

Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group  
William Noonan  
Executive Summary  
April 6, 2017

- Group agreed to support and sign the Fiscal Year 2018 Legacy Road and Trails Remediation Initiative Appropriation. Letter has been sent to Senator Merkley's office.
  - We are looking for someone to volunteer to take minutes at the May meeting. Tammy Tripp will be away at a conference.
1. Emily Jane Davis went through the OWEB grant process and explained that our grant application was actually voted to be funded, but ranked six of the sixth approved proposals and no money was left after awarding the funds to the top five. *She stressed the competitive nature of the grants, and the success of groups that were able to demonstrate their contributions to the pace, scale, and quality of restoration.* This does not mean that we won't get funded in the future, but all the more reason we should go after a retained receipt project so that we have evidence of getting things done on the ground.
  2. Funding runs out by the end of May 2107. The good news is Northwest Sustainable will be the pass-through organization for Mobilize Green who will hire a full-time coordinator to help with the Stew Crew and WCFCG. I will meet with the coordinating committee and explore different options for covering my fees through 2017. While we will not have our formal meetings in July and August, we plan on having two field trips and will run them on the cheap.
  3. Casey Getz gave an update on the Rocky Burn project. He will provide the group with copies of the original scoping letter, our recommendations and the newly proposed purpose of action section that blends our recommendations with the original. The intent is to make sure that the USFS and the collaborative group are on the same page and that our recommendations have been appropriated. These items will be sent out prior to the May meeting and will be main topic of discussion for the May meeting.
  4. In the discussion of the Rocky Burn NEPA process, frustration was expressed at the time it took to take the step from recommendations to the newly formulated proposed action. At the same time, there was an appreciative acknowledgement of the resource constraints the USFS is up against and the impact of the CCR project on Rocky.
  5. Discussion of the CCR: Kameron Sam and Casey Getz shared more of the context behind the USFS's decision not to involve the collaborative group in the beginning of the CCR process. In their view, there were limited options for collaboration and the financial necessities vital to the future sustainability of the regional office drove the process. The timber sale associated with the project would be a focal point of controversy. The group's discussion concluded with an agreed direction not to engage the USFS with the CCR project. Out of a desire to continue the momentum of trust and the strength of the working relationships among the diverse stakeholders in the group, the focus would remain on the Rocky Burn project and securing retained receipts.
  6. Training Wheels Are Off Committee provided an update and will identify project areas as potential candidates for retained receipts by our June meeting.