



SMALLWOOD 2006
Richmond, VA

The
**Coordinated
Resource Offering
Protocol (CROP)**
...in Central Oregon

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Broad Messages:

- ▶ **CROP is about managing, not eliminating supply risk**
- ▶ **Not a silver bullet; nothing is.**
- ▶ **Work in Progress**
- ▶ **It can increase agency responsiveness to communities, stakeholders, industry, while helping agency achieve its goals.**



Background to CROP: Central Oregon Partnerships for Wildfire Risk Reduction

COIC's COPWRR project has been working since 2001 to find equilibrium between three objectives:

- ▶ **Community wildfire risk reduction**
- ▶ **Ecosystem restoration**
- ▶ **Sustainable jobs and income**



Background to CROP: COPWRR (cont.)

COIC is taking a lead role in three primary arenas to achieve COPWRR objectives:

1. inclusive **collaborative framework** to integrate economic, environmental & social issues;
2. develop **supply certainty (CROP)** to enable investments;
3. work with businesses and community groups to identify promising **small diameter utilization opportunities (technologies, products, markets).**

▶ also getting involved in **ecosystem monitoring** to ensure good practices and build stakeholder trust.



COPWRR Stakeholders Identified a Need for “Levelized” Supply

Preliminary research performed by Mater Engineering for the COPWRR project uncovered the following:

- ▶ **Small diameter timber supply within and among Central Oregon’s public and private forest lands experienced dramatic fluctuations in the last few years;**
- ▶ **These fluctuations contributed to a stall in technology investment and employment in the wood products sector.**

Mater Engineering: businesses need to look out 5-10 years for investment and planning purposes.

Oregon Solutions Process



The COPWRR multi-Stakeholder Advisory Council decided to prioritize supply levelization, without which businesses would not be able to be a partner in ecosystem restoration.

Oregon Governor Kulongoski designated the CROP initiative as an “Oregon Solutions” project. An Oregon Solutions Project Team was created, tasked with developing a Declaration of Cooperation outlining the ways in which they would work together to levelize supply.

19 organizations signed the Declaration on January 25, 2005.



CROP Signatory Organizations

Federal Agencies:

USDA FS Region 6
OR/WA State BLM
Deschutes National Forest
Ochoco National Forest
Prineville BLM

State Agencies:

Governor Kulongoski's Office
OR Economic and Community
Development Dept.
OR Department of Energy
Oregon Department of Forestry
OR Dept. of Environmental
Quality
OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Industry:

Warm Springs Forest Products
Industries
NW Wood Products Association

Environmental Organizations:

Sisters Forest Planning Committee
OR Natural Resources Council
Friends of the Metolius

Other Partners:

Sustainable NW
Gary Auxier, private citizen
3EStrategies
COIC

Impending Additions: OSU College of Forestry, additional industry



How Does CROP Work?

CROP has three main elements:

1. **Data Collection, Analysis, and Delivery**
 2. **Planning Protocols**
 3. **Monitoring/Adaptive Management**
- ▶ **Ongoing Outreach to New Stakeholders and Community Members**



How Does CROP Work? (cont.)

1. Data Collection, Analysis, and Delivery

- ▶ Create detailed projections of anticipated small diameter material supply, including volumes, species, size, and location.
- ▶ Provide on the web (not yet) for local businesses and to market the region.



How Does CROP Work? (cont.)

We can then refine the supply prognosis to arrive at a conservative estimate of supply using at least the following factors:

- ▶ **environmental and political concerns** (e.g. is the project in a sensitive habitat?)
- ▶ **economics** (e.g. what are the harvest and transportation costs?)

These conservative estimates are custom-created for interested businesses and community groups

DATABASE DEMO



How Does CROP Work? (cont.)

2. Planning Protocols

Planning protocols are at the heart of CROP. CROP Protocols will:

- ▶ track supply provision
- ▶ coordinate the shifting of supply between units
- ▶ incorporate the development of a “shelf stock” of approved projects.
- ▶ identify product opportunities in material previously considered “unmerchantable.”

There will need to be a **role for regional USFS and state BLM offices**, for coordination and “buck stoppage”



How Does CROP Work? (cont.)

3. Monitoring and Adaptive Mgmt.

COIC has established a multi-stakeholder COPWRR Monitoring Team charged with monitoring:

- ▶ **The CROP Program:** Was supply offered, bid, utilized; are investments being made?
- ▶ **Environmental Monitoring:** What are the effectiveness and environmental impact of projects?



How Does CROP Work? (cont.)

3. Monitoring and Adaptive Mgmt. (cont.)

- ▶ **Social and Economic Monitoring:** Are jobs, incomes being produced and how do the public and stakeholders view CROP and restoration in general?
- ▶ **Adaptive Management:** Monitoring findings will be plugged into public agency and CROP adaptive management systems.



How Does CROP Work? (cont.)

Outreach is Essential

- ▶ Project outcomes will be communicated to targeted stakeholder groups, interested parties in the region and nationally, and the general public through annual reports, newsletters, conference presentations, the project web site, and email updates.



Activity Since January, 2005

Accomplishments:

- ▶ Have developed a first version **database**, COIC will develop web access.
- ▶ COIC has convened a monitoring stakeholder team and technical committees, and produced a **first draft monitoring plan**.
- ▶ COIC is performing **outreach** to businesses and community groups.



Activity Since January, 2005 (cont.)

- ▶ **Planning protocol** is next – working on this now. Discussions this summer with local, regional offices.
- ▶ Deschutes-Ochoco, Mt. Hood National Forests, and Prineville BLM have created a **CROP Team** (nuts and bolts) and a **Biomass Steering Committee** (priorities, systems)



Activity Since January, 2005 (cont.)

Recent Development – CROP in Action!!

- ▶ **CTWS MOU:** Signed January 25, 2006: committing federal agencies to a minimum of 8,000 acres/year (over 20 years) in the vicinity of the Warm Springs Forest Products mill.
- ▶ **Signatories:** Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Deschutes-Ochoco National Forest, Mt. Hood National Forest, USFS Pacific NW Region, Prineville District BLM, and the BLM Oregon State Office.
- ▶ **Enabled by:** CROP, Intergovernmental Cooperative Participating Agreement (2003), Tribal Forest Protection Act, “government to government” relationship with tribes, etc.



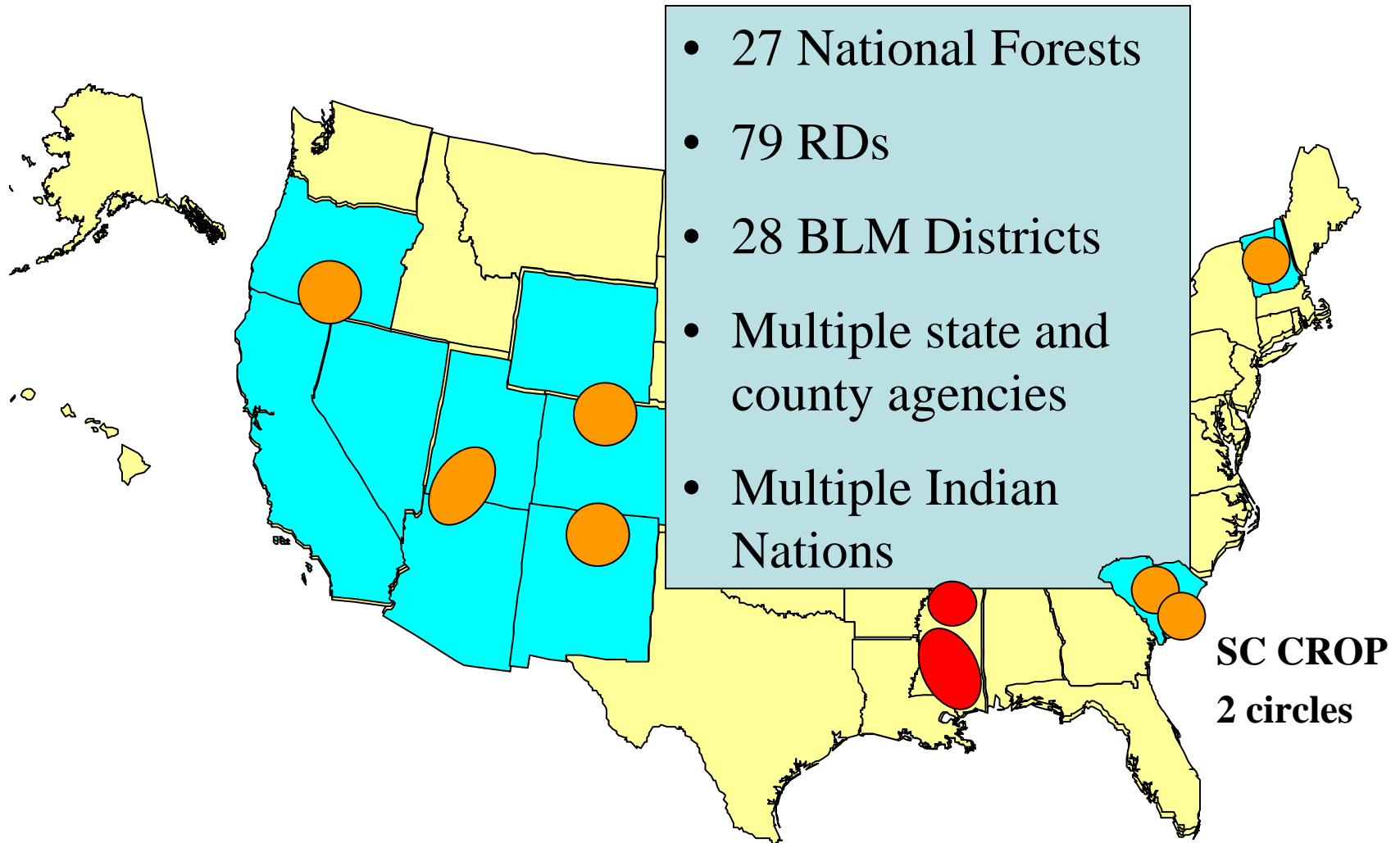
Who Will Use CROP?

Businesses and Groups Waiting for the CROP Database and Protocol Include:

- ▶ Warm Springs Forest Products
- ▶ Silvan Power
- ▶ The Juniper Group
- ▶ JTS Animal Bedding
- ▶ Interfor
- ▶ Ochoco Lumber
- ▶ Woodward Companies

All of whom have, or are developing, investment plans for SDT.

2006 National CROP Pilots





Problems to Date

We have experienced the following difficulties implementing CROP:

- ▶ It is **difficult to locate outyear projects** in space
- ▶ General agency **difficulty in “looking out”** much more than 1-2 years.
- ▶ Lack of agreement on how to **calculate volumes**
- ▶ Some **lack of buy-in** to the project by line officers/ implementers (already overloaded)
- ▶ **No system in place** whatsoever to coordinate supply offerings (have to create from scratch).

Much of this relates to generally **diminishing agency capacity** in the face of decreasing budgets/ personnel.



Keep On Keepin' On

Regardless, we are going continue to move this program forward.

- ▶ Believe it presents the best opportunity to manage risks for both private and public entities. Maintains flexibility.
- ▶ Businesses are beginning to contact us about data/opportunity.
- ▶ Provides a template for access to growing voluntary carbon markets – exploring this over the summer.



More Information

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