

## Funding Subcommittee phone call; April 21, 2017; 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

### Summary

Four participants joined the Funding Subcommittee call to primarily discuss the process by which grant funding is collaboratively identified, applied for, and managed. Building USFS capacity for completing NEPA documentation was also discussed. Overall, the conversation centered on how Collaborative members can support and advance the pursuit of funding for CFLR projects.

### Attendees

Jonathan Kusel  
Bobette Jones

John Owen  
Todd Sloat

### Action Items

- **Sierra Institute** to schedule meeting with Janine Book and Funding Subcommittee members.
- **B. Jones** to compile a list of NEPA ready projects and associated funding requirements.
- **Sierra Institute** to add D. Mayer to next full-group meeting agenda regarding fire management.

### Meeting Notes

- J. Kusel proposed that the subcommittee discuss a process by which grants are collaboratively identified, applied for, and managed. Furthermore, identifying opportunities for external organizations (non-federal) to participate in the early stages of NEPA; can the Collaborative and USFS agree on a mechanism to diversify the labor for planning?
- T. Sloat described a process for identifying grants that includes a number of subcommittees dedicated to specific topics. Each subcommittee is responsible for identifying funding opportunities within their purview. T. Sloat has seen successful outcomes through this “compartmentalizing” process.
- It was noted that recreation projects will be largely dependent on grant funding.
- Participants began discussing the opportunities for third-party involvement in NEPA projects. It was agreed upon that USFS staff limitations are a bottleneck in many cases.
- B. Jones described an organizational hesitancy (within USFS) when it comes to outsourcing NEPA work. Generally, districts/forests have had little success in altering the internal

process to include outside assistance. However, delegating survey work is one way to mitigate the agency bottleneck. Stand exams are another good example. Both of these processes have very clear objectives and meet USFS requirements.

- A Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project is a good opportunity to develop a process for securing funding that would include coordination between the USFS and Collaborative members. The next full-group meeting can include a presentation on what is needed to move GNA forward with Collaborative support. **Future Meeting Topic**
- J. Kusel proposed a hypothetical process by which T. Sloat, or another Collaborative member, would act as a project manager for external parties involved in planning. If there are capacity gaps identified with the planning work – archaeology, for example - the project manager can identify an appropriate party to accomplish the work with USFS oversight.
  - B. Jones is interested in pursuing this type of process; however, Janine Book, Hat Creek District Ranger, will need to be involved in the conversation.
- Participants agreed to schedule a meeting with J. Book prior to the next full-group meeting to discuss planning processes. **Action Item: Sierra InSTITUTE** to schedule a meeting with Janine Book, Hat Creek District Ranger, regarding meeting outcomes from 4/21/17.
- J. Kusel asked what the funding requirements are to implement the Crossroads project. It is known that Crossroads will not “pay its own way”.
  - B. Jones mentioned a NFWF funding opportunity in the range of \$100-400k. J. Kusel recommended pursuing this funding and begin developing a process to collaboratively submit proposals/acquire funding.
- It was clear in the last full-group meeting that the Collaborative is ready to move on to the “next big project”. Badger was identified as a good next step. B. Jones said it would be beneficial to have a field tour in Badger in the coming months. **Future Meeting Topic: Badger field tour**
- The topic of project priorities and funding needs was raised. It would be helpful to know what projects are NEPA ready and what the funding requirements are to implement. **Action Item: B. Jones** to compile list of NEPA projects and associated funding requirements.
- B. Jones requested that Debbie Mayer, USFS Fire Management Officer, be added to the next full-group meeting agenda re: prescribed fire on Hat Creek Ranger District. **Action Item: Sierra InSTITUTE** to add D. Mayer to next full-group meeting agenda.