

**Executive Summary**  
**Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group**  
**March 2, 2017**

- Casey Getz gave an update on Rocky Burn and the Crystal-Clear Restoration (CRR) project. We reviewed several points to establish a common understanding:
  - Rocky Burn – the USFS is incorporating the group’s recommendations into their next letter in the NEPA stage process and hopefully will be able to present it to the group at the April or May meeting.
  - The USFS did not engage the group in a collaborative effort at the start of the project, but the group is invited to be a full participant in its NEPA process. The purpose and need letter went out to everyone on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - While the CRR and the Rocky Burn project are running concurrent, the CRR is cued up ahead of the Rocky Burn. In the spirit of transparency, the CRR is receiving priority due to the role the timber sale will have on generating revenue for future retained receipts and meeting the district’s quota for timber sales.
  
- The subcommittee responsible for the exercise “Connecting the Dots” presented their findings and recommended the group focus on the Upper Dufur Valley as a region with the greatest opportunity for collaboration, synergy between agencies and applying for retained receipts in October. The subcommittee was renamed “The Training Wheels Are Coming Off” committee and they will report back in April with specific recommendations for projects eligible for retained receipts. The application for retained receipts is attached.

Now, for the good news, bad news department:

First, the good news. Andrew Spaeth from Northwest Sustainable announced that they are seeking a full-time position for a recent college graduate to serve as the coordinator for both the Stew Crew and Wasco County Forest Collaborative. This position will be funded for a year. Hopefully, this position will be filled by June 2017.

Now for the bad news. We did not receive grants from either OWEB or the National Forest Foundation. This means that we run out of funds as of June 2017. This does not mean the group will disband. With the NW Sustainable coordinator, the meetings can still go on. We will have to get creative on how to sponsor two field trips during the summer on the cheap. Lastly, there will be no funds available for facilitation from September to December. The Steering committee will have to put their heads together and look for four months of funding if you want to continue with the current facilitator.

I am attaching the document that OWEB sent so that everyone can see where we landed against other collaboratives who were funded. Two items were particularly discouraging to read.

1. Concern relative to the US Forest Service ability to collaborate given current projects in pipeline and constrained capacity.

While this factor appears to punish the collaborative group for something out of our control, it needs to be viewed from the perspective of the funding agency. Based on a confidential conversation, the message I got was that OWEB's criteria is based on the effectiveness of the group to get stuff done on the ground to advance the restoration of the forest. The concern about the US Forest Service's ability to collaborate is a constraint or limitation on our effectiveness.

2. Funding both facilitator and a coordinator positions seems excessive; facilitator cost seems expensive.

I am particularly sensitive to this factor. My rate is competitive with facilitators in the Portland region. On the surface, the hourly rate does appear high given what most people make per hour, but this is comparing apples to oranges. The setting of rates for a self-employed contractor has to take into account many variables and costs that a salaried person takes for granted in his/her job. From my perspective, this factor betrays a lack of understanding, but again, this is a perception that is so often beyond my control to influence.

So, while this is a big bump in the road, we can still continue our work. In our April meeting, we will hear from the "Training Wheels Are Coming Off" committee and discuss how we will proceed when our funding runs