** Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative**

**August 13, 2020 Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Sara Umstead (facilitating), Teresa Bird (KAS), Kelly Timchak (South Coast Watershed Council), Paula Thompson and Marie Simonds (Wild Rivers Coast Alliance), Jenna Knobloch (Sustainable Northwest), Dave Lacey (Oregon Coast Visitors Association), Court Boice (Curry County Commissioner), Mike Miller (Curry Citizens for Public Land Access), Scott Nichols (American Forest Resource Council- sitting in for Amanda Astor), Wade McMaster (USFS Gold Beach) Max Beeken (Wild Rivers Land Trust), Rich Nawa (Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands), Mark Sherwood (Native Fish Society), Steve Lydick (Coos Bay District, OR/WA Bureau of Land Management), Matt Timchak (Timber Management Assistant / Silviculturist USFS Gold Beach), Senator Arnie Roblan, Michelle Calvert

(Environmental Coordinator USFS Gold Beach)

1. **Presentation about Proposed Red Flat Mountain Biking Area by Dave Lacey**
   1. Mountain biking brings in great tourism (wallet on wheels and conservation mindsets) and equates to $400 million to Oregon’s economy per year.
   2. Curry Trails Initiative:
      1. Lower Rogue River Trail - established trail, needs regular maintenance, and will work with USFS to achieve their mutual goals.
      2. Red Flat Hunter Creek Trail System - will avoid sensitive areas, they want to showcase unique habitat, old mining operations, and it’s close to town. Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA) is investing in trail maintenance through local groups.
      3. Trying to bring some highlights to the Southern Oregon Coast with maintenance and promotion with partners and the USFS (if possible)
      4. Dave is looking for support, or an endorsement, from the group to be able to go out to partners to show collaboration on the projects.
   3. Questions/Concerns about the bike trails:
      1. Q: When you think about bringing in tourism, how will you support this for traffic control in the area, or for motorbikes/quads competing for the trails as well?
      2. Answer: Considerations will likely be left to trail designers/builders to help to exclude motor vehicles from the trails through design.
      3. Suggestions/Discussion:
         1. Suggestion to hire a geologist to look at the roads to ensure the Serpentine doesn’t have a high level of asbestos.
         2. CCPLA would be interested in working on Red Flat for all user groups. It seems that there is space for all user types to attempt to avoid contact/bad interactions.
         3. Proceed with extreme caution around the ACEC’s when moving forward (please respect the resources and consult with Tribes).
         4. The point is to attempt to attract a bigger audience to bring in economics and become an asset to the community, while also developing the area respectfully. Think about advertising the beauty of the place in order to bring people in. Building trails like this seems to invite people in that want to protect your land. When you gate your land, people want to break in, abuse it, and trash it.
2. **Shasta Agness Implementation and Monitoring plan: Next Meeting August 24th**
   1. How does the collaborative want to communicate about the implementation of this project from here on out?
      1. Point of contact - Kailey if possible. She has been good to work with on this project.
   2. What are the collaborative priorities for implementation other than vegetation treatments (roads, recreation, ect)?
      1. We would like to see how instream and riparian treatment will be happening alongside the “timber” work. We understand that is where the money is, but the human side of it is fisheries and recreation.
   3. Are the timelines for vegetation treatments in alignment with collaborative priorities? We only have one vegetation project from Shasta Agness in FY21. We have some flexibility in vegetation treatments, but not a whole lot.
      1. Looking at Oak Flat (FSR 3577) for a project for FY 2021 right now. They will be stretching out the projects now.
   4. *Are there monitoring activities that the collaborative would like to take the lead on?*
   5. Rich - question about the objection period and how Wade plans on reaching out to people?
      1. Wade - There may be an oral component, but they need to discuss this forest-wide to come to a decision.
   6. How is the Forest Service going to adapt management between project years?
      1. FS is applying management through effectiveness monitoring and using the best available science.
         1. Suggestion to possibly to move Shasta Oak ahead of Oat Flat in implementation order.

*ACTION ITEMS*

* *Sara - Connect with Voting Members to ask what monitoring activities the Collaborative would like to take lead on/be involved with. Do these require more funding?*

1. **Zones Of Agreement continued discussion:** *Identify a project with fuels and restoration components that is small in scope, feasible, and implementable.* (No informed FS personnel were on the call to fully answer the ZOA questions.)
   1. Burnt Ridge and Corral Meadow (FSR 2308, past Fish Hook, before Indigo Prairie) - White oak/Black oak restoration project
      1. Burnt Ridge:
         1. Keeps getting opened up for fires, and has white oak, black oak, and live canyon oak. That unique habitat is getting encroached now.
         2. Seems like an *achievable* project, with great restoration results. It’s mostly a “dry” meadow/oak savannah, with a small seep (no real flow).
         3. *Some agreement on getting this project going, since NEPA has already been done*.
         4. This hasn't been a FS priority yet due to the amount of projects they are considering right now. NEPA has been done for non-commercial treatments.
         5. Side note: If the WRCFC works on a non-commercial project, then AFRC wouldn’t be able to be involved on that kind of project. Matt thinks that they may be able to cover commercial actions with a CE. The encroachment is second growth. This area is probably good for thinning right now as well that is under 80”.
   2. Chetco Bar restoration
      1. Restore riparian areas with plantings, even Redwoods, and investigate roads/culverts for sediment delivery prior to winter. Likely we will see some temperature increases over time.
      2. South Coast Watershed Council & FS are working together in Panther Creek to work on stream restoration to help to capture the sediment inputs.
      3. There is a need for a lot more riparian work in the burn area.
      4. If the WRCFC wants to work in this area, then we need to say so so that Wade can bring that to leadership and get the work prioritized. Partnering on projects is Phase II. Phase I is making it a priority for the USFS.
      5. Chetco Bar allows us to work with the BLM as well - more partners.
   3. Is Winchuck being discussed by FS for fuels work (intersection points with ridges/roads/existing dozer lines)?
      1. It is on the short list of FS areas for community protection. Trying to work with WRCFC and internally about highest priorities.
   4. At-risk Communities to consider: Wilderness retreat and Gardner Ridge (Chetco), Agness, Gorse in Port Orford city watershed
      1. Matt mentioned the FS planning efforts coming up. Pretty clear direction from the Forest Supervisor to truly involve the WRCFC in it’s work around community safety. (Timber + Community Resilience = great project). They are having internal conversations about this now.
      2. There has been some work with the Chetco Fire to remove danger trees in the fuels zones. Maintenance burns in Longe Ridge Prairie. Treatments to get dead/downed trees removed from landscape as fuels.
      3. Also, looking to add some hardwoods to the landscape as well. FS has planted some douglas fir and sugar pines. They are trying to monitor for natural regeneration as well to see if any additional planting needs to be done. Advocating for aerial seeding in high severity zones too.
   5. Pistol River area suggested as a project site since there is already NEPA done, and there seems to be a need with old dozer roads. There is regional programmatic NEPA for the riparian work and another CE for planting outside of riparian areas that are covered under a salvage NEPA.
      1. Target an area where we can get timber sale dollars out, put old roads to bed, and get some restoration done, then there might actually be money to support the restoration. It seems that there are some road impacts that we could address as well.
      2. SOD issues
2. **Suggestion to move forward on all these projects in time**.
   1. Can we move forward on meadow work and Chetco now, while also planning for future work in Pistol River? Seems feasible and everybody seems supportive of all the projects.
      1. (IE- instead of deciding on one project based on ranking, develop a work plan for the collaborative that prioritizes projects based on agreement and feasibility/ability to implement sooner vs later with easier NEPA, etc.)

*ACTION ITEMS:*

* *Sara - summarize these projects and build a survey so the WRCFC members can rank them in importance. This will help us all see where we land. Share with the USFS. WORK PLAN SURVEY*
* *Sara - Get the list out of prioritized monitoring actions to the group (email from Matt)*
* *Sara - ask board members to rank top monitoring/roads/restoration/rec projects to send back to USFS as input into their implementation plan.*
* ***Try to get something to USFS by August 20th (They are meeting on August 24th to work on implementation plan)***
* *Sara - send email to meeting participants: Department of Interior Invasive Weeds Funds:* [*interiorpress@ios.doi.gov*](mailto:interiorpress@ios.doi.gov)
* *Sara - ask Collaborative about a field trip in the coming months to Burnt Ridge and Corral Meadow.*