

Hood River Stewardship Collaborative Meeting

August 31, 2016

Facilitator's Summary

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The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings.

Action Item	Responsible Party	By When?
Provide draft meeting summary to Stew Crew for edits	Emily	9/7
Send Doodle poll to schedule field trip for the end of September	Emily	9/7
Post Evers report to webpage	Emily	9/7
Meet to coordinate TA needs and next steps	Science sub-com	9/16
Review draft charter and provide edits to Emily	Stew Crew	9/16
Incorporate edits to charter and provide to Stew Crew for further review/editing/approval	Emily	9/19
Coordinate details for Sept field trip	Jon Paul, Rick L	9/19
Coordinate details for Oct field trip; contact L. Evers	Tyson	Mid-Oct

Present for all or part of the meeting: Jon Paul Anderson (High Cascade, Inc.), Tyson Bertone-Riggs (OR Department of Forestry), Sam Doak (Resident), Ann Dow (Resident), Cathy Flick (retired US Forest Service), Keith Harding (HR Valley Resident Committee), Rick Larson (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation), Hugh McMahan (HRVRC), Janeen Tervo (USFS), Cindy Thieman (HR Watershed Group), Anne Saxby (Resident),

Facilitator & Notes: Emily Plummer, DS Consulting

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator, Emily Plummer, welcomed everyone to the Hood River Forest Collaborative (Stew Crew) meeting, noting that the purpose of the session is to set the stage for developing zones of agreement and to discuss potential fall field trips.

July 20th Meeting Follow-up

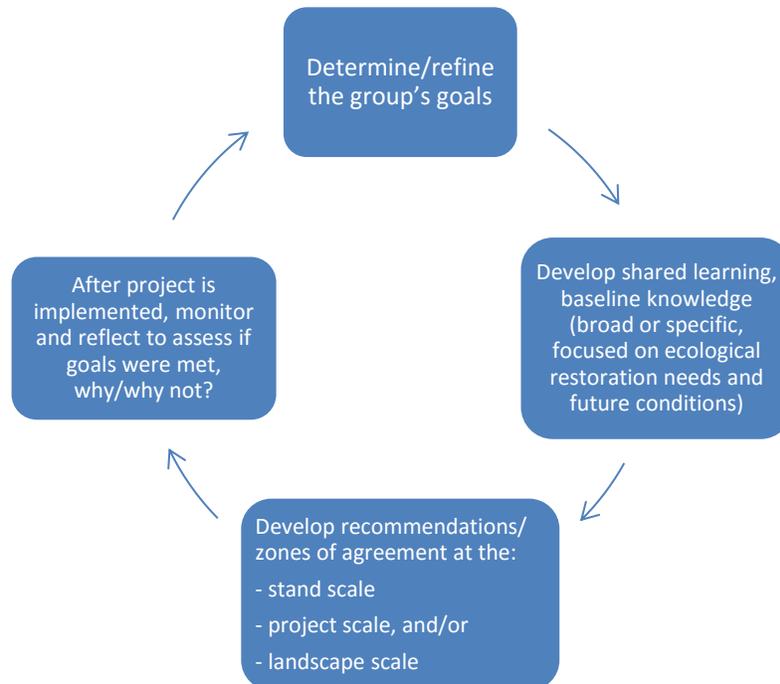
The group reviewed and approved the July 20th Facilitator's Summary. The final summary will be posted to the Stew Crew website.

Emily noted that a draft Charter, which seeks to clarify the Stew Crew's operational procedures, has been posted online. Those who reviewed it shared that it generally looks good. Hugh McMahan expressed that he would have liked to see the geographical scope broader than the Hood River Ranger District, however, appreciated the stated intention to seek neighbor's input on projects. Emily offered that the Stew Crew should treat the Charter as a living document that is reviewed and updated as necessary each year to reflect the needs of the group. The group agreed to move forward with review and editing online. The first round of edits will be provided via *tracked changes* to Emily by Friday, September 16th. Emily will incorporate edits and provide red-lined and clean versions to the Stew Crew for additional refinement and/or approval.

- **ACTION:** Group members will review the draft Charter and provide suggested edits to Emily by Friday, September 16th. Edits will be in tracked changes. Emily will compile edits and provide another draft to the group for review.

How Collaboratives set goals and work towards them

Tyson Bertone-Riggs, ODF, spoke to the group from his experience working with six different collaboratives as they set goals and incorporate science into their processes. He noted that each collaborative is different and uses different processes, however, he recommends that the group identify their goals first, and then explore how science can help achieve those goals. For instance, the group identifies a common goal of increasing stand resiliency and clarifies what that means to them, and then they can look to the science to see how to meet the goal of resiliency. Tyson urged the group to focus the conversation on the desired future conditions (DFC), recognizing that there may be multiple prescriptions that can be implemented to reach those conditions (DFCs can be considered as interests/values, see below for more on this). He charted out a cycle illustrating how goals influence recommendations now and into the future:



Tyson posed a number of questions for the Stew Crew to ponder:

- Where can the Stew Crew influence decision making?
- What do we, as a group, want to see?
- How feasible is it to achieve this? (Work with USFS to determine this.)
- How can/will this recommendation be funded?
 - How far does this group go in regards to considering the financial feasibility?
 - Should the Stew Crew provide recommendations and leave the funding to the USFS?
- What do you like/not like about the USFS proposed projects?

Cindy Thieman suggested that each member identify their personal goals and then together, clarify any common goals. The common goals can then help inform where the Stew Crew wants/needs to build baseline understanding. Emily agreed and mentioned that the Zones of Agreement exercise (see below) is a first step in working towards identifying common goals.

The group discussed the need to dive deep into the concepts that they discuss, noting that it is easy to state that there is a common goal of “forest health”, however, each member has a different idea of what forest health means. Thus it is vital to clarify what this means to each member, and the Stew Crew as a group, in order to develop understanding and true, meaningful zones of agreement.

Janeen Tervo, USFS, reiterated the value of the Stew Crew’s input in regards to the social and community perspectives. She explained that when making decisions, they consider not only the science, however, also the big picture, for instance, social, economic, and ecological considerations.

Hugh asked Janeen for clarification on what “plant manipulation” means from a USFS perspective. Janeen noted that it encompasses anything from managing trees of different species, age, and size class, to removing noxious weeds, or huckleberry release.

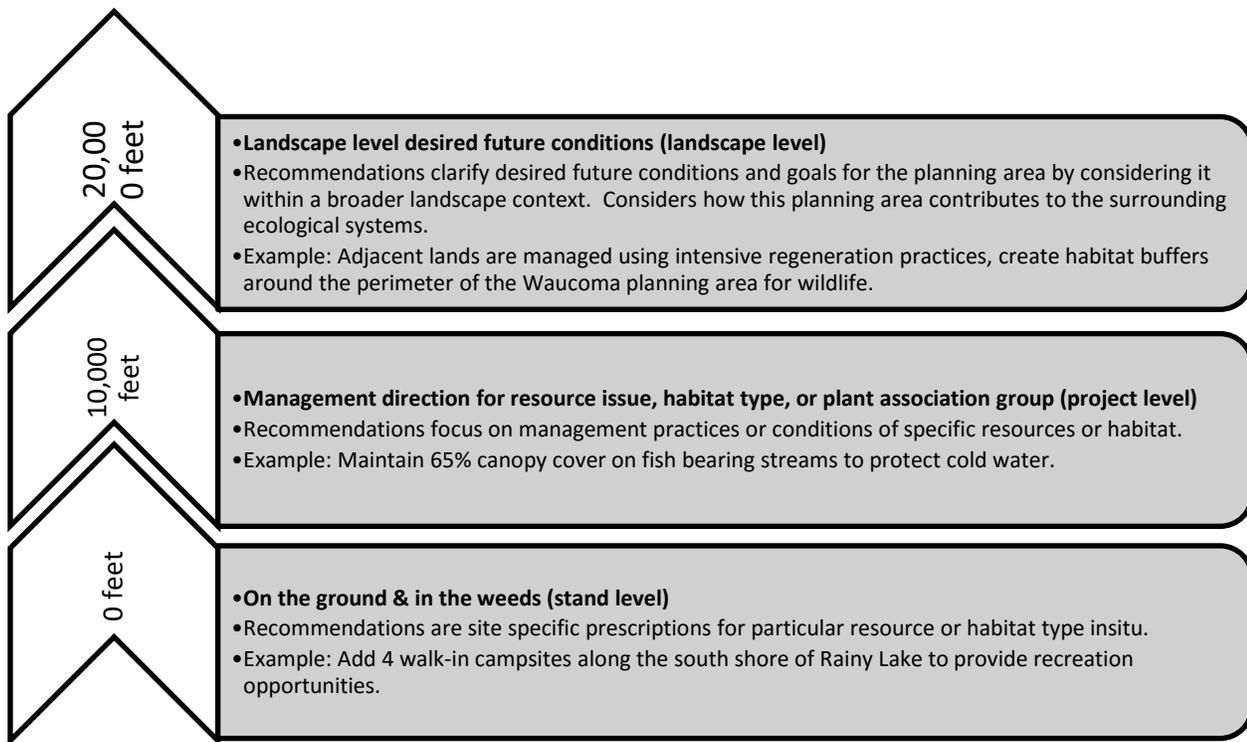
Working towards Zones of Agreement

Emily presented the group with a draft timeline of the Waucoma recommendation process (see below). She noted that because the Waucoma process is different than past Stew Crew recommendation processes, she wants to make sure that the group is grounded and on the same page as to how they are moving forward and what outcomes can be expected along the way. *[Facilitator’s note: ‘developing baseline understanding of key ecological concepts’ was noted as an important first step that needs to be signaled in the timeline. It has been added to the timeline below.]*

April 2016 –April 2017	March – May 2017	June 2017	Mid-2017	Mid-late 2017	Ongoing
Develop baseline understanding of key ecological concepts; Compile existing data; Clarify values, desired future conditions, zones of agreement	Discuss and draft preliminary recommendations using values, ZoAs and available information; Identify areas of uncertainty for future discussion	Preliminary recommendations to USFS	USFS begins work on Waucoma, including NEPA process & info gathering	Refine/ further develop recommendations (project or site specific) if desired	Monitoring of project to ensure desired goals are reached; Inform adaptive management on future projects

The group recalled that the Stew Crew is working on Waucoma recommendations ahead of the USFS working on the project. Cindy and Janeen noted that there was an opportunity for the grant funding and they wanted to act on it. The thought was that this could be an opportunity for the Stew Crew to have a facilitator, develop zones of agreement, and address some broader goals such as developing overarching principles and guidelines. The USFS also expected to be further along with Waucoma, however, had to change gears to accommodate the Crystal Clear Restoration project.

Emily pointed out that due to the limited Waucoma specific information available at this time, and the timeline for providing initial recommendations to the USFS, it will be difficult for the Stew Crew to provide stand or site level recommendations by June (required by OWEB grant). She then introduced the concept of ‘altitudes’ noting that there are different levels of recommendations that they can provide. Thinking and talking in terms of “altitude” can paint a clearer picture for people to plan for, design, and contribute to the recommendation process. Using this visual aid can help keep conversations clear and focused: What level are we addressing? What level CAN we address? What type of information do we need to inform recommendations at the various levels?



Emily checked in to see if the group was comfortable staying within the 10,000-20,000ft altitude to develop initial recommendations for Waucoma, and then revisiting their recommendations after the USFS has conducted the NEPA scoping and has more information at the stand/site level. People generally agreed with this approach.

Emily explained that Emily Jane Davis, OSU, shared with her a case study (available online) detailing how the Blue Mountains Forest Collaborative developed their zones of agreement. They started by pulling out common themes from past recommendations, meeting summaries, and field trip notes, and then discussing those themes and eventually establishing zones of agreement. As a step towards developing zones of agreement at the 10,000-20,000ft level, the Stew Crew reviewed their past recommendations with an eye towards common themes, interests and values, as well as differing perspectives that warrant deeper discussion. They looked for themes within the priority resource issues that were identified in the Charter: socioeconomic benefits, forest health, soil quality, water quality, wildlife habitat, fire resiliency, recreation opportunities, cultural patterns of use, and mitigating climate change (see attached worksheet). Additionally, Emily shared a “Wordle” that EJ made using the words from the three sets of recommendations (attached), noting that this is a neat visual of the prominent themes found in the recommendations.

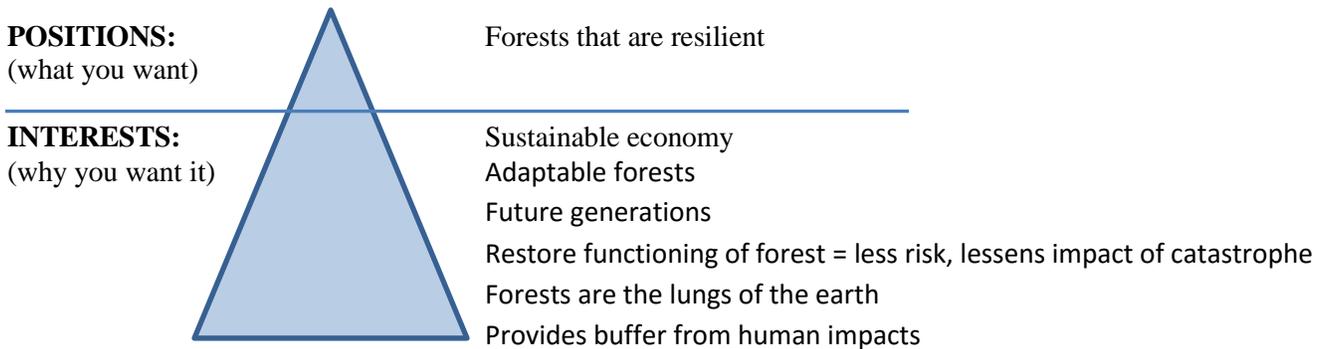
To help illustrate what is meant by “underlying interests and values”, Emily explained the difference between positions and interests (aka values or needs).

- A position is the outcome that you’ve identified for resolving an issue. Example: **Issue:** Forest health. **Position:** ‘We should cut more trees’----or ‘we should **not** cut more trees’. Typically, positional decision making leads to a yes or no answer, presenting a small window of opportunity for negotiation.
- An interest describes the values/needs behind your position. Example: **Interest:** ‘We need to promote forests that are resilient to fire and pests so that they aren’t all destroyed’. **Interest:** ‘We need dynamic ecosystems that provide habitat for wildlife’. Focusing on interests allows for a better understanding of

the multiple needs that underlie stated positions. Taking this approach allows all sides to get down to what is most important and enables more ways to solve the problem.

By moving away from positions and having conversations about interests, there is opportunity to find common ground, increase understanding, and satisfy needs. When people get stuck in positional conversations, they tend to make assumptions about what others are thinking or wanting. These assumptions create little room to move forward in a mutually respectful and beneficial manner. Emily encouraged the group to focus on interests whenever possible, noting that it is common for people to be more comfortable (or used to) positional conversations. She noted that positions and interests are a lot like an iceberg: What is presented on the surface is just part of the story, and what is beneath the surface is usually very valuable information (think Titanic). The group brainstormed interests around forest resiliency:

ISSUE: Forest Resiliency



Planning September Field Trip

The group discussed and decided to organize September and October field trips, and to potentially collaborate with the Wasco County Collaborative on a November workshop on fire ecology. The September field trip will focus on visiting work done as part of the Red Hill planning area. The group will visit sites which show multiple types of logging (helicopter, tower, ground thinning, etc.) over a range of the last three years. They will also look at a road reconstruction and storm proofing project. Prior to the field trip, the Stew Crew will review their recommendations for Red Hill, along with the USFS’ NEPA descriptions of the projects; following the field trip they will discuss how the recommendations played out on the ground. Jon Paul and Rick Larson will help coordinate the field trip; they will reach out to Rick Ragan to see if he is available to help. Emily will send a Doodle poll to schedule this for the end of September.

For the October field trip, Tyson will connect with colleagues from OSU to see if they are available for a science based workshop in the field. Tyson will take the lead on coordinating this field trip, he will reach out to Russ to see if he is available to help and will provide potential dates to Emily for a Doodle poll.

- **ACTION:** Emily will send a Doodle poll to the group to schedule the September and October field trips. Jon Paul and Rick L will coordinate the September field trip. Tyson will coordinate the October field trip. They will reach out to Rick R and Russ accordingly to see if they are available to help coordinate.

Fire Ecology Report

Cathy Flick, retired USFS, shared a USFS report on fire ecology in the mid-Columbia, authored by Louisa Evers. She was curious if the group would like to have it posted on the website, they agreed that they would. The group was interested in having Ms. Evers come and speak to them about fire.

Resource Issue	Common Themes	Underlying values/interests that emerge from these themes	Areas of differing perspectives	What is missing? What questions do you have regarding this resource issue, values, perspectives, etc.?
Socioeconomic benefits	Everyone needs a decent livelihood. Economics/ commerce is always changing, how can it be improved to benefit everyone? Increase economic development opportunities: thinning plantations, scattered openings, disease prevention treatment. Thinning from below, gaps, skips.	Community health, resiliency; healthy prosperity, not destroying the mother nest of all. Timber production Jobs Use of wood for economics, jobs	Opening/gap size; Proposed wilderness; Where to harvest	Can people see this big, wide, deep perspective? Do we have imagination to see outside the way things are? Why no treatment in proposed wilderness? Role/size of timber in local economy
Forest health	Disease treatment &/or reduction; fire; thinning; whole ecosystem functioning (soil, water, wildlife, fire); stand health; stand structure & diversity; stand density; thinning from below; disease resistance; tree diversity: species, age, size, live & dead	Healthy trees; density reduction; climate and weather stability; beauty of functioning biodiverse, ecosystem; species diversity; health/resiliency; aesthetics; protect old growth; flora/fauna diversity	Where to put gaps; gap size; how to deal with disease; management in never before logged units; too much veg management in non-wilderness	Need to know projections on what the future is likely to bring climate-wise and what vegetation types would come. How to get from here to there with veg cover changes? Could science help inform/clarify?
Soil quality	Roads: storm proofing or closure			
Water quality	Maintain temperatures; sediment; roads: storm proofing or closure; minimize disturbance in riparian; no thin if increases temperature; no skips/gaps in riparian; road closures; riparian reserves	Clean water, habitat, fish; no increase in water temperature; instream habitat;	What buffer widths to use	
Wildlife habitat	Larger gaps for elk & deer; high quality habitat; reduce road density & road improvement; gaps & scattered openings; seral stages; ungulate habitat; fish habitat improvement; winter range; protect old growth	Provide forage for ungulates, early seral habitat; habitat connectivity; hunting; stages of succession; instream habitat	Gap sizes and where to put them; mature forests vs. early seral; not enough wilderness;	Highlight legal protections already in place (NWFP); species specificity; old growth species protected by NWFP;
Fire resiliency	Reduce, pile, burn; hazard reduction (structures); reduce fuels: ladder, crown, woody debris in streams	Forest health, future jobs	Need to do anything; no logging in some areas	Monitoring

<i>Recreational opportunities</i>	Minimize impacts to view-scape; expanding wilderness; trail buffers; high canopy cover along trails; expand wilderness; minimizing crossing rec trails	Maintaining experience, winter recreation; not enough wilderness; aesthetics of view corridors	Large gaps for hunting; larger no-cut buffer on trails	
<i>Cultural patterns of use</i>	Wilderness, not do work in possible future wilderness; huckleberry field enhancement;	Scenic beauty		
<i>Mitigating climate change</i>				Need to know projections on what the future is likely to bring climate-wise and what vegetation types would come.

