

**Idaho Shared Stewardship Advisory Group (SSAG) Meeting
July 28, 2020**

**Path Forward, Meeting Notes and Agenda (included)
WORKING DOCUMENT**

Path Forward guidance derived from the July 28 meeting:

- Adopt as Operating Guidance (remain adaptive, request additional input from members prior to final adoption)
 - Uniquely Idaho Principles
 - Communications Strategy
 - Performance Metrics
 - Opportunities suggestions
- Principles Committee: no further needs.
- Metrics Committee: Develop baselines for performance metrics; build out which existing data and reports to use with Agencies; develop plans for annual report of trends. Include Ara Andrea (State Forest Action Plan) and Dennis Becker in conversations to develop annual report framework. U of I especially helpful in economic analysis.
- Opportunities Committee: Explore Blue Forest resilience bond funding mechanism. Consider if Opportunities committee has capacity to develop this idea and funding augmentation or if assistance needed. Who would be likely champion of this? Report back.
- Other
 - Continue Priority Landscapes alignment in focal areas, communications and funding work underway to develop effective cross boundary projects
 - Plan a SSAG field trip to priority landscapes
 - Explore scaling up opportunities, assigned to Landscape Coordinators: examples
 - Cross-state projects
 - Large fuel breaks
 - Report-out on what has been investigated (Ara Andrea & Coordinators)
 - Set SSAG Goals for next year, to address:
 - Develop proposed Operating Plan for SSAG
 - Develop framework for report of this year's accomplishments
 - Convene intentional conversation on how we collectively support the Forest Service in meeting the 2018 Shared Stewardship Agreement goal of doubling acres treated on National Forest System lands throughout the State.
 - Strategic engagement - legal, political, funding
 - Programmatic - Good Neighbor Authority; Stewardship Contracting
 - Set deadline for first report on accomplishments

Meeting Notes/Highlights:

SSAG non-Agency Members: Brian Wonderlich (Governor's Representative); Rep. Sage Dixon (Legislative Representative); Dan Dinning (County Commissioner); John Roberts (IFRP), Kurt Dyroff (NGO Representative); Tom Schultz (Large Manufacturing Representative- Idaho Forest Group); Brett Bennett (Small Forest Manufacturing Representative - Bennet Lumber); Knute Sandahl (Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council- State Fire Marshall), Anna Torma (Industrial Forest Landowner Representative-

PotlatchDeltic); David Easley (Family Forest Landowner Representative); Tim Christopherson (Logger Representative-Associated Logging Contractors); Senator Steve Vick (Legislative Representative); John Robison (Non-Governmental Organization Representative - Idaho Conservation League)

SSAG Agency Members: Dustin Miller (Director, Idaho Department of Lands); Peg Polichio (Idaho Shared Stewardship Coordinator); Craig Foss (State Forester); Tim Garcia (State & Private Forestry Director, Regions 1 & 4); Dave Rosenkrance (Deputy Regional Forester, Region 4); Curtis Elke (NRCS State Conservationist)

Presenters and Guests: Nate Fisher (Governor's Office); Lynn Oliver (FS/IDL); Jeff Lau (FS/IDL), Cheryl Probert (Nez Perce Clearwater NF); Chuck Mark (Salmon-Challis NF); Jeanne Higgins (Panhandle NF); Linda Jackson (Payette NF); Mel Boling (Caribou-Targhee NF); Congressional Delegation Representatives Mike Hanna (Risch); Mitch Silvers (Crapo); Tera King (IFG), Ara Andrea (IDL); Dennis Becker (University of Idaho, Dean, College Natural Resources); Paul Orbuch (USDA Shared Stewardship Consultant); Andy Brunelle (Forest Service Capital City Coordinator); Tyler Ashcroft (Forest Service Region 4); Kari Kostka (The Nature Conservancy).

Agenda (attached)

Brian Wonderlich gave opening remarks welcoming SSAG members and guests.

Dustin Miller: It's important to continue moving forward with these efforts to increase pace and scale of (needed) work in Idaho.

Dave Rosenkrance: The FS is fully committed to Shared Stewardship in Idaho; we appreciate the leadership by the governor in ID; we recognize the importance of collaborating with all landowner types.

Governor Little: Idahoans and Americans support/understand the need for healthy forests (clean water, abundant wildlife, etc.). Everyone agrees that we don't want catastrophic fires. Not everyone agrees on how to accomplish it, but everyone agrees about the need for healthy, resilient forests. This is our charge. The scale and pace increase we need to implement is pretty daunting. Gov. Little thanked the Secretary (of Ag) and Under Secretary for their efforts at promoting Shared Stewardship. *How do we increase the scope and scale?* One priority area is around Sage Hen within the Southern Priority Landscape. The state and private lands did a lot of work last year to mitigate tussock moth defoliation. (Then--answered questions.) (Answered Curtis Elke's question and recognized NRCS's work on private lands and its importance in Shared Stewardship efforts.)

Dustin: Discussed the remediation work that has been completed in the Packer John/Sage Hen area. Said he was impressed with the work that's been done on the Boise National Forest (in that area).

Tim Garcia (Chair of Principles Committee): Goal of drafting principles: to ensure that the Governor's intent (in Idaho's Shared Stewardship Agreement) is concisely represented. Committee pulled together all of the mission statements from all SSAG-represented organizations. We tried to anchor principles to resource values expressed in Idaho's 2018 Shared Stewardship Agreement and present in USDA's publication "Toward Shared Stewardship". Developed 8 principles (draft in meeting handouts). Is hopeful that advisory group will adopt principles by the end of this meeting. Titled document, *Uniquely Idaho - Principles to Guide Shared Stewardship of our Treasured Lands and Communities*. Thanked Peg for leadership with Committee and drafting principles while he was absent.

Tom Schultz (Chair of Opportunities Committee): Tom's Committee looked at different barriers and opportunities that could help or hinder progression of our Shared Stewardship efforts. Forest Resilience Bonds (FRB) are being used in California and Colorado. We could follow this model and find beneficiaries who can invest in and sustain these types of needed forestry projects. Beneficiaries work with National Forest Foundation (NFF) or an NGO like National Wild Turkey Foundation or Blue Forest Conservation. There are opportunities here to fully fund forest restoration treatments. We should explore opportunities to acquire more LiDAR data (IDL, last year, has flown almost 2-million acres). LiDAR analyses could give us a more detailed picture of stand densities and conditions of forests across priority landscapes. Referred to Idaho NRCS's willingness to contribute to Shared Stewardship efforts--and hiring of new NRCS State Forester (Chris Town). Montana is interested in collaborating with Idaho on cross-state-boundary projects.

John Robison (Chair of Metrics/Key Performance Indicators Committee): (Discussed draft document in meeting handouts). Key Metrics include:

- **Double the annual acres treated through active management on National Forests.** Currently there are approximately 50,000 acres treated on NFS lands statewide. Proposed metrics include the following: Acres treated now and annually moving forward; Changes in Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) of these acres; Changes in insect and disease risks and mortality, infestation rates, etc.
- **Reduce fuels and wildfire risk to communities and promote cross-boundary work on other lands within priority landscapes.** Proposed metrics include the following: Acres treated within the high fire risk areas mapped in the State Forest Action Plan and the Community Wildfire Protection Plans (all ownerships); Acres protected within Firesheds (all ownerships); Community engagement in hazardous fuels reduction efforts (participants in the Firewise program, number of applications for fuel treatments, value of grants).

Are we using authorities like we should to really/fully collaborate? Taking full advantage of Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)/Joint Chiefs funding opportunities?

We need to survey people; need to ask people what they think. We need a stakeholder survey.

Paul Orbuch: We developed a national pilot Shared Stewardship Performance survey for Idaho in Cooperation with the Washington Office of FS, Idaho Advisory Committee including Peg Polichio, Andy Brunelle, John Robison, and Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC) staff. Purpose is to explore how we are collectively doing implementing Shared Stewardship in Idaho. How is FS doing with partners? How is the state doing? Is this what we need to do? Idea is to determine how we are doing now and consider trends over time. What improvements are needed? Survey is going out in next month or so; IFRP will host and disseminate survey.

Craig Foss (Chair of Communications Committee): Discussed draft communications document in meeting handouts. The committee worked with IDL Public Information Officer (PIO) Sharla Arledge), and National Forest Public Information Officers (PAO) to draft an interagency communications plan; developed 2-page summary/progress handout recently. Important to get people out on the ground to see, and to get (consistent messaging) out from SSAG members to the publics/stakeholders. Craig also provided an update on Shared Stewardship staffing at IDL.

Lynn Oliver: gave PowerPoint showing progress in S-ID Priority Landscape focal areas. Payette NF is using the Wyden Authority to get cross-boundary work extended to adjacent private ground (Granite Meadows Project).

Jeff Lau: gave PowerPoint showing progress in N-ID Priority Landscape focal areas.

Tim Garcia: Leanne Marten and Frank Beum (Regional Foresters) are reaching out to Shared Stewardship staff/partners/projects through Tyler Ashcroft, Shared Stewardship Coordinator for FS R4, including Idaho.

Curtis Elke: Envisions NRCS State Forester, State Biologist, State Program Manager, State (Water Quality Manager) and other NRCS District staff all getting heavily involved. NRCS primarily works on private ground, however, can focus our resources on public lands, too.

Cheryl Probert and Chuck Mark (Forest Supervisors): Delivered PowerPoint presentation on "using all available tools" used to get more work done on the ground. Using Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) authorities. Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM). Showed graphics of timber removal for this year and projected trends through 2023. Increasing fuels reduction--across north-ID National Forests and Salmon-Challis NF. Can we use GNA to help national forests with prescribed fire? Meeting the Shared Stewardship Agreement objective of doubling the acres treated from 50,000 to 100,000 acres on all National Forests in Idaho by 2025 will require use of all tools. The USFS cannot meet this target alone. Partner assistance will be needed to build capacity.

Other Accomplishments

Prescribed Fire Restoration NEPA

- Forest wide NEPA coverage
- Increase the acres treated using mechanical treatments and prescribed fire.

Salmon Challis Feasibility Study

- Conducted by with the RMRS and the U of I to evaluate the feasibility of a range of forest products related business opportunities.

Nez Perce-Clearwater Tethered Logging

- Working with Idaho Forest Group, Danielson logging, Potlatch, and Oregon State University to look at the impacts of tethered logging on soils and steep slopes

New Collaborative Groups

- Targhee Forest Collaborative Group- 2019
- Caribou Forest Initiative- 2017
- Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative-2013
- Efficiency in Public Collaboration NPC - 2019

Tom Schultz: Described Notice of Intent /litigation - *Cottonwood Decision* (based on grizzly bear habitat) which is being used by groups to litigate and potentially, to shut down all forest plans on Kootenai and Lolo National Forests.

John Robison: Role of Collaboratives to "shepherd" planned projects through--Collaborative members can support projects, file amicus briefs, etc., to help (guard) projects from (stopping) litigation.

Dustin Miller and Brian Wonderlich: Dustin: We want to get momentum going here. This is an open dialogue; open discussion. Brian: Next steps, need to think about where we go from here. At the conclusion of Year 1, there is a lot to show--extensive planning for future work on the ground--and this is a good foundation. Now, we need to build on that; define what we want to do next. Need to assess/measure/define accomplishments--then next spring, to begin implementation and need to define next projects.

John Robison: As we have successes and breakthroughs on things, we need to share these through this network/advisory group. Important to share "fails" too. Show what adaptive management we've needed to practice. There is a webinar coming up on Collaboratives meeting (usefully) online:

https://www.icl.org/expanding-collaboration-virtually-a-case-study-the-southwest-pennsylvania-water-network/?mc_cid=eafc3239d5&mc_eid=f6e84abb18

Tim Garcia: Idaho needs to really show an example of true cross-boundary work. Perhaps focus on a project with a single contractor working across ownerships.

Dustin: I'm "all in" with showcasing a true landscape (cross-boundary) project on the ground. He will meet with Tim to define where this will get done.

Craig: We are focusing on working on state and private lands on perimeters of already-planned national forest projects.

Kurt Dyroff: Timing is now, rise above politics. Time for broader community support, turn up the volume. The economy, engagement, personal health and safety. Despite challenges, Idaho's forests and Shared Stewardship remain nimble and contemporary. This is relative to constituencies.

Tom Schultz: Our goals should define how often, and when; we meet in the future.

From Tom Schultz to Everyone: 10:59 AM (in chat)

1) Cadence for how often to meet and goals for the next year; 2) Fire break potential analysis. BLM did work to address fire breaks across multiple states. Could something similar be done for priority landscapes? 3) Create a framework for a report for this year's accomplishments. We've discussed doubling the acres treated. Who owns that? How do we collectively support the USFS in meeting their goals? Need to set a deadline for our first report.

John Roberts: The Metrics/KPI committee needs feedback; needs to know if metrics in this draft are approved--is there approval for John Robison's list?

Peg called the question - are products displayed today acceptable as "operating" documents - all agreed. Yes, Committee work presented are our operating guidance, including: *Uniquely Idaho Principles*; Communications Strategy, Metrics/Key Performance Indicators and Opportunities suggestions are considered to be our Operating Guidance. (Committee members and organizations that they represent may still review and provide feedback on these documents before they are to be finalized).

Closing Remarks:

Dave Rosenkrance - Thanks to all for efforts, pleased with progress. Let's use our Priority Landscape Coordinators to find opportunities to go beyond the routine for cross boundary projects. Set the stage for more to get done.

Dustin Miller: Let's "dig in and keep up our momentum"; this is a pivotal time to accomplish cross boundary work. Let's meet goals of the Governor for Shared Stewardship in Idaho.

Brian Wonderlich: We continue to make steady progress; cross boundary execution is our foundation; demonstrate cross boundary projects, replicate around the state, and key is getting dollars to the ground. Testing grounds for new innovative ideas. Excellent accomplishments to date - appreciate the dedication and skills of Peg Polichio, our State Coordinator.

Governor Brad Little's
Idaho Shared Stewardship Advisory Group

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

9:00 am - 12 pm MDT; 8:00 am - 11 pm PDT

Agenda

Facilitator: Peg Polichio, Idaho Shared Stewardship Coordinator

- Welcome, Opening Remarks - Brian Wonderlich (Governor's Office), Dustin Miller (IDL Director), Dave Rosenkrance (Forest Service Deputy Regional Forester); **Governor Little with Q&A - 30 min**

- Updates from Committee Leaders - *50 min*
 - Tim Garcia ~ Idaho Shared Stewardship Principles Committee
 - Tom Schultz ~ Opportunities Committee
 - John Robison ~ Metrics Committee
 - Craig Foss ~ Communications Committee

- *Break - 5 min*

- Updates from South and North Idaho Priority Landscape Coordinators - Lynn Oliver and Jeff Lau - *25 min with Q&A*

- Perspectives from National Forests in Idaho ~ progress toward achieving goals of SS Agreement ~ representative Forest Supervisors Cheryl Probert (Nez Perce-Clearwater) and Chuck Mark (Salmon-Challis) - *20 min*

- *Break - 10 min*

- **General Conversation and Advice** - Brian Wonderlich and Dustin Miller - *40 min*
 - What have we learned?
 - What needs to be expanded or changed?
 - What are our priorities going forward?

- **Next Steps**

- **Conclude meeting at 12 PM Mountain Time**