

October Meeting Minutes

Meeting Participants

Frank Burris-OSU Extension, Marie Simonds-Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Gary Grotrian-Agness Resident, Barbara Cisneros-USFS, Kelly Timchak-Lower Rogue Watershed Council, Lily Miller-ORREC, Rich Nawa-KS Wild, Joe Bush-Local Resident, Alex Campbell-Oregon Solutions, Kendal Martel-WRCFC Facilitator, Jenna Knobloch-Intern at Sustainable Northwest

Shasta Agness Project Updates

- Updates were provided by Barbara Cisneros, NEPA planner at the USFS.
- The project is changing from an EA to an EIS, so they will be filing a notice of intent which gets published to the federal register, as well as go through the Forest Service's Regional Office and the Washington Office.
- This Notice of Intent will trigger a 30-day comment period. There is no new scoping period, the old one still stands.
- If you have already submitted a comment, do not resubmit.
- When the Draft EIS comes out, there will be a 45-day comment period.
- **How the collaborative can be helpful:** The collaborative can be helpful by focusing on post-fire comments. Please use the electronic system and don't duplicate the same comment. Remember that you can only establish standing for commenting on later EIS drafts by commenting during the Notice of Intent comment period.
- **Q:** Is this under the NW Forest Plan? Or different planning regulations?
- **A:** This is under the Siskiyou/ NW Forest Plan. In order to amend the plan, certain steps need to be taken, and they are different depending on the scope of the plan amendment. For this case the FS will be following the 2012 Planning Rule.

Sudden Oak Death Task Force

- The task force is reconvening two subcommittees, including the community engagement subcommittee. There will be a meeting on November 7th in Coquille to discuss this. Gary and Kendal will attend.
- Update from Gary Grotrian: The task force is hoping to get some money from the legislature allocated in February. We met with a committee, it was well received. There was a discussion about hiring a firm to do an economic analysis of how SOD would affect the economy as well as a PR firm to do outreach with the community/education to head it off. The Oregon Department of Forestry got a budget increase for fighting SOD.
- Kendal submitted a letter of interest for a Wild Rivers Coast Alliance Grant to do private landowner outreach around SOD in the Pistol River Community. Suggestions for that work are to develop a map of

where the outbreaks are and who the landowners are in those areas, as well as landowners that have been affected or have the potential to be affected. We can send a letters and have a meeting to gage interest.

- Lily Miller mentioned her organization is interested in doing work around SOD and citizen science.
- There was a suggestion that this would be the perfect role for the forest collaborative: to highlight the usefulness of the collaborative process in engaging with private landowners.
- The group voted on whether or not to submit an application to obtain a grant as well as creating more capacity within the SOD Task Force. (Vote was affirmative)

Action Items:

-Gary and Kendal will bring it up at the SOD task force meeting

-Frank can help some on the proposal.

-Next meeting we can look at the proposal, look at property maps, Kevin can help identify key people in the community to start an informal conversation about starting a group.

Post Fire Management

- Info: There is a categorical exclusion of 250 acres. Public access and gates being put up are going to create the most conflict with the public. Roadside salvage is a safety issue and will need to be discussed.
- **Post Fire Response Process Explained:** There is a fire and the incident management teams are called. As the fire winds down, the resource advisors go out, which are different specialists. They try to minimize damage during and after suppression by doing post suppression repair. Rehab the fire lines. We still have a type III team doing suppression.
 - **Burned Area Emergency Response.** BAER teams have a specific function. They are identifying risk to resources: human life, property, and critical cultural and natural resources. They want to complete this before a damaging storm event. There needs to be regional approval of the BAER project. We had the BAER team go into the forest, we pull specialists, we take a quick and dirty look at conditions in field. We know how intense the fire burned from the soil. The BAER team makes emergency recommendations to the SO and it has to be approved, then funding is requested.
 - BAER is a really defined box to address safety issues from the changed landscape. Debris flow, issues with roads, etc. This is trying to identify where the greatest risks are and mitigate those risks if possible.
 - After the recommendations are finalized they will be put up on the website.
 - **Rapid Assessment Team** or RAT Plus. This is from the Regional Office. They will take BAER info and other fire info. Those decisions will become clearer as we get results of assessments of not just Chetco Bar, but other two fires. There were many fires this year.
- Suggestion to go on a field trip of the post fire landscape was brought up and noted. Can only happen after conditions are safe and roads are open.

Grants

- The forest collaborative will be applying for grants from the National Forest Foundation and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Kendal will ask for support from interested individuals about the objectives and grant feedback, then it will be discussed in the November Meeting.

Any Other Business

- Lily Miller from THE Oregon Resources Research and Education Center (ORREC) gave an overview of the good work they are doing and discussed opportunities for future partnerships with the forest collaborative around citizen science and Sudden Oak Death.