

WHAT IS A FOREST COLLABORATIVE?



AS PERTAINING TO THE USFS, A FOREST COLLABORATIVE **IS**.....

(From presentation by John Crockett, USFS Acting Assistant Director, Forest Management Staff- July 16, 2014- TNC Webinar-NEPA Discussion)

- A Group Convened by a Local Entity
- A Group Representing a Broad range of Interests, not necessarily balanced (note- Broader ranges of interests create a better atmosphere for reducing future conflicts)
- Open to Public
- A Group with Rules or Operating Principles Established
- A Group with Consensus Decision Making (within the group)
- A Group Usually with Oversight by Executive or Operations Committee

AS PERTAINING TO THE USFS, A FOREST COLLABORATIVE **IS**.....

- A Tool to Improve Local Input and Interaction During Public Comments as Required by NEPA and Other Federal Laws (Note- the idea is to use NEPA to benefit local communities)
- A Tool to Identify and Provide Local Assistance and Resources to the USFS. Resources may Include Expertise, Manpower, and Funding (Note- the idea is to identify and utilize outside resources to complete additional work on the National Forest)



AS PERTAINING TO THE USFS, A FOREST COLLABORATIVE **IS NOT**.....

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- A Decision Making Body or Venue
- A Complete Representation of Public Interests
- A Formal Advisory Committee





SUMMARY OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN FOREST IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE (N.E.W.F.I.C.)

The Northeast Wisconsin Forest Improvement Collaborative (N.E.W.F.I.C.) developed out of informal conversations with forest stakeholders in 2011 and 2012. The discussions were focused on measuring interest in creating a more collaborative environment for forest management in a context of appeals and litigation, diminishing federal resources, community economic decline, and mounting ecological and restoration needs.

The group began meeting formally in January of 2014, with monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of every month.



N.E.W.F.I.C. MISSION

The mission is to develop and promote solutions that balance local community needs with ecological principles and resource management on the eastern portion of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, also known as the Nicolet land base



N.E.W.F.I.C. MISSION

We will accomplish this by:

- Establishing and maintaining a diverse group of stakeholders who share the desire to work together;
- Providing balance of forest management with sustainable local socioeconomic needs;
- Retaining the value of ecosystem services provided by the forest;
- Providing input, expertise, manpower and financial support to assist the USFS in planning and execution of their forest management plan;
- Proposing and completing projects to improve and sustain forest health;
- Engaging in deliberative dialogue with federal or governmental entities for policy change or funding to forward collaborative efforts;
- Tracking progress, recording successes and/or failures to provide a platform to share learning with other landscape scale efforts;
- Protecting, preserving, and enhancing natural resources that are important to the Nation with particular respect to Tribal cultural and traditional uses;
- Integrating ecological knowledge of place based people including Tribal nations and long standing local citizens and groups

N.E.W.F.I.C. VISION

The future vision of the eastern portion of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is that of a healthy forest landscape which retains natural resources quality and quantity while providing for the **needs** of local communities. N.E.W.F.I.C. efforts will sustain and support a **working forest landscape** to preserve recreational opportunities and ecosystem services such as water quality, soil protection, air filtration, and wildlife habitat, while also providing a reliable raw material supply to forest industries that benefit vibrant local communities and schools.



REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION

N.E.W.F.I.C. will actively seek to involve representatives of diverse perspectives, needs, and expertise. This includes (alphabetical order):

- Community Support Organizations
- Concerned Community Members
- Elected and Appointed Officials including Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Local Representatives
- Economic Development Agencies
- Environmental/Conservation Groups
- Federal Agencies
- Forest Contractors
- Forest Industries
- Landowners
- Recreation Group Interests (silent and motorized)
- State Agencies
- Tribal Organization



CURRENT REGULAR ATTENDEES:

- Forest County Board
- Forest County Economic Development Partnership
- Forest County Potawatomi Community
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
- UW Extension- Facilitator by designation of WDNR
- Town of Laona
- **Senator Baldwin's Staff**
- **Congressman Duffy's Staff**
- US Forest Service- Paul Strong and Staff
- KLP Logging and Trucking
- Ottawa Forest Products
- Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



WHAT HAS N.E.W.F.I.C. ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?



WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR:

- Completed Research on Successful Collaboratives
- Established Contacts and Communication with Successful Collaboratives
- Established and Adopted Operating Principles
- Provided Invitations to over 50 entities to become Part of the Collaborative
- Established Core Group of Interested Parties Willing To Work Together
- Established Media Outlets to get the Word Out
- Gained Recognition of Industry and Forestry Entities From Across the Nation
- Obtained \$5,000 Grant from Center for Collaboratives to Fund USFS Collaborative Cadre Training

WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR:

ESTABLISHED WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMON INTERESTS IN USFS MANAGEMENT

- Senator Baldwin's Staff
- Congressman Duffy's Staff
- Forest County Government
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wisconsin DNR
- Forest County Economic Development Partnership
- Forest County Potawatomi Community
- Small portions of Industry
- UW Extension
- Wisconsin Lakes Partnership
- Town of Laona



WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR:

Established Working Relationship with USFS Staff

- Initiated Process of Learning about Challenges Within the USFS
- Initiated Process of Learning about Opportunities Within the USFS
- Initiated Process of Learning about USFS Land Management Designations
- Initiated Process of Learning about USFS Authorities (Note- many participant entities have Stewardship Authorities- Good Neighbor Authority, Tribal Forest Protection Act, Master Stewardship Agreements)
- Initiated Process of Learning about USFS Contracting
- Initiated Process of Discussion on Large Scale Projects and Planning
- Initiated Understanding of Potential for Utilization **of Shared Resources** from Multiple Organizations **to Assist** with Meeting USFS Planned Management Activity



WHAT IS NEXT FOR **N.E.W.F.I.C.?**



WHAT IS NEXT FOR N.E.W.F.I.C.?

- Expansion of Working Relationships with Additional Entities to Increase Resources Available
 - Additional Industry
 - Additional Environmental and User Groups
 - Additional Government Units Impacted by the Nicolet Land Base
 - Additional Tribes
 - Additional Groups from this Table?
- Fund and Establish a 2 Day Interactive Training Session with Representatives from Successful Collaboratives to Establish a Plan for Success Moving Forward
- Identify a Trial Project and Work Through Use of Shared Resources, Contracts and Agreements with Member Entities to Increase Management Activity on the Nicolet Land Base with Goal to Advance Timber Sale Timeline for On-The-Shelf Projects. (Note- N.E.W.F.I.C. has Identified Hardwood Management Projects as a Priority)
- Continue Working with USFS Staff to Identify Additional Project Opportunities to Assist with Meeting Management Goals

WHAT IS NEXT FOR N.E.W.F.I.C.?

- Assist USFS during NEPA Reviews for Future Projects to Reduce Likelihood of Litigation by Providing Support from Group Entities
- Work through Next USFS Planning Process as a Team to Prioritize Local Positive Impacts and Reduce Negative Impacts and Provide Support for Options which Obtain these Goals
- Obtain Funding to Sustain Collaborative Effort, become a Stand Alone Non-Profit Entity (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program- 10 year plan and project?)
- Establish Revolving Capital Fund for Upfront Cost Associated with Stewardship Contracting to Pay Entities prior to Harvest
- Prioritize Local Impacts Over Financial Gain Through Stewardship Contracting
 - Community Projects (Roads/Improvements)
 - Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, Soil Stabilization
 - Dependable Raw Material Supply
 - Value Added Industry

QUESTIONS?

Al Murray

N.E.W.F.I.C. Designee- Representing the Town of
Laona

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