



Meeting Notes

January 17, 2019, 1:00-3:30 P.M.

Rock Creek Hegewald Center, Stevenson, WA

Participants:

Question: What would you like to learn more about this year...

Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc. – *roll with it*

Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County – *how we can work with GPNF Sustainable Recreation Plan*

Nicole Budine, Cascade Forest Conservancy – *Zones of Agreement work*

Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Saving Skamania County/Community Member – *how GPNF assets managed, forests and roadways*

Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington – *forest utilization practices, what's not happening and rationale for management decisions*

Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards – *GNA and how it can help*

Sam Grim, Supervisory Forester/Presales Lead, GPNF – *GNA: presale and restoration processes*

Chuck Hersey, WA Department of Natural Resources (phone) – *how to effectively engage stakeholders and landowners*

Tom Lannen – *overall operation on different forests*

Rick Larson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – *forest 5-year vegetation management strategy*

Tom Linde, Gifford Pinchot Accountability Group – *better utilize retained receipts and stewardship projects*

Jess Martin, Pinchot Partners – *funding mechanisms*

Jeffrey Mocniak, Melchemy/Community Member – *monitoring and other collaboratives' work*

John Moody, Community Member – *conservation & restoration practices*

Dean Myerson, Friends of Mt. Adams – *Recreation Site Analysis, which facilities to support*

Lisa Naas Cook, SGPC Coordinator – *strategic planning (with help from Jess)*

Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association – *recreation*

Anjolene Price, Hampton Lumber (phone) – *process to get GNA off the ground*

Amy Ramsey, WA Department of Natural Resources (phone) – *same as Chuck, and NEPA process*

Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program – *forest practices, economic study*

Troy Stump, High Cascades, Inc. – *how FS distributes funding resources*

Sean Tran, WA Department Natural Resources, GNA – *what our individual and collective interests and objectives are; how DNR can help move projects forward*

Jim White, Underwood Conservation District – *monitoring, forest dynamics—how they change over time*

Introductions: Welcome Jess Martin, new Pinchot Partners Executive Director, and Sean Tran, new Restoration Specialist, Federal Lands Program, WA DNR. Guests: Sam Grim, Supervisory Forester/Presales Lead, GPNF; Chuck Hersey & Amy Ramsey, WA DNR.

Meeting Purpose/Review of Agenda:

- Changes to agenda: Unable to discuss Upper Wind planning today, given the shut-down. Will reschedule a time to discuss objectives and big picture treatments (*where and what*) once FS is available.
- Reason we're able to have Sam here today, and not other FS staff: Based on written direction right now, can bring people back in exempt status to work on FY 19 timber sales; Sam is in paid status under codes that are non-appropriated, and because Sean is talking about GNA sale for FY 19, Sam's participation today is permitted. This direction doesn't allow Erin or Jon to talk about Upper Wind or

Tracy or Robin to discuss recreation planning, which is why we had to cancel subcommittee meeting today.

December Meeting Notes:

Clarification requested on suggestions for economic study:

- Consider scenario with 100% stewardship sales and 25% of receipts going to county (if Stewardship Authority was modified to allow this).
- Compare Secure Rural Schools funding and Stewardship sales in how each affects county programming and goals. (As long as you have SRS, county gets money—if this goes away, county loses source for general fund, loses economic structure.)
- Skamania County will submit comments.
- Addition from Jeremy (by email): Is it possible to do a more “apples to apples” comparison of the economic contribution of stewardship sales with 25% payments to counties—identify a multiplier that could be used for both?

Approved notes with suggestions clarified.

Topics identified for further discussion re: economic study:

- Tom Lannen has created a chart describing Payment to Counties and will share.
- How GNA differs from Stewardship re: funding that goes to county.

Little White Vegetation Planning (*Chuck Hersey on phone; Lisa*)

- Overview of how this effort relates to [20-Year WA Forest Health Strategic Plan](#) and budget request: There is a current forest health crisis in Eastern Washington. Propose to treat 1.25 million acres. Identified 2018/2020 planning areas based on HUC 6 prioritization watersheds assessing wildfire risk and risks to wildlife, timber, water, and communities. Selected 33 planning areas across state. Completed preliminary landscape analysis on Trout Lake and White Salmon planning areas, comparing current vegetation to historic conditions. Fact sheets completed that summarize areas and include climate change impacts across all land ownerships. (*See attachments in email sent 1/25/19*).
- Little White is a 2020 planning area in Strategic Plan. Plan is to complete a high-level assessment of needs and resources required to implement treatments. DNR is requesting \$3 million from state for forest planning work and potentially treatment—possible funding source for Little White work. Estimated \$400-800k to get the ball rolling. Creative funding sources might be needed to move this work forward (opportunity for collaborative to help). DNR is requesting other money for forest health work: \$2 million for GNA and \$2 million for all lands grant projects. In 2018, SGPC received an all lands grant: \$375k for implementation of Upper White work in high priority Trout Lake planning area.
- FS interest in accelerated timeline: The next planning area for south zone is Upper Wind. Typically, planning areas are on 2-year cycle. Little White is not supposed to be looked at for several years. Working with DNR allows for faster turnaround for treatments. Chart of timelines (from Jon Nakae) shows how there could be an overlap of approximately 18 months for Upper Wind and Little White if state funding is available and FS has capacity to partner with DNR to take this on. Availability of state funds and effects of furlough on FS work load and timelines will determine if it is possible to start work on Little White this year.
- Next step is to conduct Landscape Evaluation. Will present to collaborative around May. Working on how to fold in stakeholders not involved in SGPC. (Since SGPC is primarily focused on Forest Service lands, need to engage other interested stakeholders.) Last year, the collaborative and MARS helped

facilitate “South Mt. Adams” meetings in Trout Lake that included a few collaborative members and others across land ownerships on the east side of the District. The landscape evaluation will inform a higher level Little White work plan that describes what it would take, how much would it cost, and what the benefits would be.

Discussion/Q&A with Chuck

- Is there potential for this to be an A to Z project? A to Z is a Colville project that was put out to bid, and the winner paid for the NEPA and was responsible for sale contract. NEPA work contracted out, and FS involvement in all steps of the planning and implementation process. For Little White, FS may manage most of it in house. FS still identifying what their capacity is to work on this.
- How does this fit in with GNA? GNA is one opportunity to complete work. A tool to help fill needs. Could be one way to do some planning or complete survey work. No decision has been made yet to use this authority.
- Question on acres/treatments/landowners: 70,000 acres of forest, mostly on USFS. Landscape evaluation will look at treatment needs and identify high-level targets. Project will require all-lands stakeholder engagement. Will be able to answer more detailed questions when landscape evaluation is complete.

Actions: (Subject to change given federal government shut down)

- Chuck to give Lisa Trout Lake and White Salmon planning area landscape evaluation summaries to share with collaborative members.
- Lisa, Chuck, Erin, and Jay to work on planning collaborative meeting in April/May to learn about results of Little White landscape evaluation and FS work plan. Will determine how to integrate other South Mt. Adams stakeholder group members in this process.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Program Update (*Sean Tran, DNR, and Sam Grim, USFS*)

- GNA is one tool the DNR Federal Lands Program is using. New in Washington. This is the end of 2nd year. Partnership to provide additional capacity/resource to complete projects. So far, projects chosen have been ones with Environmental Assessments completed and can easily hand-off to DNR.
- GPNF examples:
 - Bear Creek project—pre-sale/layout work.
 - SEBO sale from the Swift Thin EA.
 - Wake Sale, part of the Iron Crystal EA on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District. Forest management thinning in pre-sale phase. Included in Pinchot Partners cross-boundary grant.
- Revenue is to be reinvested back into pot for additional GNA projects on the GPNF.
- The authority is still evolving. Originally, GNA didn't allow any work on permanent roads. “Roads Fix” allows for road reconstruction/improvements on these roads when there is a nexus with restoration activity (could be veg, aquatics, etc.)

Q&A

- Why isn't FS working to address capacity problems internally? Appropriated funding is currently insufficient to support necessary projects. [Forest Products Modernization](#) effort is underway to improve efficiency re: implementation and contracts.
- Where does revenue from GNA sales go? Receipts will go into fund for restoration work on GPNF. More open-ended than retained receipts re: types of projects that may be funded.

FY 20 Retained Receipt Project Proposal Process

- Timeline will most likely change. Current due date is Feb. 7th with review meeting on 21st. May need to push back to March or April. Total available funding this year is \$200,000 and is available Jan 2020 through end of fiscal year.
- Discussion: “Restoration through Collaboration” proposal amount
 - As of Jan. 2019, funds for coordination/facilitation are DNR grant, RAC grant, and Retained Receipts. Will cover part-time work through Sept. 2019.
 - Other possible funding sources: 2019 NFF CCLS grant (will hear back in Feb.); Title II funds if RAC is established; DNR grant?
 - Scope of work expansion under updated Stew Agreement allows more of coordinator work to be funded through retained receipts. Estimate that up to 75% of time could be funded through retained receipts. Do want to see use of funds in one year, but can rollover.
 - Proposal offered by Lisa for \$20,000
 - Suggestion to ask for more since other grants are unknown at this time. Can also be used for collaborative support position if activities are allowed under agreement. Concern that GNA projects may reduce Retained Receipts in the future?
 - **Decision:** Unanimous support for \$40,000 proposal with option to scale down based on availability of other grants and other proposed restoration projects.
- Discussion: Retained Receipt Project Ranking Sheet
 - Different thoughts shared:
 - Very helpful tool to evaluate.
 - Idea to use median to see tail ends.
 - Idea to have first criterion as stand-alone category with separate ranking or use “yes/no,” rather than numerical value. Other suggestion to keep as is.
 - In the end, just a tool with same end result... horse trading. Unnecessary to spend a lot of time on this.
 - **Decision:** Approval to move forward with a ranking sheet similar to last year—Lisa and Jess to refine and share with the group.

Announcements/Next Steps

- 2019 SGPC Goals, Annual Meeting, and Partnership Survey to go out by early February—all collaborative members asked to participate.

Next Meeting: February 21, 1-3:30 P.M.

Save the Dates: March 21, 9 A.M.-3:30 P.M., SGPC Annual Meeting

April 11-12, PNW Forest Collaboratives Workshop, Hood River