

Regional Peer Learning Workshop: Accelerated Landscape Restoration

Date: February 9th-11th, 2016

Location: Hood River Best Western Inn, Columbia Room

Purpose: This meeting brings together Forest Service employees who are working on the important job of accelerating restoration work on forests of eastern Oregon and Washington. The intent is to share the good ideas and innovative approaches people have taken to this work, learn from each other's experiences, and to establish connections between practitioners that will serve to continue this learning and sharing.

The intent is to plan a second workshop focusing on west side forests, and to use the results of this eastside effort to help design the second.

Meeting objectives:

- Meaningfully share experiences, examples, and tools for accelerated restoration across national forests
- To create and strengthen durable connections between peers undertaking accelerated landscape restoration
- Identify specific opportunities/actions that you would like to pursue that would increase your ability to accelerate landscape restoration on your forest, resulting in more resilient forest landscapes on public lands.

Meeting culture:

- Come prepared to talk about what has excited and inspired you about working on or planning to work on accelerated restoration.
- Be a present, productive participant who focuses on listening and engaging in this meeting.
- Be comfortable going up to one another to ask questions and follow up. There are no silly questions.
- We are here to learn from each other and everyone has something to offer, and something to learn.
- The meeting organizers are trying some new approaches to make this meeting effective, and appreciate your patience with the experience!

DAY 1

Tuesday February 9

1300 Introductions, purpose and structure, icebreaker

- *Meeting purpose and structure*—Bill Aney, Eastside Restoration Coordinator; and EJ Davis, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Oregon State University
- *Introductions*

Session I: Integration and planning at scale

Purpose of session: To share examples of ID teams planning at scale and grappling with scope and pace as they do so. We will discuss integrated planning (broad scope) vs. large scale planning (narrow scope, large scale).

1315 Integration and planning conversation starter: scale versus scope

A speaker will share a specific concept or dilemma, and provide some questions to spur conversation (for 5 minutes or less.) Groups at each table will discuss the starter and questions for 15 minutes, and we will reopen to the full group after that for open discussion.

Starter: Kevin Keown

Topic: To work at a large scale may mean narrowing down the scope of activities in the planning process. How can we possibly maintain an integrated program of work if we are working at a larger scale? What are the tradeoffs? What are the alternative approaches? Do we have an integrated program if planning is not integrated?

1345 Integration and planning presentations

Each presenter will speak for 30 minutes following provided guidelines. Allow time for questions after each presenter. Notecards will be circulated and collected for questions from crowd.

- *Aquatic Restoration NEPA at a Forest Scale*— Steve Namitz, Fish Biologist, Malheur NF
 - Discussion and questions
- *Using an Integrated Landscape Approach for Project Identification and Planning*— Amanda Lindsay, Silviculturist, Blue Mountain RD, Malheur NF
 - Discussion and questions
- *Fremont-Winema Accelerated Landscape Restoration and IDT Approaches*—Amy Markus, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Fremont-Winema National Forest; Kelly Ware, Westside Zone Environmental Coordinator, Fremont-Winema National Forest; and Andrew Spencer, Westside Zone Silviculturist, Fremont-Winema National Forest
 - Discussion and questions

1545-1600 Bio break

1600 Blue Mountains restoration strategy and lessons learned about large scale planning

Michael Brown, Physical Scientist, Blue Mountains Restoration Interdisciplinary Team

1645 Observations and remarks from the Region

Jim Peña, Regional Forester

1715 Adjourn for day.

1800 Evening dinner and social: 25 seats are reserved at **Pfriem Brewery**, 707 Portway Ave Suite 101, Hood River.

DAY 2

Wednesday, February 10

Session II: Stewardship

Purpose of session: To share how stewardship contracting is being used to increase integration and restoration accomplishments, and facilitate work with partners.

0800 Approaches to stewardship

Each presenter will speak for 30 minutes following provided guidelines. Allow time for questions after each presenter. Notecards will be circulated and collected for questions from crowd.

- *Aha! Moments in Stewardship – A Forest’s Journey in Innovation*—Karen Honeycutt, Natural Resources Program Manager, Colville NF
 - Discussion and questions
- *Mill Creek to A to Z: bringing stewardship contracting into planning*—Kathleen Ward, Natural Resources Staff Officer, Colville NF
 - Discussion and questions

0920-0950 Networking break

0950 Approaches to stewardship continued

Each presenter will speak for 30 minutes following provided guidelines. Allow time for questions after each presenter. Notecards will be circulated and collected for questions from crowd.

- *Stewardship agreement with Klamath Tribe, interaction between agreements and contracting* – Judd Lehman, Timber Program Manager/Contracting Officer, Fremont-Winema NF
 - Discussion and questions
- *Siuslaw Stewardship model and collaborative engagement* – Casey Hawes, Timber Operations Staff, Siuslaw NF
 - Discussion and questions

1110 Conversation starter: stewardship contracting

A speaker will share a specific concept or dilemma, and provide some questions to spur conversation (for 5 minutes or less.) Then, groups at each table will discuss the starter and questions for 15 minutes, and we will reopen to the full group after that for open discussion.

Starter: Aly Warren, Regional Timber Program Manager

Topic: With stewardship contracts, we use the value of the merchantable material to offset or even fully cover the cost of doing other work in the landscape. There is a huge backlog of these “other work” projects that retained receipts could finance. Why would we not do this everywhere, on all projects, rather than send the receipts to the treasury? Is it because it’s a new tool and not everyone is comfortable using it? Are there fundamental issues with using stewardship contracting that make it not useful in some situations? What are those situations? What can we change that would improve the situation?

1145 Lunch and networking

1245 Return to Columbia Room; complete midpoint meeting evaluation

Session III: Efficiencies in Implementation

1300 Efficiencies and working at scale

Each presenter will speak for 30 minutes following provided guidelines. Allow time for questions after each presenter. Notecards will be circulated and collected for questions from crowd.

- *FreWin implementation pilot efficiencies* – Judd Lehman, Timber Program Manager/Contracting Officer, Fremont-Winema NF
 - Discussion and questions
- *Presale/prep strike team* – Mike “Doc” Daugherty, Program Lead for Sale Prep, Valuation, and Contracts; Regional Stewardship Coordinator
 - Discussion and questions
- *Prescribed fire at scale* – Dana Skelly, Assistant Fire Staff-Fuels Program Manager, Malheur NF

- Discussion and questions

1500-1530 Networking break

1530 Conversation starter: Getting specific

A speaker will share a specific concept or dilemma, and provide some questions to spur conversation (for 5 minutes or less.) Then, groups at each table will discuss the starter and questions for 15 minutes, and we will reopen to the full group after that for open discussion.

Starter: Bill Aney, Eastside Restoration Coordinator

Topic: What does it mean to be site-specific in our planning process? We don't identify every tree to be cut, but we have decided to identify and prescribe treatments for stands. Why? We have lots of examples of NEPA that is not site-specific (forest-wide aquatics restoration, invasive plant treatment, mining exploration) but instead relies on project design criteria to guide the implementation.

1615 Adjourn for day

1730 Evening dinner on your own

DAY 3

Thursday, February 11

Session IV: Partnership

Purpose of session: To explore the roles that partners play in accelerating restoration, including models, tools, and funding sources.

0800 Approaches to science engagement and partnerships

Each presenter will speak for 30 minutes following provided guidelines. Allow time for questions after each presenter. Notecards will be circulated and collected for questions from crowd.

- *Partnering with scientists and a collaborative on moist mixed conifer science*—Andrew Merschel, Oregon State University; Beth Peer, Environmental Coordinator, Bend/Fort Rock RD, Deschutes NF
 - Discussion and questions
- *Science Camp Unplugged: An experiment in scientist-manager collaboration to identify the best available science for the Forest Resiliency Project*—Ayn Shlisky, Blue Mountains Restoration Interdisciplinary Team
 - Discussion and questions

- *LiDAR and Applications at the Project Level* – Brian Wing, Forest Inventory LiDAR Specialist, PSW Research Station
 - Discussion and questions

1000-1015 Bio break

1015 Conversation starter: Partnerships and science

A speaker will share a specific concept or dilemma, and provide some questions to spur conversation (for 5 minutes or less.) Then, groups at each table will discuss the starter and questions for 15 minutes.

Starter: Emily Jane Davis, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Oregon State University

Topic: How do we, and our collaborative partners, use scientific information and engagement with scientists in accelerated restoration? What models are working well, and why? What opportunities and challenges are occurring?

1045 Working with partners

Each presenter will speak for 30 minutes following provided guidelines. Allow time for questions after each presenter. Notecards will be circulated and collected for questions from crowd.

- *The State-Federal Implementation Partnership*—Chad Davis, Oregon Department of Forestry; Bill Aney, Eastside Restoration Coordinator
 - Discussion and questions
- *Your Partnership Toolbox – What is the Right Tool for the Job? Exploring Partnership “Tools” for Landscape Restoration* --Janelle Geddes, R6 Supervisory Grants Management Specialist
 - Discussion and questions

1200 Meeting evaluations, adjourn, and safe travels