

## Approved Meeting Notes

### Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative

Friday, February 9, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Online Meeting

#### ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

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

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Paul Engelmeyer, Oregon Bird Alliance
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- 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 (USFS):

- Andrew Maher, Siuslaw National Forest Public Services Staff Officer
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator, Collaborative Liaison

##### **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.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer, on behalf of the Forest Supervisor**

- USFS is engaged in a big hiring effort. Currently working on 11 silviculture vacancies across the region, including our Forest silviculturist.
- The off-forest stewardship application reviews are currently being completed.
- USFS has just finished its seasonal hiring cycle.
- USFS is now going into program of work build-out for FY25. As work is implemented this year, USFS identifies and plans for work to be ready when the new Federal Fiscal Year begins on October 1, 2024.
- Katie Isacksen, USFS NEPA Planner, is returning from detail at the beginning of March.
- The USFS has reviewed the OCCFC Wildlife Subcommittee's preliminary draft ZOAs on beaver habitat. They reminded the OCCFC that the USFS manages habitat, not populations, which are outside the USFS's scope of authority.

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

- The Central Coast District is hiring a biologist and a wildlife technician in Waldport. The district has just gone through a process to hire long-term temporary workers into permanent positions and is currently making offers for permanent seasonal workers. Permanent seasonal workers are permanent employees that work 8-10 months a year.
- Regarding the North Fork Smith EA project, Michele noted that USFS staff in the region are learning how to assess climate change. USFS staff will be participating in a March 21 workshop with regional climate change specialists that will help staff learn the "so what" impacts of climate change and how actions may impact or support forest sustainability.
- USFS is close to finishing the analysis for the North Fork Smith project and timelines have been updated. The updated timeline will be shared with the Collaborative soon.
- In response to a question from Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly named Portland Audubon), about whether climate accounting will come out of climate workshop, Michele shared that there are input and output options for carbon, but that carbon accounting is not mandatory. USFS is currently monitoring vulnerabilities. Michele will check and follow up with the OCCFC on carbon accounting requirements.  
*Update: USFS North Fork Smith climate analysis will include carbon tracking.*

**Action Item:** Michele will check in and follow up with carbon accounting requirements.

**Action Item:** The Coordinators will work to schedule a follow-up meeting on the topic of North Fork Smith.

**Action Item:** OCCFC members will let Coordinators know if there is interest in discussing North Fork Smith responses before the March meeting.

**Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger**

- The Hebo District has been understaffed for the past 6 months but has recently hired five seasonal employees.
- Hannah Smith, Hebo District NEPA planner, has left the district and Hebo is currently looking for a detailer to fill her role.
- Hebo District is currently focusing on the 1861 Forest Road categorical exclusion (CE) to do a geological assessment. USFS will do a NEPA analysis on a course of action.
- Project timelines are still being confirmed but it may be possible to conduct an OCCFC/USFS field tour of the 1861 road in the fall.
- Another project in the works for the Hebo District is the Drift Creek EA for vegetation management. USFS is planning the project around the 1861 Forest Road CE project. The Drift Creek EA will propose stands for treatment, but the proposed stands will likely change once fieldwork is done.

**Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development**

- *Cascade Pacific applied for and received an Oregon Department of Forestry Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS) grant for the Collaborative for \$4k. This grant will help the Collaborative hold a couple of science talks and field trips in 2024.*
- *Stewardship applications have come in. The total requested amount is more than what is available, but it will be a good round with great projects coming in.*

**Collaborative Updates: Collaborative Members/Coordinator**

- *Spring field tour planning is underway. The field tour date has been scheduled for May 14 to visit the Three Buttes fire area and discuss USFS fire management and decision-making pathways.*
- *OCCFC members are requested to share questions about USFS fire management with the Coordinators in advance of the field tour.*

**Action item:** OCCFC member to send questions to the Coordinators concerning USFS fire management in advance of the Spring field tour.

- *The Coordinators distributed the USFS response to the agreements and questions that the OCCFC submitted about the North Fork Smith project in November, 2023. The OCCFC thanked the USFS for their response.*
- *Paul Engelmeyer mentioned that was contacted by individuals affiliated with the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) who will be in Eugene for the [Public Interest Environmental Law Conference](#) in March. They have expressed interest in seeing the Oregon coast while they are in the state for the conference. Paul will be guiding individuals to a few sites on the Oregon coast.*

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## USFS Staff Leaves

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### DEBRIEF USFS UPDATES AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- OCCFC members debriefed the USFS updates.
- OCCFC members approved the December meeting minutes.
- The March OCCFC meeting will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March from 9:00am to 12:00pm and will be used to discuss the topic of strategic planning.
- A Stewardship Group Celebration will take place in Yachats on February 29. Kirk will share OCCFC concerns about fire management at the celebration. He will also share a calendar hold for the event with OCCFC members.

**Action item:** Kirk will bring fire management concerns from OCCFC conversations to the Stewardship Group Celebration in Yachats.

**Action Item:** Kirk will send out invitations to the Stewardship Group Celebration to OCCFC members.

### ONGOING WORK

The Coordinators shared the following updates on behalf of the Wildlife and Herbicides and Invasives subcommittees.

#### Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee:

- On 2/9, the Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee will meet with Chelsea Monks, USFS Botanist to discuss potential to work on Integrated Invasives Species Project. Any members were welcome to attend.

#### Wildlife Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee met last month to draft questions for USFS concerning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Barred Owl removal program.
- Katie Richardson will attend the Wildlife Subcommittee's meeting on Monday, 2/12 to discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Barred Owl removal program, which is open to all members.
- The subcommittee will revisit Beaver ZOAs as needed.

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## Break

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### BEAVER ZONES OF AGREEMENT WORKSHOP

- The Coordinator reviewed a graphic explaining the Zones of Agreement procedure.
- A quorum of OCCFC members reviewed and workshopped the draft Zones of Agreement on beaver habitat that were prepared by the Wildlife Subcommittee. The draft Beaver ZOAs are available on the OCCFC's [OneDrive](#).

- Paul Engelmeyer flagged that he will share several resources that may inform the ZOAs, which may result in future revisions. He believes that the Forest can intervene for species if there is cooperation between the forest leadership and other agencies.

**Action Item:** Paul Engelmeyer will send resources and documents related to Beaver ZOAs to Coordinators.

- The Collaborative worked through the ZOAs point by point, with the Coordinator editing the document live. The below bullet points track key discussion and editing points:
  - Inclusion of specific components alluded to from the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.
  - Removal of redundancy from the ZOAs.
  - It may be good and purposeful to have ZOAs that the group agrees on even if they aren't actionable by the USFS.
  - The group discussed how USFS might be able to work on species management with other agencies.
  - The group discussed why specific terms were selected, such as "priority species," and what the intention for using them is.
  - There is a need to include citations in the ZOA document.
- The Coordinator asked if members felt ready to test consensus on the Beaver ZOAs.
- The group indicated that they would like more time to revisit the ZOAs and noted that several members are absent that would appreciate the chance to weigh in. The OCCFC did not test consensus to adopt the ZOAs at this meeting.
- The Wildlife Subcommittee will revisit the ZOAs at its March meeting and determine next steps.

*The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm*

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

|   | Action Item   | Who             | Due by   |
|---|---|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | Send out invitations to Stewardship Group Celebration to OCCFC members.                                       | Kirk Shimeall   | 2/20/24  |
| 2 | Send resources and documents related to Beaver ZOAs to Coordinators.  | Paul Engelmeyer | 2/20/24  |
| 3 | Check in and follow up with carbon accounting requirements.   | Michele Holman  | Complete |
| 4 | Work to schedule a follow-up meeting on the topic of North Fork Smith.  | Coordinators    | 2/21/24  |
| 5 | Let Coordinators know if there is interest in discussing North Fork Smith responses before the March meeting. | OCCFC Members   | 2/21/24  |
| 6 | Bring fire management concerns from OCCFC conversations to the Stewardship Group Celebration in Yachats.      | Kirk Shimeall   | 2/29/24  |
| 7 | Send questions to Coordinators concerning USFS fire management in advance of the Spring field tour.           | OCCFC Members   | 4/30/24  |

## APPENDIX B: MEETING CHAT

09:09:36 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Icebreaker: when was a moment that you fell in love with nature?

09:24:22 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Katie that's a wonderful memory, thank you for sharing with us <3

09:25:08 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Thanks for sharing everyone.

09:26:00 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:

damn, good icebreaker! reminds us why we are all here, and our shared love of the outdoors

09:26:17 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Reacted to "Thanks for sharing e..." with ❤️

09:26:20 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Reacted to "damn, good icebreake..." with ❤️

09:26:36 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "damn, good icebreake..." with ❤️

09:26:45 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Yes. We are all human beings.

09:26:53 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "Katie that's a wonde..." with ❤️

09:27:50 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "Thanks for sharing e..." with ❤️

09:27:58 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "Yes. We are all hum..." with ❤️

09:45:44 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

REALLY appreciate the response!

09:48:38 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

<https://www.pielc.org/>

09:49:15 From Shawn Rivera to Everyone:

I recommend PIELC but I am biased. :)

09:49:26 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Reacted to "I recommend PIELC bu..." with 

09:49:57 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

Replying to "I recommend PIELC bu..."

You were probably one of the directors, huh, Shawn?!

09:50:46 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Replying to "I recommend PIELC bu..."

You've got 2 past CCDs on here, Chandra! :)

09:50:53 From Shawn Rivera to Everyone:

Replying to "I recommend PIELC ..."

I was in 2019.

09:50:58 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

Reacted to "You've got 2 past CC..." with 

09:51:11 From Eric Andersen - USFS to Everyone:

Thanks all.

09:51:18 From katherinerichardson to Everyone:

thanks everyone

10:06:51 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

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I really wish I was able to attend the stewardship meeting on the 29th, but I have a conflict.

10:13:04 From Dani Jochums to Everyone:

[https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/\\_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?ga=1&id=%2Fpersonal%2Fconnie%5Fcascadepacific%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FOCCFC%20Documents%2FGoverning%20Documents%2FOCCFC%20General%20Operation%20Documents%2FDeclaration%20of%20Commitment%2F2024%2FOCCFC%20Declaration%20of%20Commitment%202024%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fconnie%5Fcascadepacific%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FOCCFC%20Documents%2FGoverning%20Documents%2FOCCFC%20General%20Operation%20Documents%2FDeclaration%20of%20Commitment%2F2024](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?ga=1&id=%2Fpersonal%2Fconnie%5Fcascadepacific%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FOCCFC%20Documents%2FGoverning%20Documents%2FOCCFC%20General%20Operation%20Documents%2FDeclaration%20of%20Commitment%2F2024%2FOCCFC%20Declaration%20of%20Commitment%202024%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fconnie%5Fcascadepacific%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FOCCFC%20Documents%2FGoverning%20Documents%2FOCCFC%20General%20Operation%20Documents%2FDeclaration%20of%20Commitment%2F2024)

10:13:50 From Dani Jochums to Everyone:

Declaration of commitment accessible from the link above.

10:17:50 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

See you all back here at 10:27am

10:28:00 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

I'm trapped under my cat so I didn't go anywhere

10:28:10 From Dani Jochums to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm trapped under my..." with 🤔

10:28:28 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm trapped under my..." with 🤔

10:32:12 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Replying to "Declaration of commi..."

Dani, could I get this emailed to me? The link isn't working, for me anyone, but I have no issue signing the updated document. Thanks!

10:34:14 From Dani Jochums to Everyone:

Replying to "Declaration of commi..."

Yes, I can definitely send the Declaration of Commitment to you via email.

10:34:57 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "Yes, I can definitel..." with 🙄

10:35:06 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Replying to "Declaration of commi..."

Thank you!

10:42:56 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

Yeah, it's a fine line. :)

10:45:12 From Andy Geissler to Everyone:

Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species

10:48:04 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Thanks, Andy. Do you have a citation for those components?

10:49:11 From Andy Geissler to Everyone:

Northwest Forest Plan, Standards & Guidelines - p. B-11, ACS Objectives.

10:59:12 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

And I apologize for having so many opinions when I didn't help draft these. 🙄

11:00:32 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

This is why we discuss as a full group!


11:02:02 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:

I had many of the same questions Chandra, so I am glad you brought them up.


11:09:56 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "And I apologize for ..." with 👍

11:10:04 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "I had many of the sa..." with 

11:10:07 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "This is why we discu..." with 

11:13:59 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Wildlife habitat.

11:15:57 From Chandra LeGue- Oregon Wild to Everyone:

makes sense


11:40:31 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

From Google: allowing natural succession to occur in an ecosystem after removing a source of disturbance

11:45:10 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:

Support passive restoration of riparian areas by beaver populations through a reduction and/or removal of disturbances and obstructions when and where possible.

11:45:34 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "Support passive rest..." with 

11:49:10 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:

We are approaching noon and I need to leave at that time.

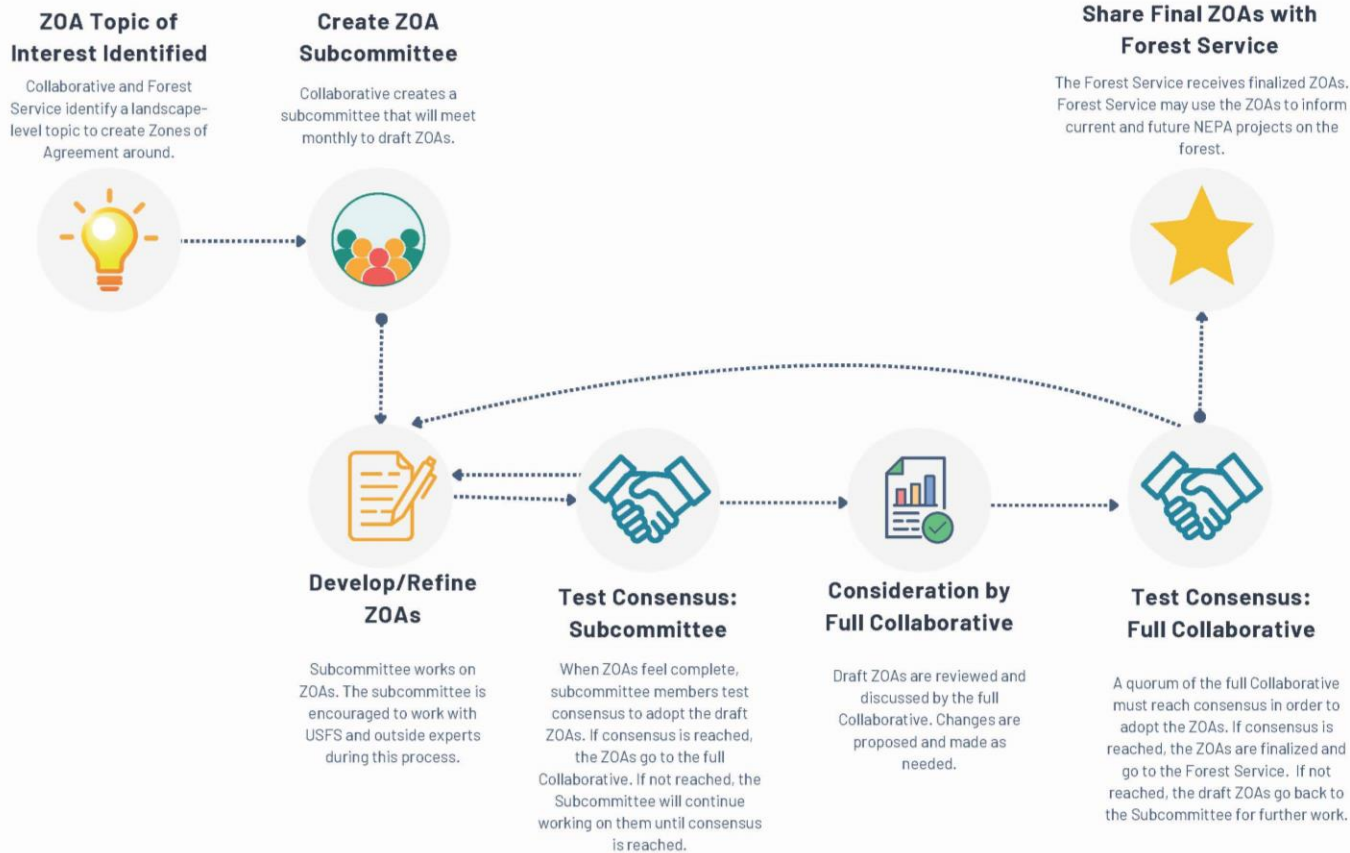
11:59:19 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Thanks!

## APPENDIX C: ZONES OF AGREEMENT PROCEDURE GRAPHIC

### Zones of Agreement Process

OREGON CENTRAL COAST FOREST COLLABORATIVE **OCCFC**



**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, March 8, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- 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, Oregon Bird Alliance *formerly Portland Audubon Society*
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- 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 (USFS):**

- Andrew Maher, Siuslaw National Forest Service Staff Officer
- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator, Collaborative Liaison

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## 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.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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

The Annual Stewardship Celebration took place on February 29<sup>th</sup> in Yachats, OR. It was a lovely day with over 30 people in attendance. At the celebration, Becca spoke with Paul Engelmeyer about what OCCFC is working on related to the Beaver Zones of Agreement.

Celebration attendees included people from watershed councils and the City of Lincoln City. There were two presentations, including a talk on wildfire. Great restoration work is happening with stewardship money. The stewardship report was distributed to celebration attendees and would also be great for OCCFC members to see. Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD, will share the Stewardship Program report with OCCFC members.

**Action item: Kirk to send stewardship program report to OCCFC members**

Becca recently had a visit with The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians of Oregon (CTCLUSI) and signed a co-stewardship Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU invites co-management between these Tribes and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). USFS is looking for funding for the Tribes for capacity building. During the meeting, Becca and Tribal leadership discussed land management and areas where CTCLUSI's and USFS's goals for the Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) align. One example of this alignment could be the use of prescribed fire on the landscape.

Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD, asked if stewardship in the context of the co-stewardship MOU is the same as the stewardship program with retained receipts. Becca answered that co-stewardship is not necessarily tied to the stewardship program; however, Tribes can go through stewardship processes. There may be increased interest from Tribes in stewardship funding after USFS conversations with the Tribes.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, expressed that she would be interested in knowing more about the specifics of the co-stewardship MOU in the future to understand how the USFS plans on working with the Tribes. Becca offered to share a pdf of the MOU with OCCFC members.

**Action item: Becca Brooke to send MOU pdf to Coordinators to distribute to OCCFC members**

Becca is meeting with leadership from the Siletz Tribe on March 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss management. Fran encouraged Becca to let the representatives at her meeting with the Siletz Tribe know that they are welcome to join the OCCFC and other collaborative and stewardship spaces on the Siuslaw.

Action item: Becca to remind Siletz Tribe they are welcome to join collaborative and stewardship groups

Jackie Buchanan, a new Region 6 Regional Forester, is currently visiting the SNF to see the dunes and Cape Perpetua. Siuslaw National Forest leadership talking with her about the current challenges the Siuslaw is facing, including increasing tourism and increasing fire vulnerability.

The SNF Fish Biologist position is open and can be viewed [here](#). Members are encouraged to share the job posting with their networks.

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

The North Fork Smith climate change analysis is underway, which will be in-depth. This will be a good opportunity to see where the USFS is going in the region. The Siuslaw is ahead of most of region with regard to climate change analysis.

Nathan Shinkle, Siuslaw Zone Fire Management Officer, has accepted a new position on another National Forest and will be leaving the Siuslaw at the end of spring, 2024. The Coordinators noted this staffing change and let the group know that this was the USFS staff member who was working with them to coordinate the May field tour. The Coordinators stated that they would coordinate with Nathan on how his new position acceptance may affect the May OCCFC field tour.

Action item: Dani to coordinate with Nathan Shinkle on how his new position acceptance affects the May field tour

Michele shared that USFS is doing a prescribed burn on the dunes European Beach Grass on March 8th. This burn is occurring at Tahkenitch, and the treatment plan is to spray, burn, and then spot spray. USFS is hoping to get more sand for Snowy Plover to nest in. Current Plover habitat restoration efforts concluded on Friday, March 1, that link two existing habitat areas together.

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

The Hebo District is currently focused on planning and staffing, particularly in hiring permanent seasonal employees. The District is still looking for a silviculture and a botany specialist. With regard to planning, the Hebo District is focused on the [Forest Road 1861 geotechnical assessment](#) [Categorical Exclusion](#). They will lean into developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) after the assessment is completed.

The Drift EA is the next big watershed project and is located east of Siletz Bay. The Siletz Tribe seem interested in participating in co-stewardship on this project.

## **OCCFC – Coordinators and Members**

Jim Fairchild, Corvallis Audubon Society, shared that we will be stepping away from the OCCFC. Members and the Coordinators thanked him for this time and expertise working with the OCCFC.

Planning for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Field Tour to the Three Buttes fire area is still underway. Attendance on this field tour will be very important to ensure that the field tour can happen. As of this meeting, a quorum of OCCFC members plan to attend. A proposal has been put together for potential science panel topics, which members will review during the second half of the meeting.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, shared that Oregon Wild will be holding a webcast on March 20<sup>th</sup> on the topic of beaver. Registration is free and more information can be found [online](#).

Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon, shared that he met with lawyers at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in Eugene, Oregon, and gave them a tour of areas of the Siuslaw. He said that James Petit did a great job speaking with these touring lawyers. Paul E. also shared that he had attended the Stewardship Celebration and seen the talk on fire. He would like to focus on fire prevention and funding for signs and education.

The Coordinator thanked the group for their contributions to the first part of the meeting and the USFS Staff left the meeting.

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

### **DEBRIEF USFS UPDATES**

OCCFC members debriefed the USFS updates.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT EXPECTATIONS**

The Coordinator reminded the group of the [Declaration of Commitment](#), reminding members that it was necessary to sign the Declaration to be a voting member.

It was decided that signatures would be collected via a DocuSign which would be sent out via email in the week following the March meeting.

Action item: Coordinators to work with Cascade Pacific to send a DocuSign link to OCCFC members.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The Coordinator walked members through a strategic planning workshop to guide the group through reflecting on the mission of the Collaborative, what OCCFC wants its key relationships

to look like, and what some goals would be for 2024. The goal of this workshop was to agree on discuss and agree on key aspects of the Collaborative to be worked on throughout 2024.

The Coordinator reviewed the OCCFC mission statement, copied below:

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

*[[Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Operating Protocols](#), p.1]*

Fran noted the importance of including climate change and language on long-term sustainability into the mission statement, especially as it is relevant to the projects USFS is working on.

Dave Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council, noted that part of the original purpose of the forest collaborative model was to avoid lawsuits.

The Coordinator explained that the strategic planning time would be used to identify roles and desired relationships between the OCCFC and USFS. She began with by reviewing selected slides from the initial [Coordinator assessment of the OCCFC's operations from Spring 2023](#), highlighting areas of agreement in the OCCFC at the time, areas of differing perspectives in the OCCFC, and consensus on what a successful collaborative looked like.

The group briefly discussed concerns relating to Jim Fairchild's resignation from the Collaborative and having a relationship of mutual respect with USFS staff.

The Coordinator asked the group to review the slide detailing what a successful Forest Collaborative looked like and to answer the questions of where they think the OCCFC is making progress and where the OCCFC was stuck. Answers are detailed below:

**Places the OCCFC has made progress in the past year:**

- 1) We are respectful.
- 2) We have moved forward on Zones of Agreement in a timely manner.
- 3) We have strong facilitation; the skills the coordinators bring to the table are helpful.
- 4) Group norms are good.
- 5) Paul Lulay, Hampton, appreciates the time the USFS staff have made for the group.

**Places the OCCFC is stuck:**

- 1) Mutual respect with USFS could use some work. There are some concerns about Jim's FOIA request and stepping down and concerns about OCCFC members communicating respectfully with USFS.

- 2) USFS needs to *demonstrate* it is listening to the OCCFC with actions as well as words.
- 3) The OCCFC's scope and processes by which topics get put on the table for discussion needs work. How do OCCFC members bring up topics they want the Collaborative to address?
- 4) Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association, expressed that his interactions look different with USFS in recent years. He recalls being able to talk with USFS staff and scientists directly and now feels that advance scheduling and online communications are the norm. The times are changing and affecting the group, especially members of the group who have been working with USFS for decades.
- 5) The OCCFC needs to develop a process for having hard discussions about disagreements between collaborative members and not just focus on 'easy wins.'

The Coordinator asked the group to engage in a relationship mapping activity. The group was encouraged to think about its relationship with USFS by considering the following guiding questions: What does mutual respect look like with USFS? What can USFS offer us? What can we offer USFS? The following ideas came up in response to these questions:

- Maintaining transparency
- Not "stringing each other along." i.e., USFS should tell OCCFC if a ZOA isn't what they're looking for and OCCFC should tell USFS if there is something they won't get OCCFC support on.
- Acknowledging that both groups bring diverse experiences to the table.
- Listening to other's perspectives and really listening, not just preparing arguments.
- Disagreeing and still communicating respectfully.
- Listening and acknowledging the views of others.
- Maintaining a civil relationship between groups and group members.
- Incorporating humor (as appropriate) to help make people feel comfortable.
- Building mutual respect by:
  - Having active work sessions with USFS
  - Holding in-person meetings with advance notice, clarity of why it's in-person, the right people in the room for the topic, and food.
- Possibly collaborating with USFS on education, prevention topics, community connections, and advocating with the Siuslaw on a regional level in the future when the group has its feet under it.

Chuck noted that it is important to have shared goals and review them every now and then.

The Coordinator walked the group through the process for developing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals. She asked members to attempt to build SMART goals addressing points discussed when talking about mutual respect between the OCCFC and USFS. The group created the following draft SMART goals:

- Twice a year overnight retreat. One north and one south relative to the Siuslaw. Or a coastal retreat proximate to a project area and a Corvallis retreat with FS leadership.

- We'd like more clarity around roles and outcomes between the USFS and collab. Together we'll identify specific points where the FS will ask for input, the collab will provide input, and where actionable follow-ups will occur (i.e. the FS will respond or incorporate into a document, or tell us "no", or...)
- The Wildlife subcommittee meet in-person twice in 2024.
- Submit as a Collaborative at minimum 1 letter on a USFS project (any project) that focuses on areas we can agree on and either omits areas we cannot or includes language like "we could not reach consensus on these topics...."

The Coordinator stated that the highlights and the goals from the strategic planning would be included in the meeting minutes and communications and would be revisited in the future. She thanked the group for participating in the strategic planning exercises.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

- OCCFC members approved the February Meeting Minutes.
- The April OCCFC meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 12:00pm and will be used to discuss the topic of fire management on the Siuslaw.
- The Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee meeting will be rescheduled for a new day decided on by subcommittee members following an email follow-up from the Coordinator.

**Action item: Dani to follow up with Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee on rescheduling the meeting for March**

- The group reviewed the 2024 Science Panel Proposal document and gave input on what topics they were the most interested in. Connectivity and the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment were two topics of interest with those present.
- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council, noted that while it might not be a topic for a science panel, he was interested in learning more about the Coastal Martin listing and how it might affect management on the Siuslaw. Others echoed this interest in the chat and the Coordinators noted that they would ask USFS to provide an update on the Coastal Martin listing.

**Action item: Alyssa to suggest that USFS provide an update on the Coastal Martin listing at the April meeting**

- The Coordinator noted interest from the group in discussing USFS responses to OCCFC's North Fork Smith suggestions and questions from the November 2023 meeting. She will work with Eric Andersen, USFS Partnership Coordinator and Collaborative Liaison, to coordinate the USFS presentation on fire to accommodate also having North Fork Smith discussion time at the April OCCFC meeting

Action item: Alyssa to coordinate with Eric Andersen on presentation timing for the April OCCFC meeting to include time for North Fork Smith discussion

The Coordinators thanked everyone for their time and participation.

*The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm*

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

|   | Action Item   | Who           | Due by  |
|---|---|---------------|---------|
| 1 | Send MOU pdf to Coordinators to distribute to OCCFC   | Becca Brooke  | Done    |
| 2 | Remind Siletz Tribe they are welcome to join collaborative and stewardship groups   | Becca Brooke  | 3/8/24  |
| 3 | Send stewardship program report to OCCFC members  | Kirk Shimeall | 3/22/24 |
| 4 | Coordinate with Nathan Shinkle on how his new position acceptance affects the May field tour                                      | Dani Jochums  | 3/20/24 |
| 5 | Follow up with Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee on rescheduling the meeting for March  | Dani Jochums  | Done    |
| 6 | Suggest that USFS provide an update on the Coastal Martin listing at the April meeting  | Alyssa Bonini | 3/20/24 |
| 7 | Coordinate with Eric Andersen on presentation timing for the April OCCFC meeting to include time for North Fork Smith discussion. | Alyssa Bonini | 3/20/24 |

## APPENDIX B: MEETING CHAT

09:00:24 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Icebreaker question: What initially drew you to the Siuslaw NF?

09:03:13 From Fran Recht to Everyone:  
I too have to leave early-- about 11:00

09:03:15 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:  
We are having video issues in Corvallis this morning, but in the room we have Eric Anderson, Michele Holman, Shawn Rivera, and Drew Maher

09:05:34 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I too have to leave ..." with 👍

09:09:39 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Hi Rhonda! We're doing introductions: Name, affiliation, and what drew you to the Siuslaw (professionally/personally/other?)

09:28:30 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
Sorry to have missed it!

09:29:20 From Fran Recht to Everyone:  
I wish I could have attended. I was ill and didn't want to spread ....

09:29:24 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I wish I could have ..." with ❤️

09:30:22 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
I will make sure to send the report out to this entire group

09:30:29 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I will make sure to ..." with 👍

09:43:18 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:  
Here is the job announcement for the fish biologist: Announcement # 24-R6-12336035-DH-VT  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/780586700>

09:43:27 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "Here is the job anno..." with 👍

09:47:38 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "IMG\_0093.JPG" with 👍

09:47:47 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:  
Here's a photo of the prescribed burn going on this morning

09:49:51 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
THANK YOU Jim!

09:51:28 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
thanks, Jim!

09:51:43 From Fran Recht to Everyone:  
great photo of burn! Thank you

09:51:57 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
Reacted to "IMG\_0093.JPG" with 👍

09:51:58 From Jim Fairchild to Everyone:  
My email is jim@alderspring.net.

09:52:06 From Shawn Rivera to Everyone:  
Reacted to "IMG\_0093.JPG" with 👍

09:52:33 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
A webcast Oregon Wild is hosting March 20 that may be of interest:  
<https://www.oregonwild.org/events/webcast-leave-it-beavers>

09:52:51 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "My email is jim@alde..." with 👍

09:53:12 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

Reacted to "A webcast Oregon Wil..." with 👍

09:53:57 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:  
Thanks for your work on the Collaborative Jim!

09:54:04 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:  
Reacted to "A webcast Oregon W..." with 👍

09:54:14 From Dani Jochums, Coordinator to Everyone:  
I've worked with Brian Bangs on a project before and he has so many fascinating beaver facts!

09:54:36 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
Ditto what Dani said

09:55:59 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:  
Small world. I knew Brian Bangs when we both were at Oregon State going to college.

09:56:05 From Jim Fairchild to Everyone:  
To answer Fran's question, yes the issue is with Corvallis watershed water quality, where I am trying to get Siuslaw NF restoration actual treatment information, now made only available through formal FOIA requests.

09:56:37 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
thanks SNF

09:59:41 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
On a break, please return by 10:05am

10:06:56 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
OCCFC Member Declaration of Commitment: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/EZG5iUSSIXJGi2yX9RrTj84BXJWTKtLOu5vffIK2hYKJQ?e=JxkKLe](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/EZG5iUSSIXJGi2yX9RrTj84BXJWTKtLOu5vffIK2hYKJQ?e=JxkKLe)

10:08:14 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:  
I am ready to sign, but I had just been waiting for an in-person meeting. A DocuSign might be nice.

10:09:38 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
I'll do that

10:09:45 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
DocuSign. if it's easy

10:11:24 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I'll do that" with 👍

10:11:26 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I am ready to sign, ..." with 👍

10:14:54 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Good to make sure this mission statement still rings true to the Collaborative and its purpose, Fran!

10:27:41 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Question: Where are we making progress? Where are we stuck?

10:41:52 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
sharing food, breaking bread

10:42:10 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
Reacted to "sharing food, breaki..." with ❤️

10:44:29 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
This is not a bad point, Chuck. It changes our philosophy in the collab, but I see your point.

10:50:22 From Fran Recht to Everyone:  
I think we give the forest service "cover" with our zones of agreement. If we all come to an agreement then they won't have to deal with controversy

10:53:24 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
I've heard: "listen, don't just wait for your turn to speak"

10:53:26 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
Listening and acknowledging the views of others.

10:53:50 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I've heard: "listen,..." with 👍

10:56:26 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:

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We welcome your jokes, Chuck!!

10:56:38 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "We welcome your joke..." with 👍

10:59:23 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
 This is it (what I couldn't remember earlier): listening to understand vs listening to respond

10:59:37 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "This is it (what I c..." with 👍

10:59:52 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Replying to "This is it (what I c..."  
 Yes, that's it. 😊

11:00:45 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "This is it (what I c..." with 👍

11:02:20 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
 Yes, ensuring it's worth our time by everyone being prepared.

11:02:53 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "Yes, ensuring it's w..." with 👍

11:04:12 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
 If you can find a funder, CPRCD will pursue the grant

11:04:15 From Fran Recht to Everyone:  
 A short science presentation that relates to the topics in our zones of agreement -- or new info-- drier warmer environment, less fog... then hold our meeting...

11:04:34 From Fran Recht to Everyone:  
 I have to leave. Thanks for this. Fran

11:04:44 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
 thanks Fran!

11:04:45 From Dani Jochums, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Thanks, Fran!

11:06:52 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
 As to Andy's idea: Esalen Retreat Center, Big Sur....I'm in!

11:22:53 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "A short science pres..." with 👍

11:25:16 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART Goal)

11:27:46 From Chuck Willer to Everyone:  
 Twice a year overnight retreat. One north and one south relative to the Siuslaw. Or a coastal retreat proximate to a project area and a Corvallis retreat with FS leadership.

11:27:48 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
 We'd like more clarity around roles and outcomes between the USFS and collab. Together we'll identify specific points where the FS will ask for input, the collab will provide input, and where actionable follow-ups will occur (i.e. the FS will respond or incorporate into a document, or tell us "no", or...)

11:28:33 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "We'd like more clari..." with 👍

11:28:59 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART Goal)

11:33:50 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 For reference, Wildlife subcommittee members are: Paul E, Dave, Andy, Chandra (Oregon Wild)

11:34:55 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 SOLD, Chuck

11:35:23 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 I was daydreaming about how to make a potluck work :)

11:37:08 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
 Roast pig and grilled tuna- we are all in!

11:37:18 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:  
 Submit as a collaborative at minimum 1 letter on a USFS project (any project) that focuses on areas we can agree on and omits areas we cannot.

11:37:19 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "Submit as a collabor..." with 👍

11:37:23 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Removed a 👍 reaction from "Submit as a collabor..."

11:37:29 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "Roast pig and grille..." with 👍

11:37:34 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "Submit as a collabor..." with 👍

11:37:36 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "Submit as a collabor..." with 👍

11:37:55 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Let me know when at Butler Cr.

11:38:21 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "Submit as a collabor..." with 👍

11:44:48 From Chuck Willer to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "Roast pig and grille..." with 🍷

11:45:25 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Feb meeting min: <https://triangleassociates.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/Fac-PIProjects/EQa2-Kr-KINJm3O07zGNOXgB5WTAR741q-AUtkjwu-zHOQ?e=1hcrFE>

11:46:59 From Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone:  
 I can only make the Invasives & Herb mtg till ~1>50pm

11:51:05 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
 And do we also want to talk about setting a meeting about the NF Smith responses?

11:51:14 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "And do we also want ..." with 👍

11:57:42 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
 It will 100% inform what we may do moving forward (and the Siuslaw NF), even if it's beyond the scope of our collab

11:58:52 From Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone:  
 Paul E shared that he would be interested in a Climate Adaptation panel and a Connectivity panel

11:59:32 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Option 1: Connectivity

11:59:56 From Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild to Everyone:  
 might be good to have them update us on marten at a regular meeting?

12:00:06 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:  
 Reacted to "might be good to hav..." with 👍

12:01:30 From Andy Geissler to Everyone:  
 Yes, a general meeting update on marten could make the most sense

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, April 12, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Paul Engelmeyer, Oregon Bird Alliance *formerly Portland Audubon Society*
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- 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 (USFS):**

- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger
- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator, Collaborative Liaison
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Andrew Maher, SIU Public Services
- Joanie Schmigdall, Public Affairs Officer
- Kevin Reese, Fire Management 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, 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.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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

The Siuslaw's Engineering Staff Officer, John Langly, is currently detailing at the regional office. Lucy Reeves from Coville National Forest is overseeing engineering while John is at the regional office.

Beginning in May, one law enforcement officer will be covering the Siuslaw National Forest because the other two law enforcement officers have left the forest.

Due to budget considerations, the Forest Service has instated a 30-day pause on hiring while assessing its budget. The new seasonal employees will still be onboarded, but filling vacancies is on pause.

There will be a Northwest Forest Plan Federal Advisory Committee amendment in Weaverville the week of April 15th.

Becca has been meeting with city governments and other partners in preparation for fire season.

### **Central Coast Ranger District – Becca Brooke on behalf of Michele Holman**

Michele was in a meeting with Oregon Department of Forestry. The district is still working on the North Fork Smith EA and is engaged in forestry program assessment.

Jeremy Aujero is back to working in the district and Shane Gill is still detailing in the district as well.

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

The Hebo District is currently focused on planning and staffing, particularly in hiring permanent seasonal employees. The District is still looking for a NEPA and a botany specialist.

With regard to planning, the Hebo District is focused on the [Forest Road 1861 geotechnical assessment Categorical Exclusion](#). They will lean into developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) after the assessment is completed.

The Hebo District is still working on [Forest Road 1861 geotechnical assessment Categorical Exclusion](#). Joanie Schmidgall is working on an interactive way to walk people through details of this project. This interactive guide will likely go live sometime in May.

### **Cascade Pacific Resource Development and Conservation (CPRDC) – Kirk Shimeall**

Kirk shared that Cascade Pacific is moving forward with signing agreements with USFS and continuing their partnership.

### **OCCFC – Coordinators and Members**

Dave Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council, shared that he signed a contract with Forest Carbon Works for \$110,000 going into carbon market. He requested that OCCFC members who know landowners with possible interest in this program contact him.

Paul Engelmeyer, Oregon Bird Alliance, mentioned concerns about people engaging in high-fire-risk activities and requested that more signage and information on who to call to report these activities be provided.

Becca Brooke responded that if coordinates or specifics are given where these activities are taking place, USFS can put signage there, but enforcement is an issue due to the limited number of law enforcement officers. USFS is hoping to have detailers come in summer to have more law enforcement officers in the area.

Paul E. indicated that dispersed camping is an issue, and he worries about the Siuslaw not having enough staff to clean up after campers. He said he would be interested in doing a ride along with staffers to look for dispersed camping sites.

Dani Jochums, OCCFC Co-Coordinator, provided updates on the upcoming field tour, science panel, and summer teambuilding activity. The Three Buttes field tour will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup> and lunch will be provided. Dani will send out an email with a request for lunch order on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The science panel planning is in the works with the goal to have a panel on the topic of connectivity in November. The summer teambuilding activity is slated to take place on July 19<sup>th</sup> and locations and activities will be discussed in a future meeting.

Alyssa Bonini, OCCFC Co-Coordinator, put out a call for OCCFC members to email if they were interested in attending the April 24<sup>th</sup> IDT meeting to talk about the North Fork Smith EA. She also updated that she will be out on maternity leave starting in August for several months, with Dani continuing to act as OCCFC Coordinator during her leave.

### **PRESENTATION: WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ON THE SNF**

Kevin Reese, Fire Staff Officer for the Siuslaw National Forest and Northwest Oregon Interagency Fire Management (Siuslaw National Forest, Willamette National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coast Refuge, and Northwest Oregon Bureau of Land Management), gave a presentation titled *On Northwest Oregon Interagency Fire Management*.

Kevin's presentation was followed by a Q&A.

- *Question from Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:* She doesn't see where key sensitive resources are factored into your decision making-- e.g. the very small amount of old growth forests that are left -- that support highly constrained Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl populations... Is resource rarity or sensitivity considered? Where and when would these come in?
  - *Response:* These are those "values at risk" that Kevin mentioned in the presentation. If USFS knows there is something important near the emerging fire, USFS brings in more resources. Agencies have maps of things like T&E habitat pre-loaded in some of our fire decision-making tools. Response areas vary across the unit depending on values at risk. How to respond is always a conversation with forest leadership. This conversation factors in critical habitat as well as many other things.
- *Comment from Paul E.:* Recently there were some trees that were leaning on powerlines. Paul E. and other nearby residents called the county about these trees and a road crew took care of this and drove to check for similar situations. Paul E. has observed that it seemed that the Oregon Department of Forestry was not aware of potential of ponds and lakes to use for getting water for to put out fire. Local residents may know more about lakes and ponds than agency people.
  - *Response:* Satellite images have a hard time getting an idea of pond depth, materials at the bottom, and other factors. This qualitative knowledge would be helpful to receive from community members. It should be noted that there is a concern with water from ponds due to invasives. Kevin tries to meet with groups to collaborate and cooperate with and shares data and would gladly take information from locals. Residents can send on-the-ground information to Kevin at [kevin.reese@usda.gov](mailto:kevin.reese@usda.gov).
- *Question from Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild:* Are there times when you DON'T mobilize a strong initial response, or manage fire in a non-suppression way?
  - *Response:* Agencies may have a moderate response based on a number of factors. Sometimes there are standing dead trees and snags that pose a safety risk, and it doesn't make sense to do full suppression, but instead a better strategy is to keep eyes on it. This decision depends on the specific situation of each fire. Agencies would not modify the response to be lower when fire conditions are high unless it would be dangerous to personnel. If models are saying that risk is high, but the fire is not acting as the model predicted, then agencies will send a crew to ground truth that and check the conditions. If on-the-ground the fire is low, then agencies may just watch and use a lesser response.
- *Question from Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association:* What is agencies' assumption of what to expect for fires for a Northwest wet forest? What science models do they use?

What is the prevention side? What are the preventive strategies based on ignition types? Chuck suggests an OCCFC-USFS joint workshop to look at the context, including budget, science models, and prevention strategies. Could the OCCFC work through data with USFS and provide feedback?

- *Response:* The Siuslaw has a 20-year data set. There is a program that is used to show a variety of conditions and percentage chance of fire. Data is coming out talking about environmental condition changes that are moving north. There is an increase in temperatures and a reduction in precipitation, similar to the patterns seen in the Siskiyou. There are cooperative databases from OSU and other universities showing that the coast range is in increased danger of fire.
  - *Comment from Becca:* The coast range could use more knowledge on historical fire and Becca is interested in working with researchers on this. Working with researchers is something that USFS could use help from the Collaborative on.
  - Additionally, it is important to note the prevention side, since 94% of fire starts are human-caused. The Siuslaw National Forest has two prevention technicians, where many forests just have one. However, it's not all on the prevention technicians, fire prevention is a community effort.
- *Question from Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber:* What is the appropriate number of roads for fire management considering road decommissioning? When are full decommissioning decisions made, and how is fire management considered?
    - *Response:* There is so much to consider when it comes to road decommissioning. Gating roads or having some kind of barrier can be helpful to limit traffic. USFS still wants folks to be able to get out and use public land and is working through a lot of issues to balance fire interests. They are very limited with enforcement. It is important to have good working relationships with the County and State to make sure all agencies have enough coverage on fire management. Prevention is important, but limited capacity means fire management will always be a struggle.

## WRAP-UP

The Coordinator thanked Kevin Reese for his presentation and the USFS staff for their participation and attendance. She asked the OCCFC members to reflect on the presentation and send any questions they had on USFS fire management to the OCCFC coordinators to track ahead of the Three Buttes field tour.

**Action Item: OCCFC members to reflect on the presentation and send any questions on USFS fire management to the OCCFC coordinators to track ahead of the Three Buttes field tour.**

The USFS staff left the meeting.

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

## DEBRIEF USFS UPDATES AND FIRE PRESENTATION

Paul E. noted that Becca had pointed out what a large percentage of fires are human-caused and indicated that he thought there needs to be more work on prevention. Paul E. also agreed with Chuck that there should be an effort to have more research on fire in the coast range synthesized. OCCFC should look into contacting some researchers regarding this topic.

Fran noted that there specifically needs to be more community engagement for fire prevention, which needs to be more than forest listserv messages. Mediums for community engagement could include signs, newspaper ads, and radio, among others.

Chuck expressed that he thought that USFS should be clearer about restrictions related to fire and differences between industry and the public. He would like to know how much of the USFS budget is going to firefighting vs. fire prevention. He said it would seem better to allocate more to fire prevention.

Paul L. pointed out that fire prevention and firefighting might be paid for from different budget line items for USFS.

Fran reported just seeing a press release about a lot of federal funds being appropriated for reducing fire risk. She asked if the forest service could apply for this and if OCCFC or CPRCD could look more into this.

The group expressed interest in learning more about the press release Fran had seen related to funds for reducing fire risk. Fran said that she would look for and share this press release.

**Action item: Fran to look for press release on federal funds for reducing fire risk to share with OCCFC.**

Chandra noted that it would be important to look at the specifics of these funds since sometimes fire-related funds are just for high-risk areas for things like thinning and vegetation removal that might not be appropriate for the Siuslaw.

Paul E. suggested looking through other reports like what types of activities start human-caused fires.

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

The meeting minutes for the March 2024 meeting were approved by the OCCFC members.

The Coordinators shared that the Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee was still in the process of signing off on a Project Level Agreement Letter for the Integrated Invasives Species Project EA. The Wildlife Subcommittee decided to have a brief pause until their Zones of Agreement on Beaver were adopted by the full OCCFC group.

## WILDLIFE ZOA REVIEW AND CONSENSUS

The Coordinator transitioned the group into discussing the Wildlife Subcommittee's Zones of Agreement (ZOAs) on Beaver.

Fran pointed out that banning beaver trapping was not included in the ZOAs. She said that she believed that due to the support of NOAA and other agencies for eliminating beaver trapping, a call for a beaver trapping ban should be included in the ZOAs.

Dave responded to Fran's comment by saying that there has been a continual reminder that USFS manages for habitat, not for species and it's important to keep that distinction in mind while writing ZOAs. Dave said he would be open to including language about encouraging USFS to cooperate with ODFW on the topic of beaver trapping.

Paul L. expressed that he would be opposed to a ban on beaver trapping being a part of the ZOAs.

Paul E. asked Paul L. to read the letters and documents related to beaver trapping and asked the Coordinators to distribute these materials related to beaver trapping via email after the meeting.

**Action item: Coordinators to send out materials related to beaver trapping ban.**

Paul L. said that he fully agrees that beavers are an important species but thinks that a ban on trapping is outside the scope of the ZOAs.

Paul E. expressed that he thought that all OCCFC members needed to believe all the relevant materials before the ZOA conversation could be continued.

It was agreed that the Beaver ZOAs would be worked on more before there was a call for consensus.

## WRAP-UP

The group decided to have a work session meeting in May on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 10:30am in addition to having the Three Buttes field tour on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

|   | Action Item  | Who          | Due by |
|---|--|--------------|--------|
| 1 | Reflect on the fire management presentation and send any questions they had on USFS fire management to the OCCFC coordinators to track ahead of the Three Buttes field tour. | OCCFC        | 5/3    |
| 2 | Look for press release on federal funds for reducing fire risk to share with OCCFC.  | Fran Recht   | 5/10   |
| 3 | Send out materials related to beaver trapping ban.   | Coordinators | 5/3    |

## APPENDIX B: MEETING CHAT

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 9:03 AM

I need to off video for this meeting, apologies. And switching to phone in a while.

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 9:04 AM

Icebreaker question: What marks the true start of Spring for you?

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 9:22 AM

The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Federal Advisory Committee Meeting (FAC) will meet on April 16-18, 2024, at the Redding Rancheria Trinity Health Center in Weaverville, California.

The meeting is open to the public and will also be live streamed

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 9:23 AM

<https://www.hd1live.com/nwusfsadvisorymeeting.html>

Eric Andersen to Everyone 9:33 AM

I haven't heard of the PSG letter either.

David Eisler to Everyone 9:34 AM

[deisler.walton@gmail.com](mailto:deisler.walton@gmail.com)

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 9:35 AM

Field tour to Three Buttes Fire area on May 14

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 9:38 AM

Can you repeat the date you just said?

Becca Brooke to Everyone 9:39 AM

Congratulations!!!

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 9:39 AM

Congrats!

Eric Andersen to Everyone 9:39 AM

Congratulations!

Rhonda Black to Everyone 9:40 AM

Congratulations!

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 9:48 AM

GACC PL = Geographic Coordination Center Preparedness Level

Fran Recht to Everyone 9:53 AM

I don't see where key sensitive resources are factored into your decision making-- e.g. the very small amount of old growth forests that are left -- that support highly constrained marbled murrelet and spotted owls populations... Is resource rarity or sensitivity considered? Where and when would these come in?

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 9:55 AM

Thanks for the question, Fran! I'll bring it up during our Q&A after his presentation :)

FDOP = Fire Danger Operating Plan

Becca Brooke to Everyone 9:58 AM

Fran - what you are asking about are those "values at risk" that Kevin just mentioned. If we know there is something important near the emerging fire, we bring in more resources.

We have maps of things like T&E habitats pre-loaded in some of our fire decision making tools.

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 10:12 AM

Thanks for holding your questions until the end of Kevin's presentation, everyone. Feel free to enter questions into the chat if you'd like help tracking

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 10:14 AM

Are there times when you DON'T mobilize a strong initial response, or manage fire in a non-suppression way?

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 10:15 AM

I have the same question ask Chandra above...

Fran Recht to Everyone 10:18 AM

We came up with a Roads ZOA that had fire considerations.. can we show this and discuss with Kevin please?

Kevin Reese- USFS to Everyone 10:26 AM

kevin.reese@usda.gov

Katherine Richardson to Everyone 10:44 AM

Our current study with OSU has cored marbled murrelet trees to identify the history of disturbance that created those trees. The next phase will core nearby trees to get an idea of the size of those disturbance events. Were they small? Large? frequent? Sparse? We received \$250k of IRA money this year for the second phase of the study

Kirk Shimeall to Everyone 10:46 AM

I'll send that contact info to Alyssa for the notes

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 10:47 AM

Thanks for the presentation Kevin! I appreciate the information.

Eric Andersen to Everyone 10:48 AM

A synthesized lit review is something that would have wide applicability and something a the collab could seek funding for. I'm happy to follow up with Collab if needed.

Alyssa Bonini, Coordinator to Everyone 10:52 AM

These Roads ZOAs can be accessed on the OCCFC OneDrive here: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/EZXd7rAututOjIA\\_6CFJxAABiVkdSL3W6cmm2BNUG1anuQ?e=f7vyQ8](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/EZXd7rAututOjIA_6CFJxAABiVkdSL3W6cmm2BNUG1anuQ?e=f7vyQ8)

Eric Andersen to Everyone 10:58 AM

Thanks all!

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 11:03 AM

Questions I have for the USFS on the tour specifically would be understanding their decision making that Kevin described. It seems like this would be needing some research before the tour. What was the inputs to their decision making from weather station readings, sensitive attributes on the landscape (habitats, houses, neighboring landowner forests, future weather predictions, etc.). Then, if their decisions changed during the fire response and if so why.

Paul Lulay - Hampton to Everyone 11:20 AM

Fire prevention and fire fighting might be paid for from different budget line items

Chandra to Everyone 11:20 AM

Yeah, I think funding systems are an issue, Paul.

Chandra to Everyone 11:29 AM

I'm back on zoom platform now, not phone

Dani Jochums to Everyone 11:30 AM

Okay! Herbicides and Invasives will be meeting later today to potentially sign onto the Integrated Invasives Species Project Project Level Agreement Letter.

Chandra to Everyone 11:33 AM

Or in the intro, or in the beaver population management one at the bottom

Fran Recht to Everyone 11:42 AM

The issue is that ODFW manages for beaver populations that are adequate for hunting and trapping not for ecosystem benefits... they don't even have a beaver population estimate.

Chandra to Everyone 11:47 AM

I agree we could use it but I am not available on May 10

Kirk Shimeall to Everyone 11:48 AM

what time slot for the shorter meeting on May 10?

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, May 10, 9:00am – 10:30pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resource Council (AFRC)
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon *formerly Portland Audubon Society*
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

**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 AGENDA**

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

**UPDATES, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, AND ADMIN**

**OCCFC – Coordinators and Members**

Dani Jochums, OCCFC Co-Coordinator, provided updates on the upcoming field tour, science panel, and summer teambuilding activity. The Three Buttes field tour will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup> and lunch will be provided. Science panel planning is in the works with the goal to have a panel on the topic of habitat connectivity in November. The summer teambuilding activity is slated to take place on July 19<sup>th</sup> and locations and activities are being planned.

Alyssa Bonini, OCCFC Co-Coordinator, shared that James Pettett, Central Coast Ranger District Hydrologist, has accepted a promotion to Watershed Program Manager on the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest. Donni Vogel will backfill in James' absence while the Siuslaw National Forest looks for a permanent replacement.

Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon, shared that there will be a Bird Alliance of Oregon Marbled Murrelet Survey on June 26<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup> in Yachats. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

The April Meeting Minutes were approved.

## REVISIT MARCH STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORTS

The Coordinator guided the group through a strategic planning exercise, accessible [here](#). The presentation reviewed answers to prompts from the Strategic Planning Efforts at the Collaborative Group's March 2024 meeting, which covered draft goals, and selection of goals.

The group selected the following three goals to commit to for the remainder of 2024:

- We'd like more clarity around roles and outcomes between the USFS and Collaborative Group. Together we'll identify specific points where the Forest Service will ask for input, the Collaborative will provide input, and where actionable follow-ups will occur (i.e. the Forest Service will respond or incorporate into a document, or tell us "no", or...)
- Put together a proposal for the Forest Service to have an informational session day at the Forest Supervisor's Office.
- Submit as a Collaborative at minimum 1 letter on a Siuslaw National Forest project (any project) that focuses on areas we can agree on and omits areas we cannot.

Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, clarified what was meant by disagreements being addressed right away. The Coordinator clarified that this was meant to guide both USFS and OCCFC toward timely communication. Fran suggested that the first goal should be reciprocal between the Forest Service and Collaborative, and suggested the following rewording:

- We'd like more clarity around roles and outcomes between the USFS and the Collaborative. Together we'll identify specific topics where the Forest Service (or Collaborative) will ask for input, the Collaborative (or Forest Service) will provide input, and where actionable follow-ups will occur. For instance, the Forest Service (or Collaborative) will respond in writing, indicating incorporation into a document, rules and regulations governing policy, or decision, or tell us "no", or...

The group reflected that the relationship with Forest is often fuzzy and unclear and that they have questions about how the Collaborative should bring issues and points forward and feel

discouraged to be direct with the USFS. The group indicated that it would be helpful to know what the USFS wants input on.

The Coordinator thanked the group for their work on the strategic planning and committed to sending members the selected strategic planning goals for finalization via email.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will send OCCFC members the selected strategic planning goals for finalization via email.

The group agreed that the Coordinator may share the finalized goals with the Forest Supervisor for the Siuslaw National Forest.

## DISCUSSION: WILDLIFE ZOAS

Members revisited their discussion from the April 2024 Collaborative meeting on the Wildlife Zones of Agreement (ZOAs) concerning beaver habitat. The Coordinator reminded members that more ZOAs could be added at a later date through the Wildlife Subcommittee.

The Coordinator shared her screen with the draft ZOAs and invited members to join the Wildlife Subcommittee meeting the following Monday if there was disagreement or further conversation needed.

The Coordinator refreshed the group on the Collaborative's decision-making process and walked the group through the ZOAs to test consensus for each individual Zone of Agreement statement.

Discussion points on specific ZOAs are documented below:

Zone of Agreement #4: The OCCFC would like to know the delineation of key watersheds under the NWFP.

Zone of Agreement #5: Water for municipalities should be noted as a potential future topic for the OCCFC to discuss.

Zone of Agreement #8: The group workshopped this statement to clarify that beavers represent passive restoration while reduction and removal of obstructions is active.

Zone of Agreement #12: Some members noted that this Zone of Agreement seemed outside the scope of Forest Service actions, since the agency may not monitor beaver populations. Paul E. noted that new documents related to keystone species are coming out that may affect these Wildlife ZOAs in the future. The group agreed to remove the initial phrase "when USFS decisions impact beaver populations".

Members reached consensus to adopt each of the twelve Wildlife ZOAs on Beaver Habitat.

The Coordinator thanked the group for their hard work on this topic and will move forward with finalizing the ZOAs to share with the Forest Service. A final version of the ZOAs will be posted to the Collaborative Group's webpage.

**Action Item:** The Coordinator will finalize Wildlife ZOAs, share with the Forest Service, and work with Cascade Pacific to upload to the OCCFC website.

#### WRAP-UP

The group concluded discussions. The group will meet at the Three Buttes field tour on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The next monthly meeting will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

|   | Action Item   | Who          | Due by |
|---|---|--------------|--------|
| 1 | The Coordinator will send the OCCFC members the selected strategic planning goals for finalization via email. | Coordinators | 5/17   |
| 2 | The Coordinator will move forward with finalizing the ZOAs to share with the USFS and the OCCFC website.      | Coordinators | 5/24   |

## APPENDIX B: MEETING CHAT

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, June 14, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- *Alyssa Bonini, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Eric Andersen, Partnership Coordinator, Collaborative Liaison
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Joanie Schmigdall, Public Affairs Officer
- Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner and Hydrologist
- Doug Glavich, Forest Ecologist

**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.

**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 and ground rules. Participants engaged in a round of introductions.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Katie Richardson – Forest, Central Coast District, and Hebo District Updates**

Katie Richardson provided updates from the Forest level, the Central Coast Ranger District and the Hebo Ranger District.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has published the final rule designating critical habitat for coastal marten. The final rule is accessible on the [USFWS website](#).

The Integrated Invasive Species Project Environmental Assessment's (EA) scope will be released in the next several months and followed by a public comment period. An ArcGIS StoryMap will also go live with information on the Integrated Invasives Species Project.

The Siuslaw National Forest has recently hired new permanent staff, including Kenny Ruzicka, Forest Silviculturist ([kenneth.ruzicka@usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.ruzicka@usda.gov)). There is also a new Forest Watershed Program Manager, Morgan Cissel, who has a background working in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest ([richard.cissel@usda.gov](mailto:richard.cissel@usda.gov)). Another recent hire is Karla Cottom, Fish Biologist ([karla.cottom@usda.gov](mailto:karla.cottom@usda.gov)). Seasonal hires are also starting to work in both districts of the Siuslaw National Forest.

From the Central Coast District, Katie shared that the wildlife report is the final step in the North Fork Smith EA and is currently in progress. After the wildlife report is complete, the North Fork Smith EA will be opened for public comment.

Another update is that Gloria Deibele will take over Hannah Smith's role as Central Coast District NEPA planner. Currently, USFS is working through the Sand Lake objection period.

There was a recent Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting that advised on two-year's-worth of Title II funding for the Siuslaw National Forest, which totaled roughly one million dollars. The Title II funds come from conventional timber sales, are used for local counties and can be used to support roads and management, among other things. Siuslaw National Forest leadership is finalizing notes from this meeting and will publish a press release that will include notes and more information.

### **OCCFC Coordinator Updates**

The Coordinators described the planned teaming approach to the coordination of the OCCFC while Coordinator Alyssa Bonini is on parental leave from August -December 1, 2024. This plan includes keeping Coordinator Dani Jochums as the lead Point of Contact with OCCFC and bringing on a colleague from Triangle Associates, Anna Shepherd, to support. Anna has an MA in Urban Environmental Education, was formerly the Coordinator for the Olympic Forest Collaborative, and has a background in community engagement, landscape restoration strategy development, and recreation planning.

The Coordinators shared highlights of the Three Buttes Field Tour that was held on May 14, including describing the topics covered and showing pictures from the tour. They thanked USFS and OCCFC for their participation and making the field tour happen.

The Coordinators also shared planning updates for several upcoming events. First, they gave an update on the fall science panel on the topic of habitat connectivity. This panel is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 6 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. A preliminary list of speakers includes USFS Research Ecologist Dede Olson presenting on amphibians and riparian habitat connectivity, USFS Monitoring Lead Ray Davis presenting on bird habitat connectivity, and Oregon State University Professor Matthew Betts presenting on landscape analyses of connectivity.

Lastly, the Coordinators provided an update for the plans for a summer informal teambuilding event to be held on July 19 at Cape Perpetua. After launching a poll on the group's preferences for having a teambuilding activity in July, the Coordinators indicated that the group would like to move forward in holding the teambuilding event in-person at Cape Perpetua.

#### PRESENTATION: CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Doug Glavich, Forest Ecologist, presented on the Oregon Coast Adaptation Partnership's (OCAP) Climate Vulnerability Assessment. The slides from Doug's presentation can be found on the OCCFC's [OneDrive](#).

Below are notes from the Q&A following the presentation:

**Q1: Is there past fog data? Has there been past fog monitoring? You said when fog goes, Sitka Spruce goes. There's Sitka Spruce dying on HWY 101. Is that related to fog?**

Doug answered that in USFS Region 6, research on fog trends has been inconclusive. USFS is working on other methodologies to analyze the data and is working on getting more fog data through USGS Landsat. It is possible that Sitka Spruce could be showing signs of being impacted by reduced fog. They also could be suffering from the impact of the highway to the hydrology. Chuck Fisher, Central Coast NEPA Planner and Hydrologist, pointed out a section of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment that said some projections suggest future increased upwelling of cool coastal water will intensify in the future, which could maintain or even increase coastal low cloudiness.

**Q2: Could you expand on what a thinning strategy as a strategy for resilience looks like?**

Doug answered that in dense plantation stands, each tree uses a lot of water. Thinning is a small part of the puzzle but can allow the trees to get bigger and be less susceptible to fire.

**Q3: Is the Siuslaw National Forest monitoring canopy opening and its effects, especially in moisture loss and increased presence of invasives?**

Doug answered that he does not have an answer for that particular question, although it is true that increased canopy openings can result in moisture loss and the increased presence of invasives. The effect of canopy opening will depend on the understory. Some understories are more resilient to those openings, while others are less resilient. There is a tradeoff between short-term impacts and longer-term goals.

Katie Richardson noted that the Siuslaw National Forest is not thinning as much as private landowners and has a reforestation effort with a robust process to make sure that the stands have the desired species mix. There isn't formal monitoring on this because USFS does not have funds, but staff are thinking about how to return the forest to desired conditions after timber sales.

**Q4: Are streams or forest environments more important in the restoration, adaptation, and resilience work?**

The OCAP Climate Vulnerability Assessment was created to get everyone on the same page thinking about how to get more resilient to the effects of climate change. The Siuslaw National Forest has plans for how to use the Assessment's findings going forward and how to roll out this information on a broader scale to share these messages with the broader community. Now that a permanent Silviculturist has been hired, USFS would like to think more about using this data on the Siuslaw. They are thinking less about types of environments (e.g. streams and forests) and instead thinking more about prioritizing critical areas.

**Q5: What would different treatments and adaptive management look like in practice?**

For example, the dry, southeastern places in the Siuslaw were likely subject to Tribal management techniques throughout history, including prescribed burns. Prescribed burns might work there now by affecting fuels and encouraging more oak woodlands and savannah. There are currently more weeds on the ground than when prescribed fire was originally used, so those will need to be managed.

**Q6: If there are limited resources and funds for monitoring, how does that work when USFS is doing more experiments to address anticipated climate change?**

It is true that monitoring is important. Right now, the Siuslaw is looking at forests like the Deschutes National Forest that are already doing prescribed burns to see how they fund and monitor those projects.

Additionally, the Forest is trying to work more with Oregon State University and community members to address monitoring needs. It is possible to use timber sale funds for monitoring if the monitoring is multi-party. They have also been trying to take advantage of funds from the bipartisan infrastructure bill. It would be great to get more funds, but Congress provides agencies with their budgets and agencies can't lobby Congress.

**Q7: How does multiparty timber-sale monitoring work?**

For example, the Collaborative could use their funding to plan a study and do the monitoring themselves. This approach was explored on the Umatilla National Forest but was not completely successful due to competing time commitments of the people involved. USFS can help with funds if there is another party interested in developing the study and doing the monitoring.

Katie reiterated that USFS will be working to roll out the OCAP Climate Vulnerability Assessment information; she asked that Collaborative members let USFS know if there are parts of the Assessment that they thought should be highlighted for the public. USFS also welcomes suggestions on the roll out itself, including recommendations on groups to target with outreach.

**Q8: Do you have any updates on USFS greenhouse seedling work?**

Doug suggested contacting silviculturists like Kenny Ruzicka ([kenneth.ruzicka@usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.ruzicka@usda.gov)) for more information on potential updates regarding the USFS greenhouse work.

**WRAP-UP**

The Coordinators thanked Doug Glavich for his presentation and the USFS staff for their participation and attendance. OCCFC members were asked to reflect on the presentation and send any questions to the OCCFC Coordinators.

**Action Item:** OCCFC members will reflect on the presentation and send any questions to the OCCFC Coordinators.

The USFS staff left the meeting.

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

**DEBRIEF PRESENTATION**

The Coordinators welcomed members back from the break and asked for reflections on the presentation and the assessment.

Dave Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council, shared that he does not observe much cross-over between USFS and OSU, which surprises him given that USFS and OSU staff share a building in Corvallis, OR. He wondered why there is not more communication between those bodies. The Coordinator noted that OCAP Climate Vulnerability Assessment was a collaboration between USFS, Bureau of Land Management, and University of Washington, and did not know the extent to which OSU was involved, if at all.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, reflected that she thought Doug did a great job presenting the information, given the length of the Assessment. She commented that it will come down to how USFS will put the Assessment's findings into practice. The USFS making an effort to get the information to the OCCFC and the general public is encouraging. The Watershed Councils will

be good organizations to reach out to with this information. Chandra was still curious about where the best place to target for resiliency is. Though all environments are connected, it could be that targeting aquatic environments could be the most effective intervention, for instance by focusing on the restoration of floodplains and estuaries. She also noted that the OCCFC Beaver Zones of Agreement fit in nicely to thinking about the OCAP Climate Vulnerability Assessment.

The Coordinators asked members to share additional questions and feedback related to the presentation with them by June 21<sup>st</sup>.

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

Collaborative members approved the May 2024 meeting minutes.

The Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee met on May 31<sup>st</sup>, which USFS botanist Chelsea Monks attended. During the meeting, the Subcommittee worked with Chelsea to think about ways to increase transparency and encourage monitoring in the USFS herbicides program. A sitemap will soon be published with information on the Integrate Invasive Species Project.

The Wildlife Subcommittee took a break following securing consensus on the Beaver Zones of Agreement. The Coordinators asked if there was interest in moving forward with the group or sunseting the group. Those who were present and a part of the Subcommittee indicated that they would like to pick a new topic for the Wildlife Subcommittee to focus on and continue developing Zones of Agreement. The Coordinators will email the full Collaborative group to gauge interest in attending the next Wildlife Subcommittee meeting to help identify a topic of focus.

**Action Item:** Coordinators will include the full OCCFC on an invite to attend the Wildlife Subcommittee and help identify the Subcommittee's next topic of focus.

## UPCOMING WORK

The Collaborative discussed its upcoming work, which includes the North Fork Smith EA, potentially providing feedback on the Drift Creek EA for the Hebo District, continuing current Zones of Agreement work, and completing the goals outlined from the group's strategic planning. The goals from the group's strategic planning included having an informational session at the Forest Supervisor's office, writing a letter from the Collaborative on one project, and working with USFS to clarify the roles of OCCFC and USFS.

The Coordinators asked if there was any interest in working with USFS on topics related to fire that came up during the Three Buttes Field Tour, including the suggestions below:

1. Providing input to fire defense lines
2. Supporting fire history research on the Coast Range through securing funding for a researcher(s) to conduct a literature review of fire history in the area

3. Contribute to the emergency contacts list and help develop community outreach plans for disaster response
4. Advocate for funds for fire preparation on the Siuslaw National Forest
5. Instating a Fire Subcommittee as needed to address these topics

Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association, expressed that it was unclear to him why USFS needed funding for a literature review and was not interested in working on that. He would like to work with USFS on management goals related to the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment, especially on resistance and resilience versus active firefighting. He would like to talk about how different zones of the Siuslaw should be considered when thinking about fire.

Chandra expressed interest in learning how fire history informs the current management of the forest and how it relates to climate change adaptation strategy implementation.

Dave was possibly interested in community outreach for information related to fire during fire response. Fran Recht and Paul Lulay had previously indicated that they were also interested in this community outreach.

Overall, the group expressed a general interest in the relationship between fire management and the climate vulnerability assessment as well as and communications, but no interest in supporting an additional research component as a Collaborative.

The group is interested in working toward the goals they decided on during the strategic planning. The Coordinators will continue tracking these goals and their progress.

## MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

The Coordinators asked the group if they felt open to starting efforts on recruitment to increase OCCFC membership. The group confirmed interest in recruiting new members. The group is interested in inviting more Tribal membership. Several members suggested reaching out to Ashley Russell with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI).

The group reviewed a [preliminary list of potential organizations](#) to reach out to that was put together by the Coordinators. The Coordinators will make the list available to members on the OneDrive.

**Action item:** Coordinators to share the outreach contact list with collaborative members on the OneDrive.

Collaborative members suggested including a representative with direct operational experience, potentially Siegmund Construction. Chandra also said that she would reach out to a group she has worked with in the past, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, which includes many retired agency folks.

The group agreed that it would be helpful to have a document or some kind of promotional material to share with those in their networks that might be a good fit for the OCCFC. The Coordinators will create a document containing information on who the OCCFC is, what OCCFC does, and what OCCFC has accomplished and to share this document with the Collaborative.

**Action item:** Coordinators to create a document containing information on who the OCCFC is, what OCCFC does, and what OCCFC has accomplished and to share the document with the Collaborative.

The Coordinators outlined the proposed recruitment process, included below:

1. Add suggested groups and individuals from collaborative member's suggestions
2. Send the first recruitment communication via email in June
3. Follow up with contacted groups as needed
4. Conduct orientations for any interested group members
5. Plan an informational session with broader outreach and provide information on joining OCCFC during the session
6. Revisit recruitment efforts as needed

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked everyone for their time and said that the **next meeting would be the informal team building in-person at Cape Perpetua from 10:00am – 2:00pm on July 19.**

Dave asked if there are any updates on the Barred Owl Removal Program. The Coordinators responded that they had received no updates from USFS on the Barred Owl Removal Program, although they had flagged the OCCFC's interest in the program several times. They indicated that they would follow up with Katie Richardson and Eric Andersen on the Barred Owl Removal Program.

**Action item:** Coordinators to follow up with Katie Richardson and Eric Andersen on the Barred Owl Removal Program.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

|   | Action Item  | Who          | Due by |
|---|--|--------------|--------|
| 1 | Reflect on the presentation and send any questions to the OCCFC Coordinators   | OCCFC        | 6/21   |
| 2 | Include the full OCCFC on an invite to attend the Wildlife Subcommittee and help identify the Subcommittee's next topic of focus.                                | Coordinators | 6/21   |
| 3 | Share the outreach contact list with collaborative members on the OneDrive.  | Coordinators | 6/21   |
| 4 | Create a document containing information on who the OCCFC is, what OCCFC does, and what OCCFC has accomplished and to share the document with the Collaborative. | Coordinators | 6/21   |
| 5 | Follow up with Katie Richardson and Eric Andersen on the Barred Owl Removal Program.   | Coordinators | 6/28   |

## APPENDIX B: MEETING CHAT

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 9:02 AM  
sound not working on my laptop. one moment.  
got it now.

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 9:10 AM  
That is SO COOL Katie!

You to Everyone 9:11 AM  
WOW Katie!!

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 9:11 AM  
awesome1

KatieRichardson USFS to Everyone 9:22 AM  
Forest Silviculturist Kenny Ruzicka kenneth.ruzicka@usda.gov Forest Watershed Program Manager  
Morgan Cissel (they/them) richard.cissel@usda.gov Acting Forest Fish Bio Karla Cottom  
karla.cottom@usda.gov

You to Everyone 9:25 AM  
Link to field tour notes: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/EeLBetaUixtHqaMm3EeUWCsBzoIVMoJ16ZWJBN3QdkhIlg?e=v2r1U](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/EeLBetaUixtHqaMm3EeUWCsBzoIVMoJ16ZWJBN3QdkhIlg?e=v2r1U)  
Please check your schedules for availability on Nov 6 from 1-3pm for our next science panel on habitat connectivity

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 9:27 AM  
Good thing about having it on Nov 6, is that we could do follow up discussion at Nov monthly meeting.

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 9:28 AM  
Can discuss what we all heard, main take aways and related.

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 9:30 AM  
It would be great to have FS folks there!

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 9:31 AM  
The trails folks need at least 2 weeks notice and are happy to assist.

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 9:35 AM  
The doc is very large I believe researchers are trying to distill that down into a "cliffs notes" version.

Alyssa Bonini to Everyone 9:37 AM  
Doug's slides are available on the OCCFC's OneDrive here: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/EeLBetaUixtHqaMm3EeUWCsBzoIVMoJ16ZWJBN3QdkhIlg?e=v2r1U](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/EeLBetaUixtHqaMm3EeUWCsBzoIVMoJ16ZWJBN3QdkhIlg?e=v2r1U)

The OCAP Assessment is also available on the OneDrive: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/EQtN5vXkscRFi0aCGMoG73QBGlxH7aDF3X0PwCXRcP8Psg?e=uhCJ5o](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/EQtN5vXkscRFi0aCGMoG73QBGlxH7aDF3X0PwCXRcP8Psg?e=uhCJ5o)

Andy Geissler to Everyone 9:56 AM

I need to drop off the meeting for about 30 minutes. I hope to rejoin afterwards.

Chuck Fisher (USFS) to Everyone 10:04 AM

Some projections suggest future increased upwelling of cool coastal water will intensify in the future, which could maintain or even increase coastal low cloudiness.

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 10:26 AM

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov))

Joanie Schmidgall USFS to Everyone 10:28 AM

Thanks for the great presentation Doug!

Alyssa Bonini to Everyone 10:28 AM

Forest Silviculturist Kenny Ruzicka [kenneth.ruzicka@usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.ruzicka@usda.gov)

eric andersen - usfs to Everyone 10:29 AM

Thanks all!

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 10:29 AM

Thanks Doug!

KatieRichardson USFS to Everyone 10:29 AM

Happy Friday!

Rhonda Black - Umpqua SWCD to Everyone 10:30 AM

Thanks Doug!

Alyssa Bonini to Everyone 10:38 AM

Draft May OCCFC Meeting Minutes are here: [https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/connie\\_cascadepacific\\_org/Eax06aZeOeNEm849glElfGgBxPzic8Hpe mRcgyVFhPylnw?e=DhVVIX](https://cascadepacific-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/connie_cascadepacific_org/Eax06aZeOeNEm849glElfGgBxPzic8Hpe mRcgyVFhPylnw?e=DhVVIX)

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 10:57 AM

I will try to make it

Alyssa Bonini to Everyone 11:06 AM

Welcome back, Chuck!

Seems like a good opportunity for a post-doc or grad student, potentially?

Alyssa Bonini to Everyone 11:20 AM

The Zones might also be a good thing for the SNF to highlight from the Assessment in its comms plan, Chuck? Unsure how well those are addressed in the assessment itself

FYI the next NWFP FAC meeting will be held on June 25-27, 2024, between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day, at Courtyard Marriott Conference Room, 2301 Henderson Park Lane SE, Olympia, Washington. if anyone is interested in attending  
It will also be live streamed here: <https://www.hd1live.com/nwusfsadvisorymeeting.html>

Alyssa Bonini to Everyone 11:29 AM

From operating protocols re stewardship groups vs occfc: Participants on the five Stewardship Groups are welcome to participate in the Collaborative and become voting members through the process described above. The Collaborative will not infringe on the primary work of Stewardship Groups: prioritizing off-forest restoration projects to receive off-forest retained receipts but will work with the Groups when there are overlapping interests outside of their primary functions. The Collaborative Coordinator will communicate and share information with the Stewardship Groups facilitators.

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 11:32 AM

There is also Ashley Russell with CTCLUSI. She's a grad student at OSU and has past experience with collabs on the Siuslaw

Rhonda Black - Umpqua SWCD to Everyone 11:33 AM  
[arussell@ctclusi.org](mailto:arussell@ctclusi.org)

Alyssa Bonini to Everyone 11:35 AM  
@Andy Geissler do you have a contact at Sigmund?

Chandra LeGue to Everyone 11:52 AM  
Totally support this inquiry.

Rhonda Black - Umpqua SWCD to Everyone 11:53 AM  
Thanks!

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, August 9, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Online Meeting

**ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

*Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:*

- Andy Geissler, American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- *Anna Shepherd, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Andrew Maher, SIU Public Services
- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Chelsea Monks, Forest Botanist
- 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.

## 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 and ground rules. Participants engaged in a round of introductions.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### **Becca Brooke – Forest-wide Updates**

Central Coast District Ranger Michele Holman is on leave.

The Environmental Assessment for the North Fork Smith project will be out for public comment starting mid-August. To the best of their ability, the USFS staff working on the EA have incorporated feedback from the Collaborative.

The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Draft EIS will be open for public comment at the end of August. Becca thanked the OCCFC members for their patience as the USFS staff will see the Draft EIS for the first time at the same time as the public and will need time for USFS staff to determine how the items in the Draft EIS will impact the Siuslaw National Forest specifically. USFS staff provided some input through online surveys and regional-level feedback surveys. The preferred alternative is based on Federal Advisory Committee recommendations.

Jeremy Aujero, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger, will have his role backfilled by Alan Hammock, a USFS staff person from the Willamette National Forest for the next four months.

### **Shawn Rivera – Hebo District Updates**

Work on the assessment for Road 1861 is currently in the design phase. Current work on the assessment is focused on surveying the Red Tree Vole population in the area. The assessments for Road 1861 are more complicated than initially anticipated, but USFS is still on track to have designs ready in the near term.

Work is also still underway on the Drift Creek EA. Currently, USFS is conducting field assessments and surveys and will soon write the proposed actions including purpose and need. A presentation and field tour for Drift Creek EA may be possible in either Winter 2024 or Spring 2025.

Hebo District will have a new NEPA planner starting around the end of August, Gloria Deibele.

The Hebo District is lacking one wildlife biologist currently and has been working with the Central Coast District to address staffing needs.

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

Following up on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment, the Siuslaw National Forest has set aside funding specifically for addressing climate change projects in stewardship program projects. There is \$50,000 set aside for standalone projects or for additions to a project that addresses findings and suggestions from the Climate Vulnerability Assessment. In applying for these funds, the application will have to connect the proposed work to future climate conditions. This is a project that Katie Isacksen is developing, so she can best address questions.

The OCCFC members flagged the Beaver ZOAs as being strongly related to taking action on future climate change. Becca said that USFS agrees with and supports most of the OCCFC's Beaver ZOAs and that it would be good to incorporate some of the principles of the Beaver ZOAs into a stewardship agreement.

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

Kirk shared that Cascade Pacific is starting to work on stewardship meetings in the month of August to talk about future stewardship projects. He noted interest and excitement regarding the funds related to the Climate Vulnerability Assessment.

### **OCCFC Coordinator Updates**

The Coordinators recapped the summer informal teambuilding event held on July 19 at Cape Perpetua. Becca Brooke and Andrew Maher from USFS were able to join a few Collaborative members in pulling ivy from the Captain Cooke trail, removing 26 garbage bags full of ivy together. They were able to engage in conversation during the ivy-pulling and lunch.

The Coordinators also shared an update on the fall science panel on the topic of habitat connectivity. This panel is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The speakers will be USFS Research Ecologist Dede Olson presenting on amphibians and riparian habitat connectivity, USFS Monitoring Lead Ray Davis presenting on bird habitat connectivity, and Oregon State University Professor Matthew Betts presenting on landscape analyses of connectivity.

### **OCCFC Member Updates**

Paul Engelmeyer, Oregon Bird Alliance, updated on the Murrelet Survey Event, saying that there was a big turnout, and all sites had surveys. This year did not have a high number of detections, which could be because the event was held earlier in year than it had been previously and the weather was unaccommodating. Despite the lower number of observations, everyone who participated could see and hear birds.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, informed the group about two events to celebrate Oregon Wild's 50 year anniversary. There will be one celebration in Corvallis on September 26 at Two Towns Cider House and one celebration in Lincoln City on October 22 at Pelican Brewing.

## PRESENTATION: INTEGRATED INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT EA

Chelsea Monks, Forest Botanist, presented on the Integrated Invasives Species Project (IISP) EA. Slides from the presentation can be found [here](#).

Below are notes from the Q&A following the presentation:

### **Q1: Could gas tools for mechanical removal of invasives be electric?**

Chelsea answered that the EA could provide language encouraging usage of electric tools where possible

### **Q2: Could language be included on having separate contracts to control invasives than the contracts for thinning?**

Chelsea noted this request.

### **Q3: What is the history of Integrated Pest Management on USFS land? Is Integrated Pest Management the current standard on USFS land?**

Chelsea responded that USFS does use Integrated Pest Management as the standard. This project will include the strategy for how to implement Integrated Pest Management. The Siuslaw National Forest now has four botanists, and there needs to be a better system for consistent documentation and monitoring so they can implement Integrated Pest Management as a team.

### **Q4: Would it be possible to have more information about methodology throughout the process of treating invasives in the final EA?**

Chelsea thanked the group for the comment and said that there would be a part of the final document that would talk about how to document the Integrated Pest Management process from start to finish.

### **Q5: Aerial application of herbicides is not allowed on some USFS lands. Are drones considered aerial herbicide applicators?**

The Siuslaw National Forest staff is still determining how usage of drones for herbicide application might work. Using drones for herbicide application would need to go through the NEPA process. While it is not in USFS policy to use helicopter spraying, drones can get to hard-to-reach areas that make them a valuable potential tool. There will be work done internally to meet all regulatory requirements and create a plan to make sure that the spray is just going to

the appropriate plant. The Siuslaw National Forest staff is open to concerns and suggestions on how to make sure that drone-applied herbicide goes to the right plant.

**Q6: In a past memo, there was an analysis of what happened when herbicide is not applied. Paul E. would like to work with USFS staff to track down that memo. In conversation with a Department of Environmental Quality staff member, Paul E. noted some potential concerns regarding herbicides and water quality and watershed health. He suggested that monitoring should not just be done after a spray, but also after storm events.**

USFS staff thanked Paul E. for this note. Both Paul E. and USFS staff said that they would watch for the memo on herbicides and watershed health.

**Action item: USFS and Paul E. to watch for the memo on herbicides and watershed health.**

**Q7: Under federal authority, USFS staff can use a selected group of herbicides. Can the Siuslaw National Forest narrow down this list for their own usage and regulations. If so, can the Siuslaw National Forest not use mixtures of herbicides that may have synergistic effects?** Chelsea said that this was a conversation in progress among the Siuslaw National Forest botanists.

**Q8: Will monitoring be included in the EA?**

Chelsea said that there will be more information, including monitoring, included in the EA when it is released in the winter.

**Q9: Transparency and open communication channels were a priority outlined in the letter that OCCFC submitted in response to purpose and needs. A website format would be ideal, but the OCCFC members hope that there will be some kind of accessible format to share information back and forth easily regarding herbicides.**

Becca thanked the group for this comment and said that the Siuslaw staff has been thinking about information flow between USFS and the OCCFC. Websites are challenging to maintain due to connectivity issues on the forest. The Siuslaw staff would be open to other thoughts and suggestions related to information sharing.

Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber, asked if Dave Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council, could share the research Dave referenced regarding mixing herbicides and USFS-approved herbicides. Dave agreed to find and share these resources with the Coordinator for distribution.

**Action item: Dave to find and share resources related to mixed herbicides and USFS-approved herbicides with the Coordinator for distribution.**

Dave asked if the Siuslaw staff had any updates regarding the Barred Owl Removal program. USFS staff responded that they had not received any updates but would update OCCFC members as soon as they received updates on the Barred Owl Removal Program.

**Action item:** USFS staff to update OCCFC members as soon as they receive updates on the Barred Owl Removal Program.

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked Chelsea Monks for her presentation and the USFS staff for their participation and attendance.

The USFS staff left the meeting.

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

#### DEBRIEF PRESENTATION

The Coordinators welcomed members back from the break and asked for reflections on the presentation.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, reflected that it sounds like USFS is still considering many things regarding the EA and that OCCFC won't know where things land until the draft EA comes out in the winter. She noted that it felt like USFS staff took OCCFC member's comments into consideration and that it was good to hear more details about the proposed methods.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

Collaborative members approved the June 2024 meeting minutes.

The Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee is currently on hold with its meetings until there is more content to discuss regarding the Integrated Invasives Species Project EA.

The Wildlife Subcommittee met on July 8th to begin their next set of Zones of Agreement, which will be focused on vegetation treatments as they affect habitat. The August Wildlife Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> and would be used to continue refining the topic of the Zones of Agreement.

The Fall Connectivity Panel will be held on November 6 from 1:00 – 3:00 online via Zoom. During the September meeting, OCCFC members will generate questions for the panel.

## UPCOMING WORK

The Coordinator shared the topic tracker for the OCCFC meetings and asked the group if they had other topics of interest for the remaining months of the year given that the Drift Creek EA presentation and field tour had been rescheduled for 2025.

Dave noted interest in learning more about management planning for thinning designs, especially as it related to climate change planning, during future conversations regarding the Drift Creek EA.

Chandra expressed interest in hearing more about the North Fork Smith EA once it is released for public comment. The group agreed that although they will not plan on working on a group comment to the North Fork Smith EA, it would be good to discuss the EA with USFS staff to help close the loop on this long-term project. Chandra suggested that the September meeting materials should include past meeting minutes that discussed North Fork Smith. The Coordinator agreed to find and include North Fork Smith meeting notes in the September meeting materials.

**Action item:** Coordinator to find and include North Fork Smith meeting notes in the September meeting materials.

Paul E. flagged a watershed analysis completed in 1995 and suggested comparing the recommendations from that analysis to the North Fork Smith EA. Paul E. said he would look for the 1995 watershed analysis and share it with the Coordinator for distribution.

**Action item:** Paul E. to look for the 1995 watershed analysis and share it with the Coordinator for distribution.

Chandra highlighted a past pending topic to have a panel regarding the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment and the group confirmed that they would be interested in having this panel in October. Key requests for this panel included discussion on the potential change in the age of forests that can be managed on the Siuslaw National Forest and discussion on Tribal engagement. Several members of the group requested that Angela Sondenaa, the new Siletz Tribe National Resources Director, be contacted as a potential panelist as she was on the Federal Advisory Committee for the Northwest Forest Plan amendment. Chandra also highlighted the importance of having someone who is well-informed regarding the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment and can thoroughly explain it during the panel. The Coordinator said that she would work with USFS staff to determine who would best be able to explain the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment.

**Action item:** Coordinator to work with USFS staff to determine who would best be able to explain the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment.

The Coordinator asked if the group was still interested in having a 2024 information session at the Siuslaw National Forest's Supervisor's office, which would be an in-person, open-to-the-public event to provide information on the OCCFC and the Siuslaw National Forest. The OCCFC members responded that they were still interested in the idea and would like to tentatively plan on holding it sometime in 2025.

#### MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT STATUS

The Coordinator shared the draft materials for recruitment of new OCCFC members, including an email template for outreach, a flyer with information on OCCFC, and a [preliminary list of potential organizations to reach out to](#). The Coordinator said that she would share all of these recruitment resources with the OCCFC via email.

**Action item:** The Coordinator to share all recruitment resources with the OCCFC via email.

Dave mentioned that while the stewardship groups and the OCCFC are different groups, many of the OCCFC members are in both groups. New membership is currently needed for both groups, but the division between the groups can be unclear. Fran Recht, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, asked if it would be possible to clarify the roles of the two groups in order to figure out how to best address both groups' needs. The Coordinator said that she would work with Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD, to clarify the respective roles and needs of the Collaborative and the stewardship groups.

**Action item:** Coordinator to work with Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD, to clarify the respective roles and needs of the Collaborative and the stewardship groups.

Chandra added that the informational session could be opened to the stewardship groups and that could be a venue to clarify the different roles of the two groups informally.

The Coordinator shared the list of organizations to reach out to regarding OCCFC recruitment and determined which OCCFC members would reach out to which organizations. The group agreed to make it a goal to reach out to their respective contacts by the end of August so that new members could join the end-of-year goal setting for 2025 in December.

**Action item:** OCCFC members to reach out to their recruitment contacts.

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked everyone for their time and said that the **next meeting would be 9:00am – 12:00pm on September 13.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

## APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

|   | Action Item  | Who              | Due by   |
|---|--|------------------|----------|
| 1 | Watch for the memo on herbicides and watershed health.   | USFS and Paul E. | 9/13     |
| 2 | Find and share resources related to mixed herbicides and USFS-approved herbicides with the Coordinator for distribution.   | Dave             | 9/13     |
| 3 | Update OCCFC members as soon as they receive updates on the Barred Owl Removal Program.                                    | USFS Staff       | N/A      |
| 4 | Find and include North Fork Smith meeting notes in the September meeting materials.  | Coordinators     | 9/6      |
| 5 | Look for the 1995 watershed analysis and share it with the Coordinator for distribution.                                   | Paul E.          | 9/6      |
| 6 | Work with USFS staff to determine who would best be able to explain the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment.                   | Coordinators     | 9/6      |
| 7 | Share all recruitment resources with the OCCFC via email.  | Coordinators     | Complete |
| 8 | Work with Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD, to clarify the respective roles and needs of the Collaborative and the stewardship groups. | Coordinators     | 9/30     |
| 9 | Reach out to their recruitment contacts.   | OCCFC members    | 8/31     |

## APPENDIX B: MEETING CHAT

09:09:52 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:

Any river, anywhere. Beaching or kayaking!

09:10:22 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

I prefer lakes, but definitely agree any water to swim in is the best!

09:11:07 From Katie R USFS to Everyone:

Green Falls in Pachaug State Forest in Voluntown CT... my childhood swimming hole

09:11:32 From Fran Recht to Everyone:

I can't even think of swimming. it's been cold and foggy and I have two layers on. I think I'm lucky...

09:11:42 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

Reacted to "I can't even think..." with 🤔

09:12:09 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "I can't even think o..." with 👍

09:12:16 From Dani Jochums to Everyone:

Slide Rock off of Triangle Lake is my favorite spot. It's a natural water slide!

09:12:23 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "Slide Rock off of Tr..." with 👍

09:17:22 From Shawn Rivera to Everyone:

Sorry my internet router rebooted.

09:18:57 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:

that is great news!

09:19:00 From paulengelmeyer to Everyone:

Was a link and summary shared?

09:19:21 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:

I will send out via Stewardship emails, Paul

09:19:24 From Chandra LeGue to Everyone:

That is really, really great. Thank you for working to make that connection!

09:19:40 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

Reacted to "That is really, re..." with ❤️

09:23:18 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:

Paul, I appreciate that you can share your different viewpoint, and do it in a respectful manner. Thanks for the civility!

09:24:54 From Paul Lulay to Everyone:

Thanks Kirk. My hope was to do just that, an alternate view in a cordial manner.

09:36:28 From Kirk Shimeall to Everyone:

I'm sorry all, but I have to step off- I have some folks here to help me with my metal roofing that I am putting on myself. Nice to "see" you all, keep up the good collaboration! Dani/Anna/Katy, let me know if anything comes up that needs my attention, thank you.

09:36:41 From Rhonda Black-Umpqua SWCD to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm sorry all, but I..." with 👍

09:36:41 From Becca Brooke to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm sorry all, but..." with 👍

09:36:42 From Dani Jochums to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm sorry all, but I..." with 👍

09:36:46 From Anna Shepherd, Triangle Associates to Everyone:

Reacted to "I'm sorry all, but I..." with 👍

09:57:11 From Paul Lulay to Everyone:

Dave, are you able to share the research you are referencing that talks about herbicide mixing being an issue and for which ones? I am also interested in other research you are referencing about chemicals of concern you want the USFS not to use but are federally allowed?

10:28:00 From Paul Lulay to Everyone:

Chandra, I am interested in updates for N. Fork Smith also... even if it is a quick status update.

10:34:01 From Fran Recht to Everyone:

Mike Kennedy, CTSI natural resources director, just retired and a new person selected. I don't know who. Is this the new person you are referring to Chanda.?

10:34:13 From Chandra LeGue to Everyone:

Yes, Fran.

10:36:03 From Chandra LeGue to Everyone:

Angela Sondenaa AngelaS@ctsi.nsn.us starting August 19

10:51:03 From Chandra LeGue to Everyone:

Agreed

11:00:02 From Paul Lulay to Everyone:

I'll contact Associated Oregon Loggers

11:00:39 From paulengelmeyer to Everyone:

Yes, I have contact info for the LC folks

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 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
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- Anna Shepherd, Triangle Associates (*Coordinator, non-voting*)
- Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (*Coordinator, non-voting*)

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Andrew Maher, SIU Public Services
- Allen Hambrick, Central Coast Deputy District Ranger
- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger

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- Text in red denotes action items.
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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.

**UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**Becca Brooke – Forest-wide Updates**

Staff updates: Allen Hambrick filling in as deputy District Ranger in Reedsport, while the position is currently vacant. Michele Holman has accepted a temporary promotion to go on 120-day assignment as deputy Forest Supervisor on the Siskiyou. There is a new acting District Ranger on the Central Coast, Ritchie Gardner, who comes from Umatilla National Forest.

**Action Item:** *Becca will share Ritchie Gardner's bio with the Collaborative.*

The Forest has a lot of staff out on fire assignments currently. A record number of acres burned in Oregon this year, and the Forest Service is critically low on resources for fire response. Staff are overwhelmed and appreciate patience.

The USFS has not had a budget increase from the federal government since 2022, despite increased costs. The Forest is not hiring seasonal staff in FY25, which reflects the status of the agency nationally. The Siuslaw National Forest had to lay off 8 seasonal employees due to lack of funding and expects drastic measures in the coming year to maintain current staff. Becca will try to keep the Collaborative updated as she can.

Regional Natural Resources staff visited the Siuslaw National Forest the week of the September meeting to learn about Restoration Forestry and hear about research being done on the forest that will benefit the region as a whole.

### **Michele Holman - Central Coast District Updates**

There is a helicopter project underway this October to support coastal refuges complex in fuel suppression and support.

The sale was recently completed for the last timber sale for FY24, so FY24 targets are complete, and the Forest is now working on FY25 targets.

The Forest is starting programmatic consultation for marten and snowy plover with Fish and Wildlife Service.

James Pettett is on detail to the Middle Fork District as deputy District Ranger. The district is currently without a hydrologist.

A new wildlife tech, Katie Farmer, will join the forest in November.

The Forest has a new Fire Management officer, Dan Kroll.

### **Becca Brooke – Hebo District Updates**

Shawn Rivera, Hebo District Ranger, was not able to attend the meeting, so Becca provided the update that work on the 1861 Road Repair and the future Drift Creek EA was ongoing.

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

Kirk was contacted by someone from the Oregon Dunes Collaborative and will see if there is an opportunity to connect with OCCFC.

***Action Item:** Kirk will provide an update to the Collaborative soon on opportunities to connect with the Oregon Dunes Collaborative.*

## **OCCFC Coordinator Updates**

The Fall connectivity panel will be held on Nov. 6th from 1:00-3:00 online.

***Action Item:** The Coordinators will share the invitation flyer for members to distribute to their networks with the meeting minutes from this call.*

The October 11<sup>th</sup> OCCFC meeting will focus on an informal panel on the NWFP Amendment.

The Wildlife Subcommittee is continuing work on developing Zones of Agreement related to habitat connectivity.

The Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee is not currently meeting. The Coordinator will follow up with that group later this month.

***Action Item:** The Coordinators will follow up with the Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee on scheduling additional meetings.*

The Coordinator and collaborative members are working on recruitment for new OCCFC members.

## **OCCFC Member Updates**

Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon, extended a thank you to James Pettett for helping with outreach for a recent international Environmental Law field trip. He also thanked the Forest Service for responding to a dispersed camping group and cleaning up the area, and for attending the work party at Cape Perpetua.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, shared that on Monday, 9/16 at Mary's Peak the Old Growth Forest Network is holding a ceremony to induct the forest into their network. Chandra is also leading a hike for Oregon Wild separately after the ceremony at 10:00 on Monday. Oregon Wild is hosting events to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The Corvallis event is overbooked, but the Lincoln City event is still open. Chandra also shared that Oregon Wild is looking for a new Executive Director, more info can be found on their website.

## DISCUSSION: NORTH FORK SMITH EA

Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger, shared some updates related to the EA, including:

- The Forest completed the 30-day comment period/combined scoping on September 11th. Over 20 comments were submitted with wide variety. The public can view comments [here](#). The next steps are for staff to review and integrate feedback.
- The final EA with the draft decision is expected in early November and will include a 40-day objection period. Michele understands that some Collaborative members may want to meet with the Forest to discuss concerns. The District Biologist is currently on vacation but will return on September 23rd.
- This is the first time the Forest has included climate change and climate accounting in a draft EA analysis. The EA includes as an appendix a reference on carbon accounting.

**Action Item:** Michele will send the paper on carbon accounting to the OCCFC Coordinator to share.

The Collaborative members were invited to share questions and comments.

Chandra shared a concern about the expediated timeframe for this EA. She noted that she understands the constraints the Forest is working under but worries that there will not be sufficient time for changes to the draft EA in response to comments. In particular, she noted the concern on behalf of Oregon Wild about the lack of alternatives in the EA, and she hopes the Forest will consider other alternatives.

Michele responded that the Forest has received this feedback from others. She shared that the Forest observed during the pre-scoping process that many of the comments were similar, and that the alternative developed for the draft EA was intended to address these. She also noted that if additional issues are identified during scoping the Forest will develop another alternative in response and will hold another comment period.

Collaborative members then asked the Forest Service how the Wildlife Subcommittee can develop Zones of Agreement that are beneficial to the Forest when it comes to addressing relevant issues. Specifically, they asked about which species the Forest recommends the subcommittee focus on related to habitat expansion and connectivity.

Michele acknowledged that connectivity is an important topic to address across the landscape, and that the Forest is interested in further discussion around specific species, for example the flying squirrel. She noted that Iain Emmons is currently involved in discussions on this topic and will be an important person to include going forward.

Becca suggested inviting Deana Williams, Wildlife Biologist, to meet with the Wildlife Subcommittee to discuss further how the Zones of Agreement might best align with the work the Forest is doing around habitat connectivity.

**Action Item:** *Becca will coordinate with Forest staff and OCCFC Coordinator to arrange for Deana to meet with the Collaborative.*

Paul E. requested an update and reflections from the Forest on the Barred Owl control project.

Becca noted that the Forest is waiting for an update from the regional office and will inform the Collaborative when they know more.

**Action Item:** *The OCCFC Coordinator will arrange for an update on the Barred Owl control project to be shared with the full Collaborative during an upcoming monthly meeting.*

Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber, asked USFS staff whether all roads identified for decommissioning will be fully decommissioned (i.e. removed from road layers entirely), or whether some will be partially decommissioned such that they could be accessed later if needed. He noted a specific concern about fire response.

Michele responded that she could provide specific numbers for planned road decommissioning. She also noted that the Forest does sometimes move roads to storage rather than decommissioning. To determine this, the Forest looks at long-term management needs.

Paul E. noted that some roads were built without watershed recovery as a consideration for the Forest. He suggested that targets for watershed recovery would be a helpful consideration in identifying roads for decommissioning.

Michele acknowledged that the Forest does not have specific guidelines that require them to manage road density. She noted that they do manage for aquatic health and continue to have conversations with staff hydrologists and fish biologists, but road density is not something the Forest currently considers when looking at aquatic health.

Chandra noted that she would like to have more discussion with the Forest Service about the process for choosing roads for decommissioning and how aquatic health and habitat connectivity are factored into those decisions.

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked Michele for the discussion and the USFS staff for their participation and attendance.

The USFS staff left the meeting.

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

#### DEBRIEF PRESENTATION

The Coordinators welcomed members back from the break and asked for reflections on the discussion.

Kirk noted that the Siuslaw Stewardship meeting had a presenter, Dave Simon, from an organization that was working on Barred Owl culling, and that could be beneficial for the Collaborative.

**Action Item:** *Kirk will follow up with the OCCFC Coordinator to explore inviting a presenter on Barred Owl culling to meet with the Collaborative.*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

Collaborative members approved the August 2024 meeting minutes.

Paul L. noted that it would be helpful for the Zones of Agreement to clarify whether the Forest Service has any targets specific to connectivity.

Dave Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council, noted that the Road Zones of Agreement included content that the subcommittee hoped the Forest would confirm as either being supported or not supported, including fragmentation and connectivity. He asked when the Forest would respond to the Collaborative regarding the Road Zones of Agreement.

Chandra and Kirk both agreed that it would be helpful to understand the Forest Service's responsibility to respond to the subcommittee when they develop Zones of Agreement.

Paul E. noted a concern that he did not see information provided by the Pacific Seabird Group included in the North Fork Smith EA, related to no-cut buffers and adjacent stands.

**Action Item:** *OCCFC Coordinator will share the resource that Paul referred to along with the meeting minutes.*

Chandra suggested that having some guiding questions for reviewing resources shared by Collaborative members would be helpful in prioritizing her review. She suggested questions that will help connect the information with a question or discussion that the Collaborative is having or will have.

The Coordinator noted that the Wildlife Subcommittee members were asked to share resources for group review ahead of the next subcommittee meeting. She asked whether guiding questions would be helpful to include with those resources.

Paul L responded that it would be helpful if USFS staff were there and had the document ahead of time and prepared to discuss them and answer specific questions on how they relate to implementation of projects. Chandra agreed and further specified that it would be helpful to get a USFS wildlife biologist to join the discussion.

The group discussed papers they had previously reviewed on the issue of hard edge / soft edge boundaries on the issue of habitat connectivity and whether this issue should be revisited,

noting that it would be helpful to know if research papers are weighted the same as recommendation publications in the eyes of USFS.

The Coordinator reviewed requests from the OCCFC members on having structure to connectivity discussions and having USFS staff involvement in discussions. She further asked what would be helpful next steps.

Paul E. said he would like participation from Pacific Seabird Group and to have them give a talk to USFS and Collab. Dave recalled what Chandra had to say on the workload of reading papers and said that it is too much to keep up with all the articles in their entirety. Given that, if people sharing these could provide a summary along with the resource that would be helpful.

The Coordinator provided several suggestions to lighten the workload of reading through articles and asked OCCFC members to share their ideas on the best approach.

The Coordinator reminded the group that the Fall Connectivity Panel would be on November 6, from 1-3pm online. She requested that the group begin distributing flyers and information on the panel to networks upon receiving the flyer.

The Coordinator also updated on membership and recruitment status. She reminded the group that meetings are open to observation by the public in case any of the prospective members they reach out to are interested in observing a meeting. There are two prospective members who are interested in joining the upcoming Fall meetings. The Coordinator will re-share recruitment materials with OCCFC members.

The Collaborative discussed criteria and guidance for prospective members of stewardship groups or the OCCFC and requested materials that would help with recruitment for both groups. The group agreed to send suggestions for stewardship groups to the Coordinator and Kirk to help as they discuss outreach around these groups.

#### QUESTIONS, TOPICS, AND SCOPE FOR UPCOMING PANELS

The Coordinator transitioned the group into thinking about questions and suggested topics for the upcoming Northwest Forest Plan Amendment informal panel and the Fall Connectivity Panel. Notes on potential guiding questions are captured [here](#).

#### WRAP-UP

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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

| Action Item | Who | Due by |
|-------------|-----|--------|
|-------------|-----|--------|

|   |   |                          |  |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | <i>Share Ritchie Gardner's bio with the Collaborative.</i>  | Becca                    |  |
| 2 | <i>Provide an update to the Collaborative soon on opportunities to connect with the Oregon Dunes Collaborative.</i>                         | Kirk                     |  |
| 3 | <i>Share the invitation flyer for members to distribute to their networks with the meeting mins from this call.</i>                         | OCCFC Coordinator        |  |
| 4 | <i>Follow up with the Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee on scheduling additional meetings.</i>  | OCCFC Coordinator        |  |
| 5 | <i>Send the paper on carbon accounting to the OCCFC Coordinator to share.</i>   | Michele                  |  |
| 6 | <i>Coordinate with Forest staff and OCCFC Coordinator to arrange for Deana to meet with the Collaborative.</i>                              | Becca, OCCFC Coordinator |  |
| 7 | <i>Arrange for an update on the Barred owl control project to be shared with the full Collaborative during an upcoming monthly meeting.</i> | OCCFC Coordinator        |  |
| 8 | <i>Follow up with the OCCFC Coordinator to explore inviting a presenter on Barred Owl culling to meet with the Collaborative.</i>           | Kirk                     |  |
| 9 | <i>Share the resource that Paul referred to along with the meeting minutes.</i>   | OCCFC Coordinator        |  |

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, November 8<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
- David Eisler, Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Fran Recht, Community Member
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Paul Lulay, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology (*non-voting*)
- Jim Blount, OSU Extension Service's Outdoor School Program (*non-voting*)
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- Anna Shepherd, Triangle Associates (*Coordinator, non-voting*)
- Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (*Coordinator, non-voting*)

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Andrew Maher, SIU Public Services
- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor
- Katie Richardson, Natural Resources Staff Officer
- Richie Gardner, Acting Central Coast District Ranger
- Kenny Ruzicka, Forest 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, 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.

## DISCUSSION: DEBRIEF 11/6 CONNECTIVITY PANEL

USFS staff noted that they are in the process of reviewing the presentation recording.

Collaborative members requested follow up with panel speakers to ask whether more concrete recommendations are possible for non-amphibian species, noting that the recommendations for amphibians were very clear.

In response to a clarifying question from a Collaborative member, Becca confirmed that the Siuslaw National Forest is a full-suppression forest in regard to fire suppression. Please note that the recording from the science panel may contain inaccurate information regarding this.

## UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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

Becca shared that the draft EIS for the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Amendment would be available by Friday, 11/15. She reminded the group that the Forest Service will host informational webinars the week of 11/18 and 11/25, and an in person public meeting will be held on 12/10 at 5:30 p.m. in Corvallis. *(Note: the date of the in person public meeting has changed and the new date will be announced at a later time.)* She noted that USFS will likely not yet have complete information on the amendment at that meeting.

A Collaborative member asked whether the Old Growth Amendment could be part of the discussion at that meeting. Becca responded that that process is separate from the NWFP Amendment. She hopes that Siuslaw staff will receive more information from Region 6 soon but cannot say at this time what that will be.

Becca also shared with the group that the USFS is anticipating some budget constraints for Fiscal Year 2025. She anticipates this will impact hiring and the USFS program of work. She noted that much of the Siuslaw's program work will operate on fee collection and stewardship funds. This could impact the ability of USFS to maintain recreation infrastructure like campgrounds and will necessitate reduced office hours for USFS offices.

Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon, noted that he would appreciate input from USFS staff on how to communicate critical funding needs with elected officials.

Becca answered that this would be a great question for Siuslaw National Forest Public Information Officer Joanie Schmidgall, who would be able to provide factual information regarding the budget and cost of programs that would assist Collaborative members in

advocating for funding. Paul E. agreed that he would follow up on his budget questions with Joanie Schmidgall.

**Action item: Paul E. to follow up on budget questions with Joanie Schmidgall**

A Collaborative member asked whether stewardship funds will need to be re-directed from off-forest projects due to the new budget constraints. Becca responded that USFS still intends to do off-forest projects in FY26 and FY25 but cannot make any guarantees at this time.

A Collaborative member asked whether retained receipts can be used for USFS staff salaries. Becca responded that USFS does have a limited ability to use retained receipts for staff salaries if those roles directly impact project implementation.

Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association asked whether it would be possible to hold a public forum on the topic of USFS budget changes. Becca responded that she is happy to connect with people who have questions. She noted that a public forum would be challenging at this stage given the nature of the information, which is subject to change. Chuck asked whether there are opportunities for the public to help USFS address these constraints.

**Action Item: Chuck Willer and Becca to connect further on opportunities for the public to help USFS address budget constraints.**

### **Richie Gardner, Acting Central Coast District Ranger**

Richie extended his thanks to the Collaborative for hosting the connectivity panel and providing the recording. He shared that he has been meeting staff in the district and seen some of the restoration working underway as he familiarizes himself in his new role. He noted he has plans to meet with Paul E. for a field visit and has gone to Beavercreek recently to see a seed source for Western Red Cedar.

Richie shared that the recent FLT meeting was successful and that he looks forward to the program work that the Siuslaw National Forest will be able to accomplish despite constraints. He was especially optimistic about future restoration work with partners.

Richie noted that the Central Coast District is in the final stages of drafting Appendix G of the North Fork Smith Project, which will address comments received from the public on the project. The first week of December is the target for opening the objection period on the North Fork Smith EA.

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

Shawn noted that program work is underway. Burn piles are underway across the districts, and nectar resources for Oregon Western Spotted Butterfly are in place on Mount Hebo. Funding changes have impacted the FS Road 1861 work, and USFS is hoping to maintain administrative access while exploring funding options. He also shared that the Hebo office will be closed one day per week due to funding availability.

The Hebo District is currently working on the Purpose and Need for the upcoming Drift Creek EA. A report out on the Purpose and Need will likely be available for the Collaborative in December.

#### DISCUSSION: ZONES OF AGREEMENT PROCESS

The Coordinator initiated a period of open discussion regarding questions, concerns, and ideas related to the Collaborative's Zones of Agreement (ZOA) process.

In response to a question from a Collaborative member, the Coordinator clarified that Zones of Agreement are a separate process from letters submitted by the Collaborative through the NEPA process.

The Collaborative and USFS staff then discussed some questions about the ZOA process, particularly the role of USFS in the development of ZOAs, as well as clarification of the ways that USFS uses or considers ZOAs once they are submitted by the Collaborative. Both USFS staff and the Collaborative agreed that further clarification on these questions would be helpful.

Richie suggested from his past experience with forest collaboratives that it might be beneficial to have a staff officer attend all ZOA-related discussions.

Becca noted that one beneficial use of ZOAs is to help expediate NEPA letters.

The Coordinators summarized that more work was needed to clarify what the ZOA process is currently and what it should be in the future to be productive for both the Collaborative and USFS.

#### WRAP-UP

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

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

#### DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

##### **Habitat Connectivity Panel and Zones of Agreement Outstanding Questions**

A Collaborative member offered their understanding of the purpose of ZOAs as a mechanism to advocate for actions or management decisions from USFS and noted that this may include suggestions that are not currently agreed upon between the Collaborative and USFS.

Another Collaborative member noted that when the Roads ZOAs were submitted, the Collaborative worked with USFS periodically throughout the development process. They also noted uncertainty about how the ZOAs impact USFS decision making. They noted it might be helpful to have a conversation with USFS once ZOAs are developed to provide clarity and

ensure understanding around what the Collaborative is recommending, as well as gain clarity on parameters around the USFS's work.

A Collaborative member noted that their understanding of the purpose of developing ZOAs in subcommittees is to save limited time with USFS during monthly meetings. They noted that USFS staff capacity is limited and suggested that the most efficient approach is to submit the ZOAs once they are agreed upon by the Collaborative for USFS consideration. The Coordinator noted that the Collaborative has had input on ZOA development from USFS staff in an advisory capacity when possible and relevant.

Another Collaborative member offered their understanding of the ZOAs which is to help the Collaborative streamline how comments are provided in response to NEPA documents. They noted that it was not their understanding that USFS needs to respond to ZOAs after they are submitted. The Coordinator noted that clarity is needed on if/how the USFS responds to ZOAs once they are submitted. Another Collaborative member added that one way the USFS responds to ZOAs happens when the Collaborative submits public comments. They noted that comments have greater impact when they are endorsed by the Collaborative. The Coordinator noted a variety of conceptions of what Collaborative members thought the ZOA process was and stated that she would put together a survey to document what members thought the ZOA process was and should be in the future.

**Action Item: The Coordinator will put together a few different descriptions of the ZOA process and do a survey of member's understanding of current process and any preferred updates.**

Paul E. expressed concern about the budget updates shared by USFS. They noted the increased importance of Collaborative agreement on key priorities to help guide difficult budgeting decisions in the near future. Paul E. stated that he wanted to put together a document on the OCCFC's key priorities to help guide funding discussions.

**Action Item: Paul E. will draft a list of key priorities that the Collaborative agrees on to support feedback for legislators. He will share the draft list with the Collaborative for review and approval.**

Collaborative members discussed some confusion related to how funding sources are allocated into operations on the Forest. They agreed it would be helpful to better understand the specific operations that are funded through proceeds from recreation fees.

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

### **Subcommittee updates**

#### *Wildlife Subcommittee*

The Coordinator spoke to the current status of the Wildlife Subcommittee, sharing that she would connect with USFS and OCCFC members to follow up on the connectivity panel with USFS staff member Deanna Williams to continue the work on the Connectivity ZOAs.

**Action Item: The Coordinator will schedule the next meeting following the connectivity panel and will coordinate with Deanna Williams to support connectivity ZOAs.**

Regarding the connectivity panel, the Coordinator shared that Collaborative members could send in outstanding questions for her to forward to the panel speakers.

**Action Item: Collaborative members that have outstanding questions following the connectivity panel will email them to the Coordinator to follow up with panelists.**

### **Membership and Recruitment Status**

The Coordinator recognized the new Collaborative members joining the meeting and noted that she is working with other members on outreach to potentially interested parties. Collaborative members are encouraged to invite anyone who might be interested in membership to the December meeting.

### **Barred Owl Removal Work**

The Collaborative discussed the decision for the Siuslaw to not participate in the Barred Owl removal efforts. There was interest in gaining a better understanding from SNF about their position and the information they are working with related to Spotted Owls, noting that their largest surviving population is on the Siuslaw. Dave Eisler shared a letter he drafted to outline the concerns of the Collaborative related to SNF's not participating in Barred Owl removal and the implications for Spotted Owl on the forest. The Collaborative members agreed that this letter would be a good starting point for their work on the issue and agreed to review and leave comments or edits on the document once it was uploaded to the OCCFC's Google Drive.

**Action Item: Collaborative members will review and provide feedback and/or agreement on the letter by 11/15**

A Collaborative member suggested that the letter be edited to take on the format of an inquiry into USFS's thinking around the subject, while voicing concern for the long-term trajectory of the species. Another Collaborative member suggested sending the letter to Becca and SNF staff first with a request that they forward on questions they are unable to answer to Region 6. Other members agreed with this suggestion. The Coordinator noted that Becca had voiced support for the Collaborative submitting a letter on this topic as a next step.

### **WRAP-UP**

The Coordinators thanked everyone for their time and said that the **next meeting would be 9:00am – 12:00pm on December 13<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

| APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS |   |                       |          |
|--|---|-----------------------|----------|
|  | Action Item   | Who                   | Due by   |
| 1  | Follow up on budget questions with Joanie Schmidgall  | Paul E.               | 12/13/24 |
| 2  | Connect further on opportunities for the public to help USFS address budget constraints   | Chuck and Becca       | 2/14/25  |
| 3  | Put together a few different descriptions of the ZOA process and do a survey of the members' understanding of current process and any preferred updates                 | OCCFC Coordinator     | 11/15/24 |
| 4  | Draft a list of key priorities that the Collaborative agrees on to support feedback to legislators. Share the draft list with the Collaborative for review and approval | Paul E.               | 12/13/24 |
| 5  | Schedule the next meeting of the Wildlife Subcommittee following the connectivity panel and coordinate with Deanna Williams to support connectivity ZOAs                | OCCFC Coordinator     | 12/13/24 |
| 6  | Collaborative members that have outstanding questions following the connectivity panel will email them to the Coordinator to follow up with panelists                   | Collaborative Members | 11/15/24 |
| 7  | Review and provide feedback and/or agreement on the Barred Owl Removal letter   | Collaborative Members | 11/15/24 |

**Meeting Notes**  
**Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative**  
Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 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
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) (*non-voting*)
- Anna Shepherd, Triangle Associates (*Coordinator, non-voting*)
- Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (*Coordinator, non-voting*)

**FOREST SERVICE (USFS):**

- Eric Anderson, Partnership Coordinator, Collaborative Liaison
- Becca Brooke, Forest Supervisor

**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.

**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 – Becca Brooke**

Becca shared that the DEIS for the Northwest Forest Plan has been released for a 120-day comment period. She noted that information on informational webinars for the public has been shared with Collaborative members and that SNF will host a public engagement session on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Becca will share more details as they become available.

Becca provided an update on behalf of the Central Coast Ranger District. She noted that they are near completion for the North Fork Smith work and anticipate finishing in early January, at which time the final document will be available for review and any objections.

Becca provided an update on behalf of the Hebo Ranger District. She shared that they are preparing to write the EA for the Drift project. She also noted that progress is continuing on reopening the 1861 road, however due to a decrease in funding the project efforts are shifting to focus on creating administrative access for fire response. Full reopening of the road has been postponed for the near term.

#### **CPRCD – Kirk Shimeall**

Kirk noted that he will share an update on the status of funding for the Collaborative in the next few weeks.

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

The OCCFC Coordinator shared that the first Collaborative meeting of 2025 will be held in February. The Coordinator also reminded the Collaborative that the former Coordinator, Alyssa Bonini, sent out an email to all Collaborative members informing them that she was moving into a new job position and that Dani and Anna would continue being the points of contact and coordinators moving forward.

David Eisler asked for clarification on the roles of the Region 6 foresters to support the Collaborative's development of a letter regarding the Barred Owl removal efforts. Becca responded that Region 6 covers National Forest System lands in Oregon and Washington including seventeen National Forests. The Regional Forester is Jackie Buchanan, who delegates authority to Forest Supervisors on each National Forest. Becca noted that Jackie has final decision-making authority on the Barred Owl efforts. She noted that she will review the Collaborative's letter and consider forwarding it to the regional office. Eric Andersen, USFS, noted that he could work on finding and sending an org chart of Region 6, as per the Collaborative's request.

**Action Item: Eric will share an org chart for R6 and info on program areas.**

Chandra LeGue shared that Oregon Wild's executive director has retired, and that a new executive director, Quinn Read from Bird Alliance of Oregon, will start work in January.

#### **PRESENTATION: 2024 IN REVIEW**

The Coordinator gave a presentation covering highlights from the Collaborative's work in 2024.

[Link to presentation](#)

#### **DISCUSSION: FORECASTING FOR 2025**

The Coordinator led the group in a discussion of suggested topics for meetings in 2025.

[Link to document](#)

## 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 asked for clarification on the kind of follow up the group expects from USFS following science panels and other information sharing events. Another Collaborative member shared that they hope to hear from USFS staff how the technical information shared during these types of events might influence or be integrated into management activities on the ground.

A Collaborative member noted that they think it would be helpful to include USFS staff in subcommittee meetings where ZOAs are discussed so they can contribute to the conversation.

## DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR 2025

The Coordinator led a continuation of the discussion of priority topics and their suggested sequencing for 2025.

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

### **Subcommittee updates**

#### *Invasives & Herbicides Subcommittee*

The Coordinator noted there were no updates on the Integrated Invasives Species Project EA, and updates will be shared when they are available.

#### *Wildlife Subcommittee*

The Coordinator shared that she was able to connect with Deanna Williams from USFS to work with Collaborative members on their Habitat Connectivity Zones of Agreement. She stated that she would send out a meeting hold for a subcommittee meeting in January.

**Action Item: The Coordinator will send out meeting hold for meeting with Deanna Williams to connect with the subcommittee.**

### **Membership and Recruitment Status**

The Coordinator shared a request for current members to continue outreach to possible interested new members and keep the Coordinator in the loop.

### **Other Updates**

A Collaborative member shared that they received information that USFS had recently sprayed herbicides in an area with active beaver presence. Collaborative members emailed USFS staff to bring their concerns to staff attention.

#### DISCUSSION: BARRED OWL REMOVAL LETTER

The Coordinator shared the draft letter to Becca Brooke, SNF Forest Supervisor, relaying concerns and questions related SNF's participation in the Barred Owl removal efforts. A Collaborative member noted that they believe the letter should be shared with the Supervisor as soon as possible.

**Action Item: The Coordinator will finish the letter and send out for any objections by EOD Monday, 12/16 with the intent to send to Becca by 12/20.**

#### WRAP-UP

The Coordinators thanked everyone for their time and said that the **next meeting would be 9:00am – 12:00pm on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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

|   | Action Item   | Who               | Due by     |
|---|---|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | Share an org chart for R6 and info on program areas.  | Eric Anderson     | 2/14/2025  |
| 2 | Send out meeting hold for meeting with Deanna Williams to connect with the subcommittee.                          | OCCFC Coordinator | Complete   |
| 3 | Finish the letter and send out for any objections by EOD Monday, 12/16 with the intent to send to Becca by 12/20. | OCCFC Coordinator | 12/16/2024 |