



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.”

Operations Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Overview:

- **Date of Meeting:** March 21, 2019
- **Time:** 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Location:** John Day Airport Conference Room
- **Facilitator:** Mark Webb
- **Minutes Scribe:** Susan Jane Brown

- **Call to Order: Introductions, changes to the agenda, agenda approval (all):** Agenda approval moved, seconded, approved unanimously.
- **Approval of October 2018 Full Group minutes (all):** Minutes approval moved, seconded, approved unanimously.
- **Ops’ update (SJ):** Ops received an update on the wildlife zones of agreement, financial report from the executive director, discussed Mark’s work with the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, received an update on James’ program of work for the year, discussed board elections, and discussed next steps for the forest plan.
- **Oregon Torrefaction (Wayne Lei):** See attached presentation. Update on the status of the new torrefaction facility that will be installed at Malheur Lumber. Construction is underway now, and hope to be operational in summer 2019. What are the emissions from this process versus burning it at the landing or domestic wood use? This process is cleaner than either activity, and will count towards a renewable fuel standard; also better than burning in a wildfire. The air permit for the facility will also address emission concerns.
- **Firewise presentation & request to support WUI work in upper Laycock Creek (Irene Jerome and Firewise community members):** Firewise is a community-driven program that helps landowners prepare for wildfire by implementing fuel reduction projects in communities and around homes. We have the only Firewise communities in eastern Oregon! The Laycock Creek community is adjacent to the National Forest. The community is looking to implement a buffer on federal lands adjacent to the community boundary that would involve mostly noncommercial thinning. The area is densely stocked, steep slopes, and poor access. Proposing to use the Farm Bill CE authority (3,000 acres), and would like to start the NEPA process in the fall. The authority can be used in the wildland urban interface and requires a collaborative process. Is the product commercial? Some will be commercial, and some will be noncommercial, so some could go to the torrefaction facility. There is an inventoried roadless



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area to the south of the community; noncommercial and no roads would be proposed there. How does BMFP want to engage in this process: full group or subcommittee engagement? Group would like to take a field trip to the area and decide how best to engage; group is supportive at this juncture.

- **Blue Mountains Forest Plan and CFLRP update (USFS, Roy Walker):** Forest Service has withdrawn the proposed plan, and will be regrouping after the summer field season regarding next steps. In the short term, ongoing projects will move forward under the 1990 plan, and new projects will be designed under the old plan. Concern about waiting until the end of summer to talk about talking about having a plan moving forward. Discussion and clarification followed.

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized CFLR authority for 5 more years, starting 2019 through 2023. Doubled the amount to \$80 million available (cap), but depends on how congress funds the program each year. SBRC has already been funded for 8 years (2012-2019) and we will get two more years of funding to get us to 10 years of funding, getting us through 2021. We will have an opportunity to propose a onetime extension beyond our 10 years (potentially 2022 through 2023), with more information coming this spring on how that process will work.

Title II has been extended and the funding has been transmitted to the county, but we need to reappoint the RAC that will oversee the process of project review and approval. The Forest Service has put out feelers for new RAC membership, but authorization to appoint those people is still pending within USDA. Senator Wyden's office will check on the process.

- **Forest Service project updates (USFS):** Camp/Lick is on hold, awaiting consultation clearance. Ragged Ruby is working through edits for the FEIS and hope to release that in early summer. There will be white bark pine restoration (thinning around the pine) in the Research Natural Area on Dixie Butte. PNW Research Station is now advocating for restoration in the RNAs to restore areas to a more "natural" condition. Prairie City is without a NEPA planner. Working on a draft EIS for Cliff/Knox, hoping for June release. Working on Upper Bear as well, but in the very early stages (project initiation letter). Upper John Day project is next planning area, lots of fish and aquatics issues.
- **Wildlife Habitat ZOA final draft proposal for BMFP membership approval (Trent Seager).** Trent shared an update on his work on the ZOAs; see attached presentation for more information. Focus is moving away from a species-driven approach to a habitat-based approach that emphasizes landscape health broadly, while also ensuring protection of niche habitats: this would be consistent with our existing restoration ZOAs. Want to make sure that our restoration treatments are consistent with habitat needs for wildlife of interest on the forest.

Focus is on the habitat needs of about 160 terrestrial vertebrate species and looking at whether our prescriptions are meeting their needs: this is a coarse-filter (vegetation type, seral stage), meso-filter (wildlife species needing specific habitat structural elements), and fine-filter approach (species that are rare or are habitat specialists). Most species' needs are accounted for in the coarse-filter; only about 3 of 160 species (marten, pileated woodpeckers [perhaps wolverine and fisher, but there are no (?) data confirming present here]) require fine-filter habitat protections. Meso-filter species are generally primary and secondary cavity excavators, some



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raptors, goshawk, and socially important species (deer, elk). Filter approach will capture MIS, regional forester's special status species, and federally listed species. Not yet clear which MIS will be captured by the meso filter.

Trent hopes to have a draft available for review within the next 2 weeks or so. A conference call to discuss the draft is also an option. Still seeking funding for GIS (spatially explicit) analysis. Trent has shared the approach with other conservation groups that are not BMFP members, and they are supportive of this concept.

- **Board elections (SJ & Mark):** Pam Hardy, Glen Johnston (President), Dave Hannibal, Ben Holliday are up for reelection this year. SJ will prepare an online ballot and distribute that to voting members for consideration – please look for that email.

Question about membership: how does an interested party become a member? Set up a meeting to meet with the board to discuss the request and membership requirements.

- **Adjourn**



Blue Mountains Forest Partners

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.*



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- *Participants commit to search for opportunities and alternatives. The creativity of the group can often find the best solution.*
- *Participants agree to verify rumors at the meeting before accepting them as fact.*
- *Respect the facilitator and meeting agenda.*

The 2018 Farm Bill became law on December 20, 2018. It includes a reauthorization of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program through fiscal year 2023.

This document is intended to summarize the relevant language in the Farm Bill and provide an initial compilation of questions related to implementation of the reauthorization. At this early stage, many questions remain. We will continue to build on this document to share updates and respond to questions as we move forward.

2018 Farm Bill Language

Full Farm Bill text available [here](#) and committee report [here](#)

Language from the legislation pertaining to existing CFLRP projects:

(a) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Section 4003(d) of the [Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009](#) (16 .S.C. 7303(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) WAIVER.— “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), after consulting with the advisory panel established under subsection (e), if the Secretary determines that a proposal that has been selected under paragraph (1) and is being carried out continues to meet the eligibility criteria established by subsection (b), the Secretary, on a case-by-case basis, may issue for the proposal a 1-time extension of the 10-year period requirement under paragraph (1)(B) of that subsection.

“(B) LIMITATION.—The extension described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall be for the shortest period of time practicable to complete implementation of the proposal, as determined by the Secretary; and “(ii) shall not exceed 10 years.”.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The limitation described in subparagraph (B)(i) shall not apply to a proposal for which a 1-time extension is granted under subsection (d)(4).”

Language pertaining to appropriation and timeline:

(c) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 4003(f)(6) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(f)(6)) is amended by striking “\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2019” and inserting “\$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”

Language pertaining to selection of new projects (from committee report):

“With the advice of the advisory panel, as required in section 4003 of Public Law 111-11, the Managers expect that the additional \$40 million made available through this section should enable the Secretary to select and fund not less than 10 new projects under the program.”

FAQ:

Because the authorization for appropriation increased to \$80M, does that mean CFLRP will receive \$80M instead of \$40M in appropriations? Not necessarily. The Farm Bill increased the maximum “cap” that Congress can choose to appropriate for CFLRP every year. It is not a guarantee of funding. For FY19, we are currently under a Continuing Resolution.

When will the 23 existing projects know whether or not they will be extended? As stated in the legislation, “the Secretary, on a case-by-case basis, may issue for the proposal a 1-time extension of the 10-year period requirement...for the shortest period of time practicable to complete implementation of the proposal.” The

Washington Office will provide a protocol and timeline for evaluation by spring 2019. We recognize that FY20 is fast approaching, and knowing whether or not a Forest and the collaborative they work with will continue to receive CFLRP funding is important for planning.

What is the process and timeline for new CFLRP applications? As stated in the committee report, *“With the advice of the advisory panel, as required in section 4003 of Public Law 111-11, the Managers expect that the additional \$40 million made available through this section should enable the Secretary to select and fund not less than 10 new projects under the program.”* We will provide information on the timeline and process as soon as possible. Please note that the general eligibility criteria outlined in the Farm Bill legislation remains the same as the [2009 CFLRP legislation](#).

Restoration Fuels and Oregon Torrefaction

Status Report
March 21, 2019



Oregon Torrefaction





Oregon Torrefaction Status and Outlook

Building a kiln torrefier

- On-line 2nd Quarter, 2019
- 12 ton/hr capacity
- 100,000 ton/year
- Malheur Lumber Mill, John Day, OR
- \$16+ million investment
- Trans-Shipment to Prineville, OR by truck
- Rail to NW Port(s) or other locations
- Established “Restoration Fuels” to operate the facility

Purchasing Feedstock Now

Nat'l Forest Treatments to reduce overgrowth in the Woods

Funded by US Endowment for Forestry and Communities

Inquiries from Off-shore and Domestic Companies and Utilities





Decking logs now





Deconstruction



Oregon Torrefaction



Major Systems

- Wood Chip Drying System (New)
- Rotary Kiln Torrefier Reactor (Lightly Used)
- Wood Fired Boiler (Lightly Used)
- Densification Systems
 - 6 mm pellet
 - 40, 90 mm briquettes
- Material Conveyance and Handling Systems
- Electrical Equipment, Controls and Instrumentation





Status – milestones

- Final Design Stages
- All major equipment purchased
- Several pieces delivered to John Day area
- Site prep
- Foundations prep
- Major decision – offer both white and black pellet/brick fuel
- Building permit received March 21, 2019





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Oregon Torrefaction

Wildlife Habitat ZOA: draft



Blue Mountains Forest Partners | John Day, Oregon | 21 March 2019

S Trent Seager

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Science Advisor to BMFP

PhD, Forest Ecology, Oregon State University

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Wildlife Biologist: US Forest Service, BLM, USFWS

Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement



Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

Blue Mountains Forest Partners
draft March 2019



Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

1. Upland Forest Restoration ZOA
2. Riparian ZOA
3. Aspen ZOA
4. Goshawk document

Restoration approach:

- Fire
- Fuels
- Drought
- Insects
- Economics

Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

Wildlife-centric approach



A wildlife lens to look at the Forest

1. Recognize the habitat work we are already doing
2. Review species and assure structure in treatment
3. Solidify the framework to decrease objections

Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

Moist mixed conifer



Dry mixed conifer



Dry
pine



Xeric



Forest Restoration Context

1. HRV restores the forest types to a place of resistance and resilience.
2. HRV allows ecosystem functions and processes that were present across time to continue to occur.
3. FRV would allow those processes and functions to continue to occur under changes in climate and disturbances.
4. Assume that forest restoration will meet the needs of most terrestrial wildlife that occurred historically because the processes and associated functions (especially structure) will be present.
5. However, some wildlife species occur now that were not necessarily present in the past and may be a FS priority or socially important.

Forest Restoration Context

6. Not all of the MNF and CFLRP lands will have active restoration on them, let alone be restored to HRV (e.g., IRAs, wilderness).
7. Additionally, some areas go untreated within restoration projects.
8. Past management has changed forest structure and function decreasing options for restoration (change stand trajectory for HRV in the future).
9. Spatially and temporally, stands and vegetation types will shift across time from disturbances (fire, drought, insects, disease).

Given that context and what BMFP has agreed upon:

- What wildlife species (and their habitat) should be considered when restoring the Forest to HRV and future range of forest conditions?
- What structures (e.g., snags) should be included in prescriptions to assure they are present as stands are treated to HRV and FRV?
- What are the spatial patterns of trees at the stand-scale needed to meet the habitat needs of wildlife?
- What are the spatial patterns of treated, untreated, unmanaged, burned, and seral stages across the MNF?



160 species
terrestrial vertebrate species





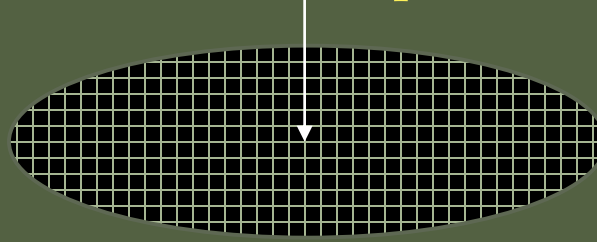
160 species within forest types



Conceptual Framework for the Filter Approach:

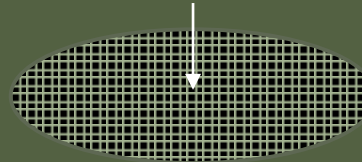
Coarse filter:

All wildlife species



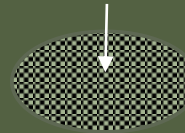
Wildlife species needing specific habitat elements

Meso filter:



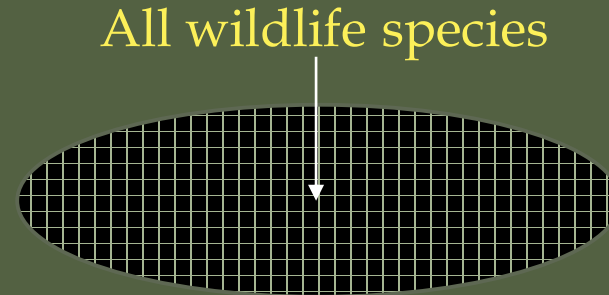
Rare wildlife species and habitat specialists

Fine filter:



Conceptual Framework for the Filter Approach:

Coarse filter:

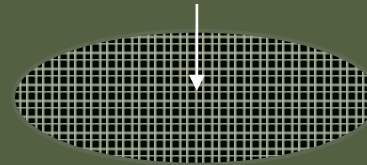


- Plant communities
- Seral stages
 - *Example:* bobcat, western wood pewee
 - *Estimate* ~ 115 of the 160 species

Conceptual Framework for the Filter Approach:

Meso filter:

Wildlife species needing specific habitat elements



- Structural elements
- *Example:* woodpeckers, deer, elk
- *Estimate* ~ 45 of the 160 species

Conceptual Framework for the Filter Approach:



- Habitat elements for selected species
- *Example:* Pacific marten
- *Estimate:* ~ 3 of the 160 species

Conceptual Framework for the Filter Approach:

1. Coarse

Species of low concern likely to be accommodated in planning areas with current active restoration (silvicultural treatments), prescribed and managed fire, untreated areas, and reserve areas.



Conceptual Framework for the Filter Approach:

2. Meso

Species that need some type of structural component in addition to the vegetative conditions provided through active restoration (silvicultural treatments), prescribed and managed fire, untreated areas, and reserve areas.

- a. Primary excavators (woodpeckers)
- b. Secondary cavity users (bats, birds, small mammals)
- c. Raptors (with structure needs)
- d. Northern goshawk (eastside screens; PFA requirements)
- e. Socially important species (mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk)



Conceptual Framework for the Filter Approach:

3. Fine

Species that need careful planning of habitat area, patch size, arrangement and connectivity across a planning area.

- a. Pacific marten (gradient across MMC, DMC, and Dry Pine)
- b. Pileated woodpecker (consider separating nesting from foraging; using different needs in MMC vs DMC).
- c. Federally listed species
- d. *Potential future species*: wolverine, fisher



BMFP is proposing to use a Filter Approach

What does this mean for our suggestions to the FS?

How can we set up the ZOA to fit into or at least tier back to the Malheur Forest Plan (1990)?

And the terrestrial species and habitats required within?

Management Indicator species (MIS)

12 woodpecker species; 2 mammals
with active goshawk nests & PFAs added

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Rocky Mountain elk | 9. hairy woodpecker |
| 2. pine marten | 10. white-headed woodpecker |
| 3. three-toed woodpecker | 11. three-toed woodpecker |
| 4. Lewis' woodpecker | 12. black-backed woodpecker |
| 5. red-naped sapsucker* | 13. northern flicker |
| 6. red-breasted sapsucker | 14. pileated woodpecker |
| 7. Williamson's sapsucker | |
| 8. downy woodpecker | |

**replaced the yellow-bellied sapsucker after species division*

Regional Forester's Special Status Species

Malheur NF detected species only; does not include suspected (USDA FS, 2015)

1. upland sandpiper*
2. bufflehead*
3. greater sage-grouse*
4. bobolink*
5. American peregrine falcon*
6. Columbia spotted frog*
7. bald eagle
8. Lewis's woodpecker
9. white-headed woodpecker
10. gray wolf
11. Townsend's big-eared bat

Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

1. Filter Approach
2. MIS (1990 Plan)
3. Regional Forester's Special Status
4. Federally Listed Species (T&E)

Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

1. Filter Approach

- MIS (1990 Plan)
- Regional Forester's Special Status
- Federally Listed Species (T&E)

Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

Moist mixed conifer



Dry mixed conifer



Dry
pine



Xeric

Management Indicator species (MIS)

1. Rocky Mountain elk
2. pine marten
3. three-toed woodpecker
4. Lewis' woodpecker
5. red-naped sapsucker
6. red-breasted sapsucker
7. Williamson's sapsucker
8. downy woodpecker
9. hairy woodpecker
10. white-headed woodpecker
11. three-toed woodpecker
12. black-backed woodpecker
13. northern flicker
14. pileated woodpecker



46 species of
MESO filter

Management Indicator species (MIS)

1. Rocky Mountain elk
2. pine marten
3. three-toed woodpecker
4. Lewis' woodpecker
5. red-naped sapsucker
6. red-breasted sapsucker
7. Williamson's sapsucker
8. downy woodpecker
9. hairy woodpecker
10. white-headed woodpecker
11. three-toed woodpecker
12. black-backed woodpecker
13. northern flicker
14. pileated woodpecker



32 species of
MESO filter

List of Meso Filter terrestrial wildlife species (minus MIS)

1. American kestrel
2. Ash-throated flycatcher
3. Bald eagle
4. Barred owl
5. Big brown bat
6. Brown creeper
7. Bushy-tailed woodrat
8. California myotis
9. Flammulated owl
10. Fringed myotis
11. Great gray owl
12. Little brown myotis
13. Long-eared myotis
14. Long-legged myotis
15. Long-toed salamander
16. Mountain bluebird
17. Mule deer
18. Northern flying squirrel
19. Northern goshawk
20. Northern pygmy-owl
21. Northern saw-whet owl
22. Olive-sided flycatcher
23. Pygmy nuthatch
24. Red-breasted nuthatch
25. Southern red-backed vole
26. Townsend's big-eared bat
27. Tree swallow
28. Vaux's swift
29. Violet-green swallow
30. Western bluebird
31. Western screech-owl
32. White-breasted nuthatch

Management Indicator species (MIS)

1. Rocky Mountain elk
2. pine marten
3. three-toed woodpecker
4. Lewis' woodpecker
5. red-naped sapsucker
6. red-breasted sapsucker
7. Williamson's sapsucker
8. downy woodpecker
9. hairy woodpecker
10. white-headed woodpecker
11. three-toed woodpecker
12. black-backed woodpecker
13. northern flicker
14. pileated woodpecker



? species of
MESO filter

Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

Moist mixed conifer



Dry mixed conifer



Dry
pine



Xeric




Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement

1. Moist mixed conifer
2. Dry mixed conifer
3. Dry pine
4. Xeric

MIS:

- Structure
- Conifer species for snags
- Snag sizes
- Placement (open, closed, edge)

Management Indicator species (MIS)

1. Rocky Mountain elk
 2. pine marten
 3. three-toed woodpecker
 4. Lewis' woodpecker
 5. red-naped sapsucker
 6. red-breasted sapsucker
 7. Williamson's sapsucker
 8. downy woodpecker
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 10. white-headed woodpecker
 11. three-toed woodpecker
 12. black-backed woodpecker
 13. northern flicker
 14. pileated woodpecker
- 

32 species of
MESO filter

Questions?

