**Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative**

**June 11, 2020 Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Sara Jung Umstead (coordinator), Wade McMaster (RRSNF), Kelly Timchak (Lower Rogue Watershed Council), Rich Nawa (KS Wild), Kailey Clarno (RRSNF), Paula Thompson (WRCA), Teresa Bird (Kalmiopsis Audubon), Norma Kline (OSU Extension Forester), Court Boice (Curry County Commissioner), Mike Miller, Amanda Astor (AFRC).

1. **Shasta Agness Update and other news from the Forest Service from Wade**

* SHASTA AGNESS:
  + The final EIS was submitted to the Washington Office in order to release the final notice. **Hoping to get it signed by September.** It is in a stall right now due to concerns from County Commissioners regarding road decommissioning.
    - Road spurs are already decommissioned by nature and don’t have much value for fire access; FS is willing to go over each and every road spur if needed.
    - Court from the county perspective appreciates that county concerns are recognized; building trust and confidence - if the cost of repairing them is more than their value, that’s okay. Mike Miller as part of the Curry County Public Access Group may want to weigh in.
  + Q: Can you make any changes to the draft Record of Decision between now and the signing date or is it set in stone?
    - Wade: It is a draft -- Not perfect, it has a little for everyone but it doesn’t make anyone 100% happy. At this point, we would like to get it signed so we can move forward. **We are hoping to get it published this week but have to address road decommissioning first. The objection period will start once it is published. The Forest Supervisor will then be signing the final decision.**
    - Wade is done making recommendations to Merv; people can still request to talk with Merv about specific concerns.
* COVID-19 Status for the Forest Service:
  + They are respecting people’s comfort levels when working in the office and field. They don’t expect to open the office to the public before making physical changes to make it safer. Zoom has been helpful.
  + Extended free firewood use until further notice (was supposed to end June 1). People can get up to 4 cords free without a permit. This is Forest-wide.
  + Recreation: They tried to keep things open while balancing risk, especially boat ramps.
  + Campgrounds: Lobster Creek and Foster Bar were closed for camp hosts and employees’ safety. Reopening on June 19th.
  + Trails: open (previously trailheads were closed).
  + Recreation rentals closed- it is hard to keep sanitized. It is a renovations opportunity.
  + Aside: community appreciates having the boat ramps open.

1. **Operations Manual Updates**

* Board/Representation: Think we have pretty good local representation. We could start with those who have been involved then others can be voted on to round out more later, or if more interest is shown.
  + Amanda: I have to review, but I think it would be appropriate for South Coast to be the Board Membership (rather than AFRC) - with Amanda representing them
  + Prospective board members would have to attend 3 meetings before having to be considered for the board.
* Edits: Language around decision-making needs to be reworked to be more clear.
  + Consensus is in the spirit of the collaborative. Can try consensus, if not working can add process for when there is not consensus and decisions need to be made.
    - Move forward with these changes but also pull language from Watershed Council to consider.
  + CCCPA does majority vote but it’s usually consensus.

*Action Items*:

* Everyone send Sara their person/organization’s interest in Board membership. The vote will occur at July Meeting.
* Sara- Change language in Operations Manual to state 3 consecutive meetings to be considered for the board.
* Sara - Ask Kelly about the Watershed Council’s language regarding decision-making.

1. **Initial work plan for Zones of Agreement discussion**

* Lauchlan/PODS: He digitized all of those. GIS data now available, so that’s amazing.
  + Teresa and Shreejita are adding them to the collaborative’s [ArcGIS Online map](https://arcg.is/rLC4u) of Curry County.
  + He drew buffers along prominent ridges and made maps of meadows that intersect with those ridges.
  + Discussion
    - Areas where there is a powerline or something that already has a fuel break?
    - Amanda: Timber industry, ODF Fire, there is concern about big box management fire. Focus some of those down with local knowledge to better identify changes in stopping a fire before a big ridgeline.
  + Kelly: Mike has a meadows packet. Can we bring in some of that? Maybe some of those have NEPA already done?
  + Amanda: Did Lauchlan look at road systems? Were roads used as an outside line for a polygon for a POD, or was it a dozer line and a ridgeline?
    - Kailey: I think he had different colors for ridgelines that are also roads. This is a good place to start.
  + Mike: Focus on the Shasta-Agness area before a look at this data?
  + Kelly: I think we have the data we need.
* Q: What’s next? How does this tie with the Forest Service?
  + Wade: FS wants to be on the same page as the collaborative.
  + Discussion: CE Project to parallel process for ZOA? Where to focus and what to focus on?
    - Amanda: Upper Winchuck potential locations and prioritize them?
    - Mike: I have them in a GIS layer. There is a lot of ridgeline meadows that are a good size that you can go and work on. All the meadows have NEPA, they did a forest-wide NEPA. It covers 21 inches or smaller and allows for burning.
    - Rich: Chetco bar was a wake-up call for me; old-growth burned up. There were no fire lines in any shape or form that would have stopped that fire. I think we need more watershed restoration. There is a lot of logging slash that needs to clean up. Roads to reduce sediment. There is a lot of opportunities to do tree planting and add fire lines here and there. I’m looking at multiple objectives. Low hanging fruit is early forest, then you don’t get into LSR, Endangered Species. Winchuk is going to be tough because of red tree voles. Forest had to go through a lengthy process for pipeline, we need to do something that does not require a plan amendment. Burning some of those lower fuels.
    - Kelly: Maintaining unique habitat is one of our key collaborative goals. We don’t want to get lost from there.
      * Teresa: Meadows are a unique habitat. Riparian and recreation are other focuses. Chetco-Winchuck is close to town. We talked about post-Chetco bar restoration.
    - Kelly: FS looks at timber and fuels. We want to push watershed and others.
    - Amanda Zooms on map: Carpenterville? Pistol River? Can we find an area where there is a heat map where we can also work on multiple objectives alongside fuel breaks?
  + **Next meeting: Work session with GIS layers. Objective to find a place for a potential next project. Discuss ZOA.**

*Action Items:*

* Everyone comment on Zones of Agreement document
* Sara - look at comments and summarize where there are areas of agreement and disagreement for the next meeting.
* Look into BLM RAC

1. **General Discussion: Next steps to iron out**

* Fires are the most effective fuel breaks. Where did the Chetco bar underburn? What is already there? Where are the slash piles? All lands approach.
* Terminology is going to be important: fire intensity, severity, extent. What is a fuel break?
* Topics for future discussion: What are the terms? W need to all be on the same page.
* Who will the board members be?