November 6, 2019 Subcommittee on Federal Forests

In attendance:

Board members:

Joe Justice
Nils Christoffersen
Cindy Deacon Williams

Ex-Officio

Tom Imeson

Salem Staff:

Peter Daugherty
Chad Davis
Hilary Olivos-Rood

Public:

Rex Storm
Linda Lind

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm

State Forester Daugherty completed roll call.

Introduction and Agenda Review

Chair Christoffersen announced the issues in front of the Subcommittee, and suggested for the members to continue to focus on in 2020. He established the goals for the meeting before reviewing the main topic.

Shared Stewardship Agreement Overview

- State Forester Daugherty offered some background on the Shared Stewardship Agreement and explained why it is not necessarily the same way business has been done before. Noted a shift of power between Federal and State government was discussed and other collaborative agreements which are done by other states were reviewed. Stated a desire to formalize the Oregon Way, pace, and scale of treatments on Federal lands and thought the shared stewardship agreement is a good fit with the interagency Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) program. Characterized this agreement as an evolution of the agencies relationship and collaborative nature. He outlined what the agreement includes for stakeholder engagement, forest resilience goals, and overall vision to jointly determine management needs on a statewide scale, and the use of all available tools.
- Commented on a 20-year plan was included that explicitly called out direct actions to build in accountability, and as a starting point with other partners who planned to become part of the greater framework. Shared commitment and focus with outcomes and metrics were discussed. Stated a Forest Action Plan that sets state priorities will need to be updated, and how state involvement will help set the 20-year strategic plan, which is filled by the Governor's Wildfire Response Council (GWRC). Discussed how local communities will establish levels of treatments and work with stakeholders on the appropriate tools, as well become integrated into USFS planning with consideration of the agency's five-year operational plan. Noted how the plan will also include an interagency effort on staff sharing to meet agencies goals.

- Highlighted shared stewardship agreement next steps.
    - Bring in potential external partner collaborative groups like Non Government Organizations (NGO's) and determine how they would like to participate. Identified a need for some collaborative decision framework to be set in place, as the remaining portions of the agreement are shaped and implemented.
    - Noted a consideration of Federal funding to match State funding.
    - Listed a goal to update ODF district staff with the collaborative information that merges, especially in the Northeast region of Oregon.
- Davis commented on how the agreement will hold up with the change in administration, funding and agencies priorities over the next 20 years. He emphasized partnership involvement and sustainability were considered.
- Davis reviewed the need to pull out the substantive and relevant data shared across the interagency resources and shared some of the challenges of the agreement. He then discussed how the prioritization will be surveyed, selected, and communicated. Note that consideration was also given to how state and federal agency relationships and goals may differ between other states within the Pacific Northwest.
- Lind commented that ODF is the facilitator of the agreement and that it is statewide. Stated that information is beginning to be disseminated on how shared stewardship works with other agencies in Oregon. Noted the goal is to have more impact on a greater scale. She described the nexus of the GWRC with the shared stewardship agreement.
- Board members provided feedback.
    - Consider holding discussions on policy guidance for the Department as they proceed in implementation of the shared stewardship agreement. The language in the agreement is quite expansive, but the Board should weigh-in on what the Board perceives as priorities.
        - Reviewed what areas of Board guidance may be helpful in the efforts to implement the agreement's objectives. Discussed starting with a review of the value sets, created from the agreement, and determine the specific areas the Department's actions will be optimized.
        - Addressed the need to consider communities more broadly, to not limit to human communities, and include wildlife communities. Davis mentioned the Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (QWRA) and the benefit for the Subcommittee members to review. He stated he will distribute to Subcommittee Board member to help explain the GWRC analysis and may also help better understand the intent of the shared stewardship agreement. Noted that he will outline sections of the agreement to indicate the work people are most likely willing to implement.
    - Reviewed the infrastructure elements within the agreement and how these elements are covered in the QWRA. State Forester Daugherty commented on the Department's involvement with the study. Discussed how the agreement may inform and decipher who should participate in the next revision.
    - Clarified the priorities of the agreement and what decision space is available on a local level. Asked members to consider how these values, priorities, and

objectives translate. Established need to set the appropriate parameters and incentives that are beneficial and useable on a local level.

- Discussed the consideration for a state pool of revenue, created through interagency efforts, to address non-revenue generating treatments in areas across the State. Stated there is a need to consider authorities or jurisdictional parameters that may be out of date, and this may provide opportunity for a Federal policy review and provide room to work with the Department.
- Thought about the scope of the work overall, and whether or not this remains on the mitigation side or whether it should expand to include the crossover of work in other divisions, as well as other partner agencies and inclusion of NGO or stakeholders.

Subcommittee Next Steps

- Discussed how the subcommittee can shepherd next steps after the Federal Forest (FF) workgroup is established, and potentially be reconfigured to carry out the GWRC recommendations and updates.
- Reviewed the creation of the shared stewardship advisory committee, where it would be housed if assigned, and how the FF subcommittee can help with facilitating conversations with the Governor to initiate this idea (e.g., Idaho shared stewardship group). State Forester Daugherty stated he will shared the Idaho information with the Subcommittee members.

Public Comment

- No further comment provided.

Wrap-up Summary and Next Steps

- Chair Christoffersen recommended the subcommittee meet again on January 7, the afternoon prior to the Board meeting for approximately two hours, and as late in the day as possible. The Subcommittee Chair and State Forester will flush out agenda for January 7, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

HR
Meeting Minutes Approved at the January 7, 2020 Subcommittee Meeting