

Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group Charter

Contact Name and Info

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Collaborative Website

Dependent on funding and resources

Focal Geography and Acreage

Wasco County Forests and Woodlands

National Forest(s)

Mt. Hood National Forest

BLM District(s)

?

Counties Affected

Wasco

Year Established

2015

Host/Administrative organization

Administrative support provided by Wasco County SWCD

Fiscal Administration

501 (c) 3 status

External Fiscal Agent

Collaborative Mission

The Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group represents a broad constituency of stakeholders interested in healthy forest ecosystems, economic vitality and quality of life in Wasco in the wildland urban interface with Wasco County. We provide the US Forest Service (USFS) with proposals for management of National Forest (NF) lands, and we support the utilization of forest resources and related opportunities to strengthen local communities.

Within the Wasco County Landscape we will seek to:

- Restore natural processes and functions within a biophysical setting's natural range of variability.
- Support Community Wildfire Protection Plans and reduce wildfire risk to communities and adjacent landowners.
- Provide a meaningful and predictable flow of restoration by-products for utilization by local forest products businesses.
- To provide input and recommendations to the Forest Service on restoration work within the Wasco County Landscape

The Wasco County Forest Collaborative adopts the guiding principles 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 Wasco County Forest Collaborative will be open to the public and 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 monthly 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 Wasco County project issues, but recommendations and endorsements on the project will be made by a smaller **Steering Committee**. The **Steering Committee** will be the formal channel for the **Collaborative** to provide input on management decisions within the 100,000+ federally managed acres in the landscape.

The **Steering Committee** will be made up of signatories from key stakeholder interest groups who are appointed by the Wasco County Court. **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. The term for a Steering Committee member will be three years. Individuals may be re-appointed 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
Environmental	1
Community Wildfire Protection	1
Watershed and Water Resources	1
Local Government	1
State Agencies	1
Recreation and Tourism	1
Private Landowners	1
Tribal	1
At Large	0 to 2

A number of **Sub-Committees** will be assembled when needed 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.

Forest Restoration/Forest Health

Given that this group is newly formed, the following is a list of activities the group hopes to accomplish over the next year to allow future forest restoration work to occur using stewardship contracting authority and other funds:

- Facilitate a large collaborative group at monthly meetings
- Determine the organization, structure and decision-making process for the group.
- Create networking opportunities among participants that will help to strengthen partnerships and ultimately lead to future project work.
- Develop shared restoration and protection goals for lands.
- Develop a stewardship contracting proposals.
- Refine action plans to implement identified restoration and protection goals
- Further develop and implement the Voluntary Incentives Program to reward private landowners practicing good stewardship in riparian areas.
- Conduct outreach to Wasco County residents about the collaborative group, project goals, processes, restoration priorities and ecosystem services concepts, and solicit their perspectives and suggestions.
- Develop a coordinated and consistent message around project language and purpose.
- Develop a website describing the group's efforts and projects.
- Host public workshops to inform and educate residents and the general public about projects.
- Conduct field tours to look at on-the-ground project examples and potential future project sites.

Factors Unique To This Collaborative

- Work already accomplished in Sportsman Park; see "Sportsman's Park Hazardous Fuels Reduction (USFS), June 23, 2005.

1. Decision-Making Process

The Steering Committee will strive to reach full consensus in decision-making and meaningfully address the interests and concerns of all members of the Collaborative. If full consensus cannot be reached on a proposed action or recommendation, then the group will try to reach a compromise. If there are remaining issues or proposed actions where neither full consensus nor compromise can be reached, the group will not make a recommendation. Instead, a statement of the various positions with their risks, trade-offs and benefits will be recorded and delivered to the Forest Service. All decisions that were made at a meeting will be documented at the end.

Regular attendance is important. If a Steering Committee member has 3 consecutive unexcused absences their appointment will be rescinded. If a member has 3 consecutive excused absences, then a commissioner from the County Court will contact the member to determine their level of interest and desire to continue on the committee.