

**South Fork John Day Coordinated Resource Management Planning
February 28th, 2018
Meeting #1 Notes**

Attendees:

Amy Stiner – SFJDWC	Bob Hassmiller – BMRD	Jimmy Eisner – BLM
Phil St. Clair – SFJDWC	Sue Greer – OWEB	Chip Favre – BLM
Joanne Keerins – SFJDWC	Dan Armichardy – BMRD	Rebecca Hile – BLM
Justin Rodgers – BLM	Dustin Hollowell – BMRD	Stephanie McKinney – BLM
Cindy Quezada – ONF	Mark Croghan – USBR	Russ Powell - ODFW
Jeff Maben – SNW & Private	Lorraine Vogt – NRCS	M.T. Anderson – SFJDWC & Permittee
Brent Smith – ODFW	Kirk Ausland – ODF	Jeff Neal – Private Citizen
Ryan Torland – ODFW	Mary Lou Welby – BMRD	Ryan Falk – USFS
Ken Boucher – BMRD	Elise Delgado – SFJDWC	Dan Marvin – ODFW PWSWA
Laurie Montgomery – BMRD	Sasha Fertig – BMRD	Amanda Rainey – BMRD
Nick Stiner - BMRD		

Agenda Overview

- Welcome and overview
- Audacious Statistic
- CRMP overview
- Partner Input – priorities for this watershed
- Lunch
- CRMP document
- Breakouts & report outs

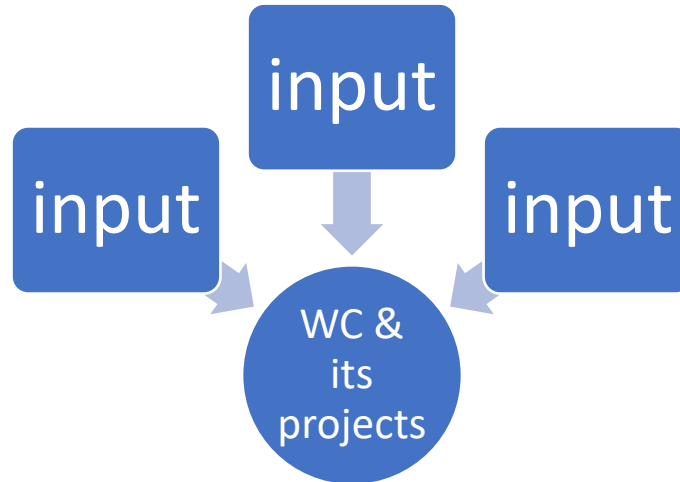
Meeting Objectives

- Re-familiarize CRMP
- Recommit to revived CRMP
- Organization’s priorities for the South Fork John Day Watershed
- Assign Workgroups & Share observations
- Agree on timelines

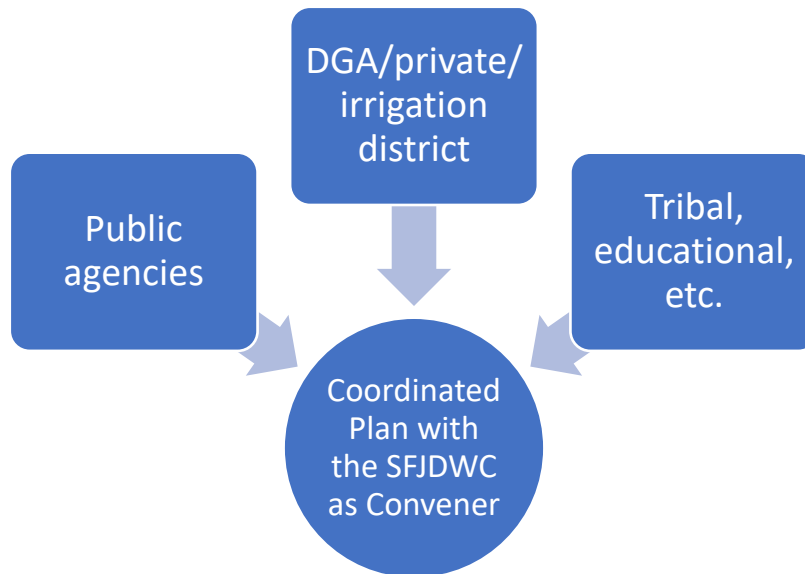
Facilitator: Shawn Morford, Executive Director for the Network of Oregon Watershed Council’s. Shawn welcomed the group and went over the agenda for the day, and the objectives of the meeting. She described the typical structure of a watershed council in Oregon (Model #1), with the Council’s receiving input and guidance from stakeholders, and the Council implementing the projects. She then described what it is the Council is aiming for with the Coordinated Resource Management Planning group (Model #2). The Council is acting as the convener of all the stakeholders in the watershed, and the Coordinate Plan that the stakeholders produce will guide the actions in the South Fork John Day Watershed.

Watershed Council Model

Model #1



Model #2



Overview by Amy Stiner

South Fork John Day Watershed Council: Founded in the late 1980s as the Upper South Fork John Day Watershed Council. In 2015, to maintain status as a Watershed Council, the Council expanded to cover the entire South Fork John Day River Watershed. The Council has a board of 7 voting Directors and 2 Associate Directors. 93% of the land in the watershed is publicly managed, with the other 7% being private property.

The Council focuses on projects for water quality/quantity, fish and wildlife habitat, partnership development, and education & outreach. Common project types include; juniper removal, upland water developments, aspen enhancement, forestry, noxious weed control, youth education, workshops & field tours, and data collection.

Coordinated Resource Management Planning: Murderers Creek CRMP was written in 1972 and revised in 1982 and 1992. The Council was looking for a way to accurately represent the Lower South Fork (new territory) and came across the CRMP.

Mission of a CRMP: Improve resource management by providing support and technical assistance in the development and implementation of Coordinated Resource Management through community-based, locally-led, cooperative processes.

Included in a CRMP document:

1. A description of the area involved, including land ownership, resources and features
2. A list of land and resource management objectives that all parties have contributed and agreed to
3. A list of management activities or actions that will achieve each objective
4. The location of each project or practice
5. A schedule of activities and projects to be implemented
6. A commitment to accomplish each activity from the responsible individual(s)
7. A means for evaluating progress, and providing adaptive management

Steps to CRMP Process

1. Recognize the opportunity and get organized
2. Conduct the first meeting. Invite area land owners, resource managers, and other stakeholders to participate.
3. Define the geographic boundaries of the planning area.
4. Consider multiple resource issues and collect existing data. Inventory, assess, and evaluate natural resources including; soil, water, plant and animal.
5. Identify objectives and concerns
6. Develop action and funding plans to achieve both individual and group objectives.
7. Create and re-evaluate the CRM plan to ensure that all problems and objectives are considered and addressed.
8. Devise a field monitoring system and schedule annual review sessions.
9. Implement the plan through active field projects. Coordinate management activities.
10. Annually review monitoring data, progress, and new issues or opportunities. Modify plan as needed. Coordinate upcoming activities and management.

Council's goals for CRMP

- Improve resource management through community-based, locally-led, cooperative process.
- Produce an updated management plan and a 5-year scope of work that represent values of lower South Fork landowners, land managers, and community members.
- Leverage projects and funding to expand impact and scale of project work in the watershed.

Council's Roles in CRMP

- Coordinate & Facilitate Group
- Pursue funding opportunities
- Contracting and Project Management
- Community outreach, and education

Timeline

- November – February: Identify, priorities, & interested stakeholders
- February 28th: Kick-off meeting
- March: Workgroups update sections of the CRMP document
- March 30th: Produce a Memorandum of Understanding and send out for signatures.
- Annual meeting every February – March

Audacious Statistics: Shawn asked the group to write down 1 or 2 outlandish-pie in the sky-type of statistics, that in a perfect world we would be able to achieve or create with a successful CRMP group. The list below is what the group wrote down.

- As a result of our work, steelhead in SFJDR are delisted
- Collaborative process provides missing key to achieve Wildhorse objectives

- Anyone of us can communicate in a general way for the others
- 100% community and partner support for the vast project work we complete
- Murderers Ck Mule Deer herd recovers to 10,000
- South Fork gets its own Spring Chinook population of 200 spawners
- Restored Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Significantly Lowered Water Temperature
- Restore all available steelhead habitat to full potential
- Complete removal of juniper & annual grasses
- Reduced size of Federal acres burned in wildfires
- Increase stream flow in August-October, and lower water temperatures
- Improve Mule Deer habitat, Juniper removal and weeds, and water quality/fish number
- Lots of 8-point Bulls
- Very limited feral horse herd
- Anadromous fish populations back to historical levels
- Whole watershed recovery; riparian, steelhead, livestock management, and horses
- Complete restoration or enhancement of the habitat components to achieve and maintain populations at objective levels
- Murderers Creek wild horse numbers within AML
- Showcase for others to follow
- Feral horse herd controlled to management levels
- Landscape ridge to stream back to functioning condition – ability to maintain resiliency
- Historical levels of native fish in watersheds with restored functions and processes
- Healthy watershed where fire can play its natural role
- Recover mule deer to management objectives
- Recovery of 10,000 wintering Mule Deer
- Attaining water quality standards year round
- Partnerships for restoration projects and coordination/communication with other ongoing planning efforts in the area. Examples are the Murderers Creek wild horse joint management plan, Bark large landscape project, Murderers Creek Allotment Management Plan.
- Return the watershed to as close to the natural process as possible
- Do nothing to outrage the local community
- Agency recognition of the impact they have on small communities and their effect on economic stability in the small communities
- Agency recognition that the local communities, agriculture, and industry, are making an effort for conservation.

From these audacious statistics we can pull main objectives for the CRMP

1. 100% community and partner support for the vast project work we complete
2. Murderers Creek Mule Deer herd recovers to 10,000
3. Spring Chinook population of 200 spawners
4. Delisting of Steelhead – increased/improved habitat
5. Healthy watershed where fire can play its natural role
6. Murderers Creek wild horse numbers within AML
7. Increased water quantity and reduced stream temperatures

Agency Priorities for SFJD Watershed: Each agency present described their priorities for the South Fork John Day Watershed.

Missing partners: OSU researchers, OSU extension, Oregon Parks, Recreation groups (Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance), Tribes, Private Landowners

Blue Mountain Ranger District Priorities

- The Bark Project area is the major planning area in the South Fork John Day Watershed. They will begin data collection in 2018, with a decision in 2020.
- They will focus on Landscape resiliency, processes and functions that maintain and enhance conditions. They look at the watershed condition framework and would like to see a Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) come along with decision document. The WRAP identifies actions on public lands.
- Typical actions; thinning, juniper removal, prescribed burning, aquatic restoration, recreation, roads, barrier removal.
- They have a 3-pronged approach, vegetation/roads/fuels analysis, range/wildhorse NEPA, aquatic actions (BDA, meadows, barriers).
- Ongoing activities in the Watershed: murderers creek burning/prescribed fire, juniper thinning
- Limitations: Funding, Staff, & Time

Ochoco National Forest

- Focus on whole watershed restoration, ridgetop to valley bottom. Stand health within Historic Range of Variability (HRV), and fuels reduction.
- Willow/Pine (Sunflower) project area: timber work, pile burning.
- South Fork and Corner Creek Fires are being assessed for reforestation.
- They are assessing riparian and aquatic restoration, and riparian exclosures where there sensitive areas such as; Three forks, Mud springs, Aspen exclosure and Frazier area.
- They have an emphasis on controlling invasive species, EDRR (early detection, rapid response), medusa head high priority
- Grazing permittee; Allotment Management Planning (AMP) in the Sunflower Cluster AMP. New pasture fences, exclosure modifications, rebuilt water developments, stream restoration
- Black Canyon wilderness area: there is minimal management, but they do have crews maintain the trail
 - The group was interested in any legacy impacts with the Black Canyon Wilderness Area
- They look forward to working together on the CRMP

Prineville BLM

- John Day Basin Resource Management Plan, completed in 2015. This Plan provides guidance for different programs
- Wildhorse and Burro program, joint Environmental Impact Statement with USFS for the Murderers Creek herd
- Range: South Fork rangeland health assessment, permit renewals, fence mapping
- They are assessing spring exclosures, and the extent of the protective fencing
- Hydrology: Aquatic Inventory & Monitoring (AIM), randomly assigned points for monitoring
- Burned Area Response: 2 phases of fencing, planning to do the final phase of fencing following fires
- Fisheries; consultation with National Marine Fisheries
- Wildlife: they have a Memorandum Of Understanding with seasonal closures with ODFW
- Botany: district MEAD Environmental Assessment; annual herbicide treatment plan, spraying for different invasives
- Follow protocols for Wild and Scenic Area, and ACEC (areas of critical environmental concern)
- NEPA process, and prioritization is ongoing, the process is slow, they have 1.6 million acres to manage, and prioritize projects.
- Very limited resources & staff. Required consultation with Fisheries, Wildlife, Botany (invasives), & cultural (NHPA & SHPO), and they are hopeful to streamline consultations

- It was asked if they had any Vegetation management plans for the South Fork? Rebecca responded that there were none that she knew of, but that she would look into it.

Bureau of Reclamation

- They can provide Technical Assistance to private and state land managers
- They primarily work on fish passage, and stream habitat, not uplands
- CRMP will inform their work priorities balanced with other program areas
- Assist with LiDAR, Assessments (Murderers Creek Ranch Geomorphic Assessment for ODFW), conditions, needs, engineering/design, planning, permitting, ESA Compliance, archaeological clearance

NRCS

- Priorities County wide: Invasives, Forest Health, Grazing Management, Water Quantity/Quality
- Private lands only
- EQIP, CREP, CSP

ODFW

- Mule Deer Winter Range
- Recreation
- Anadromous Fish
- Aspen
- Fire Rehab
- Silviculture Treatments – thinning pine
- Stream restoration
- Goal: find areas of overlap for restoration and cooperate/partner on whole-watershed restoration across all ownership.

ODF

- Private forestland focus
- Salvage and replanting after fire
- Compliment federal land fire rehab on private land
- CRMP could assist in joint public private shared prescriptions
- Research with annual grasses and fire
- Juniper utilization
- Job creation
- Biochar
- Recreation

Break-out groups (List of participants/group attached at the end of the Notes):

Questions to Discuss and report back

1. Are the problems (issues/concerns) in old CRMP still relevant now? Which rise to the top?
2. Are the strategies still relevant?
3. Are there other issues/concerns should be addressed in new CRMP?
4. What might be shared measures?

Agriculture

- Document formatting is outdated
- Would like to see entire South Fork watershed included, not just Lower South Fork
- Most of the issues are still the same from the 1992 version
- Need to re-work the strategies/solutions for the issues
- Additional issues need to be added

Timber/Roads

- CRMP needs updated to current forestry language (HRV/NRV)
- Fuel Breaks along private boundaries and roads
- Insects and diseases are a bigger factor to address
- Add information on juniper removal
- Fire prevention – management manage fires under appropriate conditions, depending on land ownership
- Importance of fire lookouts in area

Wildlife/Recreation

- The document is out of date referencing upland game bird species/waterfowl
- Basically needs a re-write and update to the wildlife section, also update management objectives, species types, rare/endangered species
- Some of the wildlife issues should be re-categorized to Agriculture or fisheries
- Need to update the access management
- The species lists are not necessary
- The recreation section will need to be updated as to what has or has not been completed and updated to today's recreational needs.
- Recreation should include winter range closures, and travel management (green dot roads)

Hydrology/Aquatics

- Change to goals and objectives, rather than problems, and problems are narrower compared to 1992
- Outdated practices, need whole new list
- Identify the root causes, and work on the root cause, rather than treating the symptoms
- Grazing strategies will need changed, improved riparian condition today
- Fencing exclosures on FS streams on federal land may push grazing into other riparian areas
- Upland developments
- Feral horse winter range
- Need to develop prioritization sheet to avoid band aid approach and tie to BPA/ATLAS/FIP process
- Inventory needs

Next Steps

Amy Stiner will compile notes from today's meeting and distribute to the group. She will reach out to the groups that may not be represented at today's meeting. She will coordinate revisions of the different sections of the CRMP document. She will also produce a Memorandum of Understanding and distribute to the participants. She will coordinate a 2nd meeting, once the groups have provided revisions, to discuss the revised document, and begin compilation of a 5-year scope of work.

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