

## NBFC **DRAFT** notes

---

*Meeting Date: September 23, 2020*

*Location: Online*

*Approved: December 3, 2020*

### In Attendance:

NBFC Members and Guests: Paul Anderes (Union County Commissioner), Mike Billman (ODF), Nils Christoffersen (WR), Alyssa Cudmore (WR), Brian Dill (U. of Illinois), Marlee Goska (WELC), Pam Hardy (WELC), Kerry Kemp (TNC), John Marshall, Laura Navarrete (USFWS), Katy Nesbitt (Wallowa County NRAC), Jacob Putney (OSU Extension), Darlene Rochna

Forest Service: Anthony Botello, James Brammer, Brianna Carollo, Bill Gamble, Lucas Glick, Brian Goff, Bob Hassmiller, Steve Hawkins, Brandon Houck, Amber Ingoglia, Christy Johnson, Mike Johnson, Nathan Poage, Jamie Ratliff, Sabrina Smits, Amarina Wuenschel

Staff: Jeff Costello (Facilitator)

---

### Open Questions:

- We need a formal NBFC response to the proposed WO monitoring questions.  
Should we establish a subcommittee?  
How will we finalize this?
- 

### Minutes Key

- Meeting minutes do not represent collaborative agreements, unless they specifically say so. They are meant to record three basic things only: 1) the issue discussed, 2) the major points or questions raised in the conversation, and 3) the resolution, if there was one. Unless specifically stated, resolutions are only the resolutions of the people present at the meeting.
  - Common Abbreviations:
    - Q: Question
    - A: Answer
    - Cmt: Comment
    - Tx: Treatment
    - Rx Fire: Prescribed Fire
  - Highlighted Items are typically those that require follow-up.  
(Usually suggestions for future agendas)
- 

## Meeting Notes

### Preliminaries:

- Agenda Review – no proposed changes.
- Approval of last month's Minutes  
Approved – no changes.
- Upcoming Meeting Dates:  
We will be combining the November/December meetings.

Hoping for tours of Ellis and the Baker City Watershed in October  
Both days in October will likely be outside – bring warm clothes!

- 21” Rule Revision  
There are folks in other collaboratives considering joint comments.  
Let Pam know if you’re interested in joint comments.
- CFLRP – Still awaiting decision by Secretary Purdue.
- Laura Navarrete, recent wildlife biologist for the La Grande RD, left the Forest Service.  
She is now the official rep for the US Fish & Wildlife Service on the Collaborative
- Lindsay Warness will now be representing Woodgrain on the collaborative

## Updates

### *BIC Update*

- All BIC activities were cancelled this month due to Covid, fires etc.  
See last month’s update.
- The Socio-economic analysis is going well.

## Forest Service Updates

### **Umatilla SO – Amber Ingoglia**

- Staff has been supporting the fire crews  
Looking forward to getting back to the regular program of work.  
Looking good for meeting timber & fuels targets this year.
- There were several fire starts this summer, none got big.  
Rattlesnake was largest on the Pomeroy District.  
Now at Level 2 Fire precautions.

### **Heppner – District Ranger Brandon Houck**

- Ellis: Brandon is willing to do two tours – one for the public, one for the collaborative -  
Do we want that? or do we want to bring others in?  
  
Group size might be a limiting factor during Covid.  
We’ll have lots of vehicles.  
  
Agreement: invite the public. We can work with cars etc.
- Mallory blowdown timber salvage is being planned.  
250 acres

**N. Fork John Day (aka Ukiah RD) – District Ranger Paula Gunther – no update**

**Walla Walla RD – District Ranger Aaron Gagnon – no update**

**Pomeroy District – District Ranger Susan Piper – no update**

**Wallowa Whitman SO**

- Impacts of the W. Oregon fires have been substantial. Recovery efforts might impact Forests across the region. Many employees have gone to W. Oregon to support fire crews. There may be a shift of resources & funding.
- Still no word on CFLRP  
There have been conversations about prioritizations of implementation & planning.

**La Grande RD - District Ranger Bill Gamble**

- Sheep Creek: presentation today. See below for details.
- Five Points – WUI  
Going to have a field trip next October 2.  
Will have GHCC & OR Wild there.  
Open to the public.
- Personnel
  - close to offering Customer Svc staff position
  - trying to fill wildlife position on Whitman & North Zone  
seems to be good interest in this.

**Whitman RD - District Ranger Kendall Cikanek  
presented by Bob Hassmiller**

- There is a vacancy in silviculture  
Joe Scarino – will be detailing in, starting next week.

**Wallowa District – District Ranger Kris Stein**

- Kris Stein has announced her retirement.
- Morgan Nesbitt – no update

**Sheep Creek Update**

- Current Status: The FS has considered scoping comments and is developing the Draft EA.
- Today:
  - Presenting the Range of Alternatives
  - Preliminary Effects
  - Discussing the sensitive grass they found out there
- Presented by Breezy Carollo  
For more details, please refer to accompanying PDFs titled, “Sheep Alt Development Powerpoint, Sept. 2020 Presentation to the NBFC” and “Sheep Creek Prescription Descriptions”
- Three Alternatives
  - no action

- modified proposed action
- reduced action
- Alternative 2 – Proposed Action  
will be considering harvest on slopes >35%  
This is made possible by new technology with winches
- Alternative 3 – Reduced Action  
Combined most of the public requests, and created a alternative from that.  
Examples:
  - Eliminated certain kinds of Tx's especially in RHCA
  - Eliminated all Tx's in cold/moist forest
  - no treatment in old growth
  - no temp roads
- Richardson's Needlegrass – a threatened species – was found in the project area  
Native bunchgrass – very limited range in Oregon  
This is the southern reach of its range.  
Don't know about the ecology of this species in Oregon
- Whitebark Pine – there are a lot of young ones in this project area.  
May have been brought in by Clark's Nutcracker  
Adjusting Rx's to accommodate.

## **CFLRP Monitoring**

- The Washington Office is setting up some nationwide CFLRP questions.  
We may want to be involved in refining those for our Forest/Region  
(since we're likely getting the next CFLRP award)
- Today the Ecology team is presenting a preliminary draft.  
There is room for lots of adjustment.
- This is about "making sense of what's out there"  
- What's in the CFLRP proposal?  
- What are the National questions?
- There was a recent NFF peer-learning session on this.  
There is an ongoing "Community of Practice" monthly phone call among monitoring practitioners from collaboratives across the nation. Anyone is welcome to join.
- One of the key concerns is whether we have staff to do the work.  
How much it's going to cost to acquire the data.
- It would be helpful to have a FS/Collaborative sub-committee  
There needs to be someone who is going to stay long term  
Who can be accountable for getting the monitoring done.
- Christy Johnson presented on some of the protocols, costs, etc.  
that might be considered going forward.  
Folks are excited about using drones for this, but it may not be necessary.
- This might dovetail nicely with the monitoring needs of the 21" Rule Revision.
- Previously Anne Moote put together a set of monitoring criteria.  
We should keep those principles in mind when developing our questions.

## Zones of Agreement

- There is widespread agreement that there are zones of agreement among the remaining participants. The issue is simply getting those written down on paper, word-smithed and approved.

### *List of Suggested Areas of Overlap:*

- Moist forest management in previously managed areas
  - plantation thinning
- Fire – setting our landscape up to receive fire
  - managing natural ignitions
  - rx fire
- Dry upland forests – moving them toward HRV
- Small Tree thinning in general especially in areas that have been managed
- Tx's in RHCAs ... new science might allow us to go in there. Maybe start by talking to the reg agencies ... what is their “landing zone”

In John Day we started by having a series of workshops with FS, Reg agencies, public, collaborative members etc.

### *Suggestions for prioritization of our efforts:*

- We should build off the CFLR proposal. What's going to be most helpful in success on that?  
  
One thing that neither the Forest Plan nor the CFLRP does is prioritize what should be done first. This would be very helpful to the forest, and for success with the CFLR
- Should look at where we might need to build social license. CFLR was a lot about mitigating risk of fire and setting the landscape up to receive fire. Should look at how to mitigate fire risk - WHILE - restoring the landscape for ecological purposes. The two are compatible, but planning for one doesn't necessarily accomplish the other. For example, spatial arrangement for wildlife might be different than pure PODs or roadside treatments.
- We should take the low-hanging fruit, but then move swiftly toward the real stuff. We should not be satisfied with the easy stuff.

## Adjourn: 2:50