



Annual Report 2015

Ed Keith, COFSF Board Chair

Welcome to the Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation's (COFSF's) second annual report! This report shines a light on some of the many achievements we have accomplished in partnership with the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative (OFRC) and the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) during this past year. It also provides a financial summary—and some hints about where we are headed in 2016.

Since formation of COFSF six years ago, the Board has invested time and energy in laying a firm organizational foundation. We have updated our bylaws, developed new financial management tools, and bolstered our fiscal accountability. We have secured \$104,000 in grant funding and worked with 12 different contractors to undertake work ranging from the facilitation of OFRC to completing a report on the monitoring findings within the CFLR landscape. Taken as a whole, we have expanded our role in the support of collaborative forest restoration efforts in Central Oregon.

As collaboration becomes increasingly recognized as an effective approach to forest restoration and the processes that support collaboration mature, the Foundation is also maturing as an organization. That means planning for the future by developing longer term budgets, engaging in a strategic visioning process, and working ever closer with the two collaboratives, as together we explore opportunities for new partnerships that further our mission.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to read this report. As you do, I'm confident you will be impressed with the work being accomplished in the realm of forest restoration in Central Oregon. The Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation is proud to be a part of this noble effort.



Facilitating Effectiveness for the Ochoco Forest Restoration

Kristin Dodd, OFRC Executive Committee Member

In the 2014 Annual Report, John Jackson wrote of the important role a strong facilitator brings to the group. This is particularly important when you get a diverse set of individuals together who are very passionate about the Ochoco National Forest—but value vastly different things.

The ability to keep meetings on track, keep individuals focused and ensure that members feel comfortable participating is quite an art. The Central Oregon Forest Steward Foundation (COFSF) identified this need early on, working closely with the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative (OFRC) to contract with Jack Southworth who helped OFRC through the development of recommendations for the Wolf Planning Area. Jack did a great job of guiding OFRC through these challenging waters then. Then in April of 2015, he stepped down as facilitator. We thank Jack for his dedicated leadership that kept us moving forward during the critical time.

Co-conveners Betty Roppe and Ken Falhgren stepped in to fill the void until the Collaborative was able to hire a new facilitator, Anne George, who started in August of 2015. Since then, Anne has jumped in with both feet. She hasn't missed a beat and picked right up where things left off.

Anne, who lives in Central Oregon, knows the local area well and quickly has gotten up to speed on complex topics associated with forest restoration. In addition to a wealth of facilitation skills, Anne brings strong coordination skills. She has done an outstanding job providing meeting materials, keeping the meetings moving, summarizing key points and ensuring folks feel heard and are comfortable speaking their mind. She provides continuity from one meeting to the next, and has been the glue connecting the Executive Committee's work to the work of the larger Collaborative.

During Anne's short tenure with OFRC, she has participated in leading the group through several discussions including: approval of the aspen recommendations, identifying our priority focus area (we selected dry forest restoration as our focus).

Having a strong facilitator who keeps momentum moving forward is essential to a Collaborative making progress toward improving forest resilience. Anne has been a key contributor to this momentum and we commend her contributions to date.



Strategic Direction

Vernita Ediger, Executive Director

Amid an intense flurry of important work, it can be difficult for any organization to pause, take stock of its accomplishment and reflect on how it might better accomplish its mission. This year, however, COFSF plans to do just that.

In order to remain focused and effective in our work, COFSF plans to contract with an organizational development expert to lead us through a strategic planning process that will clarify and hone our mission, identify priority goals and strategies and assist us in better engaging the collaborative groups we support and serve. The Foundation board and staff will engage in an analysis of our existing programs, identify emerging opportunities and prioritize goals.

Members from the Ochoco and Deschutes forest collaborative groups will be invited to provide targeted input to this process to ensure that the Foundation continues to provide quality support and leadership for these important efforts. The result of this process will be a new, revitalized strategic plan that clarifies the Foundations priority goals and its relationship with the collaborative groups it serves. Please consider participating in this important process!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

ATTEND A COFSF MEETING:

Anyone is welcome to attend meetings.
Meeting schedule: 2nd Friday of the month;
8 am – 10 am at the COIC conference room at
334 NE Hawthorne Ave in Bend, OR.

Consider becoming a board member

COFSF board elections will be held in July. We welcome nominations from collaborative group members on the OFRC and DCFP.

Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project Accomplishments

Pete Caligiuri, Chair Elect of COFSF

2015 marked the fifth year of the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) and the half-way point of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), which helps fund the on-the-ground work in the 257,000 acre DCFP landscape. Reflecting on the past five years of hard work by DCFP stakeholders and our Deschutes National Forest partners, it is impressive and amazing how effective and strong this collaborative has grown to be. A look back at all we accomplished together in 2015 speaks volumes about the caliber of the individuals that make up this effort and the true power of a community-based collaborative effort.

In 2015 the DCFP Restoration Planning Subcommittee completed its innovative research partnership with Oregon State University and the Pacific Northwest Research Station investigating mixed-conifer forest and fire ecology, leading to the successful completion of dry and moist mixed-conifer forest restoration recommendations. Upon final approval of these two new sets of recommendations, the DCFP will have reached agreement on appropriate restoration for more than two-thirds of this highly-valued landscape.

The five year mark of CFLRP also meant the completion of the first landscape-wide ecological effectiveness monitoring of restoration efforts in the DCFP landscape. The results of this comprehensive monitoring effort (shared with the Congress in a CFLR report created by the Washington DC Office of the Forest Service) were also presented and discussed by DCFP stakeholders and Deschutes National Forest partners at a collaborative workshop. The full results and lessons learned through this process are due to be released in Spring 2016 in a local report to the DCFP and Deschutes National Forest. The DCFP is also slated for a series of informative multi-party monitoring trips of both pre- and post-restoration projects within the landscape running every month between April and September 2016.

As the DCFP's presence and work has grown, so too has the need to be out in the community (physically and virtually) to spread the word about the importance of forest and watershed restoration work. To that end, the DCFP Communications and Outreach Sub-committee has been hard at work in 2015, completing a new strategic communications plan, revamping the DCFP's online presence with a new logo, website and social media platform, hiring a part-time outreach coordinator, producing a range of printed materials including posters, informational cards, and drink coasters that are now distributed at more than 80 businesses around Bend, and organizing a series of public presentations on the work of the collaborative and the importance of on-the-ground restoration work. Collectively these efforts are helping build awareness, understanding and support for the work that is happening in the forests around Central Oregon.

So what's it all mean in terms of outcomes on the ground and benefits to the community? In 2015 alone the work of the DCFP and Deschutes National Forest led to more than 10,000 acres of restoration treatments, 12.3 miles of stream restoration and enhancement, and 122 total jobs sustained totaling \$2.9 million dollars in labor income.

As the DCFP moves into the second half of CFLR we expect to continue leveraging the great partnerships, trust, and track record of effective collaboration to build on successes to date.

CENTRAL OREGON FOREST STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION

MISSION:

To provide financial support and resources to Central Oregon's multiple forest restoration collaborative groups, including the DCFP, OFRC, and potential future forest restoration collaborative groups sharing a common mission to restore and steward forest resources in Central Oregon.

GOALS:

- Forest resources on public and private lands in Central Oregon are being ecologically and sustainably utilized and generating community economic benefits.
- The Foundation is fully-staffed for the effective and efficient implementation of all core services.
- The Board is actively engaged in fulfilling the Foundation's purpose.

KEY SERVICES:

- Coordinating and implementing foundation, public agency and other philanthropic sources of funding for reduction of wildfire risks, ecosystem restoration, and stewardship of forest resources including, application preparation, project assessment, research, and reporting for applicable projects and activities.
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with stakeholder and constituency groups and their representatives involved with active restoration of forest and rangeland ecosystems in Central Oregon.
- Managing investment and distribution of funds.
- Providing fiscal sponsorship/administrative services to appropriate projects and/or events.

Financials

Overview of Expenses: Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project		
Program Coordination and Staff Support	\$ 36,712.30	46%
Facilitator	\$ 31,411.58	40%
Outreach	\$ 11,069.84	14%
TOTAL	\$ 79,193.72	100%

Major Funders of DCFP's work in 2015:
 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
 (Federal Forest Health Collaborative Capacity Technical Assistance Program)
 US Department of Agriculture
 (Title II RAC funding)
 Oregon Forest Resources Institute
 Bella Vista Foundation

Overview of Expenses: Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative		
Program Coordination and Staff Support	\$ 23,855.45	47%
Facilitator	\$ 26,714.23	53%
TOTAL	\$ 50,569.68	100%

Major Funders of OFRC's work in 2015:
 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
 (Federal Forest Health Collaborative Capacity Technical Assistance Program)
 US Department of Agriculture
 (Title II RAC funding)

COFSF Administrative Costs		
CPA and Financial Oversight	\$10,848.00	89%
Board Insurance	\$1,179.00	10%
Other	\$147.00	1%
TOTAL	\$12,174.00	100%
9% of Total Expenses		

Collaborating for the Birds

Marilyn Miller, COFSF Treasurer

Those of you who know me know I am passionate about birds, wildlife and public land forests. One of the many reasons I participate in the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative and serve as a board member and the treasurer of the Central Oregon Forest Stewardship is I believe I am making a difference in the quality of habitat for our critters. The more people know about the fascinating life that the forest supports, the more they can appreciate how important it is to protect it.

One of the common forest-dependent species that can be found in the Deschutes National Forest is the Dark-eyed Junco.

Dark-eyed Juncos are neat, even flashy little sparrows that flit about forest floors of the western mountains and Canada, and then flood the rest of North America for winter. They're easy to recognize by their crisp (though extremely variable) markings and the bright white tail feathers they habitually flash in flight. They hide their nests on the ground, often beneath a shrub. In the fall, many migrate southward and out of the mountains to spend the winter in more hospitable settings. They are often the most numerous backyard birds during the winter.

Dark-eyed Juncos are birds of the ground. They hop around the bases of trees and shrubs in forests or venture out onto lawns looking for fallen seeds. You'll often hear their high chip notes, given almost absent-mindedly while foraging, or intensifying as they take short, low flights through cover.

I am hopeful that, through collaborative efforts, our forests will continue to be centers of life that can be enjoyed for many generations into the future.



COFSF BOARD

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Vernita Ediger, Acting Director
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council

*Joe Checketts, Accountant and Financial Support
Specialist*
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council