

**Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative
Meeting Minutes – February 24th, 2017**

9:30 – 9:45 Welcome and introductions

9:45 – 10:00 Status update on the Strategy Document and Short Story

The Strategy Document is nearing completion, USFS is finishing up the draft coffee table style book.

Jane requested that people who were interested in being on the “sub-committee” to review the Short Story document prior to its publication sign up with her at the break today.

10:00 – 10:10 Status update on NEPA analyses

Past NEPA decisions allow for ongoing implementation, and new NEPA analyses are beginning soon: the Forest Service is holding an Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) meeting next week (Monday 2/27/17) to embark upon a large “umbrella” analysis to include heavy duty projects, and those we can do under an Environmental Assessment (EA), like prescribed fire activities. In addition, a management plan for western snowy plovers will be underway concurrently. Scoping for the EA will likely occur in late spring/early summer, with a Decision Notice to be signed next calendar year.

Question - Is this plover plan an amendment to the Dunes Plan or the Forest Plan? What type of document is it?

Answer - No, it is not an amendment to a Plan, nor is it a NEPA decision document. It’s more of an iteration to our consultation documents, similar to a watershed Analysis (WA) or Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA).

Question - How/is this collaborative group going to be involved in the NEPA process?

Answer - It already has been. The proposed areas, or polygons, that this collaborative group identified will serve as the basis for the Proposed Action in the EA. Also, this group as well as many other interested members of the public, will be encouraged to participate in the NEPA process during the scoping period, the 30-day comment period, etc.

10:10 – 10:20 Status update on the Pulling Together CWMA grant funding

The \$82,000 Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) grant proposal through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has been secured, and allows for several things...the formation of a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in the ODNRA, treating invasive weeds, as well as developing an Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) program.

Showed some slides, including types of invasive weeds, different types of treatments, and a map of the CWMA area. The goal is to try to incorporate prescribed fire to get the dead thatch out of the way which makes implementation of the other treatment types easier. The PTI grant

funding is available through 2018, and it's a one shot deal...if we need more dollars, it will likely require submittal of another grant proposal.

Question: Where will the CWMA meetings be held?

Answer: To be determined, probably centrally located, like Florence. Four meetings to be scheduled

Question: Can private land owners be involved?

Answer: Yes, it's open to everybody, private, state, FS, BLM, etc.

Question: What's the geographical extent?

Answer: Within the CWMA area, but with many/multiple different activities going on simultaneously.

Question: How do multiple CWMA's handle overlap/synchronicity?

Answer: It's really up to the group to figure out how best to coordinate. Mostly it's coming up with a management plan.

Question: How/who is administering the grant?

Answer: Cascade Pacific is the fiscal sponsor

10:20 – 10:30 Status update on the development of the Smith/Umpqua/Dunes Stewardship Group

The Smith/Umpqua/Dunes Stewardship Group (SUDs) is the most recent stewardship to be developed on the Siuslaw National Forest, encompassing the only area on the Forest that did not previously have coverage. The group has met three times so far, and participants in this group already have ideas for projects for the next round of retained receipt process.

10:30 – 10:45 University of Oregon class presentation

There is an up-coming opportunity to get some assistance with communications and messaging through the University of Oregon:

University of Oregon Public Relations Campaigns Course

- No cost to the collaborative for the plan development
 - Newsletter & survey software
 - Implementation of the plan elements
- Graduating seniors
- Team of 4-6 students
- Spring term: April 4 – final client meeting in June
- Weekly check-ins with the “client leader”

- Milestones
 - Best Practices research due to professor within 48 hours
 - SWOT analysis completed within 10 days
 - Pitch to client on May 4 or 9
 - 20 minute presentation by students followed by Q&A
 - Takes place at the UO
 - Communications team members can be present
 - Focuses on what can be delivered in the coming five weeks
 - Complete plan delivered in the final week of class
 - Includes a “next steps” memo
- 7 or 8 flex days built into the term
 - Can be used for field trips
 - Could be to present to collaborative if a meeting occurs in the period
- Following project completion
 - May be able to get an intern to continue the implementation efforts
 - More likely to get a committed person if it’s a paid internship
 - Can access UO’s in-house agency for \$1,500 per year
 - Two to three students who continue working the plan

Input/questions/concerns from ODRC attendees

Pros:

- motivated, usually highly functioning students are involved.
- several expressed great experiences in the past, minimal input for good outcome.
- part of the learning process is to figure it out and get up to speed on the resources.
- be upfront with providing the sideboards and info so they can just run with it. Even if the outcome is a big dream, there are usually usable nuggets coming out of it.

Cons:

- students with not enough experience with the resource could potentially mean unrealistic outcomes.

Question: What’s the timing for this?

Answer: May/early June, could be good timing with other upcoming activities and events.

A decision point was brought to the attendees to vote to pursue this opportunity. The vote passed.

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Status update from each Sub-Group and report outs from the working sessions

1-Mission:

Displayed a draft of the mission statement and began a group editing exercise. The task of finalizing the mission statement by devising a process to gain consensus by whole group was delegated to the Mission sub-group as a task to focus on.

Our new leader of this sub-group moving forward from here will be Sarah P. With the work of devising a mission statement coming to a close, this sub-group will now be called the Governance sub-group and will focus on these types of issues: identifying a process to efficiently and effectively allow the larger group to decide upon a final mission statement; craft some options to put forth to the larger group to decide upon a process to ensure timely communication and integration between the sub-groups, as well as alerting and bringing forth decision points for a vote to the larger group; devise a meaningful way to hold sub-groups accountable for accomplishing work between ODRC meetings; develop a realistic and equitable way to allow people to vote who cannot attend or are not present at an ODRC meeting; present options to the larger group to establish a standing meeting schedule for ODRC meetings.

2-Planning & Projects: We've captured projects that have been completed, some that are ready to implement, and are identifying where to go next (which will be informed by the Strategy high priority/short term exercise). Marty and Greg put together a spreadsheet to capture this information. We went over the spreadsheet and added a few columns to fill in on past and current projects. The cost column is only going to be filled in for most recent projects. They will come to the meeting with restoration ideas. We will then work on prioritizing and recommending treatments/timing. This is a parallel path that the Forest Service interdisciplinary team working on the EA is going down.

A suggestion was made: Add monitoring to the spreadsheet, short term effectiveness monitoring should already have been done for completed projects, at least informally.

3-Education/Outreach - Not much progress was made since last time, but pitch for the UofO opportunity could jump start this effort.

4-Funding - This all starts with NEPA and the Strategy document. There are a lot of funding sources out there but the NEPA decisions need to be signed first before many of those opportunities can be leveraged. We've got about \$47k for planning this year from the USFS Regional Office.

5-Monitoring - End of last meeting took notes and they went out to the whole group. No meeting since then. Sub-group had some key questions, like what we want to learn.

12:15 – 12:30 Wrap up and next steps

- Consider a field trip, perhaps with the Siuslaw/Umpqua/Dunes Stewardship Group.
- Andy will find out about timing of UofO term