

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, AFRC
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Community Member
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- *Anna Woodrich, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Andrew Maher, SIU Public Services
- Eric Anderson, Partnership Coordinator
- Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer
- Deanna Williams, Wildlife Program Lead
- Kenny Ruzicka, Forest Silviculturist

**WELCOME, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

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

**UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**Forest Supervisor**

Joanie Schmidgall provided updates on behalf of Becca Brooke. She shared that the Siuslaw hosted a public engagement session on Tuesday, 2/11 to share information about the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) amendment, noting that the event was well attended with about 50 members of the public and four subject matter experts from the team that worked on

the Amendment. She also noted that the comment period for the NWFP amendment is still open until mid-March.

Eric Anderson provided an update on funding for the Collaborative, and shared that the Forest Service will not be able to provide future funding in addition to the current funds.

#### **CPRCD**

Kirk Shimeall shared that he attended the NWFP info session and noted that he observed a distinction between the use of the term stewardship at the regional level vs on the Siuslaw. Kirk also noted some uncertainty around funding sources given the cuts by the federal administration and acknowledged the difficult climate for Forest Service staff.

#### **OCCFC – Coordinator and Members**

Dani Jochums, Coordinator, thanked the Forest Service for hosting the info session and having the OCCFC table there to share info on the collaborative. Anna Woodrich, Coordinator, shared that she will be on maternity leave beginning in April this year, and Dani will be supported as the Coordinator by Triangle Associates colleague Ben Relampagos.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, shared that Oregon Wild just launched a new website with info about beavers, and invited the group to visit it.

#### **DISCUSSION: CONNECTIVITY PANEL**

Dani invited the group to give input on what the focus of ongoing connectivity discussions should be. The members asked questions about road placement related to habitat connectivity. DeAnna Williams noted that the Forest Service biologists give recommendations on this but don't make the final decisions. She also noted that an important topic related to ridge tops is how to manage downed wood given fire risk, especially with increasing fire risk where it has not previously been as much of a concern in the coastal environment.

Eric Anderson asked whether the Collaborative is more interested in terrestrial or aquatic species when it comes to habitat connectivity. Chandra responded that the group tends to be more focused on terrestrial species because the Siuslaw is a more fragmented landscape with roads and thinning. Dave Eisler noted that the vision of the Collaborative in the past has been to create interior forests with large blocks of land that would not be disturbed by the occasional thinning treatment. Kenny Ruzicka, SNF, shared that the Siuslaw is a mosaic of different stand types and tree density and added that he was not entirely in agreement that thinning causes fragmentation, noting that different stand types already exist, and thinning is associated with benefits for multiple species. Fran Recht noted that when it comes to Threatened and Endangered species specifically, there is concern that having too much open canopy may not provide proper habitat, and that canopy cover is important to creating connectivity between stands. Kenny mentioned a study done on the Siuslaw that examined thinning and understory diversity. DeAnna Williams noted that thinning treatments always try to take species needs into consideration. Paul L. added that choosing not to thin is also a management decision and results in longer time to achieve LSR conditions. He suggested that when choosing not to thin

it's important to have information to back that up why that decision is beneficial. The group then discussed the needs of different species of interest when it comes to specific conditions and habitat features.

DeAnna mentioned that Jim Rivers, Oregon State University (OSU), would be a good person to reach out to about connectivity-related research on the Siuslaw National Forest that OSU has been working on. DeAnna also mentioned a previous presentation she had put together in the past that was related to some of the topics that OCCFC members were interested in. She said that she would look for the presentation to see if it could be useful to share with the group in the future.

*Action Item: Dani will reach out to Jim Rivers*

*Action Item: DeAnna will look for past presentation*

Kenny invited members to visit the study sites to discuss connectivity further. Members are encouraged to reach out to him if interested.

#### REVIEW 2025 TOPIC TRACKER

The group reviewed and updated the [2025 meeting topic tracker](#).

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked the USFS staff for their participation. The USFS staff left the meeting.

-----**USFS Staff Leaves and Break**-----

#### DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

The Coordinator invited the Collaborative members to share their thoughts on the discussion on connectivity with SNF staff. Andy shared that he feels the SNF has shared what they can about the topic of connectivity and that the discussions on that topic have provided all the benefits they can. Dave raised the question of whether there will be an opportunity to identify alignment between the Collaborative's understanding of connectivity and SNF's. He asked whether this could be a topic for a Zone of Agreement. Andy noted that he believes the Collaborative can agree on things they would like the Forest Service to consider and added that they cannot direct the Forest Service's actions. He also noted his observation that the Forest Service is considering Collaborative positions to the extent that they can. Chandra suggested that the group think about providing a checklist of priority considerations for the Collaborative to the Forest Service and invite them to respond to how each item was considered when decisions are made. Fran agreed that documenting the Collaborative's interests and concerns on the topic of connectivity is valuable.

Dani affirmed that the next steps would be for the Wildlife Subcommittee to draft some statements for the full Collaborative to review before bringing them to the Forest Service.

## BUDGET UPDATES

Kirk Shimeall provided an update on the current status of funding for the Collaborative. He shared that the Forest Service does not anticipate being able to provide funding beyond what has already been allocated, and that the current funding will be sufficient through late 2025. He noted that CPRCD is working with Triangle Associates to identify new potential funding sources, and asked for the group to share any input on how they suggest the remaining funds should be prioritized. Kirk also asked the group to share any suggestions they might have for additional funding sources.

The group shared some suggestions on how to maximize existing funding for efficiency and suggested some potential alternative funding sources.

## REVIEW LETTER OF AGREEMENT

The Coordinator briefly reviewed the Letter of Agreement between the Collaborative and the Siuslaw National Forest.

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

- a) Subcommittee updates
  - a. Dani noted that the Wildlife Subcommittee had met in January to discuss the topic of Habitat Connectivity with DeAnna Williams and that she would reach out to schedule a future subcommittee meeting with them.
- b) Membership and Recruitment Status
  - a. Dani welcomed Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology, to the group as an official member, having signed the OCCFC's Declaration of Commitment.
- c) Barred Owl Removal Work
  - a. Dani flagged a letter response to the OCCFC's Barred Owl Removal Letter that Forest Supervisor Becca Brook had emailed out to the OCCFC members earlier in the week.

## WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked everyone for their time and said that the **next meeting would be 9:00am – 12:00pm on March 14<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Reach out to Jim Rivers	Dani Jochums	4/11/25

2	<i>Look for past presentation</i>	DeAnna Williams	4/11/25
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**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- *Anna Woodrich, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Andrew Maher, SIU Public Services
- Becca Brooke, Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor
- Eric Anderson, Partnership Coordinator
- Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer
- Kenny Ruzicka, Forest Silviculturist
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Allen Hambrick, Deputy Central Coast 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, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

The Coordinators for the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (OCCFC) welcomed participants to the meeting and reviewed the meeting agenda.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Forest Supervisor – *Becca Brooke***

Becca shared that the Siuslaw National Forest is undergoing many staffing changes, and that continuing uncertainty around staffing is making planning difficult at this time. Becca noted that the timber program and wildfire suppression will be prioritized under the agency's new leadership. A Collaborative member asked whether the Title 2 projects and Stewardship funding were stalled. Becca confirmed that there is a pause in some grants and agreements processes, but added that the Forest Service hopes to be able to proceed with agreements in the near future.

### **Central Coast Ranger District – *Michele Holman***

Michele shared that the wildlife program is currently short staffed after the departure of multiple district wildlife biologists. She noted that work is continuing on the North Fork Smith EA and she expects this will be complete by the end of May, at which time a draft decision will be made available for public review. Michele also shared that the program is in a holding pattern in terms of workforce and budget in the midst of the administration transition.

### **Hebo Ranger District – *Shawn Rivera***

Shawn shared that the Hebo district is shorted staff having recently lost a wildlife biologist, and possibly a wildlife technician. He noted that service to some recreation sites may need to be reduced as a result of staffing shortages. Shawn also shared that Drift Creek will be the next watershed level planning project, and that plans for this are under development. He noted that the district is short one logging systems staff member. Lastly, Shawn shared that the Tillamook PUD is in consultation with Fisheries to coordinate on work to underground power lines.

A Collaborative member addressed all Forest Service staff members with the question on whether the Forest Service is currently able to hire to fill the vacant roles mentioned during the above updates. Becca shared that the Forest Service has been in a hiring freeze for the past six months and it is currently unknown how much longer this will continue. She does not anticipate being able to hire any time in the near future. Another Collaborative member acknowledged the challenges the Forest Service is currently facing and shared that they are still hearing interest from the public around engaging with acquisitions. Shawn invited the Collaborative member to reach out to him to discuss further.

Action Item: Paul E. will reach out to Shawn Rivera to discuss public interest in acquisitions.

A Collaborative member asked if the Forest Service could share which wildlife staff they lost. Becca shared that there are vacant GS11 positions on the Hebo and Oregon Dunes districts and that a significant number of probationary employees in biological technician roles across the Forest were also lost. She added that many of these were permanent seasonal staff that perform much of the field work.

#### **CPRCD – Kirk Shimeall**

Kirk shared that he sent an update via email on the status of the stewardship funding. He also noted that he shared an update about the status of the agreement that funds the Collaborative and acknowledged that there is some uncertainty about whether the extension will be available.

#### **OCCFC – Dani Jochums**

Dani reminded the group that co-coordinator Anna Woodrich would be transitioning out of her role for parental leave. The new support staff for the Collaborative, Ben Relampagos, introduced himself. Ben will take over Anna's role starting the April meeting.

### **DISCUSSION: CLARIFYING OCCFC / USFS ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PROCESSES**

The Coordinator shared a survey to clarify Collaborative members' and USFS staff's understanding of the Zone of Agreement (ZOA) development process. The group then discussed what they feel is going well with the ZOA process. Members and FS staff noted things like improved understanding of different perspectives, sharing of information, increased clarity around parameters on Forest Service activities, and the exchange of ideas. When asked to share constructive criticism or suggested changes, Collaborative members noted that it would be helpful to have more input from the Forest Service on the Siuslaw's current priorities with regards to management and how the Collaborative can best address them in Zones of Agreement. This would help the Collaborative connect ZOAs more closely to Forest Service work. It was also noted that having more Forest Service staff participation in the ZOA development process would be beneficial and help ensure that the final product is realistic. Becca suggested that the Collaborative announce to the Forest Service when a new ZOA process is beginning so that staff can be better prepared to provide support. A Collaborative member suggested the group consider re-opening the Roads ZOA in order to facilitate closer collaboration with the Forest Service on the final product. It was agreed to note this as a potential topic for a future meeting. The Coordinator asked whether the Collaborative would be interested in working with other agencies in ZOAs when parts fall outside of Forest Service



authority. The Collaborative noted the importance of keeping the purpose of ZOAs focused and avoiding topics that are too broad. It was agreed that working with other authorities on ZOAs could be considered but that this should not be assumed to be a part of the process at the start.

The Coordinator asked the group whether ZOA's are the primary topic they would like to focus the group's time on. Members noted that other opportunities to give meaningful input, such as the Drift Creek EA, should be prioritized as well. It was added that it is important to have some clarity around how the Collaborative's involvement impacts Forest Service activities on the ground, and that more field visits would be beneficial to this end. Becca recommended that the Collaborative consider seeking funding for an on-the-ground project that will support Forest Service activities, noting that this is an approach that other Collaboratives have successfully implemented to secure funding. Eric Andersen noted that he is available to help support applications. The Coordinator flagged this as a topic for future discussions.

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked the USFS staff for their participation. The USFS staff left the meeting.

-----*USFS Staff Leaves and Break*-----

#### DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

A Collaborative member shared that their understanding of the ZOA process is that finished ZOAs can be revisited with the Forest Service as appropriate. They clarified their understanding that the Forest Service had been involved in the development of the roads ZOAs but acknowledged that the finished product may not have had full buy in from the Forest. A Collaborative member shared an interest in learning more about some current work that the Forest Service is doing related to Climate Change Vulnerability and asked the Coordinator to share the recording of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment from last year.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will re-share recording and slides from presentations last spring.

Collaborative members expressed appreciation for the robust attendance at the meeting by Forest Service staff given the current circumstances around the uncertainty under which they are working. It was noted that the current situation may be an opportunity for the Collaborative to contribute to shared priorities with the Forest Service and support capacity where appropriate. Monitoring and Habitat Connectivity were two potential topics put forward.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will reach out to the Forest Service to ask about any monitoring needs they need support with and bring suggestions back to the Collaborative.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

##### **Subcommittee updates**

The Wildlife subcommittee is scheduling the next meeting. Members are asked to complete the doodle poll shared by the Coordinator as soon as possible.

##### **Membership and Recruitment Status**

The Coordinator sent an email to those who signed up to receive more information at the last Forest Service info session and will follow up with that list again ahead of the April meeting.

The Collaborative discussed connecting with Reed Noss to discuss the current topics of interest to the Collaborative. Chuck Willer said that he could initiate communication with Reed.

**Action Item:** Chuck Willer will reach out to Reed Noss about potentially speaking with the Collaborative.

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked everyone for their time and said that the **next meeting would be 9:00am – 12:00pm on April 11<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

#### APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Reach out to Shawn Rivera to discuss public interest in acquisitions.	Paul E.	4/11/25
2	Re-share recording and slides from presentation last spring.	Coordinator	4/11/25
3	Reach out to the Forest Service to ask about any monitoring needs they need support with and bring suggestions back to the Collaborative.	Coordinator	4/11/25
4	Reach out to Reed Noss about potentially speaking with the Collaborative.	Chuck Willer	4/11/25

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology
- Andy Geissler, AFRC
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- Fran Recht, Community Member
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- *Ben Relampagos, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Becca Brooke, Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor
- Eric Anderson, Partnership Coordinator
- Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer
- Kenny Ruzicka, Forest Silviculturist
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Chelsea Monks, Forest Botanist

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**WELCOME, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

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## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Forest Supervisor – *Becca Brooke***

Becca congratulated Kirk on the Stewardship Celebration in Yachats and shared that the event was meaningful. Becca shared a recent Executive Order from President Trump to increase timber production and an associated Secretarial Memo from Brook Rollings designating 112 million acres of National Forest System lands as an Emergency Situation under Sec. 40807 of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law). She noted that a National Strategy for meeting these objectives is due on May 3d, and that each Forest Service region will produce a five-year strategy by July 3d. A Collaborative member asked what role the Siuslaw NF will play in influencing the Regional USFS plan. Becca confirmed that there are bi-weekly meetings with regional timber staff to discuss timber sale planning, however she noted that the Region is waiting on the national strategy to help inform the Regional plan. A Collaborative member noted the language of the emergency in the memo and asked how declaring an emergency affects Siuslaw. A Collaborative member asked about the agency's position on the risk of fire in the Siuslaw. Becca confirmed that the maps are pulled from national datasets, and that the emergency declaration does not authorize or require any particular program, plan or action. The declaration of an emergency unlocks emergency authorities for NEPA, ESA, and other processes. The Forest Supervisor wants the Collaborative to be a part of informing these decisions moving forward.

A Collaborative member noted that wildfire planning is a potential place of collaboration with USFS. Becca suggested that they could work with the Siuslaw NF in mapping potential operational delineations (PODs) and Potential Containment Lines (PCLs). PODs and PCLs are used by Incident Management Teams as starting places to hold fires.

Lastly, Becca noted that USFS's staffing is volatile. Some staff members have applied for voluntary resignation and the Forest Service is unsure what staffing numbers will look like after processing resignations and early retirements.

### **Central Coast Ranger District – *Michele Holman***

Michele shared an update on the North Fork Smith decision. She noted that they are close to completing the project.

### **Hebo Ranger District – *Shawn Rivera***

Becca shared that the Hebo team has continued looking at both the Drift planning area and the Yamina planning area. A Collaborative member requested an update or forecast on the

anticipated body of work road replacement and culvert replacement. Becca told them that this would be part of the NEPA process that is just starting in these planning areas and that the forest would provide an update to the Collaborative when those numbers are available. A collaborative member asked about quarry and road activity in the Three Buttes area on the Central Coast Ranger District and Michele clarified that a majority of the truck activity is road work and logging in the Three Creek and Indian Creek area due to active sales this time of year.

**Action item:** Chuck to clarify what road activity in the Drift Creek area he has questions about and the Hebo Ranger District can follow up.

A Collaborative member mentioned that there has been a lot of science assessments for the NWFP DEIS and collaborative members contributed comments on the DEIS. Members commented that they would like an update on what the Agency is doing on the DEIS process. Becca confirmed that the NW Forest Plan/Amendment plan is continuing and still being led and staffed out of a centralized service planning group. She does not have easy access to comments that were submitted that are specific to the Coast Range, so if Collaborative members would like her to be aware of them they should email them to her.

#### **CPRCD – Kirk Shimeall**

Kirk shared that CPRCD is experiencing a log jam, but it does not affect the Siuslaw stewardship. Funding is frozen and they are waiting for funding opportunities to continue work. He noted that CPRCD is looking into a program called Instrumentl to help with a database of grant opportunities. The SNF doesn't have the funds to continue funding the Collaborative past the funding already allocated. He noted that CPRCD will continue to search for funding for this group. Kirk added that if members have any leads to please share them with him. A member asked if the funds awarded 2024 for the Stewardship are frozen. Kirk confirmed that the 2024 awards are frozen. He acknowledged that the Forest Service is low staffed and that everyone should be patient. Becca noted that there are changes and movement in the Forest Service contracting department.

#### **OCCFC – The Coordinator and OCCFC Members**

The Coordinator reminded the group that co-coordinator Anna Woodrich would be transitioning out of her role for parental leave. The new support staff for the Collaborative, Ben Relampagos, introduced himself. Ben will take over Anna's role from the April meeting onward. Dani noted that OCCFC will continue to search for funding.

Chandra noted that she will be on a sabbatical, and the April meeting will be her last meeting until June 2025.

Chuck shared that there was a forest celebration at the Yachats commons that was attended by several hundred people. The event focused on information about Siuslaw management.

Finally, Paul announced that there will be a Murrelet event on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will drop fliers off at one of the USFS offices.

#### DISCUSSION: RAC INFORMATION SESSION

The Coordinator introduced Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer for Siuslaw, to give a presentation on the Siuslaw National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Joanie noted that the RAC is recruiting members to participate in the advisory committee. The committee consists of 15 members from three categories. RAC members serve a 4-year term, meeting once every two years. The current term will expire in May 2025. Every time the RAC meets, they allocate 1 million dollars. The three categories for RAC members are Cat A, Organized Labor; Cat B, Environmental Organization; and Cat C, Elected Office. Projects are eligible for Title II funding if they are restoration focused, protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and maintain existing infrastructure on and off federal land (need a federal land nexus).

A Collaborative member asked if acquisition can be considered under the category of protection. Joanie stated that acquisition is not included. Projects need to apply for at least \$5000 of funding to be considered.

**Action item:** Joanie will follow up with Fran whether acquisition falls under the protection requirement.

A Collaborative member noted that there is a discussion on trying to tap into the Title III funding for the facilitation of protecting public land.

**Action item:** Paul E. will continue conversation with Joanie on Title III funding and the overlap with Title II funding.

Joanie shared that while there is uncertainty in the reauthorization process of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS), the RAC will move forward with recruitment.

A Collaborative member asked who to contact for a project involving Meadow and Elk protection. Joanie suggested to direct contact to Chelsea Monks or herself.

A Collaborative member asked if there is a timeline for getting the RAC reapproved. Joanie stated that historically the RACs have been reapproved, but there is still uncertainty.

A Collaborative member asked if someone was interested in the RAC but was actively looking for funding if that person would recuse themselves from reviewing their project. Joanie confirmed that members would need to recuse themselves from reviewing their own project if they are involved in voting.

The Coordinator thanked Joanie and opened up a new discussion on what areas of cooperation the Collaborative could move into with USFS.

Becca noted that fire work comes up regularly, and she believes that the SNF is at a stage where they can share POD and PCL maps. She said SNF staff are open to whatever the Collaborative is interested in but suggest that the Collaborative goes after something that can draw potential funding, whether that is fire or conservation. A Collaborative member noted that the Oregon Department of Forestry has funding opportunities. He also noted that there are also forest service grant calendars that have application opportunities across organizations.

A Collaborative member asked for the definition of Pods and PCLs. Becca provided the acronyms as Potential Operations of Delineations (PODS), and Potential Control Lines (PCL).

Collaborative members agreed that the Collaborative should focus on opportunities that involve fire prevention and fire fighting. Becca noted that Chris Mushrush from the Northwest Oregon Fire Management program has done a lot of initial mapping work. His work has been shared with the SNF's boots-on-the-ground team. She added that the Forest would like to engage with ODF and private timber owners so that lines can be drawn across boundaries. OSU has helped facilitate these conversations across the state, and it could be possible to ask them to help convene and facilitate these meetings. Becca suggested that the Collaborative could start with Chris coming in and giving an overview of the work already done.

A Collaborative member noted that fire expertise and firefighting expertise have something to contribute to the conversation. He would like to hold further conversations about the nature of coastal forest and fire resistance and resilience. In the DEIS for amending the NWFP, fire resistance was not mentioned and there is a body of fire science that could work in the Siuslaw

that shouldn't be confused with Fire Prevention in drier areas. He supported a focus on natural ecology.

A Collaborative member added that the Collaborative should consider natural resource values and what should be protected during firefighting. The member asked whether there will be issues in protections when planning fuel breaks and big PODs. The member suggested that Paul Engelmeyer can bring these perspectives to the table. Becca noted that the Collaborative could grow its knowledge and skillset around these topics like fire in order to grow its opportunities for funding.

A Collaborative member inquired on how recent staff changes at USFS had affected the firefighting program. Becca responded that no firefighters were let go with the Deferred Resignation Program, but there is a hiring pause and continual uncertainty when it comes to staffing.

Members agreed on pursuing funding and projects for fire prevention information and outreach to community groups.

A Collaborative member noted that industrial owners should be responsible for funding, but many campers contribute to high fire risks. He added that the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) needs to be informed of these risks since they have a lot of knowledge on fire response. Becca suggested that since the Forest Service works closely with ODF, the Collaborative could invite them to talk at a Collaborative meeting

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will touch base with USFS staff on future conversations on PODs and PCLs.

## WRAP-UP

The Coordinator thanked the USFS staff for their participation. The USFS staff left the meeting.

-----*USFS Staff Leaves and Break*-----

## DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

The Coordinator opened up a debrief discussion of the first half of the meeting, starting by suggesting connecting local communities to the topic of fire risk in the Oregon Coast Range.



A Collaborative member noted that messaging is important as well as direct outreach to people at dispersed campsites. They added that it's also important for cities to be fire aware while camping or in the forest, and the current messaging and practices are not adequate.

A Collaborative member added that they would volunteer to reach out to Lincoln County, Newport, Yachats, and Florence. The member suggested that there might be funding for an active summer program during a high fire season. There are different standards for different emergencies. On the coast they don't shut down logging because the forest is fire resistant, but there is a high focus on the public and there should be patrols on the road talking to people.

The Coordinator asked the Collaborative if they are interested in having a science panel to talk about fire risk and prevention on the Coast Range. Paul Engelmeyer suggested reaching out to science experts Bev Law and Dominic De La Sala for a potential science panel.

**Action item:** The Coordinator will reach out to potential science experts Bev Law and Dominic De La Sala

The Coordinator added that the Collaborative has a great opportunity to flag projects like the work at OSU and some more of the Collaborative-approved projects for USFS. She added that these are opportunities to share the current science available outside of USFS's current references.

A Collaborative member noted that there is a need for increased patrolling, but that increased patrolling seems unrealistic for USFS. The members agree about doing outreach to different communities and cities.

A Collaborative member suggested that the Collaborative could work with the agency to work on effective messaging and ask cities and towns to provide funding for signage for different towns and cities to volunteer people to post signage. The member also suggested that the Collaborative pursue issuing public service announcements.

A Collaborative member noted that there might be an opportunity to require signage and public information on fires and public use of roads. The member suggested creating a nexus of creating more roads and maintenance and tie messaging to public information campaign against forest fires. Angell Job Corps could be a potential source for volunteers.

Paul Engelmeyer noted that he has had work sessions for Angell Job Corps. While they haven't thought of bringing them into the information distribution portion, they are engaged in forest restoration concepts in various spots.

A Collaborative member noted that Americorp could put up signage and go back weeks later to check up and maintain signage to help to ensure signage is consistent.

Paul Engelmeyer suggested that he could bring up the fire topic with the mayor of Yachats.

Collaborative members expressed appreciation for the robust attendance at the meeting by Forest Service staff given the current circumstances around the uncertainty under which they are working. It was noted that the current situation may be an opportunity for the Collaborative to contribute to shared priorities with the Forest Service and support capacity where appropriate.

The Coordinator mentioned the possibility of having a colleague come in to give a presentation on Social Marketing approaches for behavior change.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will touch base with a colleague on Social Marketing presentation.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

##### Subcommittee updates

The Wildlife subcommittee is scheduling the next meeting. The Coordinator asked if members had capacity to join the Wildlife subcommittee workstream. The members indicated that this was not possible. The Coordinator stated that in future OCCFC meetings there might be time allotted for Wildlife Zones of Agreement development during the second part of the meeting.

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinator thanked everyone for their time and said that the **next meeting would be 9:00am – 12:00pm on May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

#### APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

Action Item		Who	Due by
1	Clarify with USFS what the USFS intends to do with replacement and culvert replacement, and what the truck activity in Siuslaw and Indian Creek EA area.	Chuck W.	N/A
2	Follow up with Fran whether acquisition falls under the protection requirement.	Joanie S.	6/13
3	Continue conversation with Joanie on Title III funding and the overlap with Title II funding.	Paul E.	6/13

4	Touch base with USFS staff on future conversations on PODs and PCLs.	Coordinator	Complete
5	Reach out to potential science experts Bev Law and Dominic De La Sala.	Coordinator	5/9
6	Touch base with a colleague on Social Marketing presentation.	Coordinator	Complete