** Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative**

**September 22, 2020 Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Sara Umstead (facilitating and note taking), Teresa Bird (KAS), Kelly Timchak (Curry Watersheds Partnership), Paula Thompson and Marie Simonds (Wild Rivers Coast Alliance), Dave Lacey (Oregon Coast Visitors Association), Court Boice (Curry County Commissioner), Mike Miller (Curry Citizens for Public Land Access), Max Beeken (Wild Rivers Land Trust), Rich Nawa (Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands), Mark Sherwood (Native Fish Society), Matt Timchak (Timber Management Assistant / Silviculturist USFS Gold Beach), Norma Kline (Forestry & Natural Resources - Oregon State University), Kailey Clarno (Botanist USFS), Karie Wiltshire (Sierraville Ranger District for Sustainable Operations and Energy Management), Amanda Astor (AFRC)

1. Shasta/Agness Updates - Objections are being reviewed, meeting deadline will be extended (the objection resolution meeting will probably be in the second half of Oct or in early November).
2. Work plan survey results:
   1. **1st**: **Checto Bar**
      1. Road/culvert work
      2. USFS - natural regen surveys in high severity areas (Panther Creek block) show some areas with few surviving conifers
         1. Replanted small footprint - around 350 acres so far (193,000-acre fire)
         2. Summarizing results now to have discussion with leadership on forest on how they’d like to proceed.
         3. So far, not finding alot of Douglas Fir, other conifers as we’d like to see in some areas
         4. Concern: Tan oak is resprouting. We have Sudden Oak Death in the watershed. Not setting up for a resilient forest with tan oak resprouting.
            1. Conversations happening this fall about this issue concerning funding
      3. Question from Rich - Can Legacy Roads funding from Congress directed to Chetco?
         1. Need to talk with fisheries folks
         2. Need outside funding for level 2 roads as FS prioritizes public access roads
      4. 1909 and 1917 - loop road up towards Packers Cabin and Longridge, road up to Vulcan Lake
         1. Timber Stand Improvement Project - work is occurring
         2. Need to do some monitoring
         3. Fuel management ridgetops - hardwood forest work/early fuels treatments, on fuel management ridgetops (FMZ) -- fuel reduction grants?
         4. Ask about this for the future - are there merchantable plantations in the area that could continue to fund road/culvert work etc in the Chetco??

*Action Items for Sara*

* *Follow up with Matt:*
  + *Road work/engineers for road maintenance/Kim Hunter (partnership coordinator)*
  + *There may be projects already identified in KV plans?*
  + *How to ID roads that are really in need of fixup/culvert replacement...?*
  1. **2nd:** **Burnt Ridge/Corral Meadow** - 3500 elevation, field trip for next meeting!
     1. There are adjacent plantations that are ready for thinning
     2. Some merchantable product in and around meadow
     3. NEPA: for non-commercial meadow restoration, non-commercial sized tree removal encroaching on oaks = work parties
        1. Funding for non-commercial NEPA work and contracts completed?
           1. No tagged money for this treatment
           2. Competing for high priority community protection fuels projects
           3. Grant needs to be seeked out or remove commercial product to fund restoration

Small grants:

Fish and Wildlife?

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

OWEB

Oregon Hunters Association

Capacity? FS building up CORs

NEPA and getting CE done are pinch points

How would this work get done?

* + 1. Some salvage being considered from Klondike? No, not going to be offered
    2. CE category 7
       1. We would need to hire a crew to do this work to be beneficial cost-wise
    3. Plantations are not covered with NEPA - needed for thinning those areas
    4. FS could handle contracting work if NEPA was done

*Action Items for Sara*

* *Follow up with Matt:*
  + *How will restoration work get done in the Burnt Ridge/Corral Meadows? What do they need from us?*
  1. **3rd:** **At-risk communities** - Wilderness Retreat, Agness, Garner Ridge
     1. NEPA has been used for fuels treatment around Agness and Wilderness Retreat
        1. Chetco hardwood FMZ treatments are near Wilderness Retreat
        2. Agness has had quite a bit...ShAg will have some fuels benefits
     2. Priority needs to be on houses out and community out, community preparedness
        1. Joint Chiefs Funding - NRCS grant program. Making sure we’re treating all lands. Focus: More defensible communities
        2. OSU Extension has new fire program/fire specialist
           1. Cross-ownership projects
        3. Ingress-egress all-lands treatment around forest roads
     3. Garner Ridge mostly private (S Co) or BLM

*Action Items for Sara*

* *Follow up with Norma Kline: OSU Extension new Fire Specialist. Can they present on their position? How they can help us/we help them? (November/December meeting?)*
* *Contact the local NRCS person who is familiar with the Joint Chiefs fund. They can help us focus our scope of work with at-risk communities? Can NRCS funding be applied to escape routes for communities at-risk?*
  1. **4th:** **Pistol River**
     1. NEPA done: CHFT thinning in pistol river area, roadside danger tree coverage from chetco, some meadow restoration NEPA possibly?
     2. currently thinning in headwaters
     3. Origin of this area: Came out of the mapping exercise and ZOA; more matrix land in watershed, SOD hotspot, road maintenance needed - seemed like it had something for everybody
        1. ODF is doing some SOD work and we could do some overlap work with them
        2. There is some white oak in meadows as well
        3. SCWC working in Pistol River estuary
     4. USFS is also looking at Winchuck, Pistol River and Lobster Creek as larger planning areas
        1. Forest-wide on the Rogue River Siskiyou NF had two big planning areas:
           1. East of Medford - Big Butte Springs
           2. Riverhouse - large percentage of planning area has high severity fire effect from Slater Fire

Re-evaluating where some bigger efforts will be happening for community protection, timber production and restoration

About 80% of Riverhouse was affected

Internal and external conversation about where to go next

* + 1. USFS is looking to the Collaborative to help guide on what to do next. We want to help move the needle on restoration and forest management.
    2. Focus on strategic ridgelines and creating PODs
       1. Bring PODs into this discussed
    3. Don’t take Winchuck off the table, but more community safety in Winchuck
       1. Need to discuss where the give and take is
  1. **Also 4th:** **Red Flat Hunter Creek Mountain Bike**
     1. Trail Builder that the Visitors Center is thinking about working with is a certified sustainable trail builder
     2. Both protect what is there and enjoy it
     3. Botanical values may be what that area is actually designated for by Forest Service
        1. What is the underlying allocation?
           1. Rich wants to check on asbestos issues (have a geologist identify...)
           2. Matrix/riparian on N Fk Pistol Side. Special wildlife sites at pyramid rock and surrounding area
        2. Kailey - thinks having bike trails might actually help protect the botanical resources by having a group of people up there regularly who care about the resource
     4. NEPA: use decision memo for trail construction if actions are tailored appropriately and embrace sustainable recreation principles
  2. Grant updates:
     1. ODFW Grant $10,000 max
        1. Recreation
        2. Trail work? Connect with Recreation on project within Shasta
        3. First round of allocation has already happened and there are a ton of options!
  3. Community outreach
     1. Hard in a COVID world, but action speaks louder than words
     2. CCPLA has cool signs - in the future, we can have something similar
     3. Press releases in local papers with projects happening
     4. Curry Pilot - do a focus piece on WRCFC, minimal effort on our part
     5. Opportunities with Shasta Agness coming up
  4. Other partners/Collaboratives
     1. GNA projects upcoming in FY21
        1. FS has 2 Good Neighbor Authority Projects on West Zone
           1. Both plantation thinning, not solidified restoration priorities
           2. Revenue not identified (Ryan Grecco from ODF)

Invite Ryan to our meetings

*Action Items for Sara*

* *Reach out to Recreation Department. What do they need funding for?*
* *Connect with Amanda and Matt - Timber Sale Pipeline Fund?*
* *Check in with Amy and Carla and Lizeth about project*
* *Get with Kelly about money for projects!*
* *Invite Ryan to meeting where we can provide feedback for GNA restoration projects*

*GNA = Good Neighbor Authority - Authority given the FS for expanding capacity for treating more lands and getting more done for restoration, fuel reduction. They put together an agreement with ODF and identify the area, objectives and NEPA. It is a state timber sale contract. Revenue generated can be used to recoup costs, pay costs for future GNA, or to do restoration, fuels, or road work within area. Funds can be used as it is being brought into ODF.*