



File Code: 2600
Date: June 28, 2017

Dear Participants and Potential Participants:

The Blue Mountain Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest would like to thank those who have attended and update you on planning for the Galena Aquatic Restoration Project. On June 15, 2017, we hosted the first of a series of three public/stakeholder meetings to help us better understand your values relative to the site. The Blue Mountain Ranger District previously identified this high-priority area for aquatic restoration during the planning process for the Big Mosquito Large Landscape Restoration Project. Your input continues to be vital to assisting us in designing a project that will meet our goal of restoring the riparian process and function of the Middle Fork John Day River downstream of Galena, Oregon, while also recognizing the historic values of this ecologically and historically important area.

Thank you to the 17 participants who took time from their busy lives to engage with our design team. The design team and participants discussed the context of how this project has evolved in a shared learning environment, and engaged in a presentation regarding the project objectives as well as constraints. The participants shared their knowledge of the area history, as well as their thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions about the project with the planning team. The planning team is currently working to address the questions posed at the meeting, where participants expressed an interest in working together towards a shared solution.

The following is a summary of the key topics that were or are planned to be addressed at each meeting:

Meeting 1: Understanding Opportunities, Objectives and Concerns

Date: June 15, 2017; Time: 12-3pm; Location: Grant County Airport, 720 Airport Road, John Day, Oregon

- **Key Goal: Mutual Understanding**
- Share the project's purpose, potential benefits, and constraints
- Share key themes from scoping
- Invite stakeholder input and sharing related to values and concerns
- Discuss: Is there an interest in working together toward a shared solution?

Meeting 2: Exploring Shared Solutions

Date: July 12, 2017 Time: 12-3pm; Location: Grant County Airport, 720 Airport Road, John Day, Oregon

- **Key Goal: Creative Problem Solving**
- Develop criteria for identifying a "shared solution"
- Together brainstorming potential solutions that address stakeholder concerns
- Review the list and identify preferred solutions
- Clarify the planning team's next steps



Meeting 3: Review and Refine Draft Design

Date: August 29, 2017; Time: 12-3pm; Location: Grant County Airport, 720 Airport Road, John Day, Oregon

- Key Goal: Refine Project Design to Address Voiced Concerns
- Present the draft design(s) to the group, discussing how the design addresses public concerns
- Invite feedback and discussion
- Discuss possible changes and tradeoffs
- Seek consensus on final project design.

As you can see, this series of meetings revolves around your input. The ideas and concepts produced in Meeting 2 will be brought forward into development of a draft restoration design. The draft design will be presented to the group in Meeting 3 for review and discussion. It is the responsibility of the Forest Service to craft a final decision in this process and it is apparent that the designs and solutions we generate with your input will be better than any we would develop alone. Our desire is that we will be able to use your input to design the project to honor the historical features you value *and* to allow for restoration of properly functioning floodplain and aquatic habitat.

Key Contacts:

Allen Taylor
541-575-3394
allentaylor@fs.fed.us

Bob Hassmiller
541-575-3433
rjhassmiller@fs.fed.us

We invite and encourage your input throughout all phases of the planning process, since each meeting builds on the previous discussion. It is critical to the success of this process that stakeholders who attended the first meeting maintain involvement throughout the remaining two meetings, as the input received will directly influence the design. Please notice that stakeholders have indicated their preference for the remaining two meetings for the same time and location as the first meeting. If you are unable to attend meetings, you can access information regarding the Galena Aquatic Restoration Project planning area on our Forest website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/malheur/landmanagement/?cid=STELPRD3817723&width=full>

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Information on this website will be continually updated as new information is available. A detailed agenda for the second meeting will be posted to this website prior to the second meeting.

If you missed the first meeting but intend to attend the second meeting, we ask that you review the meeting 1 notes which will be posted to the above website approximately one week prior to the meeting.

Attached again is a graphic depicting the design process timeline and opportunities for stakeholder input, as well as a map of the Galena Aquatic Restoration Project planning area to help you locate the area being considered. Again we thank those 17 stakeholders who have committed to seeing this process through; we appreciate your involvement and contribution. Please contact Allen Taylor (Fish Biologist) at allentaylor@fs.fed.us or 541-575-3394 or Bob Hassmiller (Hydrologist) at rjhassmiller@fs.fed.us or 541-575-3433 with any questions.

Thank you for your time and we appreciate the opportunity to work together.

Sincerely,

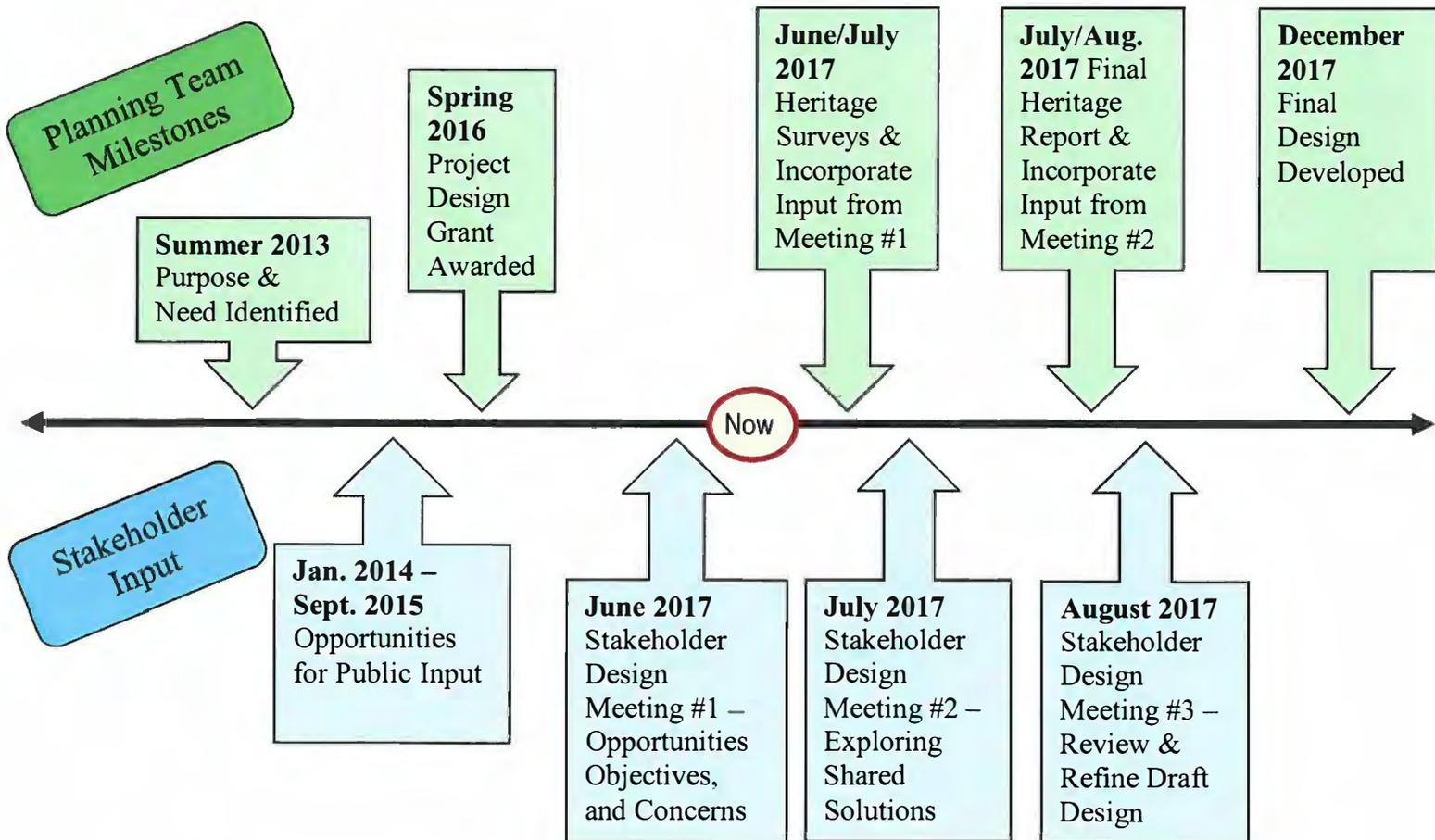


DAVE HALEMEIER
District Ranger

Attachment:

Galena Aquatic Restoration Project Locator Map

Galena Aquatic Restoration Project Design Timeline



Galena Aquatic Restoration Project

