

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

ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:

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

FOREST SERVICE (USFS):

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

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

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

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

CPRCD

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

OCCFC – Coordinator and Members

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

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

DISCUSSION: CONNECTIVITY PANEL

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

Eric Anderson asked whether the Collaborative is more interested in terrestrial or aquatic species when it comes to habitat connectivity. Chandra responded that the group tends to be more focused on terrestrial species because the Siuslaw is a more fragmented landscape with roads and thinning. Dave Eisler noted that the vision of the Collaborative in the past has been to create interior forests with large blocks of land that would not be disturbed by the occasional thinning treatment. Kenny Ruzicka, SNF, shared that the Siuslaw is a mosaic of different stand types and tree density and added that he was not entirely in agreement that thinning causes

fragmentation, noting that different stand types already exist, and thinning is associated with benefits for multiple species. Fran Recht noted that when it comes to Threatened and Endangered species specifically, there is concern that having too much open canopy may not provide proper habitat, and that canopy cover is important to creating connectivity between stands. Kenny mentioned a study done on the Siuslaw that examined thinning and understory diversity. DeAnna Williams noted that thinning treatments always try to take species needs into consideration. Paul L. added that choosing not to thin is also a management decision and results in longer time to achieve LSR conditions. He suggested that when choosing not to thin it's important to have information to back that up why that decision is beneficial. The group then discussed the needs of different species of interest when it comes to specific conditions and habitat features.

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

Action Item: Dani will reach out to Jim Rivers

Action Item: DeAnna will look for past presentation

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

REVIEW 2025 TOPIC TRACKER

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

WRAP-UP

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

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

DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

The Coordinator invited the Collaborative members to share their thoughts on the discussion on connectivity with SNF staff. Andy shared that he feels the SNF has shared what they can about the topic of connectivity and that the discussions on that topic have provided all the benefits they can. Dave raised the question of whether there will be an opportunity to identify alignment between the Collaborative's understanding of connectivity and SNF's. He asked whether this could be a topic for a Zone of Agreement. Andy noted that he believes the Collaborative can agree on things they would like the Forest Service to consider and added that they cannot direct the Forest Service's actions.

He also noted his observation that the Forest Service is considering Collaborative positions to the extent that they can. Chandra suggested that the group think about providing a checklist of priority considerations for the Collaborative to the Forest Service and invite them to respond to how each item was considered when decisions are made. Fran agreed that documenting the Collaborative's interests and concerns on the topic of connectivity is valuable.

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

BUDGET UPDATES

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

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

REVIEW LETTER OF AGREEMENT

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

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

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

WRAP-UP

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

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

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	<i>Reach out to Jim Rivers</i>	Dani Jochums	4/11/25
2	<i>Look for past presentation</i>	DeAnna Williams	4/11/25

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Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:

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

FOREST SERVICE (USFS):

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

Notes Key

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WELCOME, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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

UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Forest Supervisor – *Becca Brooke*

Becca shared that the Siuslaw National Forest has been able to keep most of the staff at the Field Office, but uncertainties remain around the impacts of a future reduction in force. She noted that the continuing uncertainty around staffing is making planning difficult at this time. Becca noted that the timber program and wildfire suppression will be prioritized under the agency's new leadership. A Collaborative member asked whether the Title 2 projects and Stewardship funding were stalled. Becca confirmed that there is a pause in the grants and agreements process, but added that the Forest Service may be able to proceed with certain agreements, in particular related to disaster recovery, reforestation, etc.

Central Coast Ranger District – *Michele Holman*

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

Hebo Ranger District – *Shawn Rivera*

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

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

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

A Collaborative member asked if the Forest Service could share which wildlife staff they lost. Becca shared that there are vacant GS11 positions on the Hebo and Oregon Dunes districts, and

that a significant number of probational employees were also lost across the Forest. She added that many of these were permanent seasonal staff that perform much of the field work.

CPRCD – Kirk Shimeall

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

OCCFC – Dani Jochums

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

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

The Coordinator shared a survey to clarify Collaborative members' and USFS staff's understanding of the Zone of Agreement development process. The group then discussed what they feel is going well with the ZOA process. Members and FS staff noted things like improved understanding of different perspectives, sharing of information, increased clarity around parameters on Forest Service activities, and the exchange of ideas. When asked to share constructive criticism or suggested changes, Collaborative members noted that it would be helpful to have more input from the Forest Service on what management priorities are and how they can be approached. This would help the Collaborative connect ZOAs more closely to Forest Service work. It was also noted that having more Forest Service staff participation in the ZOA development process would be beneficial and help ensure that the final product is realistic. Becca suggested that the Collaborative announce to the Forest Service when a new ZOA process is beginning so that staff can be better prepared to provide support. A Collaborative member suggested the group consider re-opening the Roads ZOA in order to facilitate closer collaboration with the Forest Service on the final product. It was agreed to note this as a potential topic for a future meeting. The Coordinator asked whether the Collaborative would be interested in working with other authorities on ZOAs when parts fall outside of The Forest Service's authority. The Collaborative noted the importance of keeping the purpose of ZOAs focused and avoiding topics that are too broad. It was agreed that working with other authorities on ZOAs could be considered but that this should not be assumed to be a part of the process at the start.

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

implemented to secure funding. Eric Anderson noted that he is available to help support applications. The Coordinator flagged this as a topic for future discussions.

WRAP-UP

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

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

DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

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

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

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

Subcommittee updates

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

Membership and Recruitment Status

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

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

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

WRAP-UP

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

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

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

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

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- *Ben Relampagos, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
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FOREST SERVICE (USFS):

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

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WELCOME, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Forest Supervisor – *Becca Brooke*

Becca congratulated Kirk on the Stewardship Celebration in Yachats and shared that the event was meaningful. Becca shared a recent secretarial order and executive order which will expand timber production by 25%. She shared the Secretarial memo from Secretary Rollins that addressed forest protection. She noted that each region will produce a five-year strategy once the national strategy is published. A Collaborative member asked what role the Forest Service will play in influencing the regional plan. Becca confirmed that there are weekly meetings with regional timber strategists, however she will need the guidance of the national strategy before beginning regional plans. A Collaborative member noted the language of the emergency in the memo and asked how declaring an emergency affects Siuslaw. A Collaborative member asked about the agency's position on the risk of fire in the Siuslaw. Becca confirmed that the maps are pulled from national datasets, and that the emergency declaration does not authorize or require any plan or direction of operation. The operation unlocks the emergency authority for fire and insect emergencies, but it doesn't require action on behalf of the Forest Service. The Forest Supervisor wants the Collaborative to be a part of informing the decisions made on the operations of the emergency direction.

A Collaborative member noted that fire emergencies are a potential place of collaboration with USFS. Becca noted that the Collaborative needs to pick out a project together that the Collaborative can work on together. Fire officials are mandating that the Forest Service publish maps with potential delineation or control lines in the case of a fire.

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

Central Coast Ranger District – *Michele Holman*

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

Hebo Ranger District – *Shawn Rivera*

Becca shared that the Hebo team has continued looking at the Drift planning area and the Yumina planning area. She noted that the Hebo team has been focusing on the Yumina planning area. A Collaborative member requested an update or forecast on the anticipated body of work road replacement and culvert replacement. Becca confirmed that Forest Service is in the middle of the ANEPA process and will provide an update when available. Michele clarified that a majority of the truck activity is road work and logging in the Three Creek and Indian Creek area due to active sales this time of year.

Action item: Chuck to clarify with USFS what the USFS intends to do with replacement and culvert replacement and what the truck activity in Siuslaw and Indian Creek EA area.

A Collaborative member mentioned that there has been a lot of science assessments for the DEIS and collaborative members contributed comments on the DEIS. Members commented that they would like an update on what the Agency is doing on the DEIS process. Becca confirmed that the NW Forest Plan/Amendment plan is continuing the process and it is a centralized service planning group. She has yet to see any of the comments but will put in a request for the comments on the Coastal services.

CPRCD – Kirk Shimeall

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

OCCFC – The Coordinator and OCCFC Members

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

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

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

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

DISCUSSION: RAC INFORMATION SESSION

The Coordinator introduced Joanie Schmidgall, Public Affairs Officer for Siuslaw, to give a presentation on the Siuslaw National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Joanie noted that the RAC is recruiting members to participate in the advisory committee. The committee consists of 15 members from three categories. RAC members serve a 4-year term, meeting once every two years. The current term will expire in May 2025. Every time the RAC meets, they allocate 1 million dollars. The three categories for RAC members are Cat A, Organized

Labor; Cat B, Environmental Organization; and Cat C, Elected Office. Projects are eligible for Title II funding if they are restoration focused, protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and maintain existing infrastructure on and off federal land (need a federal land nexus).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Collaborative member noted that fire expertise and firefighting expertise have something to contribute to the conversation. He would like to hold further conversations about the nature of coastal forest and fire resistance and resilience. In the DEIS for amending the forest plan, fire resistance was not mentioned and there is a body of fire science that could work in the Siuslaw that shouldn't be confused with Fire Prevention in drier areas. He supported a focus on natural ecology.

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

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

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

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

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

WRAP-UP

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

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

DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

Subcommittee updates

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

WRAP-UP

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

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

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Clarify with USFS what the USFS intends to do with replacement and culvert replacement,	Chuck W.	N/A

	and what the truck activity in Siuslaw and Indian Creek EA area.		
2	Follow up with Fran whether acquisition falls under the protection requirement.	Joanie S.	6/13
3	Continue conversation with Joanie on Title III funding and the overlap with Title II funding.	Paul E.	6/13
4	Touch base with USFS staff on future conversations on PODs and PCLs.	Coordinator	Complete
5	Reach out to potential science experts Bev Law and Dominic De La Sala.	Coordinator	5/9
6	Touch base with a colleague on Social Marketing presentation.	Coordinator	Complete

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

ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:

- Andy Geissler, AFRC
- Chris Mushrush, NWOIFM
- Fran Recht, Community Member
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Sam Morrison, Hampton
- *Ben Relampagos, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- Melanie Del Rosario, *Guest Presenter Triangle Associates*

FOREST SERVICE (USFS):

- Katie Richardson, USFS
- Brandon Hendrix, USFS
- Eric Anderson, Partnership Coordinator
- Kenny Ruzicka, Forest Silviculturist
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger

Notes Key

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

WELCOME, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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

UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Forest Supervisor – Michele Holman (Subbing for Becca Brooke)

The Coordinator introduced Michele Holman to share updates on behalf of USFS. Michele shared that USFS plans to increase timber production based on the President's Executive Order. USFS plans are based on the schedule provided by the current administration. Several staff members at USFS opted into the deferred retirement program (DRP), including individuals who have worked with the Collaborative in the past, Deanna Williams, Wildlife Biologist, Jeff McPherson, Fish Biologist, and John Langley, Forest Engineer. Between Reedsport, Hebo, and Waldport, several seasonalists have opted into the DRP (both in recreation and natural resources program). USFS is in the process of realigning its staff into existing vacancies in critical forest positions. USFS expects the next collaborative meeting will feature new members filling in for recent vacancies.

Central Coast Ranger District – Michele Holman

Michele Holman shared that CCRD are in the middle of a programmatic [unclear] for species on the ODNRA. They have secured a biologist to help move the project forward. She shared that they are still working toward the North Fork Smith.

A member asked for information about the increase in timber production increase the cutting of older growth trees. Michele noted that in the NW Forest Plan amendment, there will be no effects on the Siuslaw old growth.

A member asked if USFS will go through native forests that have been affected by the burn. Michele stated that there has been no change to USFS's plan, but that they plan on continuing to manage for the promotion of old growth forest and that restoration is still focused on historic clearcuts.

A member noted that he sent Becca Pacific Seabird recommendations. The member asked about who to contact for following up on these recommendations. Michele noted that USFS is following the NW Forest Plan and the consultation Forestry Conservation with the Fish and Wildlife service. The Siuslaw leadership has looked at the recommendations, but they are recommendations, and they are unsure if they are going to be adopted. Katie Richardson and Becca Brook are the points of contact for more information. USFS will consider the recommendations but there is no guarantee for broadly adopting the recommendations.

Hebo Ranger District – Brandon Hendrix on behalf of Shawn Rivera

The Coordinator introduced Brandon Hendrix. Brandon stated that the team is currently out in the field doing fieldwork and data might be available mid-summer.

A member asked for updates on the Drift Project. Brandon noted that there were no updates on the Drift Project. He will follow up with Shawn for more clarification.

CPRCD – Dani Jochums on behalf of Kirk Shimeall

The Coordinator stated that CPRCD is currently looking for funding for OCCFC. If there are any recommendations on funding and grant opportunities, please send them to Dani and Kirk.

OCCFC – The Coordinator and OCCFC Members

The Coordinator reminded collaborative members that there will be a summer hiatus from June-August, 2025. The Collaborative meetings will continue in September 2025. Paul Lulay has moved to a new position at Hampton and Sam Morrison will be taking over Paul's spot in the Collaborative.

DISCUSSION: FIRE MANAGEMENT LEARNING DISCUSSION

The Coordinator introduced Chris Mushrush, Fire Planner with NW Oregon Interagency Fire Management Group (NWOIFM). He provided an overview of Potential Operational Delineations (PODs). He provided a definition for POD containers as roads, rivers, and ridges that can be used to contain wildlife and discussed how they are created and planned. PODs help compartmentalize the landscape to pre-identify control features to lead proactive management for wildfire response. PODs act as a quick knowledge transfer of areas of high probability of success to individuals and teams of managing fire on the landscape. Chris explained that almost all of the National Forest areas have identified PODs. Chris shared the fires suppression index which categorizes areas by fire control difficulty.

A member mentioned that 90% of forest fires are human-caused and asked if there has been a mapping of fires that are human caused as it would be helpful to know the cause and understand the underlying causes. Chris noted that there is a dataset of the origin of fires and is willing to provide the dataset.

ACTION ITEM: Follow-up with Chris about getting the dataset on fire origins and management.

A member asked if smaller ponds in the national forest and private land ponds are mapped out on PODs. The member mentioned that some people have ponds that possibly have sufficient water supplies to assist with firefighting efforts. The owners would be willing to help and provide their ponds for fire management. The member noted that the NWOIFM dataset will help communities set up areas of prevention.

Michele added that USFS has an abundance of initial attack resources for fire prevention, and USFS works closely with ODF, Douglas Forest Protection, and Coos Bay Forest Protection. The Oregon coast previously didn't have lightning-strike-caused fires, but the climate has changed and USFS is tracking changes and updating systems to identify new starts.

Eric Anderson, USFS, added that he appreciates the community's efforts on creating awareness and being proactive about fire prevention. Eric asked if there is a method for allowing the Collaborative group to have access to look at the maps and the NWOIFM datasets. Eric suggested that the public and collaborative should have an opportunity to provide feedback on datasets and maps.

Chris noted that the maps are always changing, and they often change due to continual work and collaboration with creating PODs. There is a dashboard called the Risk Management Assistance Dashboard (RMA Dashboard). Chris noted that the RMA resource has options to

show suppression indexing, PODs, and other resources. The RMA has past fire occurrences, but he is unsure if fire cause is included in on the RMA.

A link to the RMA dashboard is available [here](#).

The Coordinator asked what the process of working with adjacent landowners looks like. Chris noted that Oregon State University (OSU) has been part of the PODs and PCLs process with adjacent landowners. OSU facilitates the meetings and brings in the community and people involved, including private landowners, BLM, and Forest Service. They collaborate to create maps through discussion and co-creation of maps.

Eric Anderson, USFS, asked if there is a link or contact for the OSU program involved. Chris mentioned Chris Dunn, a professor at OSU is heavily involved in planning PODs and PCLs. He is one of the main facilitators and might be a good resource to reach out to.

ACTION ITEM: Contact Chris Dunn, OSU, for more information on his work with PODs and PCLs.

Chris's presentation is available as a recording [here](#).

WRAP-UP

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

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

DEBRIEF DISCUSSION

The Coordinator asked the group if there were follow-up questions or comments.

A member commented that there didn't appear to be a specific data set on the origin of the fires and how and what caused them. The member suggested that if the data doesn't exist, then the Collaborative should propose the creation of that type of data set.

The Coordinator mentioned that the process of working with adjacent landowners is interesting and that she is glad there was clarity on that process.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

Subcommittee updates

The Coordinator explained that funding for the facilitation of OCCFC is pending, and that there is a chance Triangle Associates might not be able to continue in the event of a funding shortfall. However, USFS is asking for an extension for funding. In the event that the funding comes through, Triangle might have to reduce the scale of services, but the project would be able to continue through the Fall into early Winter. Triangle is working closely with Eric to navigate the funding and administrative aspects. Dani and Kirk will have a discussion on a future grant

opportunity. If Triangle is unable to return, then Kirk and Connie will create a contingency plan. If members have ideas or resources they are encouraged to reach out to Kirk or Dani.

PRESENTATION: SOCIAL BASED MARKETING

The Coordinator introduced Melanie del Rosario, a Managing Associate with Triangle Associates. She shared a presentation on Social Marketing. Social Marketing utilizes methods to help encourage behavioral changes. She provided a high-level overview of how to approach Social Marketing. Mel gave the Collaborative group several opportunities to identify and practice their Social Marketing skills. The Collaborative members went into breakout rooms and worked through an example practice prompt that allowed members to practice Social marketing skills from the presentation.

The presentation is available [here](#) and a recording of the presentation is available [here](#).

Melanie facilitated a follow-up discussion after the practice Social Marketing activity. Members shared their solutions to the practice prompt and breakout group discussions.

A member shared that they are interested in using Social Marketing tools to reassess fire danger messaging and prevention.

Melanie shared a resource for community based social marketing projects:

<https://wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov/>

WRAP-UP

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

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

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Follow-up with Chris about getting the dataset on fire origins and management.		
2	Contact Chris Dunn, OSU, for more information on his work with PODs and PLCs.		
3			
4			
5			

6			
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Meeting Notes
Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative
Friday, September 12th, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Online Meeting

ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:

- Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association
- David Eisler, Forest landowner
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
- Pablo San Emeterio, Oregon Wild
- Sam Morrison, Hampton Lumber
- *Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (non-voting)*
- *Ben Relampagos, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

FOREST SERVICE (USFS):

- Andrew Mayer, Public Services
- Becca Brooke, USFS
- Bryan Wilson, Hebo District Ranger
- Eric Anderson, Partnership Coordinator
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger

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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 collaborative ground rules.

UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Forest Supervisor – *Becca Brooke*

Becca shared that the USDA has an open comment period for the USDA restructuring which closes out on September 30, 2025. The USFS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations were rescinded and the USFS is currently operating under the USDA regulation, which are also currently being revised. The Forest will continue to adjust to the changes and do its best to share changes with the collaborative. The Roadless Rule is also proposed to be rescinded with the public comment period for that proposal ending on September 19th. Additionally, the USFS Travel Management regulations are proposed to be rescinded.

Becca shared that it was a busy but successful summer season on the Forest, and thanked the volunteers who contribute to the forest cleanups and help run the Cape Perpetua visitor center. Becca noted that the Siuslaw slightly exceeded its FY25 timber target of 42 mmbf, coming in a little over 45 mmbf, has treated over 3,000 acres for fuels (346% of target) and has completed 344 acres of reforestation (688% of target). Becca noted that USFS is establishing a new Good Neighbor Authority program with the Oregon Department of Forestry to provide assistance on forest restoration efforts.

A member asked what Siuslaw's assumption is about meeting the President's increase of timber production. Becca noted that there is an anticipated increase in timber production. She noted that this will be a good opportunity to increase the restoration work. She noted that USFS will continue restoration of the LSR forest.

Central Coast Ranger District – Michele Holman

Michele Holman shared that the Central Coast Ranger District (CCRD) spent the summer reprioritizing work efforts. She noted that CCRD has completed the Environmental Assessment for the North Fork Smith project and anticipates a Decision notice to be issued in November. They had also been working on a Biological Assessment for Coastal Activities, which includes coast marten and snowy plovers. She noted that CCRD is now working on a Restoration CE called "Five Green" which will include 800 acres of LSR thinning. She noted that Hebo is also moving forward with the Yamina project under the Restoration CE category in order to complete 1200 acres of LSR restoration.

A member asked for more information on how the new application of NEPA will impact notification and involvement of the public and collaborative projects. Becca answered that there is uncertainty about the effects of the new application of NEPA. She noted that USFS will continue to be transparent in how the new NEPA regulations will affect projects.

A member asked about the possibility of the Administration moving forward with reorganizing regions and where which regional office the Siuslaw National Forest would be a part of. Becca noted that there is uncertainty with the status of regional offices.

Hebo Ranger District – Bryan Wilson

Becca Brooke introduced Bryan Wilson, the new Hebo District Ranger who joined the Forest on September 8th. Bryan noted that he was getting up to speed on restoration work and had visited the landslide damage on Road 1861.

A member asked for updates on the Drift Project. Bryan noted that the timeline on the Drift Project has been pushed back so that the District can focus on the Yamina CE.

Oregon Wild– *Chandra LeGue*

The Coordinator introduced Chandra LeGue. Chandra noted that Oregon Wild held an event in Portland to share information about involvement and public policy efforts. Oregon Wild has a new Executive Director named Quinn Reed, located at the Portland Office. She invited members to get in contact with Quinn Reed. Pablo San Emeterio added that he is looking forward to the continuing to work with the Collaborative.

Institute for Applied Ecology– *Andrew Esterson*

Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology, noted that the Institute for Applied Ecology has continued production of native seed and continues to work closely with Oregon Botany. He noted that there will be plantings in Fall 2025. He noted that there are projects in progress for butterfly conservation. Andrew invited members to attend an open house the Institute for Applied Ecology will be holding in September.

Hampton Lumber – *Sam Morrison*

Sam Morrison, Hampton, provided an update on logging and sales in the Willamette Valley area. He noted that there are new staff members currently in training that may join the Collaborative in the future.

Umpqua SWCD – *Rhonda Black*

Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD, noted that SWCD provided a tour of some off-stream projects over the summer.

Coast Range Association – *Chuck Willer*

Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association, noted that he has been involved in using LIDAR to survey the Siuslaw. He noted that they plan on adding the data to a GIS database. Chuck had requested data from USFS, and Becca noted that requested data is restricted and not available for release based on privacy issues and private land data. She noted that the LIDAR work might be redundant to work already completed by USFS.

Cascade Pacific – *Kirk Shimeall*

Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific, noted that there will be a Stewardship Roundtable in October 2025.

OCCFC – *The Coordinator*

The Coordinator provided updates on grants and funding. The Collaborative did not win the Catalyst Grant but OCCFC continues to pursue funding opportunities. She welcomed members to send other grant and funding opportunities.

A member asked which grants OCCFC is pursuing. Dani noted that OCCFC is pursuing funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Kirk mentioned that funding opportunities and topics should be supported by USFS. Becca noted that USFS welcomes the topic of fire and fire prevention. She hopes that the Collaborative can pick a topic to devote focus to.

A member asked if there will be a Title II grant offering in the next fiscal year. Andrew Maher, USFS, noted that it has not been reauthorized, but it is unlikely. Congress needs to reauthorize the program, but reauthorization is not guaranteed. Becca noted that funds will hopefully be off the books by FY26, to prevent their return to the Treasury.

DISCUSSION: TOPICS

The Coordinator asked members to share any specific activities or topics of interest for the remainder of the 2025 year. Becca noted that Yamina is an option for a field visit. She noted that the Collaborative could visit some of the USFS restoration sites and harvest areas. The Coordinator stated that she would reach out to all the members for their input into activities and topics for the rest of the year.

Action Item: Coordinator to reach out to members for their input and feedback on topics and activities.

The Coordinator mentioned that Kenny Ruzicka, USFS, can present in November and is open to member feedback on specific silvicultural topics. The Coordinator said she would send a reminder on feedback for Kenny's presentation.

Action Item: Coordinator to send a reminder to members to suggest topics for Kenny's presentation.

Becca noted that she will be on leave during the regularly scheduled monthly OCCFC meeting time. The Coordinator said she would follow up with a Doodle poll to determine the best date for a Fall OCCFC field tour.

Action Item: Coordinator to create poll for possible dates for the field trip.

WRAP-UP

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND ONGOING WORK

Subcommittee updates

The Coordinator asked the group if there were follow-up questions or comments.

The Coordinator facilitated a discussion on the Collaborative Workgroups. She asked if Workgroups were still of interest to members.

A member noted interest in having the Herbicides and Invasives Workgroup follow up on the work they did with Chelsea Monks, USFS, including their letter in response to the Integrated Invasive Species Project (IISP) comment period. The Coordinator noted that she would follow up with Chelsea Monks on the IISP.

Action item: Coordinator to follow up with Chelsea Monks on the IISP.

A member noted that the workgroups have the potential to come up with substantive decisions and directions for the Collaborative that would be hard for the larger group to determine in these meetings and that workgroups also give folks a chance to explore particular topics of interest.

A member noted that they would like more information on subcommittees. The Coordinator noted that the Herbicides and Invasives Subcommittee and Wildlife Subcommittee are open.

A member noted that she would like more clarity about the purpose and importance of the subcommittees. She noted that the Collaborative should work on one topic of focus and focus on forest efforts rather than spending the bulk of meeting time on updates.

A member asked if OCCFC has met with OWEB about grants and funding. The Coordinator noted that OCCFC has not met with OWEB yet but will attend the information session.

A member mentioned that there will likely be a greater burden on the Collaborative members because of the staffing updates with USFS.

Members noted their interest in learning more about the ODF/USFS Good Neighbor Agreement.

WRAP-UP

The Coordinator thanked everyone for their time and said that they would follow up on the next meeting time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Reach out to members for their input and feedback on topics and activities.	Coordinator	9/22/2025

2	Send a reminder to members to suggest topics for Kenny's presentation.	Coordinator	9/22/2025
3	Create poll for possible dates for the field trip.	Coordinator	9/22/2025
4	Follow up with Chelsea Monks on the IISP.	Coordinator	9/26/2025

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative
Friday, October 10th, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Online Meeting

ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:

- Fran Recht, Community Member
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Sam Morrison, Hampton Lumber
- *Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (non-voting)*
- *Ali Morrow, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

FOREST SERVICE (USFS):

- Bryan Wilson, Hebo District Ranger
- Eric Anderson, Partnership Coordinator
- Kenny Ruzicka, Forest Silviculturist
- Michele Holman, Central Coast District Ranger

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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 collaborative ground rules.

UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Central Coast Ranger District – Michele Holman

Michelle shared that the government shutdown has impacted operations, but several activities are continuing. A partner letter was sent out to share which activities are moving forward. One of these is prescribed fire, which has a narrow operational window. There is a significant amount of pile burning to complete, which will likely occur later in the fall.

Invoices are still being paid during the shutdown. Law enforcement remains active, focused on protecting offices and employees. Recreation sites are open, though visitors may notice a lower standard of cleanliness. Volunteers continue to work. The Cape Perpetua Visitor Center remains

open. The timber program is moving forward, including bid openings and timber sale administration. Firewood permits continue to be available.

At the national level, nurseries and seed extractories are operating, and planting activities are still proceeding. Any NEPA work critical to supporting the timber program is continuing. Grazing activities are also ongoing. In the Central Coast region, recreation workers are in the field, though the offices remain closed.

Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific RC&D, noted that the Stewardship Roundtable is scheduled for next Thursday and asked if USFS anticipate attending. Eric Anderson shared that Katie Isaacson usually attends the Stewardship Roundtable and suggested reaching out to her regarding participation.

Action Item: Kirk will reach out to Katie I. about attending the Stewardship Roundtable.

Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon, asked about research projects related to spotted owls and wildlife. Michele shared that there are currently no botany surveys underway.

Fran Recht, Community Member, asked whether surveys are conducted before forest sales. Michele explained that the demography crew and acoustic recording units (ARUs) are used. The shutdown is not impacting any of these surveys.

Paul expressed interest in hearing a future presentation about the ARUs.

Michele shared that Ian Emmons, USFS Wildlife Biologist, has been clarifying questions related to the biological assessment, after which the biological opinion will be written. The timeline for completion is expected to be by the end of November.

Michele also reported that staff are currently developing the 2026 Timber Sale Program, with the goal of releasing sales early in the year. Current efforts are focused on existing projects that are already known to partners.

Paul asked whether any of the upcoming timber sales are in native stands. Michele confirmed that all sales are located in historic clearcuts and not in native stands.

Sam Morrison, Hampton Lumber, asked whether timber sales would be released throughout the year or in one large batch. Michele responded that the intent is to spread them out over the course of the year.

Cascade Pacific – Kirk Shimeall

Kirk shared that no additional funding has been secured to extend the lifespan of the collaborative. The collaborative is funded through the end of June 2026. Efforts to identify and secure other funding sources are ongoing, but so far have not been successful.

Eric Anderson asked whether the group is still applying for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Grant. Kirk confirmed that they have applied and remains hopeful. Eric offered that the grant application could be sent to him and Becca so they can help strengthen it.

Action Item: Kirk will share the grant application with Eric and Becca for review and support.

OCCFC – *The Coordinator*

Dani Jochums, the Coordinator, shared that Triangle is working with Eric to coordinate a tour this fall. There is one new prospective member from the Fish and Wildlife Service who is interested in joining the collaborative, and the group is hopeful he will be able to join soon. A new Triangle contract has been signed, extending the project through 2026. The team will continue to communicate about how the current scope differs from last year's work to ensure all members remain aligned.

WRAP-UP

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

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

DISCUSSION

Paul shared that someone from the Five Rivers area had reached out requesting information about the Collaborative. He suggested that it would be helpful to have an updated one-pager available to share externally. Kirk agreed to look into it and determine what needs to be updated.

Action Item: Paul will send an email to Kirk outlining the request for the updated one-pager.

Paul also asked about updating the glossary that highlights the story and value of the stewardship program, particularly its work at a watershed scale. He noted that some of the numbers in the document are outdated and that Becca would need to make updates. Paul uses this document at town hall meetings and emphasized that it would be helpful to have a current version. He also mentioned that the updated glossary could serve as an attachment to the OWEB grant application.

Action Item: Paul will reach out to Becca about updating the glossary.

Fran asked about the OWEB grant, noting that if the Zone of Agreement (ZOA) application focuses only on fire, it might be useful to broadening the application to incorporate wildlife roads and new insights from recent fire ZOAs, which could demonstrate that the group has been building on previous work.

Dani shared that in the Catalyst Grant, the group discussed Points of Delineation (PODs), Potential Control Lines (PCLs), and premapping to better understand the landscape and containment strategies. These topics were also discussed during the Three Buttes field tour. Becca has expressed interested in incorporating the collaborative's insights into managing future fires.

Dani added that Collaborative group member Chuck Willer would like to discuss fire resilience and resistance, particularly as these topics relate to the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Amendment.

Dani shared that she is hoping to share the fall field tour dates next week. If a field tour is scheduled, the group will not hold a November meeting. The December meeting will focus on planning for 2026.

Action Item: Dani will share the meeting notes, partnership letter, and potential dates for the field tour with the group.

WRAP-UP

The Coordinator thanked everyone for their time and said that they would follow up on the next meeting time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Reach out to Katie about attending the Stewardship Roundtable.	Kirk	10/14
2	Share the grant application with Eric and Becca for review and support.	Kirk	10/20
3	Send an email to Kirk outlining the request for the updated one-pager.	Paul	10/20
4	Reach out to Becca about updating the glossary.	Paul	10/20
5	Share the meeting notes, partnership letter, and potential dates for the field tour with the group.	Dani	10/20

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative
Friday, December 12th, 9:00am – 11:00am
Online Meeting

ATTENDEES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Members:

- Fran Recht, Community Member
- Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
- Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Sam Morrison, Hampton Lumber
- Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD
- *Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (non-voting)*
- *Anna Woodrich, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*
- *Dani Jochums, Triangle Associates (Coordinator, non-voting)*

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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.

UPDATES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Oregon Wild

Chandra shared that both she and Pablo San Emeterio will continue sharing representation for Oregon Wild.

DISCUSSION

Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific, led the group in a discussion about the future of OCCFC.

Kirk stated that he has been in conversation with Becca Brook, Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) Supervisor, about the future direction of the Collaborative, especially in light of dwindling funds, and that he wanted to take some time to talk about goals, how people are feeling about Collaborative, and future of collaborative. He noted that this time was an important juncture as the group moves into the third coordinator with Triangle.

He explained the financial situation of the Collaborative, which will run out of money in mid-2026. USFS no longer has funds to support Collaborative, so applying for grants will be necessary to keep the Collaborative going.

He mentioned that the SNF leadership has expressed frustration at what USFS gets out of the Collaborative versus what they put into the Collaborative.

Kirk asked if members thought that the Collaborative and the SNF could come together on a project that both parties can work on that will be meaningful to everyone. Becca had expressed to Kirk that she wants the OCCFC to come to the SNF with suggestions and ideas for projects.

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild, responded that she understands the frustration the SNF leadership is experiencing as she agrees that the OCCFC doesn't have clear goals. She values the information sharing that the group engages in, but understands that that might not be valuable for the SNF. She stated that she doesn't see that anyone has capacity to step up into a leadership role to lead an idea and proposed the idea of a well-organized summit on a project or topic.

Kirk mentioned that to pursue funding opportunities, the OCCFC will need to have a project to galvanize around that has an end product as that is part of what funders look for.

Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD, stated that she also finds the OCCFC to be useful. Outside of the group, she has had a hard time with communication with the SNF, including learning about what they are working on and other updates. She appreciates learning what others in the group are doing and is interested in all updates on the SNF. She stated that she doesn't feel like information from the OCCFC is applied by the SNF and wonders what the SNF does with the group's feedback, ZOAs, and other recommendations. She stated that overall the group feels beneficial.

Kirk asked for clarification about what feedback Rhonda was thinking of and what would she would have liked to have seen.

Rhonda responded that she doesn't feel like forest responds to the ZOAs and letters and that it feels like these items went into a black hole.

Anna Woodrich, Coordinator, asked the group what they see as the Collaborative's main role?

Chandra responded it is providing information and perspective. She said that sometimes ZOAs can be too general, as the collective voice of the group is valuable but not generally specific. She sees going deeper into more discussion than a general comment as the biggest value.

Kirk mentioned that some of the frustration from the SNF is that questions from the Collaborative are a lot of work for USFS. It is difficult to have the correct person in the room during meetings to answer questions and the current system of having questions, then asking USFS, and getting response in a month is not helpful or satisfying for anyone.

Chandra said she sees value in USFS knowing what different groups are thinking about SNF projects. The relationships developed in the OCCFC are also useful in managing resources.

Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon, said that he has participated in the OCCFC since the beginning and sees value in it. He recalled that some OCCFC members had been a part of legal challenges to the USFS in the past. He sees part of the role of the OCCFC as avoiding legal challenges. Paul said he will mention in his letter to regional offices that he will work in the system to work to raise the level of understanding to hopefully avoid legal action.

Paul stated that he likes being able to blur the boundaries between public and private to help the forest ecosystem, including increasing connectivity and opportunities for old growth. He wants to prioritize getting funding for more late-successional reserve research for USFS. He is concerned about national directives for timber harvests that will likely lead to more timber harvests that will lead to more fragmentation; this will lead to legal action. He highlighted that more people are interested in the work that is happening on the SNF, including connectivity work. He agreed with other's comments that humanizing people and getting to be in relationship with SNF staff brings more weight to public comments.

Chandra said that she agrees on the science of Paul's priorities but thinks that some of what Paul is interested in falls outside the work of the Collaborative.

Paul additionally mentioned that he wants to push for materials that is would be useful to have updated.

Chandra stated that having better relationships could be a way to have a better response from the SNF, but this group is likely not the venue for pushing for studies. Potentially the Collaborative could lean more into work with private landowners that Paul is mentioning.

Kirk said that this is why the OCCFC was started, because things were falling outside the scope of stewardship group and there was a need for a new group. He reflected that it could be better if USFS presents several options for Collaborative members to work on instead of OCCFC coming up with the initial idea proposals. He again highlighted the need for an outcome more tangible than relationships.

Fran Recht, community member, said that the USFS is under big pressure right now. She suggested asking for a service that has clear follow-up that can be done by stewardship groups

(ex: working with USFS in mapping private holdings where linkages would be most beneficial then working with stewardship to do those projects.)

Paul suggested looking at reducing fire risk and thinning for fire risk reduction. He highlighted the importance of looking at human-caused fire. Another option could be advocating for more funding for fire control.

Dani Jochums, Coordinator, highlighted the importance of picking one tangible narrow thing to work on.

Chandra stated that OCCFC needs to have SNF staff the working parts of meetings to co-work together. The topic for projects to move forward with could be fire. Another option is looking at the Good Neighbor Authority. She said that having one concrete project could not be enough to make the group feel satisfied as issues that group is interested in could be too large. She also said that she wanted to make sure that the group kept its information-sharing aspect.

Sam Morrison, Hampton Lumber, said that Hampton would be happy to continue participation and provide input based on knowledge of timber sales if there was a relevant project to work on.

Kirk emphasized that he sees value in industry / Hampton Lumber involvement as funders pay attention to having a diverse set of interests represented within the group.

Chandra suggested OCCFC should come up with project with USFS.

Paul suggested looking at other Forest Collaboratives and see what is working for them. Anna stated that there is Washington Forest Collaborative group and that forest collaboratives are a popular model in Washington. Kirk said he would like to know more about their funding, their current statuses, and how they have overcome challenges. Anna said that she would look into that.

Action item: Anna to look into Washington Forest Collaborative Group for relevant information.

Chandra suggested trying to keep it within topics already discussed or areas there is some agreement on. She said appropriate fire use in coastal ecosystems as opposed to thinning for fuels reduction could be a way to go. This could be an opportunity to work with Tribes, ask them about their goals, and think about how to work toward their goals. Kirk and Fran noted that there has not been involvement from Tribes in the OCCFC or stewardship groups. Chandra suggested that learning about Tribal goals and supporting them could be a better direction to go than trying to have Tribal representatives come to OCCFC.

Fran suggested looking into a project of identifying water sources and identifying priorities areas, resources, main roads, and other key factors for fire response.

Paul emphasized the need to keep on message that the OCCFC has made a lot of progress but still has a long ways to go.

Kirk thanked the group for their insights and said that he would follow up with Becca on some potential project ideas.

Action item: Kirk to follow up with Becca on potential project ideas.

WRAP-UP

Dani Jochums, Coordinator, thanked everyone for their time and ideas. She reminded the group that she will no longer be the Coordinator moving forward and that future communications will come from Anna Woodrich and Ali Morrow. Anna Woodrich stated that she or Ali would follow up to set up 2026 meeting times.

Action item: Triangle to set up 2026 meeting times.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

APPENDIX A: ACTION ITEMS & DECISION POINTS

	Action Item	Who	Due by
1	Look into Washington Forest Collaborative Group for relevant information.	Anna	1/16/2026
2	Follow up with Becca on potential project ideas.	Kirk	1/16/2026
3	Set up 2026 meeting times	Triangle	1/16/2026



Draft Meeting Minutes

Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative
Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting
01/27/25 10:00 – 11:30 am
Zoom

Attendees (in alphabetical order):

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Andy Geisler	American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
Chandra LeGue	Oregon Wild
David Eisler	Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC)
Paul Engelmeyer	Bird Alliance of Oregon
<i>DeAnna Williams</i>	<i>USFS</i>
<i>Dani Jochums</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>

Action Items:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Connect with Jim Rivers, OSU, on presenting on habitat connectivity at an OCCFC meeting.	Coordinator	2/28/25
Check for Jacobs and Manning paper on beaver in the shared files.	Coordinator	2/14/25
Look into and send out ODFW Statewide Program changes document.	Paul Engelmeyer, Bird Alliance of Oregon	2/28/25

Minutes: by Dani Jochums, Coordinator

I. Welcome

- The Coordinator welcomed Subcommittee members to the meeting and introduced DeAnna Williams, Forest Biologist with the Siuslaw National Forest.

II. Open Discussion on Habitat Connectivity

- The Coordinator asked DeAnna what the current process was for considering habitat connectivity while planning projects. DeAnna responded that the wildlife biologists currently look at LSR assessments, recovery plans for species, and consultation documents when considering plans. This process includes considering plans from multiple levels to consider how they affect connectivity for different species. Generally, plans use a species-specific approach, while a broader focus is generally addressed in recovery plans and consultation. The wildlife biologists look at many different species that are both listed and on the general radar. Owls and Murrelets receive a high-level of consideration due to their legal protections.
- DeAnna addressed some ongoing Oregon State University (OSU) research related to connectivity in the Siuslaw National Forest. There is current ongoing research on pollinator pathways across landscapes that looks at thinning and not thinning gaps in relation to pollinators. The idea of this research is to see what structural stages facilitate connectivity for the pollinators in question. Bats and migratory birds are observed under this program.

Towards the end of understanding more about the balancing of need for species that need mature forests and species that need canopy cover, there is an OSU research effort to take cores of murrelet-nest trees and use those cores to spatially map murrelet nests and main disturbances and other factors that impact the success of nests.

- One focus area is on integrated structure between larger, older trees. Older forest pockets can get quite open. Flying squirrel surveys show that the oldest forests can be too open for prey of murrelet and owl even though that is their preferred habitat.
- The Subcommittee members asked what the process for considering habitat connectivity looks like after a project is selected. DeAnna responded that the wildlife biologists start with models of the area, utilizing LIDAR and aerial photography. They then do habitat assessments and identify areas of concern and overlap of key habitats. They send people into those areas to see if models were accurate and get data on the ground to bring back to the team. From there, they make recommendations according to the models and the conditions on the ground. When the proposed action is confirmed, they apply a layer of project design criteria, avoiding short term immediate negative impacts.
- Current monitoring strategies for habitat connectivity planning include looking at bird species before and after treatments to make sure that all the expected species are there and determine if there are any missing to determine if their plans are on the right trajectory. They look for missing bird species and think about what it suggests that they're missing in the habitat. For instance, the absence of a specific species of bird could indicate what silvicultural treatments are needed to get more of the needed habitat components.
- The management goal is the recovery of murrelet and healthiest, most resilient forest. The Siuslaw is working with researchers to determine inform their decisions.
- DeAnna suggested that Jim Rivers, OSU, would be a good person to present on connectivity.

Action item: Coordinator to connect OCCFC with Jim Rivers for a habitat connectivity presentation.

- A Subcommittee member asked DeAnna to speak to the inclusion of downed large wood in habitat connectivity planning, including pseudo-logs. DeAnna responded that large wood has been a topic of interest among the Siuslaw National Forest biologists. The wildlife biologists connect regularly with DeDe Olson, a USFS researcher who presented at OCCFC's Habitat Connectivity Panel. DeAnna has been talking to other wildlife biologists about getting coverboards for tracking movement to help them understand more clearly what to do moving forward with downed large wood. There are some concerns related to downed large wood with regard to fuels. Currently, the biologists are looking at snags (standing deadwood) to determine how those have benefitted the habitat and see if those snags would be better off on the ground.
- The Coordinator asked DeAnna what would be the most helpful thing to include in the Habitat Connectivity Zones of Agreement. DeAnna suggested addressing the fine line between getting enough local research and trying out connectivity enhancement approaches in the Siuslaw.

III. Wrap-up and Next Steps

- The Coordinator wrapped up the meeting and reviewed action items.
- The Subcommittee will continue addressing the topic of habitat connectivity at the February 14th full OCCFC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.