participants to the meeting and reviewed the meeting agenda and ground rules. Participants engaged in a round of introductions.

## PRESENTATION FROM CHUCK FISHER

The Coordinator welcomed Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner, to present on the North Fork Smith EA Proposed Actions. OCCFC members were requested to hold their questions or enter them into the chat for follow up at the end of the presentation. A recording of Chuck's presentation is available on the [OCCFC OneDrive](#).

Chuck oriented participants to how to navigate the [Siuslaw National Forest website](#) and access the [North Fork Smith Project](#) documents. He gave a brief overview of documents in the project folders. Chuck provided an overview of the North Fork Smith EA preliminary proposed actions, explaining that most of the concentrated treatment would be in the Kentucky Falls Special Interest Area. Some thinning is also proposed in the southwest corner. The southwest leg of the project area will be treated in parts and several roads will be decommissioned, so some access will be lost to it. The northwest area of the project will continue to be accessible by road.

A question arose about whether maps are available that show interior forest patches and habitat connectivity on the project. Chuck recommended looking at a file entitled *Tree Canopy ZIP* as it may help with previously asked questions about interior habitat. There was also a request for the map charting the OCCFC's Fall 2022 field tour to the North Fork Smith project area, to better understand the areas proposed for treatment in relation to what was observed on that tour.

**Action items:** The USFS North Fork Smith Team will provide map of Fall 2022 NF Smith field tour with waypoints

### Questions and Answers

The following questions were asked about the North Fork Smith Project and preliminary proposed actions:

**Q:** Is there a plan to have heavy thinning in the stands visited during our Fall 2022 fieldtrip?

**A:** 40% tree cover is what is proposed, which is not considered heavy thinning.

**Q:** Why was so much deferred and deferred for wildlife reasons?

**A:** About 64% was deferred. Some areas were logistically too difficult to thin. Other stands were deferred for habitat considerations. Much of this area is a stronghold for the Northern Spotted Owl, which factored heavily into the decision process. There is a balance between thinning to increase higher-quality habitat and not disturbing owls already there. Records from the last 2 –

3 years show that Northern Spotted Owls are present in these areas, even in lower-quality habitat. The USFS has kept and will continue to keep OCCFC posted on the status of decisions.

Andy Geissler, AFRC, shared that he has observed a shift from the USFS to a more cautious approach in forest management to protect owls and was surprised that 7,000 acres were being deferred from the project. Chuck F. acknowledged this as a slight shift, adding that cores were not completely deferred. If there was recent activity or detections, then USFS recommended deferral. The cut-off was for this was about ten years. If Northern Spotted Owls had not been sighted in over ten years in an area, then that area had treatment recommended for it. A lot of decisions were based more on Northern Spotted Owl data because more Northern Spotted Owl data was available relative to data on the Marbled Murrelet, which is also protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Chuck F. noted that North Fork Smith is a unique project area because it is known Northern Spotted Owl habitat. It is a lower area and some of it is the 60% to 80% Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR). If USFS can't meet their objectives, then it is not meeting the purpose of LSR in the future.

**Q:** How does lack of thinning affect potential habitat areas?

**A:** In 80 to 100 years the forest will self-thin and there will be natural disturbances. In North Fork Smith there is less LSR opportunity.

Michele Holman, USFS, added that the proposed actions were released in June and that the proposal has gone through changes, but USFS staff has been there to answer questions and continues to do their best with the information and questions they receive from the Forest Collaborative.

Dave Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council, shared that he recalled a presentation given by USFS on difficult ridge road and was impressed by rationale used to make decisions on that road.

Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association, noted that it might be helpful for the USFS to invest more time in communications with the Collaborative. He requested easier access to maps and project files. He also asked for more clarity on what the work culture, expectations, and commitments are for USFS and OCCFC. Chuck F. is working to understand more what information and perspectives were wanted regarding the North Fork Smith project.

**Action item:** The Coordinators will work with USFS to minimize hurdles to public access to project information and maps.

**Q:** What will the decommissioning of the roads in the SW leg look like and why was this option selected?

**A:** Because it is a ridgetop road it will not be torn up. The road could be returned to usage later.

Marc Barnes, IRM, stated his dissatisfaction with the presentation and disappointment that a USFS silviculturist was not present. Chuck F. acknowledged that a silviculturist would be beneficial to the conversation, but unfortunately the silviculturist who had been planning to come was unable to attend this meeting for family reasons. The Coordinators clarified that questions for USFS silviculture staff would be relayed to them after the meeting.

*The meeting had a five-minute break for attendees to step away from their computers, during which the group reviewed the ground rules. At this time, Marc B. and Chuck F. left the meeting.*

Michele identified a need for the USFS to look into its communications systems to make questions and answers clearer and easier for the Forest Collaborative and the public to reference in the future.

Andy added that in his opinion, USFS has gone above and beyond with its level of communication with OCCFC and that the public involvement process has been robust. He said he felt his questions were answered well.

Chuck W. requested more phone communication and in-person communication between the USFS and the Forest Collaborative.

**Action Item:** The Coordinators will check in with OCCFC members about communication preferences

Iain Emmons, USFS, responded to Chuck's request by saying he was open to phone calls and that anyone can see his email signature for contact information. He also noted that other species were also integrated in the North Fork Smith project planning process, such as the Western Tree Vole. The process and decision making weren't done lightly and there was a lot of communication between silviculture and wildlife experts. He said that they are still open to further input.

Eric Andersen, USFS, observed that USFS and OCCFC are trying hard to work together and acknowledged the apparent frustration on both sides of the table. He encouraged reflecting on OCCFC ground rules and thanked those who are following those rules.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Central Coast Ranger District: Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger**

- There are currently helicopters in Upper Deadwood flying logs into streams. USFS is hopeful that rain won't stick around so there will be more flying time and time to work on this project.



### **Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer**

- Brandy Langum, Fish Biologist, has accepted a job in Montana and will be transitioning off the Siuslaw National Forest. Karen Honeyfoot will fill the Fish Biologist position for a short term while USFS looks for a permanent replacement.
- USFS is currently two weeks into a new Federal Fiscal Year and reporting is due. There have been 143 different restoration or maintenance projects over the last year, 10 of which were water restoration and about 40 of which were wildlife restoration.

### **Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger**

- USFS has signed the Little Gauldy Restoration Categorical Exclusion (CE) project and will be implementing the project in fall of 2024. A PDF of the Little Gauldy decision memo was shared in the chat. The decision memo should look the same as the last time OCCFC saw it, with some other responses included. The Little Gauldy CE decision memo is available on the [OneDrive](#).
- There have been some woody debris and meadow projects in Hebo District.
- Currently the Hebo District is looking into a new project tentatively called the Drift Environmental Assessment (EA), which is off Siletz Bay. USFS is working to define contours and are on the cusp of pre-planning and formal project planning. The hope is to get the project out within the next month.
- There are new aquatic restoration needs in the Three Rivers area where USFS is looking to restore industrial land that has been recently acquired. USFS hopes to get the three bridges removed to keep chemicals from going into water.
- If OCCFC wants to hear from any specialists from the Hebo Ranger District, work with the Coordinators to set a time to talk up in advance.

### **Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development: Kirk Shimeall**

- Kirk has been working on a stewardship packet to get to the Siuslaw National Forest.
- He is still working with the Coordinators to organize a training on collaboration for OCCFC and USFS staff to attend jointly in 2024.

### **Collaborative Updates: Collaborative Members/Coordinator**

- Paul Engelmeyer, Audubon, shared several event announcements:
  - Monday, October 16 at 4 PM - National Sierra Club's Forest Protection Forum will host John Talberth of the Center for Sustainable Economy for a talk titled "The Climate Impacts of Industrial Forest Practices."
  - Thursday, October 19 at 5 PM - The Oregon Chapter Sierra Club Forest Team hosts Dr. Dominick Della Sala of Wild Heritage and Rita Vaughan Frost of the Natural Resources Defense Council for the webinar "Forest Biomass, Oregon and Beyond."
  - Saturday, November 18 - The Cape Perpetua Collaborative is having a Land-Sea Symposium at the Yachats Commons.

## DEBRIEF OF FIRST HALF OF THE MEETING

OCCFC members debriefed the first half of the meeting and discussed expectations surrounding member and participant behavior and communication style within the collaborative space. Concern was expressed about how to hold individuals accountable for complying with meeting ground rules and the Collaborative's [operating protocols](#), and attention was drawn to members' ability to censure members who do not comply.

The group felt that one Collaborative member violated the meeting ground rules of **treating everyone with respect** and **working to find common ground** at this October 2023 meeting. Members agreed to draft and send a letter of apology to the USFS on behalf of the OCCFC, and a letter to the Collaborative member with an opportunity for that member to guarantee that they will comply with the Operating Protocols and meeting ground rules at all future meetings.

*[Update: Both the USFS letter and letter to the Collaborative member were sent on Tuesday, October 17]*

## ADMINISTRATION

OCCFC members approved the September meeting minutes.

The Coordinator reminded Collaborative members that there will be a virtual Science Panel on October 26 from 1:00-3:00pm and encouraged Collaborative members to attend and invite folks from their networks.

It was determined that November 3 would not work as a meeting date for several collaborative members. The Coordinators will circulate a Doodle poll to try and identify an alternative date to hold the November Collaborative meeting.

**Action item: The Coordinators will send a Doodle poll for November In-person Work Session.**

It was established that the December meeting would take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and will be used to celebrate the group's accomplishments in 2023, and to forecast events and information requests for 2024.

## SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

**Roads Subcommittee:** The Roads Subcommittee is going to think about any possible ZOA updates based on what members learned from USFS about the North Fork Smith project at today's meeting. If they feel they are the ZOAs are complete, then the subcommittee will sunset until the Collaborative identifies a need for additional Roads ZOAs. The full Collaborative

will cross reference the Roads ZOAs with North Fork Smith project proposed actions at its next meeting.

**Wildlife Subcommittee:** Katie R. and Shawn attended the Subcommittee's October 10 meeting. It was determined that it would be helpful for a forest service hydrologist to attend the next Subcommittee meeting to answer questions about riparian and aquatic habitat that could benefit beaver. The subcommittee will compile a list of questions for Kami Ellingson, USFS, to get an understanding from her of what USFS is currently doing to support potential beaver habitat. Paul E. contacted Kami and she said she would be willing to help with the ZOAs.

**Action Item:** Wildlife Subcommittee to send list of questions to Kami Ellingson

**Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee:** The Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee heard from Chelsea Monks, USFS botanist, in a presentation at the subcommittee's September 8 meeting. Paul E. is looking into a memo on manual removal that has missing date and signature. Chuck F. is also looking into this memo which is speculated to be from the 1990s.

The Coordinator thanked everyone for their time and commitment to the Collaborative.

*The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm*

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Send a Doodle for in-person September work session	Coordinators	Complete, responses due by 10/25
2	Check in with OCCFC members about communication preferences	Coordinators	11/3
3	Work with USFS to minimize hurdles to public access to project information and maps	Coordinators	11/3
4	Provide map of Fall 2022 NF Smith field tour with waypoints	USFS	11/3
5	Send list of questions to Kami Ellingson	Wildlife Subcommittee	11/3

**OCCFC Groundrules**

- **Treat everyone with respect:**
  - Have an open mind and work to understand other perspectives
  - Be courteous and allow others to speak before responding
  - Respect and support the role of the facilitator
  
- **Respect everyone's time:**
  - Stay on topic, follow the agenda, begin and end meetings on time
  - Take phone and side conversations outside and leave camera on during virtual meetings
  - Come to meetings prepared
  
- **Work to find common ground:**
  - Address ideas, not individuals
  - Accept areas of disagreement
  - Lead with interests rather than positions
  - Honor agreements and commitments, bring all cards to the tables
  
- **Encourage participation:**
  - Indicate when you want to speak
  - Monitor your participation to allow everyone the chance to speak
  
- **Prioritize transparency and honesty:**
  - Air disagreements and critical information during meetings
  - Avoid backroom deals
  - Keep colleagues/constituents informed about the work of the Collaborative

## DRAFT Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday, November 17, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Online Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

##### *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Jim Fairchild, Corvallis Audubon Society
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

#### FOREST SERVICE:

- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger
- Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Hannah Smith, Hebo NEPA Planner

#### **Notes Key**

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.

## WELCOME, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

The Coordinator for the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (OCCFC) welcomed participants to the meeting and reviewed the meeting agenda and ground rules. Participants engaged in a round of introductions.

The Coordinator shared the following membership updates. Members and USFS staff will email questions to Alyssa Bonini ([abonini@triangleassociates.com](mailto:abonini@triangleassociates.com)) or Dani Jochums ([djochums@triangleassociates.com](mailto:djochums@triangleassociates.com)).

- Marc Barnes has resigned from the OCCFC. He is thanked for his years of commitment to the group.
- Oregon Wild will remain a voting member of the OCCFC, but will not be able to attend Subcommittee meetings. Oregon Wild will be represented on the OCCFC by Chandra LeGue.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Siuslaw National Forest: Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor**

- October marks the beginning of the Forest Service's new Fiscal Year. The Continuing Resolution will fund the agency through February second, and has reauthorized the ACEs program, which provides a way for USFS to bring back retired employees to help train and mentor newer USFS staff.
- The USFS is happy to have completed the Upper Deadwood wood placement project. This was one of the largest helicopter woody debris placement projects that the USFS has ever undertaken. She commended the Central Coast Ranger District for the restoration work it has undertaken.
  - 708 trees were flowing into 69 sites across three streams, spanning 6.5 miles over 3 weeks.
- The Siuslaw National Forest has received a Regional Foresters Award for its partnership with the Angel Job Corps and the Forest's fire program. The Job Corps program helps train youth in a variety of technical skills including urban forestry and masonry, that will help them get jobs in the future.

### **Central Coast Ranger District: Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger**

- The Upper Deadwood project is complete. Many thanks to the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) for partnering with the Forest on this project. USFS placed wood on National Forest lands and private lands, and the SWC played a critical role helping USFS establish partnerships with private landowners throughout the watershed. This work was made possible through the Coho Partnership FIP grant and stewardship dollars from

the forest. The beneficial effects of this project will be felt for at least 20-25 years. Photos of the Deadwood project are available on the [USFS's Facebook page](#).

- USFS staff is compiling reports on accomplishments from Federal Fiscal Year 2023.
- North Fork Smith Update: This project is in its pre-scoping phase and USFS is continuing to update project maps and make them easier for the public to understand. The combined scoping & 30-day comment period on the NF Smith project is postponed until February, 2024. Michele hopes to have an update for the Collaborative in January.
- USFS has entered into an agreement with Lincoln County to remove abandoned RVs and has received \$40,000 from the regional office and \$200,00 of stewardship dollars to finance this work. Lincoln County contractors are removing the abandoned RVs and associated dump sites. Three sites have been cleaned so far.
- In response to a question from Paul Engelmeyer, Audubon, Michele shared that USFS is only conducting this work on USFS lands, although Lincoln County has money to conduct cleanup on private lands. USFS would be receptive to any locations Collaborative members or the public would recommend they pay attention to.

#### **Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer**

- Brandy Langum, Fish Biologist, has accepted a job in Montana and will be transitioning off the Siuslaw National Forest. Karen Honeyfoot will fill the Fish Biologist position for a short term while USFS looks for a permanent replacement.
- USFS is currently two weeks into a new Federal Fiscal Year and reporting is due. There have been 143 different restoration or maintenance projects over the last year, 10 of which were water restoration and about 40 of which were wildlife restoration.

#### **Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger**

- Forest Service Road 1861 provides the only vehicular access to Cascade Head and suffered a catastrophic landslide in 2021. USFS is looking at doing the geological feasibility assessment to see what geological actions the USFS may consider in a potential Environmental Assessment (EA) to restore vehicular access. Another potential course of action is providing pedestrian access to Cascade Head.
- The Hebo Ranger District will be sending out a scoping letter for the Categorical Exclusion for that assessment later today, November 17, 2023. USFS will be requesting public comment back by December 4<sup>th</sup>. *Update: additional information on the Forest Service Road 1861 assessment is available online.*
- Hebo is beginning to work on its next large, watershed level planning project, called the Drift EA, East of the Siletz Bay. The District is putting together a project initiation letter, which it plans to issue publicly in December, 2024. Shawn and the District would be



interested in giving a presentation to the Collaborative about the project scope and timeline in the new year.

- Paul Engelmeyer noted that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is working on the lower Drift project area. Paul appreciates that it sounds like this project will be a full basin-wide effort when combined with the good work the USFWS is doing there.
- Staffing updates from the Hebo Ranger District:
  - Casey Largent – Will be welcoming her first child soon and will be on parental leave. USFS will look for a detailer to backfill while she is out.
  - Adriana Morales, Fish Biologist, is out of the office for a few weeks.

### **Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development: Kirk Shimeall**

- Kirk reminded the group that CPRCD received a large grant from EPA over the summer.
- He shared his appreciation for seeing everyone together on this call and appreciates having Chandra involved again.

### **Collaborative Updates: Collaborative Members/Coordinator**

- The Collaborative hosted a successful Roads Science Panel online on October 26. The Coordinators are working with CPRCD to create a OCCFC YouTube channel to store the recording of this panel and future science panels for members, USFS and the public to reference. A preliminary recording of the science panel is available on [online](#) on Triangle's Zoom cloud.
- Wildlife Subcommittee continues to work on its Beaver Zones of Agreement (ZOA). Kami Ellingson, USFS, attended the last meeting and shared insight on what she feels USFS is currently doing and what more could be done to support habitat that could be appealing to beavers on the landscape.
- Roads Subcommittee has requested to sunset until Collaborative members feel there is a need to amend the current Roads ZOAs or create new ones. The Collaborative will be testing consensus on whether to sunset the Roads Subcommittee later at this meeting.
- Paul Engelmeyer shared that the Cape Perpetua Collaborative has its 11th Land-Sea Symposium that will be held as a hybrid. The in-person registration is closed, but Paul encouraged folks to register to attend online. The symposium will be recorded.
- The Coordinators launched a poll to gauge in-person/virtual availability for the next Collaborative meeting, currently scheduled for Friday, December 15 from 9:00am-12:00pm. This meeting will be celebratory and will highlight accomplishments from 2023 and forecasting for 2024.

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### **USFS Staff Leaves**

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## ADMINISTRATION + DECISION POINT

OCCFC members approved the October meeting minutes.

The December meeting will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and will be used to celebrate the group's accomplishments in 2023, and to forecast events and information requests for 2024.

The Coordinator reminded members that the purpose of the Roads Subcommittee was to develop ZOAs related to roads on the Siuslaw National Forest. The Roads subcommittee developed 10 Roads ZOA, of which the full Collaborative reached consensus to approve 9. The unapproved ZOA focused on invasives and herbicides and instigated the formation of a subcommittee to discuss invasives and herbicide use specifically.

Members of the Roads Subcommittee do not feel the need to modify any of the existing ZOAs or create new ones and proposed sunsetting the subcommittee until a time when additional Roads ZOAs are needed, or when new information comes to light that would prompt revision of the existing ZOAs. Paul Lulay, Hampton, added that the group didn't want to meet for the sake of meeting, and suggested that any minor tweaks to existing ZOAs in the future could be done as a full Collaborative.

Paul Lulay made a motion to sunset the Roads Subcommittee, and Fran Recht seconded the motion. A 2/3 quorum of 6 of the Collaborative's 9 voting members reached unanimous consensus to sunset the Roads Subcommittee.

**Decision Point:** A 2/3 quorum of 6 of the Collaborative's 9 voting members reached unanimous consensus to sunset the Roads Subcommittee.

-----**Break**-----

## NORTH FORK SMITH WORKSHOP

The Collaborative used [Jamboard](#) to participate in a workshop to identify questions, areas of agreement, and areas of potential divergence from one another on the North Fork Smith EA project purpose and need and preliminary proposed actions (PPAs). The results from this workshop are available on Jamboard and in [Appendix B](#) of these minutes.

**Action item:** Coordinators will confirm with USFS whether the agency is still accepting feedback on the NF Smith Purpose and Need.

The OCCFC tested consensus on whether to share agreements that the group had reached on the NF Smith project with the USFS. Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association, made a motion to

adopt the agreements and share them with the USFS. Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, seconded the motion. A quorum of voting members responded with varying levels of support to share the areas of agreement they had identified during the workshop with USFS. The spectrum of consensus-based support prescribed by the OCCFC's Operating Protocols is below, with the varying levels of support for this motion assigned:

Consensus Reached:

1. I agree with the decision and I will publicly support it. (5 voting members)
2. I agree with the decision, but I will refrain from publicly supporting it.
3. I can accept the decision and I will not make public statements against the decision. (1 voting member)

Consensus Not Reached:

4. I cannot support the decision but I will refrain from making public statements against the decision.
5. I cannot support the decision and I will make public statements against the decision.

**Decision Point:** A quorum of the Collaborative's 9 voting members reached consensus to adopt the group's agreements on the NF Smith project and share those agreements with the USFS.

- Chuck Willer asked for clarification around whether the Collaborative is precluded from speaking publicly or soliciting informal public input on the NF Smith proposal outside of the Collaborative space.

**Action Item:** Coordinators will revisit the NF Smith Project Agreement signed by USFS and OCCFC in 2022 to confirm limitations on Collaborative member engagement with the public.

*The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm*

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Share Pacific Seabird Group memo on edge effects, fragmentation, and large habitat block creation with OCCFC and Coordinator	Paul Engelmeyer	12/15/23 (or whenever available)
2	Share Collaborative agreements on NF Smith with USFS	Coordinators	Complete
3	Confirm NF Smith Purpose & Need feedback expectations and deadlines with USFS	Coordinators	11/24/23
4	Confirm limitations on Collaborative member engagement with the public on USFS NEPA projects.	Coordinators	12/15/23
<b>Decision Point</b>			
1	A quorum of the Collaborative's 9 voting members reached unanimous consensus to sunset the Roads Subcommittee.		
2	A quorum of the Collaborative's 9 voting members reached consensus to adopt the group's agreements on the NF Smith project and share those agreements with the USFS.		

**1. What questions do you have after reading the North Fork Smith Preliminary Proposed Actions?**

- a. Some of the questions the OCCFC has asked the USFS (Appendix B of the agenda) still seem unanswered/relevant to me. – CL
- b. Jim F: How will the status of the NF Smith Project be monitored?
- c. Where does reducing fragmentation get included? It's mentioned in #1 P&N but doesn't really appear in PPA. – CL
- d. Dave: All of proposed restoration project tables dated June 2023, leaves out a lot of information and what USFS actually means. Could they clarify/define terms?
- e. how does the amount of downed wood relate to function and reference old growth forests
- f. I'm not sure if there is a plan for dealing with fires and how they would prioritize work and reduce impacts.
- g. Don't really know how to find the "high quality maps" they reference so it's not easy to understand what they're doing on the ground!
- h. How will climate change impacts and mitigation needs be incorporated/considered in the PPAs? – CL
- i. is there a forest fire response strategy included in this? How would they prioritize work to avoid habitat damage, would they enter old stands? leave burnt trees? (FR)
- j. Is there a hierarchy to the P&N items that translate to the PPAs? For example, do the ecological goals of #1 and #2 take precedence over goal of producing timber/generating \$?
- k. (i.e. is there any assurance that timber production/revenue generation doesn't conflict or harm the ecological goals)
- l. Regulatory Considerations: I wish to provide input regarding the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. How are contradictory mandates resolved? CW
- m. If interactive maps could combine items as needed by the viewer (such as stand treatments & road treatments) it would be very helpful.
- n. When would USFS like to hear from OCCFC about possible alternatives?
- o. Is any private land access being cutoff due to storage/decommissioning work?
- p. I do not like to see established roads unnecessarily removed because it was expensive to create, expensive to decommission, and decreases access.
- q. Are there opportunities to put roads into a more storage type condition instead of a full decommissioned state that still provides the benefits of decomm.
- r. If reducing habitat fragmentation is in the P&N (like it is in #1) how is that intention then translated on the ground as a project?
- s. When would be a good time to give input into any alternatives?

**2. What do you appreciate or agree with in these preliminary proposed actions?**

- a. I like considering closure and decommissioning of roads that might reduce fragmentation of habitat.
- b. The plan to only thin about 1/3 of the available plantations, leaving 2/3 for another day or for natural processes to act upon
- c. I like that they looked at unauthorized roads and have plans for their treatment to reduce impacts
- d. Appreciate the huge amount of work that has gone into the project. Credit goes to the other Chuck and all team members. CW

- e. Willingness to do road work to access stands in need of treatment.
- f. I appreciate the commitment to repairing and maintaining road infrastructure and the use of local aggregate sources.
- g. The numerous maps they created for us was awesome to better spatially understand their initial plans and evaluations.
- h. The mention and treatment of invasive species
- i. The recognition that revenue from harvest supports the maintenance and restoration activities on the forest. Also, harvest activities support local communities.

**3. Was there anything you didn't agree with our would like to see changed in the PPAs? What would you propose the Forest Service do to carry out those changes?**

- a. More considerations in the P&N that proposed actions can then relate to: climate change impacts and mitigation; reducing fragmentation -CL
- b. Paul E: Would like to hear about carbon storage and climate change.
- c. They could develop an alternative that addresses collaborative concerns. :)
- d. More updated references to be incorporated
- e. Put P&N in plain language (e.g. "adjust the fragmented landscape pattern" - what does this mean?
- f. More clear definitions - possibility to put in foot notes
- g. Adding more about how the PAs benefit certain species? (Maybe that's in the analysis?)
- h. Charts and graphics could be clearer
- i. More clear connections - spelling things out more between actions and Purpose and Need. Breaking down Purpose and Need into more parts.
- j. More clear definitions - possibility to put in foot notes
- k. Charts and graphics could be clearer
- l. Jim: Would like to hear about USFS's plan to monitor the NF Smith Project

**4. Of the things you didn't agree with our would like to see changed, what do you feel the most strongly about and why?**

- a. Information on same maps to keep from having to switch back and forth.
- b. More interactive maps to see multiple items on the map.

**5. What do we agree upon as a Forest Collaborative?**

- a. We'd like more clarity on how specific proposed actions relate to details in the P&N.
- b. How is a drier climate being considered in the actions? Are habitat conditions being created that would help attract and support beaver and improve floodplain conditions.
- c. Plain language
- d. More clarity on the and explicit explanation of the thought process and connections between P&N and actions. (especially with the fragmentation item)
- e. ...to improve and maintain aquatic organisms and the water quality and quantity that supports them.
- f. Incorporate "Climate change" and "Climate adaptation" language into PN's 1, 2,5,7
- g. Suggesting updated resources to inform planning and implementation of this project.
- h. The area proposed for treatment needs work, and we appreciate the forest service efforts to perform improvements.
- i. Climate change should be incorporated into the P&N and proposed actions (and analysis).
- j. Put all information on the same map (interactive) so folks don't need to flip back and forth
- k. Add "soils" to PN2

**6. What items do we not align on/ need to revisit together?**

- a. USFS should include a monitoring plan for the NF Smith Project in its EA - implementation monitoring
- b. Does the collaborative want to work on any alternatives with the FS?
- c. Update references and use those updated references in the NF Smith Project proposal
- d. Pull "reducing fragmentation" out of PN 1 and into its own PN

## APPENDIX C: MEETING CHAT

09:02:48 From Becca Brooke To Everyone:

Michele is having trouble joining, but will keep trying to get on

09:05:29 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

A heads up - I have to jump off at 10:30

09:05:32 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Good morning everyone! We're doing introductions by sharing your name, affiliation, and favorite fall activity

09:18:23 From Kirk Shimeall CPRCD To Everyone:

Chandra is a great partner!

09:19:06 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

October 13 was the last OCCFC meeting

09:22:27 From Fran Recht To Everyone:

I would love to see some images of the Deadwood large wood placement -- any drone photos or???

09:22:37 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Reacted to "I would love to see ..." with



We have entered into an agreement with Lincoln County for removal of abandoned RVs. We received \$40,000 from the regional office and an additional \$200,000 of stewardship dollars. Lincoln County has contractors who they use to remove the abandoned RVs and associated dump site. We've been able to clean up 3 sites so far.

09:27:21 From Joanie Schmidgall To Everyone:

Chris Mayes, fish bio on CCRD, captured those photos :)

09:27:27 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Reacted to "Chris Mayes, fish bi..." with

I will be on travel

09:36:22 From Michele Holman To Everyone:

Thanks everyone!!

09:36:54 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

<https://capeperpetuacollaborative.org/event/11th-annual-land-sea-symposium/>

09:37:27 From Chandra LeGue - Oregon Wild To Everyone:

I may have to pop in and out due to some contractors and stuff at home. Will try to minimize.

09:38:03 From Chandra LeGue - Oregon Wild To Everyone:

I wasn't there so abstaining

09:48:37 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Here's a link to the NF Sith Reading and Discussion Guide: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/EduPMAQ7I0pKvzom7fSo6V0BvFbxL99CclKwaT4zTsvQtg?e=yoNN4w](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/EduPMAQ7I0pKvzom7fSo6V0BvFbxL99CclKwaT4zTsvQtg?e=yoNN4w)

09:49:27 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Link to NF Smith Project Proposal on OneDrive: [NF\\_Smith-PROJECT-PROPOSAL.pdf](#)

09:49:41 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

[https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/Ed5VolmHvnZLidcw79VAx14BNK9MisqQ\\_6uYy9bF7A\\_xA?e=QIbhN5](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/Ed5VolmHvnZLidcw79VAx14BNK9MisqQ_6uYy9bF7A_xA?e=QIbhN5)

09:50:01 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Link to NF Smith Project Site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/siuslaw/?project=59122>

10:06:40 From AC Paul Engelmeyer To Everyone:

[https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/\\_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BB357942D-E1CD-4B99-BBBA-A2BAD358EF64%7D&file=NFSmith\\_P-N\\_InputDec2at5pm.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BB357942D-E1CD-4B99-BBBA-A2BAD358EF64%7D&file=NFSmith_P-N_InputDec2at5pm.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true)

10:09:11 From Paul Lulay - Hampton To Everyone:

I cannot open the link Paul E. shared just like Fran said. Not sure why.

10:09:53 From Paul Lulay - Hampton To Everyone:

I was able to open the links Alyssa shared

10:10:33 From Fran Recht To Everyone:

I can open Alyssa's documents, not the link that Paul sent

10:13:24 From Chandra LeGue - Oregon Wild To Everyone:

Perhaps a recommendation from the collaborative could be to update references - such as the climate direction and climate change risk assessment, the updated reports on the NWFP, etc

10:13:33 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Reacted to "Perhaps a recommenda..." with

about soils, downed wood etc.

10:23:44 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Reacted to "I remember that Dave..." with

10:34:52 From Dani Jochums, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/15jAwMzZjJ6nVgVt2v5Dv37LP0JRKphaBL7a0h7Wocdw/edit?usp=sharing>

10:37:56 From Paul Lulay - Hampton To Everyone:

I am testing the pen! THought the tree needed roots

10:38:02 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator To Everyone:

Reacted to "I am testing the pen..." with

11:14:05 From Fran Recht To Everyone:

Removed a

## Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday, December 15, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Online Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

##### *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, AFRC
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Jim Fairchild, Corvallis Audubon Society
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon Society
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

#### FOREST SERVICE:

- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator, Collaborative Liaison
- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer

#### **Notes Key**

- Meeting notes do not represent collaborative agreements unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in conversation, and 3) the resolution or next step if there is one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meetings.
- Text in red denotes action items.
- Action items and a transcript of the Zoom meeting chat are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Coordinators for the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (OCCFC) welcomed participants to the meeting and reviewed the meeting agenda and ground rules. Participants engaged in a round of introductions.

## END OF CALENDAR YEAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Siuslaw National Forest: Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor**

- The Forest Supervisor attended a USFS Regional Leadership Team Meeting in Portland, which focused on regional work to address the Wildfire Crisis and the agency's Equity Action plan. A key takeaway came from the USFS chief, who came out from D.C. and encouraged those present to think about how the USFS needs to change as an agency to be successful in the next 100 years. In the past, forest health and watershed health has been a focus, but USFS will need to adapt to remain helpful and relevant in the next hundred years.
- A Notice of Intent for the Northwest Forest Plan amendment has been published in the Federal Register. There will be a 45-day comment period beginning on 12/18/23. The amendment will focus on five key areas: wildfire resilience, climate change adaptation, tribal inclusion, sustainable communities, and conservation of old growth ecosystems and related biodiversity. The notice of intent can be [accessed here](#).
- The Forest Supervisor shared the FY24 priorities for the Forest which included specific items in the following categories:
  - Recognizing and supporting opportunities to foster relationships with Tribes through meaningful consultation and partnership.
  - Respect, value, and support our employees, giving them resources and opportunities they need to succeed.
  - Working cooperatively to identify and implement work that will put Coast Range ecosystems and local communities on the best trajectory to adapt to Climate Change.
  - Providing diverse recreation opportunities and high-quality public service across the Forest.
  - Ensure critical infrastructure projects are completed and out-year plans developed.
- Staffing announcement: Kami Ellingson, former USFS hydrologist, has moved on to her dream job at The Nature Conservancy, where she will be working on climate adaptation and resilience. Kami's position has not yet been filled.

### **Central Coast Ranger District: Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger**



- The Central Coast District is currently in reporting season. Many employees are on vacation from now until the first week of January. Those still working are working on the North Fork Smith EA, among other items.
- Staffing announcement: Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger, has taken 120-day detail. His position will be backfilled.
- During the winter, the Central Coast District will spend a lot of time focusing on hiring. There will be temporary hiring in January, February, and March. USFS is working on an initiative for permanent seasonal hiring. There are currently 24 slots open for permanent seasonal employees.

**Eric Andersen on behalf of Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger**

- Hebo District is anticipating signing a geologic assessment categorical exclusion on 1861 road.
- Drift EA will be the next forest restoration project to come down the pike. Shawn is putting together a project initiation letter.

**Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development: Kirk Shimeall, Executive Director**

- The end of the year is Cascade Pacific's reporting time.
- Kirk and Connie Barnes have been working with the OCCFC Coordinators to apply for a grant to fund additional OCCFC science panels and field tours.
- Cascade Pacific folks take 1 – 2 week period off at the end of December. Kirk will still respond to emails, but there will be some delays.

**Collaborative Updates: Collaborative Members/Coordinator**

- The Coordinators' office will close during the week of December 25<sup>th</sup>.
- OCCFC full group meetings will have a January recess. Full monthly meetings will reconvene in February. Subcommittees have decided to meet in January.
- Moving forward, monthly meetings will be online only instead of hybrid, due to barriers to attendance experienced in 2023. The USFS and OCCFC will work together to prioritize supplemental, in-person gatherings throughout the year.
- Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon, announced that the Midcoast Watershed Council submitted a proposal for a focused investment project on the Alsea River and Yaquina River. The council hopes to connect with an estuary / watershed specialist at USFS. The Forest Supervisor suggests connecting with Katie Richardson, National Resources Staff Officer, or Karen Honeycutt, currently detailed in the SNF's Forest Fisheries Biologist position.
- Paul E. shared an update that the Lancy Symposium took place at the end of November, November and it was very successful.
- Paul Lulay, Hampton, requested that meetings be scheduled in advance as far as possible for the main group and subcommittees.
- Jim Fairchild, Corvallis Audubon, spoke about the Corvallis Municipal Watershed turbidity tracking by Mary's Peak. There has been a steady increase in turbidity. There are a few timber sales currently around the Mary's Peak area. He wants to know which treatments happened, not just those listed in the Environmental Assessment, and is hoping that USFS can help him understand.

**Action item:** USFS to reach out to Jim Fairchild about Corvallis Municipal Watershed turbidity tracking efforts.

Chuck Willer asked the Forest Supervisor if USFS is willing to take feedback on its stated 2024 priorities. The Forest Supervisor said she would welcome feedback and it can be sent directly to her at her email: [rebecca.brooke@usda.gov](mailto:rebecca.brooke@usda.gov)

**Action item:** OCCFC members optionally to send feedback on 2024 Siuslaw National Forest Direction on an individual basis.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

The Coordinator led participants through [a presentation](#) of collaborative highlights from 2023 and led participants through [a Jamboard discussion](#) and reflection of 2023. Key questions and answers are below.

- **What was your favorite OCCFC memory in 2023?**
  - Little Gaudy field trip
  - Joint OCCFC and Stewardship meeting in February
  - Having field trips inspire new collaborative members to join us
  - Meeting new people
  - Seeing the North Fork Smith project in the field and having a chance to ask questions of USFS staff while on the tour
  - Meeting everyone and getting out in the woods together at Little Gaudy!
  - Watching trust gradually develop
- **What went well this year / what are you most proud of?**
  - Putting together a great roads panel
  - OCCFC is involved with NF Smith EA
  - Appreciate that everyone is still here working together
  - OCCFC and FS continue to work together
  - OCCFC group is still functioning
  - Having a high level of engagement despite lots of transition
  - Dealing with uncomfortable situations and moving through them
- **Where is there opportunity for growth in 2024?**
  - Continuing growth on clarity during collaboration with USFS in planning and project development
  - More in-person opportunities to get to know each other and grow relationships
  - Field trips to project sites
  - More field trips
  - More field trips to thought-provoking locales

- Recruitment of new members
- Explore additional members
- Expanding understanding of rules and regulations that govern USFS processes
- More in-person interaction among the group
- Sharing new science and insights
- Continued building of trust (x2)
- Seeing the collaborative look to include more landownerships and land managers

## 2024 FORECASTING AND VISIONING

The Coordinator led participants through [a Jamboard discussion](#) and forecasting of 2024 for the collaborative. Key questions and answers are below.

- **USFS Projects in 2024**
  - North Fork Smith
  - Hebo Geological Assessment
  - Drift EA
  - Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment prepared by OCAP
  - Devil's Staircase Wilderness Plan
  - Invasives Weed Management EA
  - Lessons learned from Echo Mountain and Three Buttes Fire
- **What topics are you interested in learning more about?**
  - Landscape conservation (x2)
  - It would be great to hear (in the coming year) from the FS how they think the NWFP amendments might change things on the forest
  - Continued learning about climate change adaptation- and how this is changing the arc of the SNF
  - Rural socioeconomics and forest management (How will USFS NEPA projects benefit local communities/ economies?)
  - Survey of campground users and demographic profile
  - Climate change monitoring across the area of the SNF
  - How the agency sees implementation of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and changes that may be warranted under the plan amendment
  - How the SNF is dealing with the homeless population on the Forest
  - Interest in participating in the barred owl removal strategy developed by FWS--if and when it is finalized?
  - Fire and fire management

- Decision pathways for responding to fires. What the response looks like. What resources are you protecting in what priority order.
- **What field tours are you interested in going on?**
  - Three Buttes fire area (x4)
  - Drift EA area
  - Logging operation areas
  - Drift Creek pre-project
  - A campground (How are campgrounds managed and what amenities are typically offered?)
  - Interior forest habitat
  - New NEPA projects we interact on.
- **Ideas for science panels in 2024?**
  - Landscape conservation
  - Climate change and how that is specifically affecting SNF/coastal forest fire regime
  - Fire-resistant planting for the future
  - Forest changes under different climate projections. Under what circumstance will cedar not grow or Hemlock?
  - Invasives (plant focus): what treatments work, what do not, how categorize invasives
  - Connectivity
- **Anything else we can accomplish together next year?**
  - Recruiting new members
  - The list of 2024 agenda topics and speakers identified by Feb.
  - Acquire more funding
  - More defined outcomes for OCCFC-FS before starting to work on the Drift EA.
  - In-person activities?
  - Having fun
  - Fun = trust
  - Projects?
  - Trainings?
  - Presentations?

The Coordinators thanked USFS staff for their hard work and dedication over the course of 2023. The collaborative looks forward to seeing them again in the new year.

-----USFS Staff Leaves-----

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND ONGOING WORK UPDATES

OCCFC members approved the [November meeting minutes](#). The Coordinator will upload the minutes to the OCCFC website.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will upload November meeting minutes to the OCCFC website.

Members debriefed the first half of the meeting. There was interest in looking closer at Northwest Forest Plan revisions in 2024 and it was suggested that the Collaborative consider reaching out to Susan Jane Brown, Forest Collaborative representative on the FACA Committee involved in the amendment process.

The following updates were provided on behalf of the Wildlife and Herbicides and Invasives subcommittees:

- The Wildlife Subcommittee has been working on beaver habitat Zones of Agreement and has approved them for review by full collaborative.
- The Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee will be working with Chelsea Monks in 2024 on the development of a new EA.

Kirk is coordinating with the USFS and Stewardship Groups to identify a date for the annual celebration for stewardship and collaborative groups in February 2024. Dates are still being finalized.

The Coordinator revisited the topic of having an Operations Subcommittee. Members agreed that an Operations Subcommittee that meets monthly was not something to pursue developing due to scheduling constraints. David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council, suggested that because the collaborative is so small, issues could be discussed in the full group. Paul L proposed having periodic/ad hoc Operations Subcommittee meetings instead of monthly.

The Coordinator weighed interest in developing a YouTube channel for the OCCFC to post recordings of science panel presentations. Some members reported concern about managing comments on videos if the comments do not follow the OCCFC code of conduct. The group had a brief discussion on other similar examples of YouTube channels and how they are managed or what their comments sections are like. Paul E. encouraged members to explore the Cape Perpetua Collaborative's YouTube channel as a reference and will check with the group's Coordinator to see if there is a management plan. The YouTube Channel will be created, and videos will be posted but be unlisted until a management plan is agreed upon by OCCFC members.

**Action item:** Paul E. to check in with Katie at the Cape Perpetua Collaborative to see if the group has a YouTube Channel management plan.

The Coordinator thanked everyone for their time and wished them a happy new year.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:30am*

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Reach out to Jim Fairchild about Corvallis Municipal Watershed turbidity tracking efforts	USFS	2/9/24
2	Send feedback on 2024 Siuslaw National Forest Direction on an individual basis (optional)	OCCFC Members	2/9/24
3	Upload November meeting minutes to the OCCFC website	Coordinator	2/9/24
4	Check in with Katie at Cape Perpetua Collaborative about the YouTube Channel management plan / scope	Paul E.	2/9/24

## APPENDIX B: MEETING CHAT

09:01:39 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Good morning all

09:02:26 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Shawn R. has a schedule conflict this AM and can't attend.

09:02:52 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

My apologies but I can only stay for about an hour

09:04:36 From Dani Jochums, Co-Coordinator (she/her) to Everyone:

Introductions: name, organization/affiliation, optionally: one of your favorite forest memories in 2023.

09:19:14 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

I can share Shawn's update.

09:19:21 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "I can share Shawn's ..." with 👍

09:21:49 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

If anyone wants to see the notice for the NWFP amendment, it is here - and will be officially published on Monday. <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-27742/environmental-impact-statements-availability-etc-region-5-and-region-6-california-oregon-and>

09:22:16 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "If anyone wants to s..." with 👍

09:22:22 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Thanks Chandra!

09:27:24 From Jim Fairchild to Everyone:

Reacted to "If anyone wants to s..." with 👍

09:29:49 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

Here is the NWFP Federal Register Notice: 2023-27742.pdf ([federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov))

09:30:00 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

Region 6 - Planning ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov))

09:40:34 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:

I am supportive of that- since this forest encompasses so many different counties and a wide geographical area

09:40:44 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

Reacted to "I am supportive of t..." with 👍

09:42:44 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

Karen Honeycutt is currently detailed into our Forest Fisheries position, and of course Katie Richardson as the NR Staff Officer is someone you can connect with on the FIP

09:52:50 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:

Should we ask questions now or wait till after the presentation?

09:57:10 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Jamboard #1: [https://jamboard.google.com/d/1DlelrWp\\_aAy-CnOYMLtaKTj-6uldTFhLqndlo14cQxU/viewer?f=1](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1DlelrWp_aAy-CnOYMLtaKTj-6uldTFhLqndlo14cQxU/viewer?f=1)

10:02:36 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

I'm not adding anything because I wasn't the one participating for most of the year. 😊 But I appreciate that y'all are still here working together.

10:07:01 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Creating a practical working relationship with key forest managers.

10:09:28 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

I'm really sorry to miss the planning for 2024 - I have to jump off at the break. But it would be great to hear (in the coming year) from the FS how they think the NWFP amendments might change things on the forest.

10:09:41 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm really sorry t..." with 👍

10:14:19 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm really sorry to ..." with 😊

10:14:21 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Removed a 😊 reaction from "I'm really sorry to ..."

10:23:17 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:



Jamboard #2: <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1R-vy8bUhsqtB3geDyD1AM0Fr1eIbb7A0NqdnE1vHbxE/edit?usp=sharing>

10:27:58 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Climate change monitoring across the area of the SNF.

10:28:24 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

OCAP Vulnerability Assessment: [https://adaptationpartners.org/ocap/docs/OCAP\\_Assessment-Final\\_with\\_figures.pdf](https://adaptationpartners.org/ocap/docs/OCAP_Assessment-Final_with_figures.pdf)

10:29:18 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Survey of campground users and demographic profile.

10:30:05 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Survey of campground..." with 👍

10:30:37 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

How the agency sees implementation of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and changes that may be warranted under the plan amendment

10:33:07 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Rural socioeconomics and forest management.

10:33:07 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Siuslaw Fire staff will be presenting to OCCFC at April meeting.

10:33:57 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Anything in particular the OCCFC is interested in hearing from them?

10:34:20 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Siuslaw Fire staff w..." with 👍

10:34:23 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

put in the jam board

10:37:21 From Michele Holman to Everyone:

Sounds like Chuck has the information so maybe we need to hear from him. We don't have a huge amount of socioeconomic expertise in the Forest Service.

10:38:50 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Sounds like Chuck ha..." with 👍

10:44:32 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Visit a fire area that failed to reach the crown i.e. the fire near Hecata Lighthouse

10:45:08 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Interior forest habitat visit

10:45:37 From Michele Holman to Everyone:

Fire near Hecata Lighthouse is the 3 Buttes Fire.

10:46:10 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Visit to a campground. How are campgrounds managed and what amenities are typically offered?

10:48:23 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Can organize a tour to a logging operation recent or a few years post.

10:48:33 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

With enough planning time.

10:49:21 From Chuck Willer, He/Him Coast Range Association to Everyone:

Forest changes under different climate projections. Under what circumstance will cedar not grow or Hemlock?

10:49:38 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Can organize a tour ..." with 👍

10:57:21 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

rebecca.brooke@usda.gov

10:57:24 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Forest changes under..." with 👍

10:57:28 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "rebecca.brooke@usda...." with 👍

10:58:44 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Thanks all!

10:58:53 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Have a great holiday season!

10:58:53 From Michele Holman to Everyone:

Thanks everyone!!

10:59:09 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Thanks everyone!!" with ❤️

10:59:11 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Have a great holiday..." with ❤️

11:07:16 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

[https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/EeqXTF4SX89Jr-GNPCFdfHoBtyrsInCmeTBVGBNk21aEyA?e=9gCapN](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/EeqXTF4SX89Jr-GNPCFdfHoBtyrsInCmeTBVGBNk21aEyA?e=9gCapN)

11:08:42 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

November Wildlife Subcommittee meeting minutes (feat Kami Ellingson)^^

11:19:45 From Dani Jochums, Co-Coordinator (she/her) to Everyone:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoQ8tjfkR4hELasxPBMwmUA>

11:25:36 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Cape perpetual collaborative: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK3ym1nlbe4zkc6jY34NYSw>

11:25:44 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Perpetual\*

11:29:50 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:

Have a good afternoon everyone. I need to sign off. -Paul Lulay

11:30:03 From Alyssa Bonini, Co-Coordinator, she/her to Everyone:

Reacted to "Have a good afternoo..." with 👍