

Deschutes Collaborative Forest Charter

Background

In 2009 Congress established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program. The purpose of this program is to select and fund projects that restore forests at a landscape-scale through a process that encourages collaboration, use of best available science, local economic development, reduction of long-term wildfire management costs, sustainability, and leveraging local resources with national and private resources.

In May 2010 a broad group of community partners submitted a proposal for a Deschutes Skyline Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project that would span 130,000 acres and be implemented over 10 years. In July 2010 the Secretary of Agriculture and the CFLR Advisory Committee selected the Deschutes Skyline project from a highly competitive national pool to receive \$10.1 million, contingent on annual appropriations for the CFLR program. These \$10.1 million are targeted at restoration activities on federal lands but the CFLR program encourages investment in private land restoration.

Collaborative Mission

To engage a diverse set of interested stakeholders and build upon existing collaborative efforts to support implementation of forest and watershed restoration activities across the 130,000 acre Deschutes Skyline Landscape.

Within the Deschutes Skyline Landscape we will seek to:

- Restore natural processes and functions within a biophysical setting's natural range of variability¹
- Incorporate best science to ensure biodiversity is restored and ecosystem resilience and resistance to natural disturbances is sustainable¹
- Support Community Wildfire Protection Plans and reduce wildfire risk to communities and adjacent landowners
- Maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of flows within municipal supply watersheds
- Restore and maintain habitat for species of concern, including listed, tribal, and economically important²
- Provide a meaningful and predictable flow of restoration by-products for utilization by local forest products businesses
- Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities compatible with restoration.
- To provide input and recommendations to the Forest Service on restoration work within the Deschutes Skyline Landscape

The Deschutes Skyline Collaborative adopts the guiding principles set forth in the Forest Landscape Restoration Act as it seeks to restore this landscape, including meaningful stakeholder collaboration, use of best available science, local economic development, reduction of long-term wildfire management costs, sustainability, and leveraging local resources with national and private resources.

Membership and Organization

The Deschutes Skyline **Collaborative** will be open and we will seek to include a diversity of stakeholder interests and geographic representation. Meetings of the full Collaborative group, which consists of the signatories of this charter, will occur at least semi-annually to provide opportunities to track progress, to discuss work within the Landscape, to coordinate, and to provide both recommendations on and endorsements for work. The public will be invited to participate in meetings of the full Collaborative.

The full **Collaborative** will discuss and deliberate Deschutes Skyline project issues, but recommendations and endorsements on the project will be made by a smaller **Steering Committee**. The **Steering Committee** will be

¹From Central Oregon Principles of Restoration, www.firelearningnetwork.org.

² **Listed species** are at risk species, endangered, threatened, sensitive; **tribal species** are those rare and culturally significant to the tribe – fish, wildlife, roots & berries and; **economically important species** are those tied to a commodity - deer, elk, wildlife viewing, cones, mushrooms, boughs, etc.

the formal channel for the **Collaborative** to provide input on management decisions within the 100,000+ federally managed acres in the landscape, including but not limited to CFLR fund allocation and restoration approaches.

The **Steering Committee** will be made up of signatories from key stakeholder interest groups who are nominated by members of the **Collaborative** and approved by other stakeholders from the same interest group. **Steering Committee** members will be expected to listen carefully to all members of the **Collaborative** and to diligently represent other members of their interest group. Individuals must be signatories or representatives of signatories to this Charter in order to be nominated to the **Steering Committee**. The term for a Steering Committee member will be three years. Individuals may be re-nominated to the Steering Committee upon completion of a term. Signatories may designate alternates to participate in Steering Committee meetings in the place of regular representatives.

The interest groups that will be represented on the Steering Committee and the number of seats that will be available to each group are listed below:

<u>Interest Groups</u>	<u>Steering Committee Seats</u>
Forest Products Industry	1 to 2
Environmental	1 to 2
Community Wildfire Protection	1 to 2
Watershed and Water Resources	1 to 2
Local Government	1 to 2
State and Federal Agencies	1 to 2
Recreation and Tourism	1 to 2
Private Landowners	1 to 2
Tribal	1
Researcher	1 to 2
At Large	0 to 2

A number of **Sub-Committees** will be assembled to help support implementation of restoration across the Landscape. These will include, but not be limited to, Sub-Committees focused on Outreach and Communications; Restoration Planning; Implementation; Monitoring; and Appropriations.

Coordination and staff to the broad collaborative, the steering committee and some sub-committees will be jointly provided through Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and The Nature Conservancy of Oregon. Support includes administrative coordination of the broad collaborative and steering committee, chairing and facilitation of some sub-committees and communication and coordination with the US Forest Service.

Decision-Making Process

The Steering Committee will strive to reach consensus in decision-making and meaningfully address the interests and concerns of all members of the Collaborative. However, if consensus cannot be reached after extensive discussion of a topic then a 2/3 majority of voting Steering Committee members present can make a decision so that positions with broad support can move forward. All decisions that were made at a meeting will be documented at the end and the level of agreement with decisions will be recorded as well.

Steering Committee members must have attended 2 of the last 4 meetings to be able to participate in decision-making.