

COLLABORATIVE

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In 2012, the collaborative reorganized from an informal working group to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As such, several years of its federal tax return and state charity registration are public records. In 2016, the collaborative reported \$160,669 in revenue and \$182,022 in expenses, though grants are expected to cover the losses. The only paid employee, Webb's salary is about \$66,000. Webb said other expenses include general overhead and travel, as well as ecological, socioeconomic and efficiency studies.

The nonprofit receives funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry, private foundations, private donors and competitive Title II Secure Rural Schools grant funding, he said.

The organization partnered with the Harney County Restoration Collaborative and the Malheur National Forest in 2012 to apply for the federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program, which was approved. From 2012-2015, this program awarded \$2.5 million annually to the Malheur, in addition to previous budget allocations, for restoration projects that also required local matching for a total of \$5 million. In 2015, the collaborative reported supporting 244 direct part- and full-time jobs with a direct labor income of \$14,616,142.

In 2016, an expansion to the boundaries of the program was approved, and the award amount was increased to the maximum award of \$4 million for a total of \$8 million after the match. The annual report has not been released.

As long as Congress continues to fund the

program, the forest could receive the additional funding for a total of 10 years, and the projects must work through collaboratives.

Webb said, while most of the federal funding goes directly to restoration projects, the collaborative has received about \$45,000 per year, which it spends on scientific analysis and monitoring. Except for that amount and the Title II grants, he said the collaborative receives no federal funding.

While the Forest Service is required to work with collaboratives, the Forest Service has no control or authority over nonprofit organizations, such as the collaborative. Similarly, Webb said, the collaborative has no authority over the Forest Service, and none of the collaborative work results in binding agreements. He said the collaborative offers proposals for a broad range of treatments less likely to be litigated because of the participation of various groups, but the Forest Service does not always follow them.

Webb said the collaborative process has been difficult at times — with parties who were previously at odds in lawsuits sitting down at the same table to work through issues — but by developing trust and engaging on the issues, it has been successful.

"This kind of involvement honestly engaged in is the best way for local communities to have a say in federal land management," Webb said. "But for this collaborative, you wouldn't have that (federal) CFLRP money and the jobs that come with it, you wouldn't have an operating mill in Grant County, you wouldn't have 75 million board feet in timber harvest, which is three times what it was when we started, and despite what's been said, you wouldn't have as healthy of forests. Nothing would be happening here without this effort."



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International Policy Analyst and seminar organizer Aysha Ghadiali speaks to land management experts from 11 different countries during a meeting at the Forest Service building in John Day.

EXPERTS

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International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The three-day portion of the seminar held in Grant County focused on collaborative efforts to restore parts of the national forest.

Tito Prabadi, who works for the U.S. international program in Indonesia, said the Aceh Province where he works has a similar climate, though an entirely different set of problems. A main concern for foresters in Prabadi's country is the harvest of palm oil, which has a wide variety of culinary uses. Farmers often forgo the government's complex permitting system and use unsustainable practices to produce the product, according to Prabadi.

He said collaboration with communities and private companies, one of the focuses of the seminar, could be an effective way to combat land misuse.

One major difference he noted was in Indonesia forest thinning could be quite profitable due to the lower cost of



Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs

Vijay Kumar grins during a tour, May 4, of the Camp Creek restoration project on the Malheur National Forest.

labor and higher timber value. He said some workers in some regions were paid as little as 10 cents an hour.

Prabadi has been to the U.S. before but never to Oregon. He said he's been surprised by how friendly the people are and finds it amusing that when taking a selfie, locals will often come up and ask him if he would like help taking a picture.

During the seminar, Blue Mountain District Ranger Dave Halemeier provided visitors with a brief overview of the

organization of the Forest Service, the local dynamics and the benefits of collaboration.

He and other staff emphasized the interconnection of the different systems, giving an example of how a lack of large cottonwood trees could reduce shade, raise water temperatures and cause mass die-offs of fish.

Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin called the seminar "one of the highlights of our year."

"The diversity you bring to our county is wonderful," he said.

The group toured the Camp Creek restoration project near Magone Lake and saw the effects of restoration on the forest firsthand. They learned about indicator species, such as the beaver, which give insight into the overall health of an ecosystem.

"One of the things that's great about being in Oregon is this state's a leader in forest landscape restoration, and so there are so many lessons to be learned here," International Policy Analyst and seminar organizer Aysha Ghadiali said. "It's a leader not because it's perfect and everything went easy, but it's a leader because there's conflict, competing interest and different land values at play, and they found way to work together and work collaboratively."

Ghadiali said the trip was a "two-way street," sharing land management knowledge and fostering international cooperation.

"Environment doesn't understand political boundaries," she said. "Forests don't stop at the border."

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FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:40
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 PG-13
Set to the backdrop of an awesome mixtape #2. The team unravels the mystery of the Peter Quill's true parentage.
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:45
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 6:45

THEIR FINEST R
A newly appointed scriptwriter for propaganda films joins the cast and crew of a major production while the blitz rages around them.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:50
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

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Blue Mountains Forest Partners

SAT MAY 13TH, 2017
BACK TO THE WOODS

A celebration of collaborative achievements and the return to work in the woods

Please join Blue Mountains Forest Partners and the Malheur National Forest for this spring community event, with help from Chester's Thriftway. Additional participants include: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Grant-Harney Fire Prevention Co-op, Grayback Forestry, Iron Triangle, Malheur Lumber Company, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

Bring the whole family and celebrate with us!

Please join us!
10:00am - 2:00pm
Saturday, May 13, 2017