State Forests Stewardship Coordinating Committee – April 27, 2011

Committee Members Present: Ray Abriel (by phone), Dick Courter, Jim Geiger (by phone), Joe Holmberg, Derek Johnson, Rod Krahmer, Dan Logan, Jon Weck, and Owen Wozniak.

Committee Members Absent: Clint Bentz, Ken Bierly, Peter Daugherty, CalLee Davenport, Jim James, Chris Jarmer, Jim Johnson, Lois Loop, Steve McClure, Misty Seaboldt, Bruce Taylor.

Staff Present: Jim Cathcart, Anne Maloney, and Steve Vaught

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Attachments – See: ftp://maps01.odf.state.or.us/Private_Forests/SFSCC_4_27_11_Meeting_Summary.zip to download a folder containing all the attachments used at the meeting (referred to as Items in the meeting summary below and listed here for reference):

Item 01 – Agenda 4-27_28-11
Item 02 – Klamath-Lake District Facts
Item 03 – FY 2012 President’s Budget Request (Proposed Project List)
Item 04 – 2011 Forest Legacy Areas
Item 05 – Legacy - Coast Range - DRAFT - 2011 Public Comment Version
Item 06 - Legacy - Blue Mountains - SFSCC_4_27
Item 07 - Legacy - Columbian Cascades - SFSCC_4_27
Item 08 - Legacy - Eastside Oak - SFSCC_4_27
Item 09 - Legacy - High Lava Plains - SFSCC_4_27
Item 10 - Legacy - Klamath-Siskiyou - SFSCC_4_27
Item 11 - Legacy - Lower Columbia - SFSCC_4_27
Item 12 - Legacy - Middle Oregon Cascades - SFSCC_4_27
Item 13 - Legacy - Modoc Plateau - SFSCC_4_27
Item 14 - Legacy - Pumice and Pine - SFSCC_4_27
Item 15 - Legacy - Rogue Umpqua - SFSCC_4_27
Item 16 - Legacy - Umpqua Cascades - SFSCC_4_27
Item 17 - Legacy - Upper Klamath Basin - SFSCC_4_27
Item 18 - Legacy - Willamette Valley - SFSCC_4_27
Item 19 - Oregon Forest Legacy Program Elements
Item 20 - FY 2013 Forest Legacy Program Application Process
Item 21 - Urban Rural Priority Landscape - Clackamas County
Item 22 - Landscape Wildfire Risk – Forestland
Item 23 - Forestlands Vulnerable to Loss of Timber Markets
Item 24 - Forest Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation
Item 25 - General Forest Considerations
Item 26 - 2006 (Currently Used) Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) Layer
Item 27 - FY 2010 PMAS Reporting - Forest Stewardship
Item 28 - Stewardship Potential Discussion Map Statewide
Item 29 - Stewardship Potential Discussion Map Jackson County
Item 30 - FY 2012 SPF Western Competitive Grant Proposal Development
Item 31 - 2012 Pre-Proposal Letter SPF Western Competitive Grants
Item 32 - State Strategies Priority Issues and Opportunities
Item 33 - Uniform Resource Plan Framework
Next Meeting: 10 am to 3 pm, Tuesday, June 28, 2011, Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September Meeting Dates (Forest Legacy Project Review) – Wednesday, September 7th (Presentations) and Thursday, September 29th (Ranking). These meetings will likely be held in Salem. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

APRIL 27, 2011 MEETING SUMMARY

Klamath/Lake District Welcome – Anne Maloney, Stewardship Forester, welcomed the Committee to Klamath Falls on behalf of District Forester, Greg Pittman. See Item 2 for interesting facts about the District.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Forest Legacy

Jim Geiger (USDA Forest Service, Forest Legacy Coordinator for Regions 5, 6 and 10) briefed the Committee on the final Forest Legacy Program appropriation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 as passed by Congress earlier in the month and prospects for FY 2012.

- Forest Legacy received $53 million in funding; down almost 50% from the President’s request of 100.1 million. Probably enough funding for the top 14-15 projects; but the final project list for the appropriated amount has not been released. That will be released May 9th. It is very unlikely (but not known for certain) whether Oregon’s South Eugene Hills Phase II project was appropriated.

- Too early to tell what this level of appropriation means for the level of funding for FY 2012. The President is requesting $135 million. Oregon has two projects on the President’s list (Item 3) – Blue Mountain Heritage (#22; at the $75 million funding level) and Gilchrist Forest (#31; at the $100 million funding level).

- The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program could be appropriated project funds up to $1 million in FY 2011. The exact amount will be released May 9th. The President’s FY 2012 request is for $5 million. Still unclear on the role of States (and the Committee) will play in coordinating application for these funds. Staff promoted Oregon’s South Eugene Hills Phase II project as an excellent project to demonstrate success with this new program – especially with the likelihood this project will not get Forest Legacy Program funds.

- Expect changes in program implementation due to the recently completed Government Accounting Office (GAO) audit of Forest Legacy. Most of the changes related to easement monitoring requirements. State coordinators will be trained in the new requirements as part of the Western Region Forest Legacy Program meeting in June (Golden, Colorado).

The Committee reviewed specific goals and objectives for Oregon’s Forest Legacy Areas. See Item 4 for the current organization (by terrestrial eco-section) of Oregon’s Forest Legacy Areas. See Item 5 for an example of how each Forest Legacy Area will be described. See Items 6-18. For each workbook, see the
“Goals and Objectives” tab for the Forest Legacy Area specific goals and objectives reviewed by the Committee.

- Good discussion on the purpose of the Forest Legacy Area specific goals/objectives. (For discussion purposes, no distinction is being made between what a goal is vs. what an objective is). First, Statewide Goals have been adopted for Oregon’s Forest Legacy Program as part of Oregon’s 2010 Forest Resource Strategy (see top of page 3, Item 19). The purpose of the specific goals/objectives for each Forest Legacy Area is to interpret the Statewide Goals based on the specific attributes of the Forest Legacy Area. With respect to the evaluation of proposed Forest Legacy Program projects, proposals should address one or more of the Forest Legacy Area specific goals/objectives for the Forest Legacy Area they fall within. However the priority ranking of projects would still be based on how well the project addresses the National Forest Legacy Program evaluation criteria of Importance, Strategic and Threat.

Discussion/Direction – Overall, the Committee felt comfortable for releasing the Forest Legacy Area goals/objectives for public comment. The Committee recommends that the 14 Forest Legacy Areas be collapsed into 6 Forest Legacy Areas consistent with the EcoRegions used in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as opposed to the EcoSections used in Oregon’s Statewide Forest Assessment. Staff Note: This is an organizational change that collapses the number of Forest Legacy Areas from 14 to 6; but the actual area of land included in Forest Legacy Areas (as recommended by the Committee in 2009) remains the same. Regarding the goal/objective statements, the Committee recommended that staff reduce the level of detail in some of the statements – for example, not naming actual threatened, endangered, sensitive or rare species; instead using the more general reference to the category of threatened and endangered species. In general, the simpler, the better.

The Committee finalized the process and timeline for soliciting, reviewing and ranking Forest Legacy Program applications for FY 2013 funding. See Item 20 as marked up by the Committee. Discussion – The Committee elected not to have a subgroup of the Committee conduct an initial screening of applications. Rather, each Committee member will conduct their own initial screening using the National evaluation criteria for Importance, Strategic and Threat – along with the Oregon Forest Legacy Area goals/objective and descriptions – as a guide.

The Committee will make its decision on which proposals to invite back for formal application at its June 28, 2011 meeting.

Statewide Forest Assessment and Resource Strategy Update

Jim Cathcart (Oregon Department of Forestry) gave the Committee a brief review of Oregon’s identified priority landscapes –

1) Urban/Rural priority landscapes (see example in Item 21),
2) Landscape Wildfire Risk (Item 22),
3) Forestland Vulnerable to Loosing Timber Markets (Item 23),
4) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation (Item 24) and
5) General Forest Considerations (Item 25).

These maps are updated versions of the maps submitted as part of Oregon’s Statewide Forest Assessment in June 2010. The maps were updated to prioritize entire 12 digit Hydrological Unit Code (HUC) watersheds (as HIGH, MEDIUM or LOW in their entirety) (i.e., watersheds averaging 10 to 30
thousand acres) based on the distribution of results at the pixel level. Only watersheds with at least 40% of forest cover were rated; the remaining watersheds classified as non-forest. The General Forest Consideration priority landscape map is an overlay rating of the Landscape Wildfire Risk, Forestland Vulnerable to Loosing Timber Markets and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation ratings (each weighted the same) - with the overlay HIGH, MEDIUM and LOW ratings stratified and determined separately for western and eastern Oregon based on the “modified Jenks” identified breaks in the range of overlay scores in each region. Compared to the General Forest Considerations priority landscape map submitted as part of Oregon’s Statewide Forest Assessment in June 2010, this stratified approach results in more HIGH priority landscape areas in western Oregon and more LOW priority landscape areas in eastern Oregon.

Jim Cathcart gave the Committee a brief overview of Oregon’s 2006 Spatial Analysis Program (SAP) layer (Item 26) and its use in Performance Measure Accounting System (PMAS) reporting for the Forest Stewardship Program (Item 27).

Questions on the table are: 1) Should Oregon replace its 2006 SAP layer with a new layer developed from information in the statewide assessment? And if so, then 2) what information should be used to develop the new SAP layer?

- Staff has already answered the first question – yes. This was known prior to the requirement of Oregon developing a state assessment and resource strategy. In fact, staff incorporated the “SAP Reanalysis Project” as the methodology used in the statewide assessment to identify priority landscapes. In this context, the General Forest Considerations Map (Item 25) could serve as Oregon’s SAP layer.

- Additional direction from the national Forest Stewardship Program (USDA Forest Service) is requiring states to identify two classifications of land on their SAP layers – 1) Stewardship Potential and 2) High Potential.

- Staff recommends that Stewardship Potential simply be the area of eligibility for the Forest Stewardship Program – tribal, private industrial and family forest lands of at least 10 acres in size. Discussion – The Committee agreed with this recommendation.

- High Potential could be identified by two approaches (Item 28 (Statewide) and Item 29 (Jackson County close-up)):

  Approach 1 – Use the urban/rural priority landscape area (as defined by “Urban Stewardship Areas” and “Locally Defined Interface” Areas - see Items 28 and 29) and classify all Stewardship Potential lands within these areas as “High Potential”.

  Approach 2 – Classify Stewardship Potential that fall within HIGH and MEDIUM General Forest Consideration Priority Landscape Areas as “High Potential”. Note: Approach 2 is a slight departure to Oregon’s 2010 Resource Strategy – where Forest Stewardship Program delivery would give priority to only HIGH priority General Forest Consideration landscapes.

Discussion/Direction – The Committee preferred Approach 2 because it made direct use of the priority landscape analysis used in the statewide assessment without introducing complexity through an additional “urban/rural” interface screen.

Staff Follow-Up – Staff will determine whether to apply the Committee’s recommendation to all ownership groupings defining Stewardship Potential or just to family forestlands – the traditional focus of Oregon’s Forest Stewardship Program.
FY 2012 Western States Competitive Grant Process –
Call for Pre-Proposals – Informational. See Items 30 - 32.

Uniform Resource Plan and Endorsement System Project
Update – Of the Committee members present, Dick Courter, Joe Holmberg, Rod Krahmer, Dan Logan and Jon Weck all had attended the April 5\textsuperscript{th} and 6\textsuperscript{th} Uniform Plan Summit and indicated that good progress was made toward developing a uniform resource planning framework. See Item 33 for staff’s summary of the summit.

Roundtable – Roundtable announcements were deferred to the June 2011 meeting.

April 28\textsuperscript{th} State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Tour Participants

Neil Anderson – USDA Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forests (Speaker)
Bill Boehner – Caledonia Ranch (Landowner Host)
Susan Boehner – Caledonia Ranch (Landowner Host)
Billy Burr – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Jim Cathcart – Oregon Department of Forestry (Speaker)
Tom Collom – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dick Courter – Association of Consulting Foresters (Committee Member)
Mike DeSmit – USDA Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forests
David Ferguson – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Leonard Hill – Klamath County
Joe Holmberg – Oregon Tree Farm System (Committee Member)
Katharine Jackson – Klamath Watershed Partnership
Andy Jansky – Klamath Lake Land Trust
Derek Johnson – The Nature Conservancy (Committee Member)
Margaret Kenneally – Klamath County
Alice Kilham – Caledonia Ranch (Landowner Host)
Rod Krahmer – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Committee Member)
Dan Logan – Washington County Forest Landowner (Committee Member)
Anne Maloney – Oregon Department of Forestry (Speaker)
Crystal McMahon – Klamath Lake Land Trust (Speaker)
Bridget Nielsen – US Fish and Wildlife Service (Speaker)
Dave Ross – US Fish and Wildlife Service (Speaker)
Jennifer Simon – USDA Farm Services Agency (Speaker)
Dana Thompson – USDA Farm Services Agency
Chris VanSchaack – Klamath Watershed Partnership
Steve Vaught – Oregon Department of Forestry
Anita Ward – Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership
John Ward – Rogue Flyfishers
Jon Weck – Klamath County Forest Landowner (Committee Member)
Anne Wenner – (Landowner Host)
Owen Wozniak – Trust for Public Lands (Committee Member)

Report Prepared by:
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