



Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Participants: Jeff Rose, Sonia Hall, Natalie Martin, Autumn Muir, Andrew Olson, Josh Hanson, Kaylee Littlefield, Dustin Johnson, Scott Williamson, Chad Boyd, Chad Karges, Tyler Goss, Jason Kesling, Tyler Harris, Casey O'Connor, Marc Hudson, Shane Field, Lee Foster, Chris Paul, Alex Dohman, Marla Polenz, Jeremy Austin, JC McNelly, Dawn Davis, Brandon Palmer, Elizabeth Graser-Lindsey, Bill Dragt, Tavis Hatley, Chris and Stephanie Venelle, Kristen Shelman, Karen Moon, Toby White, Joe Sullivan, Andrew Donaldson, Sarah Mundy

March 15th Action items:

Goal 1: Informing Priorities

- Develop a plan for distributing and making accessible the final PCL map for the Stinkingwaters (once this iteration of the map is finalized).
 - Casey will integrate into public and internal BLM and interagency fire operations related systems.
 - Casey will send maps to Sarah Mundy, Tyler Goss and Jason Kesling so they can include them in conversations with private landowners around Southeast Oregon Wildfire Resilience Project (SOWR) treatments, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposal, and/or other weed and juniper treatment projects.
 - Develop a plan for distributing in a format that's useful (digital pdf, hardcopy map?) to RFPA members in the Stinkingwaters. Consider the RFPA Summit, scheduled for April 6-7. We did not identify who will take the lead on this, so Sonia will propose it to the Stinking water Subcommittee.
- Support Katie Wollstein's social values mapping project this summer.
 - Marla will check-in with Katie about Stinkingwaters landowners list.
 - Bill will point Katie to list of permittees (and addresses) in the public side of BLM's Rangeland Administrative System (RAS).
 - Everyone: Please share with Katie the names of people who live in or are directly associated with the Stinkingwaters area (e.g., agency resource managers, nongovernmental groups) and who have specific experience/perspective to share.
 - Everyone: please consider volunteering to be trained and participate in interviewing landowners on their values. Contact Katie if you are interested katherine.wollstein@oregonstate.edu



Goal 2: Pursuing Funding for Projects

- Define focus for the Stinkingwaters Subcommittee. In the near term, the focus is on PCLs and supporting the SOWR project. As the SOWR project agreements and contracts are in place, identify tasks for the longer term, and ways that the Collaborative can complement the SOWR project in the Stinkingwaters (e.g. effectiveness monitoring, pursuit of other funding to fill gaps, etc.) – Stinkingwaters Subcommittee

Goal 3: Communications and Coordination

- Reach out to Malheur County partners in SOWR to share the communications “packet” HDP is developing for the Stinkingwaters partners, and encourage them to use and share in Malheur County.
- Marla will coordinate with Josh to identify who to reach out to, and what information to include in “packet.”
- Jeff will talk to Pat Ryan at Vale BLM about Vale developing PCLs for Malheur.
- Start considering the Wildfire Collaborative’s long term plan, so that we can:
 - Ensure we are making progress towards non-urgent but important work, such as ensuring shovel-ready projects that partners pursue funding for are strategically placed
 - Establish an annual recap event, where we review each year’s accomplishments and successes, articulate the impact of our work, articulate lessons learned and improvements needed, identify interim products or processes that are exportable (outside the pilot project and even beyond Harney County).

Sonia will work with the Coordinating Committee on these longer term planning elements.

Review Action Items, Agenda Overview

- Review action items from the January 20 meeting
- Approval of January 20 meeting notes
- Agenda overview

Goal 2: Funding and implementing fuel reduction, rehabilitation and restoration projects

- We were successful in applying for the Landscape Resiliency Project apart of senate bill 762, with our ~70,000 acre treatment area on the Harney-Malheur county border east of the Stinkingwaters. It involves herbicide treatments to target annual grasses, juniper treatments, and re-seeding. The funds need to be spent by June 2023. Currently, we have herbicide selected and all aerial applicators verbally agreeing to the proposed acres. Most of the treatments will occur this fall 2022. The smaller group is meeting regularly to keep



everyone up to date on the project. This was a big win for rangelands because this bill was forest centric! Partners asked what to do with left over money predicting that we're under budget and Josh responded with reassessing after we have our herbicide and contractors locked in on price.

- We celebrated being successful with Shaylee Root cookies!

Goal 1: Using data and information to inform priorities

- Update on PCLs and efforts to make them a useful tool in the Stinkingwaters – Since last meeting we have had meetings in Juntura and Crane seeking landowner input on the proposed PCL maps that some collaborative partners put together. We received quality input about good and bad roads to safely combat a wildfire and hopefully get all firefighters on the same page if the instance comes. The next steps are to digitize the map and upload to Avenza to make it accessible when firefighters from out of the area come to help on fires. The next steps would to monitor roadside vegetation conditions to assess if modifying them is necessary and what work will need to be done for a safer line. These lines could be used this year in the Stinkingwaters if need be. It was asked if there is overlap between the SOWR funding and PCL lines and there is some roadside herbicide to target medusahead and the juniper treatments are accounting for sage-grouse habitat, wildfire prevention, etc.
- Update on plans for social values mapping in the Stinkingwaters – Kaylee Littlefield gave a presentation for Katie Wollstein who was unable to attend the meeting. Katie is is working on figuring out the social values of landowners in the Stinkingwaters and will be doing social monitoring this summer to achieve that. You can contact her if you are interested in learning more about it. I have attached her notes to the email for a thorough explanation of current activities. Please contact Josh Hanson if you do not have access to her notes.
- Update on plans for the Stinkingwaters Subcommittee – Autumn Muir discussed the significant overlap with the SOWR project and the Stinkingwaters subcommittee. Resources/capacity has gone to meeting the deliverables with the SOWR project in the short term, while partners who are not a part of that group have decided to work on the long term goals of creating/developing the PCL and PODs map. There will be a Stinkingwater subcommittee meeting April 19th @9am pst. Please contact Autumn Muir or Josh Hanson if you would like to join and are unable to.

Goal 3: Facilitating coordination and communications – Updates

- Update on communications – Marla Polenz presented on the good work she has been doing in regards to helping share the SOWR funding with the community through



newspaper, radio, and online. ODF, who the grant is administered through, does have a process to run all through media through them before being released to the public, so she has been learning that process. She is also working on Stinkinwater PCL communications and how to possibly intertwine the two projects. She has an article on drought coming out soon as well in the paper. Partners asked how communications were going with Malheur county and it was suggested to share with them what's going on with the project since half the acres are in Malheur county.

- Update on coordination – Chad Boyd gave an update from the coordinating committee conversations. He stressed that there is a lot of good work going on in the collaborative addressing short and long term issues. Similar to the Stinkingwaters update, the short term goals are achieving the SOWR project, while the long term planning of PCL's and POD's could bring more funding opportunities in the future by having a landscape framework focused on wildfire prevention, suppression, and restoration. Partner discussion followed with the collaborative looking at the next areas to move to, but acknowledging that we wouldn't likely move until the Stinkingwaters are in a good spot. Having shovel ready projects will also help us for future funding that may come quickly to the state/area. Lastly, having a yearly review of projects accomplished and looking back to learn from those lessons was brought up and had support for this idea.

Partner Projects and Plans – Offset Grazing Reserves as an Alternative to Grass Banking – Marc Hudson presented on the future project of funding an offset grazing reserve to serve Southeast Oregon when projects like SOWR would displace ranchers. His full presentation is attached and please contact Josh Hanson if you cannot get access to that. Contact Marc Hudson (marc@oregonagtrust.org, 503.858.2683) if interested in learning more or partnering on the offset grazing reserves concept and future RCPP proposal.

2022 Wildfire Season Outlook – Casey O'Connor provided a mid-March PREDICTION of the 2023 fire season, which is very early and a lot of factors can change before peak fire season. His full presentation is attached, but please contact Josh Hanson if you cannot get access.

HCWC Member Updates

- Dawn Davis gave an update on the sagebrush funding that USFWS has received from the Infrastructure Bill. There are two pots of funding totalling \$50 million over the next 5 years. One is for sagebrush implementation activities and the other is for science acquisition projects. Contact Jeff Everett (jeff_everett@fws.gov) about US Fish and Wildlife Service funding for on-the-ground projects). Contact Dawn Davis (dawn_davis@fws.gov, Office:



775.532.4029; Cell: 503.319.0594) for science support funding (pre-proposals due April 6th)

- Jason Kesling presented his RCPP application that he is applying for this year and has received sign off from SOWR partners to use their projects as partner contributions in the area. His slide is attached of proposed project.

Wrap-Up – *Sonia Hall*

- Recap action items and deadlines
- Future agenda items
- Next meeting: TUESDAY May 17th, 2022

Facilitator:

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