



Blue Mountains Forest Partners

Our Mission

“Blue Mountains Forest Partners is a diverse group of stakeholders who work together to create and implement a shared vision to improve the resilience and well-being of forests and communities in the Blue Mountains.”

Full Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting Overview:

- **Date of Meeting:** October 18, 2018
- **Time:** 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Location:** John Day Airport Conference Room
- **Facilitator:** Mark Webb
- **Minutes Scribe:** Susan Jane Brown

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- **Call to Order: Introductions, changes to the agenda, agenda approval (all).** Motion to approve agenda seconded, approved unanimously.
 - **Approval of September 2018 Full Group minutes (all).** Motion to approve minutes seconded, approved unanimously.
 - **Ops’ update (SJB).** Ops received a financial and operations report from Mark, received an update on the wildlife zones of agreement from Trent, FVF monitoring from James, and discussed a draft outreach plan prepared by Elise.
 - **Wednesday Upper Bear field trip update (Mark).** Three stops to the Upper Bear planning area: aspen restoration, trail loop development, and aquatic restoration. Forest Service has not produced a proposed action yet; just starting to become familiar with the planning area and the restoration needs there. Great conversations and a beautiful day!
 - **Forest Service project updates (Blue Mountain and Prairie City RDs).** Camp Lick is awaiting consultation; Ragged Ruby DEIS is being finalized now and should be released in November; Austin proposed actions are being finalized and USFS hopes to release the draft EA this fall; Blue Mountains has hired a new NEPA planner! Cliff Knox is under development.
 - **The “Section 106 process” (National Historical Preservation Act, NHPA) (Don Hann).** Malheur has the second highest archaeological sites in the region, including obsidian sites, mining features, and other historical and cultural resources. The National Historical Preservation Act was passed by Congress, and the federal agencies have developed regulations to implement the statute; there are also Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction that further explains how the USFS complies with the Act. The key aspect of NHPA is Section 106, which addresses how projects must comply with the law. When the Forest Service undertakes a project, the agency must prepare a report about how the project



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will affect archaeological resource and submit it to the State Historic Preservation Office for approval. If there is disagreement about the effects, the National Council on Historic Preservation will arbitrate the dispute; if the disagreement persists, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior will make the final decision about moving forward with a project.

The USFS must analyze a cultural resource if it is 50 years or older, and determine whether it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Other considerations include whether there is 1 “feature” or 10 “artifacts” associated with the site. Usually, whatever is visible from the surface is about 1% of the entire site buried below ground. Usually the USFS doesn’t have enough information about whether the resource is eligible, but the law requires the agency to treat the site as if it *were* eligible and therefore protected from disturbance.

When the agency begins developing a project, they will review field surveys and/or conduct new ones to identify existing and new sites, and then analyze how the project might affect the resource. Although many forests simply avoid archeological sites, we have so many on this forest that avoidance isn’t an option for us. As a result, the Forest Service will proscribe mitigation measures (i.e., logging over snow) so that the project will result in no adverse effect to the resource. Sometimes a project will result in adverse effects, so the Forest Service must take other actions to continue to protect the remaining resource (e.g. Galena tailings project, which resulted in the removal of part of the tailings, the Forest Service implemented the project but included signage and others measures to continue to represent the nature of the resource). When the USFS does that, they must calculate the monetary value of the impaired resource and dedicate that amount to mitigation.

Tribes are also involved in this process, but advocate for their interests directly with SHPO. If the resources are tribal, then the USFS will also work with the tribes directly through government-to-government consultation.

- **Wildlife Habitat ZOA update (Mark).** See attached information from Trent. Trent will be working on the Zones of Agreement through the winter and hope to have a draft in early spring. The decision support tool that Trent is also developing will help the Forest Service use the ZOAs and provide the best available science support for implementing the ZOAs. Trent is interested in convening a Subcommittee to work on the ZOAs, so if you are interested in participating, let Mark know and he will connect you with Trent.
- **Forest Vegetation monitoring update (James Johnston).** An important part of the CFLRP program is monitoring of our work; James is undertaking this work with OSU, which includes installing and monitoring hundreds of plots across the forest. Now that there has been sufficient data collected, James is beginning the analysis process. James is interested in any feedback on the process and desired products that BMFP would like to see.
- **Other business:** no meeting in November, December, or January. There is a field trip to Malheur Lumber at 9 am – meet at the mill office.
- **Adjourn.**



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Blue Mountains Forest Partners Vision, Guiding Principles, and Grounds Rules for Collaboration

Our Vision

The Blue Mountains Forest Partners represents a broad constituency of stakeholders interested in healthy forest ecosystems, economic vitality and quality of life in Grant County, Oregon. We provide the US Forest Service with proposals for management of National Forest lands, and we support the utilization of forest resources and related opportunities to strengthen local economies.

Guiding Principles

- *To promote forest restoration in Grant County, integrating ecological, economic and community needs that have been developed and/or prioritized through collaboration.*
- *To improve our ability to work collaboratively and participate actively in these issues, finding common ground for our work. Our process will be open, inclusive and encourage participation of diverse stakeholders; our meetings will provide a 'safe' space for discussion and sharing of ideas.*
- *To overcome gridlock in forest planning and implementation. The success of our work is tied to long-term sustainability of forests and communities.*

Ground Rules for Collaboration and Meeting Participation

Members and nonmembers alike are expected to abide by these ground rules

- *Respect each other in and outside of meetings.*
- *No backroom deals.*
- *Personal attacks will not be tolerated.*
- *The personal integrity and values of participants will be respected.*
- *Stereotyping will be avoided.*
- *Commitments will not be made lightly and will be kept—agreements will be honored.*
- *Disagreements will be regarded as “problems to be solved” rather than as “battles to be won.”*
- *Participants are representative of a broad range of interests, each having concerns about the outcome of the issues at hand. All parties recognize the legitimacy of the interests and concerns of others, and expect that their interests will be represented as well.*
- *Participants commit to keeping their colleagues/constituents informed about the progress of these discussions*
- *Participants commit to stating interests, problems, and opportunities. Not positions.*
- *Participants will air problems, disagreements and critical information during meetings to avoid surprises.*
- *Participants commit to search for opportunities and alternatives. The creativity of the group can often find the best solution.*



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- *Participants agree to verify rumors at the meeting before accepting them as fact.*
- *Respect the facilitator and meeting agenda.*

Sign-in sheet

October 18, 2018

BMFA Fall Groups Meeting

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