

## SGPC Annual Meeting

March 21, 2019

9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Adams Room, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson



## 2019 SGPC Annual Meeting Notes

**Purpose of Annual Meeting:** To develop the 2019-20 goals and work plan in a way that fosters trust and shared understanding so that all collaborative members have a voice and responsibility in shaping the direction and implementation of work this year.

### Participants:

1. Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County
2. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc.
3. Jacob Benes, Employer of Choice Staff Officer, GPNF
4. Tyson Bertone-Riggs, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
5. Nicole Budine, Cascade Forest Conservancy
6. Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
7. Jean Daniels, Pacific Northwest Research Station
8. Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Saving Skamania Co.
9. Kari Fagerness, Skamania County Economic Development Council
10. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
11. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
12. Bob Hamlin, Skamania County Commissioner
13. Jess Martin, Pinchot Partners
14. Jay McLaughlin, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
15. Jeffrey Mocniak, Melchemy/Community Member
16. John Moody, Community Member
17. Dean Myerson, Friends of Mt. Adams
18. Lisa Naas Cook, SGPC Coordinator
19. Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association
20. Dave Olson, Restoration and Stewardship Staff Officer, GPNF
21. Emily Platt, District Ranger, Mt. Adams Ranger District
22. Anjolene Price, Hampton Lumber
23. Amy Ramsey, WA Department of Natural Resources
24. Sue Ripp, Community Engagement Staff Officer, GPNF
25. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
26. Troy Stump, High Cascade, Inc.
27. Aakash Upraity, Portland State University
28. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
29. Bob Williamson, Retired Forest Service, Community Member

Via Phone for GNA Presentation and Discussion  
Trevor McConchie, WA Department of Natural Resources  
Sean Tran, WA Department Natural Resources  
Brian Bailey, WA Department Natural Resources

## **1. Welcome and Opening Activity (Lisa)**

*What is something in your life that connects you to SGPC's mission?*

Lisa: health & vitality included in ecological and human context, central to life work

Sharon: connection to nature, important for community

Jess: lived in Appalachia, effects of coal mining, need for economic development in rural communities

Dean Meyerson: Mt. Adams connection, mountain has burned many times, ecological challenges

Nicole: from similar region as Jess, opportunity for stakeholders to influence decisions

Emily Stevenson: ecosystem health, weeds

Jeffrey M.: started business here; healthy, sustainable, and diversified economy

Emily Platt: landscape, communities; this is where we integrate everything, opportunity for new projects

Bob Hamlin: recreate here; professionally, worried about economic vitality and environmental health

Amy Ramsey: DNR Forest Health Plan; personally, enjoy riding bike in the forest

Jean Daniels: economist, interested in well-being of rural communities

Aakash: curious how we interact with environment and what those interactions mean

Mary Ann: city administrator, connections with county, how to lighten the burden to community

Dave: around passionate people, rural and urban economic health—role as equalizer

Ryan: sleep in city, live in forest

John Moody: backpack in GP in 1974, worked with environmental health issues, moral imperative to act

Kari: human economy and natural environment can work together

Jim: 38 years in area, natural resource background, all parts important; aligns with MARS' mission, too

Bob Williamson: retired FS and community member, here to observe and reconnect

Sue Ripp: connect to all parts of mission, exciting to see how many people are here

Jake Benes: business side of FS; interest in surrounding communities; personally, outdoors bring peace

Troy: community support, strengthen community

Jon Paul: third generation forest worker, economic vitality, saw community with timber dollars

Jake: part of job, recreate on forest, economic/forest health connection

Gary: recreation experience on GP, have a stake in every part of mission

Anjolene: need forest for well-being

Jay: implementation is key; as we see more work on the ground, become more engaged/reconnected

Tyson: grew up in Eugene, worked in woods at 17, now desk jockey/policy person

## **2. Review Meeting Purpose and Agenda**

Objectives are to learn, pause to reflect on where we've come this year, and to plan. Outline of the day—afternoon a working meeting, deeper dive into work plan based on feedback from last year. Materials in packet follow agenda and are listed on back.

### **3. Mt. Adams Ranger District 2019-20 Goals** (Emily Platt, District Ranger, Mt. Adams Ranger District)

*What are the District's main goals for 2019-20 and how can the collaborative play a role in achieving them?*

With limited time, will just talk about the highlights. The most exciting projects are the ones with partners.

- Year 2 of Spotted Owl Surveys with County with intentions of being able to extend Operating Seasons for Upper White.
- Upper White hazardous fuels reduction work through DNR grant funding secured by SGPC (MARS is project lead with volunteer crew support from CFC). FS completed planning; partners will implement work.
- 93 Road—planning process worked. Originally wanted to decommission 1-mile segment of road and provide an alternate route. Found out that the road is important to locals, so working to alter decision that will better meet needs of local community.
- Keeping the Front Desk open on weekends—very important for people to ask questions and buy maps.
- Replacing toilets on Lower Falls and fixing trail.
- Finalized agreement for Skamania County to lease some of the buildings at Wind River Work Center.
- Cebu Sale through Good Neighbor Authority—program income will stay on the forest for restoration projects.
- Putting out prospectus for campground management—the current contract expires this year.
- Attended the Shared Stewardship Summit with the Undersecretary, Chief, and regional leadership. Able to highlight our work and people are excited about it. Collaborative is a strong foundation for our work.

### **4. Shared Stewardship Strategy and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)** *\*Note: slides sent out to group via email.*

- Background: Chose to focus some time on these two topics because there is growing emphasis on working with the state, and many of you have questions about what this means for the forest. Questions on the agenda are a guide for discussion.
- Introductions: Dave Olson, Restoration and Stewardship Staff Officer on the GPNF; Tyson Bertone-Riggs, Program Manager with Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition; and DNR Federal Lands Program Crew—Trevor McConchie, Brian Bailey, and Sean Tran, joining by phone in the field.
- Dave:
  - Referenced the GPNF 5-year action plan and 10-year planning area map (on the wall).
  - Just back from Shared Stewardship Conference with Emily where line officers were given marching orders and alignment:
    - Shared Stewardship means working across boundaries—need to engage all partners we can on forest, state, and private lands. GNA enables FS to work with counties and tribes. State foresters and tribal representative were at meeting. State foresters are

ready to take action. It is time, we have compelling need, let's move forward, there is a mandate to do it.

- There is no formal strategy on the forest, though Forest Supervisor is focused on getting everyone moving together, not in piecemeal fashion. Focus to date has been investing in building capacity. GNA is key element and is critical due to flat and declining budget; allows FS to retain the value of wood products and invest in capacity. Never had that ability before.
  - Working with state and 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan to identify future planning areas. Tentative agreement to insert Little White into planning cycle and put off another area, given fire, insect, and disease risk in Little White. Collaborative may provide input in future planning area development? Plan is to discuss with DNR how they can fill capacity gaps over the long-term.
  - GNA is providing additional capacity for GPNF: FY 19 target of 40 mmbf and FY 20 is 45 mmbf. Currently doing one GNA sale a year; plan to do 2 sales in FY 20. GNA accounts for about 20% of current timber program—this is purely additional work that would not get done without GNA. Have planning shelf-stock of 2-3 years, but will run out of projects that are ready. The composition of traditional/stewardship sales is typically 50/50 on the GPNF, but this year all sales were traditional and GNA because market didn't support stewardship (some issues with road package on one stewardship sale out for bid). GNA is similar to stewardship though service projects are not embedded in GNA—done through service contracts instead.
- Trevor, Sean, Brian (*See slides for more information.*)
    - Sean: What is GNA? Farm Bill (2014) authorizes states, counties, and tribes to work as agents of the federal government. Process: use seed funds to start process. Able to contract commercial restoration harvest operations. Program receipts (minus state costs and USFS deposits) are reinvested back into restoration on the forest.
    - Brian: 3 types of GNA Funding Sources—State Appropriated Funds, Federal Appropriated funds, and Timber Program Income Receipts. Program limitations are that funds stay on forest. DNR staff or third-party contractors may do project planning and implementation activities—have to use state contracting procedures.
    - Trevor: How do Collaboratives access GNA? Work with Fed Lands Program Staff. Through discussions, find potential project. Is GNA the right approach? The project proposal review process will assess if there is funding availability, capacity, and meets intent of GNA. After agreement signed between DNR/USFS, project moves forward.
  - Tyson:
    - RVCC develops policy papers—acts as a voice for various groups.
    - Referenced RVCC [Understanding Good Neighbor Authority](#) publication re: case studies across the west. GNA program is still evolving and is different in each state. Much variability across forests and types of projects. Many ways authority can be interpreted and structured. Now in implementation phase, and need to be tracking progress.

- There is no statutory mandate for how collaboratives play a role, as there is in stewardship contracting. Some ways collaboratives may be involved: track implementation, ask for transparency on budget—look at how portfolio of stewardship/traditional/GNA sales is balanced over time (South Willamette collaborative does this). Should also keep in mind that FS has targets such as acres of fuels reduction and volume of timber produced.
- The state has appropriated dollars to initiate program, but are planning to use program dollars to employ DNR staff. Questions remain as to whether state appropriated funds will be used to pay for staff time to do timber sales and how much third-party NEPA may cost.
- Collaborative should keep in mind that FS has targets such as acres of fuels reduction and volume of timber produced.

#### Discussion/Q&A:

- Is monitoring of outcomes required by the state? Too early in the process to be monitoring. In 6-12 months will have enough information to be tracking. Monitoring is not built into the authority.
- Will GNA contracts use the best value approach and prioritize local contractors? Wonder whether this will result in more contractors from outside the local area? GNA does not have specific authority for prioritizing local contractors (like can be used with stewardship) because GNA is limited to state contracting law.
- What percentage of the gross timber receipts is for admin costs? Mentioned a range anywhere from 20-47%, but anticipate that they will be lower than the 20-30% model they're currently using.
- Where are NEPA planning and project costs accounted for in flow chart? Included under "non-commercial restoration/service project costs."
- Impacts to counties? Opportunity for counties to enter into GNA. GNA does provide a kickback to counties, unlike stewardship, though the amount is small. Long-term impact is local economic activity generated through added capacity to complete more projects.
- Possible to do cross-training with Mt. Baker Snoqualmie NF? Emily recognized that FS is decentralized, but are starting to work cross boundary. Planning and presale crews could help out, but are held accountable for targets on their forest. They want to help, but would need to be compensated. Anjolene could talk more with Dave and Emily about possibilities.
- How many DNR staff are focused on GNA? 10 staff hired full time for GNA. Have people connected with every forest. Positions are structured differently across the state. Some positions are shared across several forests.
- Is NEPA shelf-stock the primary bottleneck? Do need more NEPA planning in near term; ramping up, but won't be enough to cover new demands. Need for layout crews is now a major factor—ground prep and contract prep are pinch points. Been given new authorities and efficiencies to assist with this (e.g., less paint, virtual boundaries).
- Is there other example of shared stewardship other than Little White? Iron Crystal on north zone. Washington State 20-year plan is in phase I and that covers the eastside of the state. Phase II will be westside. DNR is starting to connect more with small landowners and distributing funds for help in restoration work on westside.

- Is there analysis at what point we can be weaned off Secure Rural Schools (SRS)? Tyson discussed one economist's study that concluded that SRS will almost always be a better bet. Offered that collaborative members can talk to elected officials. Senators Wyden (OR) and Crapo (ID) have introduced bill for long term stability of SRS. It has some support, but would not happen in next 2 years. A 2-year extension to SRS is possible.

#### 4. Collaborative Business: Declaration of Commitment for Voting Members, Steering Committee Introductions, Approve February Notes

- Declaration of Commitment: Currently 16 voting members--eligibility is participation in 2 out of 3 previous meetings, via email, phone, or in-person. Ask members to keep informed, attend regularly, actively participate/voice concerns/offer ideas, support SGPC mission, understand Operations Manual, and sign Declaration of Commitment. Form passed around for signatures.
- Steering Committee Introductions—Nicole Budine, Emily Stevenson, Jay McLaughlin, Jeremy Grose, Gary Collins, and Tom Linde. **Action:** Lisa to add a few more specifics to Ops Manual re: steering committee term and selection; will share at future meeting.
- February notes approved as written.

#### 5. Review SGPC Survey Results and Draft Collaborative Goals

- Mentioned Collaborative Report Card and District Accomplishments provided in packet.
- Survey Results—Goals:
  - ZOA work still a high priority like last year.
  - Monitoring blends with science and also connects to ZOA through the monitoring plan.
  - Many goals are similar in priority level at the mid-range level.
  - Expanding focus off-Forest is lowest priority.
- Annual check-in:
  - Purpose is to assess growth on some key needs/interests from last year
  - Overall, trends are in positive direction; subcommittee accomplishments and trust stand out; can do more on Wind River planning and integrating science. Appreciate specialists' involvement (e.g., helpful at ZOA subcommittee meetings).

#### **Actions:**

- Jean offered to connect collaborative with PNW researchers on topics of interest. Can make Research Library info available to members as well.
- Members invited to talk with Emily or Lisa about any suggestions on Wind River planning or if additional info is needed.

#### Updates and decision items:

##### Partnership Survey Results and Recommendations (Jay McLaughlin)

- 2018 NFF grant had overall emphasis on advancing pace and scale of restoration on the southern GPNF. Survey goal is to better understand partnership utilization: those who

- regularly engage in a variety of agreements with the FS: stewardship, cost-share, collection, etc. and how these partnerships allow more restoration work to be accomplished.
- Not much identified as challenges or barriers. Collaborative has added capacity, increased efficiency and effectiveness, and helped build relationships.
- Developed two main recommendations for 2019—continue to (1) facilitate info sharing/build relationships and (2) secure resources to build partnerships that lead to implementation (e.g., DNR grant for Upper White project).
- Discussion of expanding collaborative’s grant writing role: Diversity of stakeholders on collaborative is a key factor for many funding sources. Collaborative could apply for foundation grants that forest doesn’t have access to. State has asked for \$2 million in additional forest health funding. Lisa is prepared to spend more time on grant writing if group is supportive. Important to include hours for this when considering coordination/facilitation funding sources.
  - Upper White Project as one possibility: Phase I (funded through current DNR grant) is fuel break work on FR 82 and prescribed fire prep in Gotchen area (included in Upper White EA). Project will speed up implementation by 3-5 years and allow more work to get done on the ground. Need funding for Phase II which includes mechanical fuels manipulation and burning in Gotchen. Currently, GPNF receives only \$20K that could be used for prescribed fire or fuelbreak maintenance which is insufficient to cover this work. Region prioritizes sending funds forests with larger needs. Stewardship money will not cover cost either because it’s expensive. If wanted to use stewardship income, would have to wait for funds to build up, but could take years and in meantime, there will be fires.

**Decision:** Group supports two-part approach below:

**(1) Building relationships and sharing information:** Continue collaborative engagement with the Forest Service and other partners on projects underway (vegetation management zones of agreement/efficiency in forest planning, temporary roads monitoring pilot, sustainable recreation planning, and economic case study).

**(2) Identifying and securing resources for implementation of restoration projects:** Expand grant-writing role to obtain funding for priority restoration work. Continue to explore funding possibilities for next phase of Upper White project and learn about other funding mechanisms, such as Good Neighbor Authority, for projects of interest to the collaborative.

### **Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM): Forest Goals and SGPC Recommendations** (Lisa and Emily)

NEPA efficiency ideas under consideration (from document shared at meeting):

**(1) Applying Collaborative ZOA Work to Continued Efficiencies for Plantation Thinning:** Using the completed ZOA for Plantation Thinning as a blueprint, SGPC will explore its next priority topic (possibly treatments in older or naturally-regenerated stands, early seral creation, or road decommissioning/closure), while advancing efforts to translate finished work into increased planning

efficiencies which may include the following: (1) single, large-scale Environmental Assessment used for multiple vegetation management project Decision Notices, (2) one or more condition-based NEPA documents (rather than site-specific NEPA); and/or (3) plantation thinning effects document that summarizes general effects and can be tiered to or referenced for future projects. (In 2019 NFF Grant—wouldn't start until early FY 20)

**(2) Prescribed Burning Pilot:** Main purpose is to find efficient ways to get more large-scale burning accomplished on the forest. Will involve either a condition-based approach (not selecting specific project areas in the NEPA) or a large-scale approach (e.g., select 2000, rather than 300, acres covered in the NEPA). (May start FY 19)

**(3) Recreation Pilot:** Develop a list of recreation activities that could be covered programmatically such as trail maintenance (including reroutes), facility upgrades, special use permits, and/or small trailhead construction. (May start FY 19)

Discussion: All three would not be completed in one year. Aquatics programmatic is one example currently being done at regional scale. Comment made that intention for ZOA work is to have FS use it to build efficiencies like those proposed. FS would want collaborative involvement on plantation thinning document—to decide what are the key pieces.

**Decision:** Group generally supports advancing work on all three with “more info needed” vote on #1 from Nicole who would like to learn more about what form condition-based plantation thinning document would take. Lisa mentioned that Erin would be engaging with interested collaborative members on discussions of plantation thinning doc as part of 2019 NFF grant, though wouldn't likely start until early FY 20.

**Economic Contribution of Stewardship Contracting Study** (Update with Jean Daniels and Aakash Upraity) *\*\*Note: See slides sent by email for details.*

Overview: Looking at contributions by restoration work type, contracting type, and making geographic comparisons, both qualitative and quantitative. Will conduct interviews with contractors. Will analyze expenditures by contract type: agreement, service contract, or timber contract. Walked through one example, Cat Creek project; first stewardship project on the forest. Using IMPLAN, economic impact model, for data analysis. How far they can track the economic impacts of contracts (e.g., where employees live) will depend on level of information they receive in interviews.

**Actions:** Jean and Aakash will be conducting interviews with contractors this spring/summer, and will keep collaborative updated on progress. Jean suggested that SGPC use this study as a foundation to explore ways to monitor socioeconomic conditions on own in the future.

### **Overview of Collaborative Monitoring Plan:** (Sharon Frazey)

- Started Monitoring Committee 2 years ago at Annual Meeting and now we Collaborative Monitoring Plan and Temp Roads Restoration Effectiveness Pilot Project. Committee members: Rick Larson, Jim White, Tom Linde, Tom Lannen, Emily Stevenson, Jeffrey Mocniak, and Mary Ann Duncan-Cole. Shiloh Halsey with CFC helped with project design.
- 3-part strategy:
  - (1) Integrating monitoring into ZOA work by looking at how our collective agreements/sideboards align with specific projects on the ground.
  - (2) Evaluation of Retained Receipt Process: review final reports & visit sites to help us make recommendations and inform review process.
  - (3) Incorporating science into meetings, field trips, and committee work: invite specialists to share topics of interest (may consider future workshop if time/funding allows).
- First two topics to explore: Temporary Road Restoration Effectiveness and Economic Contribution of Stewardship Sales. Tested our Temp Roads Pilot this past fall (w/ volunteers: Tom Linde, Jim W., Lisa, Amanda Keasberry, Jeffrey, Mary Ann) on Cascade Creek Salvage (2 yrs old) and Gotchen (8 yrs old). Changes were made to clarify objectives and metric descriptions and streamline survey as much as possible.
- Received partial funding for 2019 NFF CCLS grant (\$15,000); portion of this to go toward implementing temp roads monitoring pilot this year.
- MARS/CFC will be coordinating some fuels monitoring as part of the DNR grant Upper White project.

**Decision:** Group approved moving forward with Monitoring Plan.

**Next Steps:** Will implement temp roads pilot in 2019 field season. Continue to coordinate with GPNF Ecologist, Jessica Hudec, on sharing monitoring data and learning about work in the region.

### **6. 2019-20 Workplan Development Break-outs**

- Divided into four subgroups (recreation, zones of agreement for veg management, monitoring, and partnerships) to discuss/identify (1) primary goals for each group (be able to share how they align with SGPC mission), (2) main actions required to accomplish these, and (3) outcomes (How will we know if we've been successful?). Will incorporate details into work plan.
- Group summaries:
  - ZOA: Chose topic of forest heterogeneity with first look at regen harvest/early seral creation as one tool, since this is being explored as part of Upper Wind project. Aligns with economic, ecosystem health, and roads/public safety aspects of mission. Timeframe: complete ZOA in 6-8 months.
  - Recreation: Goals are (1) provide feedback on Recreation Site Analysis (RSA) results when released in April—relates to mission by affecting quality of recreation across forest, driving economic development, and opportunity to positively impact ecosystem health; (2) explore

dispersed recreation issue by first learning more about FS management guidelines; and (3) explore connection between road closures/dispersed camping access (an unresolved concern on Middle Wind) through possible ZOA work.

- Monitoring/Science: Add previously discussed Monitoring Plan action items to work plan.
- Partnerships: Continue to use collaborative to secure funds; identify where skill shortages/pinch points are and where partnerships could fill in (e.g., presale prep team, strike team, something similar to “A to Z” project opportunities, engineering shortages to support, etc.) Could explore possibility of contractor workshops. Explore how to project out work over long-term.

**Feedback, Appreciations, and Closing:** Members invited to write something they liked/that worked well and something they’d change/suggestion for future. Lisa to use for next year’s planning.

Many thanks to all who made this day possible—Steering Committee (Emily, Nicole, Jay, Jeremy, Gary, and Tom Linde); Sharon Frazey for meeting support and developing packet materials; presenters (Emily P., Tyson, Dave, Trevor, Brian, Sean, Jean, and Aakash); Jon Nakae for maps; members who helped facilitate (Ryan, Sharon, Jeffrey, and Jay); and generous support of Kristin Waymire at Skamania Lodge!