

Executive Summary – February 2017

Executive Summary Wasco County Forest Collaborative February 2, 2017

Here are my summary notes from last Thursday's meeting. Minutes to follow later this month. Thanks for the great turn out last week.

- We welcomed Bob Sjolund as the representative for the Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs. This brings our Steering Committee to full membership.
- We have not heard yet whether we will be receiving funding from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) or OWEB, but expect to hear soon. If funding comes through from the NFF, then we will select a subcommittee for our community outreach to schools.
- The group took up Dan Van Vactor's offer to contact Greg Walden and invite him to a future meeting. Given his positions and involvement with local forest issues, he would benefit from seeing a successful engagement of diverse stakeholders collaborating together. If a meeting could be arranged prior to the vote on the congressional farm bill, it would give the group a chance to share their perspective with him.
- The immediate goal for the group is to secure funds, either through retained receipts or Two Chiefs Initiative to sponsor restoration activities in Wasco County Forest areas. Jeremy Thompson suggested a process for identifying areas where the highest impact and greatest leverage spots might lay. The different agencies gathered in the room are fairly siloed and unaware of current and future plans/projects going on in their respective programs. Nicknamed, "Connect the Dots," the group's task for the March meeting is to present a quick overview of projects that share similar boundary lines. Committee members Kristen Dodd, Jeremy Thompson, Ryan Bessette, Bob Sjolund and Frank (from NRCS) will report out. Casey Getz will provide a list of "shovel ready" NEPA approved projects. The hope is that the group will be able to connect the dots between the projects in order to see what areas possess the greatest potential for collaborative work and partnering with multiple agencies to secure sufficient funding.
- Next meeting is March 2nd at 1:00 PM