
Turning Swords into Plowshares: Collaborative Conservation

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Blue Mountains Forest Partners

The right place,
at the right time,
by the right people,
for the right reasons

BMFP

- Convened in 2006
 - Grant and Harney Counties, Oregon
 - Malheur National Forest
 - All rural, highly timber-dependent
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BMFP Membership

- Conservationists
 - Timber industry
 - Loggers and contractors
 - Ranchers
 - Private landowners
 - Tribes
 - County government
 - State agencies
 - Forest Service (federal “partners”)
 - Others
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BMFP Organizational Foundation

- Operations Manual
 - Operations Committee
 - Full Group
 - Subcommittees
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BMFP Project Development

- Based on 2 prioritization processes
 - USFS proposes several treatment areas within prioritized watersheds; full group selects area
 - USFS gathers field data
 - Summer field trips and office meetings
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BMFP Project Development – Con't

- Group provides proposals for action to USFS
- USFS drafts and shares proposed action with collaborative; amendments are proposed
- USFS prepares NEPA documentation and issues decision
- Monitoring

Best Practices

- Transparency!
 - Inclusive, well-rounded membership
 - Clear ground rules and operating principles
 - Go slow to go fast
 - Focus on areas of agreement
 - Common vocabulary
 - Liberal use of “the great elixir”
 - Recognize and support change
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The Key to Successful Collaboration:

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at the right time,
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for the right reasons
