



Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 | 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Partners: Chad Karges, Ron Whiting, Jason Kesling, Katie Wollstein, Derek Shoun, Bill Dragt, Brandon Palmer, Travis Hatley, Brenda Smith, Mike Fox, Ben Nichols, Dustin Johnson, Chad Boyd, Kaylee Littlefield, Josh Hanson, Sonia Hall, Tyler Goss, Marla Polenz, Tom Segal, Thomas Mitchell, Autumn Muir, Chris Paul, Joe Sullivan, Tom Sharp, Alex Doman, Rachel Beaubien, Ken Diebel, Marc DesJardin, Andrew Donaldson, Brian Wilk, Dustin Gustaveson, Jeff Rose, Leland O’Driscoll, Sarah Mundy, Cameron Duquette

BLM-Burns Fuels

Joe Sullivan gave a presentation about the 2023 recap and 2024 outlook for the BLM fuels program. I have attached his presentation, but some of the successes were: 85,000 acres treated and increased staff to continue the heavy workload. They are currently working on fuels project planning for the next three years with hopes to start re-treating is some of the areas. I have attached the presentation, but if you were not able to find it please let me know.

A lot of the following conversations actually occurred around the Harney RFPA Liaison position that was historically funded between BLM and USFWS. It is currently open, but a BLM employee is helping partially with the RFPA’s. The collaborative came to a consensus to write a letter of support of rehiring and funding this position going forward.

ALERT Wildfire Cameras

Leland O’Driscoll presented on the Alert Wildfire camera systems currently up in Oregon. He also presented on the newer Alertwest.live which combines the Alertwildfire cameras with the ODOT trip check cameras and is a great resource. He also shared about the funding they have received through 2027 to add 13 more cameras! Let me know if you have trouble accessing his presentation please let me know. Conversations were clarifying on specifics about RFPA’s getting access to the alertwest.live program to try and triangulate smoke columns as well as what mountains will the future cameras be located on.

ODLT/TNC Trout Creek

Brandon Palmer presented on ODLT and the properties/projects they are working on and dove deeper into the newer Trout Creek property. His presentation is attached, so let me know if you have any trouble accessing it. Brandon discussed the current management and grazing regime under the new ODLT management and shared how they are building up staff capacity for more projects. He shared ODLT’s conservation priorities of connecting wild & working lands, building climate resilience, protecting cultural resources, restoring ecological health, and maintaining public access. They are working on developing robust monitoring to be able to share their lessons learned/success in the future.



Subcommittee Updates

As the organizing units where the partners carry out specific work that contributes towards the Collaborative's shared goals, we will have space for each subcommittee to report on progress, request input on specific aspects of their work, or bring proposals to the Collaborative for decisions.

1. **SOWR Subcommittee** – Josh Hanson
 - *Update on Landscape Resiliency Project 'SOWR 2'*
 - Chemical has been purchased for the full project and chemical contractors will be contracted in March for 2024 spraying. Juniper bid tours will be taking place in spring/early summer for contracts. The project end date will be June 2025.
2. **Coordinating Committee** - No updates at this time
3. **Communications Committee** – No updates at this time
4. **Stinkingwaters Subcommittee** – No updates at this time

Partner Updates

Our plan is to continue to have space for individual partners to share work they are doing individually that might be of interest to other partners, and in particular, want to hear from partners about shared goals or knowledge they gained from the Collaborative that is helping inform their work elsewhere in Harney County or beyond. Since much of this meeting is dedicated to such updates, this is just a quick check-in for other partners who might want to share particular work.

-HDP Applied for a community assistance grant and it looks promising it will be funded which would treat private land around Frenchglen as well as Radar Rd off of the Hines Logging Rd.
-Frenchglen RFPA is taking some of the collaborative principles and conversations. They had a meeting on March 7th.

Continuing “What’s Next” Conversations: Proposed Discussions for March, May Meetings and Beyond

Sonia facilitated a conversation around what the next steps for the collaborative would look like to do the workshop that Katie and Dustin presented in November. The collaborative chose that they would like to engage in a threat-based based workshop that Katie and Dustin presented on in May, but they decided to do a Stinkingwater focused mini-workshop at the March meeting. Due to the history of working in this area we felt it would be a modified workshop, but would be helpful for the collaborative to see and learn the process. The social capacity of local landowners was stressed as a crucial aspect of identifying these “prime areas” and trying to get all of the “right”(anyone who is interested in the area) people in the room is crucial for a productive workshop.



Wrap-Up

- Recap action items and deadlines
- Next meeting: March 21st

Facilitator:

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Harney County Wildfire Collaborative

VISION

We envision a range of public and private partners collaborating to strategically reduce the potential for and the impact of catastrophic wildfires and to build resilient landscapes in Harney County that preserve and enhance their social, economic and ecological values for posterity.

MISSION

The mission of the Harney County Wildfire Collaborative is to (a) encourage data collection and knowledge sharing so that sound science informs partners' management decisions, (b) foster enabling conditions, including financial, procedural, economic, social, and communications to empower partners' actions, and (c) enable coordination that promotes collective action towards achieving our shared vision.

PURPOSE

The **purpose** of the Harney County Wildfire Collaborative is for the group to reach consensus on specific, achievable, tangible and measurable steps to be taken by all entities (both public and private) to reduce the potential for and the impact of mega-fires in Harney County.

The Collaborative's efforts consist of three process phases: Suppression, Prevention and Restoration. It is understood that all phases do not run sequentially and some degree of overlap and concurrence is expected.

Suppression is defined as the communication, coordination and integration of actions taken to put fires out in both initial attack and extended attack.

Prevention is defined as fire risk reduction by minimizing the potential incident and impacts of mega-fires.

Restoration is defined as establishing and maintaining resilient plant communities that will reduce the risk of mega fires.

All efforts are viewed through the lens of preserving and promoting social, economic and ecological values.

Membership of the Collaborative is made up of any interested stakeholders with a diverse body of knowledge, skills and abilities, who are involved in aspects of wildfire within Harney County. **The Collaborative is open to all interested parties.**