



Meeting Notes
September 19, 2019, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Rock Creek Hegewald Center, Stevenson

Participants:

1. Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County
2. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc.
3. Carson Coates, Office of Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler
4. Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Saving Skamania County/Community Member
5. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
6. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
7. Bob Hamlin, Skamania County Commissioner
8. Jessica Hudec, Ecologist, Mt. Adams Ranger District, GPNF
9. Rick Larson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
10. Jay McLaughlin, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
11. Jeffrey Mocniak, Melchemy Craft Mead
12. John Moody, Community Member
13. Lisa Naas Cook, SGPC Coordinator
14. Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association
15. Emily Platt, District Ranger, Mt. Adams Ranger District, GPNF
16. Ryan Sanchez, Yakama Nation Tribal Forestry
17. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
18. Molly Whitney, Cascade Forest Conservancy

Meeting Purpose: To discuss (1) Zones of Agreement (ZOA) for Forest Restoration document as an introduction to the ZOA: Early Seral Habitat Creation in progress and (2) early seral science speakers so that the collaborative's interests are incorporated in the development of the Upper Wind Proposed Action in winter/spring 2020.

Agenda change: Economic Contribution of Stewardship Contracting Study update with Jean Daniels, PhD will be on October agenda as a result of a schedule conflict with this meeting.

No changes or additions to June, July, and August Notes. June meeting at Wind River Training Center included FS presentation on early seral habitat creation concept for Upper Wind; July was Upper Wind Early Seral Field Trip with Tom Spies and James Johnston; and August was Wind River Recreation Field Trip focused on dispersed recreation management.

Project Updates/Announcements

- DNR All Lands Grant Proposal: Upper White Prescribed Fire/Fuels Reduction (*Jay McLaughlin*):
 - Current DNR All Lands grant (\$375,100) is funding implementation of mechanical fuels manipulation/piling in Gotchen units being prepped for prescribed fire next year (part of Upper White project) and fuelbreak construction on Forest Road 82 (initial treatment was in 2009). Work started this summer and MARS crew is ahead of schedule. Will complete work on about 300 acres in Gotchen units. Cascade Forest Conservancy will have volunteer crew doing hand work in prepped units as well. Grant also included purchase of Osborne photos—high point panoramas from the 1930s—to use in planning. Emily and team will decide on a few points to recreate with current photos, perhaps Little White, the next planning area.



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- Next proposal for second round of funding is due Oct. 23. Building on current work, will include prescribed burn in Gotchen unit prepped this year and continue mechanical fuels work in next units. Proposal will also include some funding for public engagement and project monitoring. FS plans to invite Yakama fire crew, use MARS crew, and train DNR staff on burn in fall 2020. Treatment cost per acre is expensive now because of forest type and length of time since last treatment. Expect that work will be easier and less expensive on subsequent units.
- Temporary Roads Monitoring Pilot (*Sharon Frazey*): Collaborative volunteers surveyed 8 roads from 5 different project areas. Looked at roads with varying lengths of time after restoration—oldest was restored in 2008 and newest restored in 2017. Five volunteers contributed 92 hours and 10 total days. Special thanks to monitoring volunteers: Nicole Budine, Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Jeffrey Mocniak, Emily Stevenson, and Jim White. Sharon will be summarizing findings in a report to share with collaborative, FS, and interested partners this spring.
- Final GPNF Recreation Site Analysis Program of Work to be released Sept. 30.
- Shared Stewardship Workshop, hosted by Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition: Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Missoula, MT. Meeting focused on role of forest collaboratives and community-based organizations in Shared Stewardship MOUs in different states across the west. Lisa will attend and invited members to share any interests or concerns with her to bring to workshop. Will report back at October meeting.
- WA Forest Collaboratives Network Summit: November 6-7, Wenatchee, WA. Will share agenda details when available.
- Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler sponsored a bill with Oregon Representative Kurt Shrader to permanently authorize the Special Forest Products program which expires on Sept. 30, 2019. In June, SGPC approved a letter of support for this program and shared with the Congresswoman along with U.S. Senators Murray and Cantwell. Carson Coates, with Herrera Beutler's office, will keep the group posted on bill's status.

Ranger Report (*District Ranger Emily Platt*)

- Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for GPNF: Washington Office approved use of one committee for entire forest to simplify coordination (had been two in the past). Have not approved committee members yet. Decision on how to spend Title II funds needs to be made by Sept. 2020. Plan is to have application process, but if committee is not approved in time, FS may be able to allocate funds based on which projects have been funded in the past. This would be a last resort to avoid losing funds.
- FS seasonal jobs announcement open now—closes Sept. 30. Send names of applicants interested in GP work to Emily to flag for hiring team.
- Justin Ewer, Wilderness Manager/Recreation Planner, accepted a position on the Deschutes National Forest. FS will be looking to fill that position. Best wishes, Justin!
- Erin Black, Planning Team Leader, is on a District Ranger detail on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District. Jessica Hudec, GPNF Ecologist, will be point person for collaborative while Erin is away (likely through November).
- Thank you to the ZOA subcommittee for working through stickiest issues and taking on early seral topic which is new to collaborative and region. (Emily gave Mt. Adams Ranger District



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hats to ZOA members: Jacob Anderson, Jon Paul Anderson, Jeremy Grose, John Moody, Molly Whitney, and Lisa.)

Draft ZOA: Forest Restoration, South Zone Planning Area, GPNF and Early Seral ZOA Work

Lisa explained that decision item for this meeting is only ZOA: Forest Restoration (page 1) and Early Seral Habitat Creation section to follow is preliminary brainstorm, not exhaustive list. Subcommittee will be working on Early Seral details in coming months. Jake Anderson and John Moody provided an overview of the Forest Restoration piece: purpose is to capture agreement on why before getting into what/how details; sets up principles for different forest restoration activities across the South Zone Planning Area, of which Early Seral Habitat Creation is one example. Functions as umbrella document that can be attached to different issue-focused ZOAs the group develops in the future.

Key Discussion Points:

- Most discussion focused on second paragraph:
 - What does “natural” mean when referring to mature forest in first sentence? Discussion of how to acknowledge that human interventions are not exactly the same as natural processes. “Natural” evokes different understandings among members. Decided to omit “natural” from first sentence, while capturing above acknowledgement with this edit: “To facilitate recovery of a mature and diverse forest, science-based interventions can be beneficial in some circumstances and provide ecological, economic, and social benefits. Though these interventions cannot perfectly replicate natural processes, we recommend that critical structures, dynamics, and components of ecological recovery be protected and/or encouraged as appropriate.”
 - Last sentence describes need to protect “existing later successional stands”: would this exclude active management in older stands, like current Upper White project? Intent of this language was not to limit management options in a landscape like Upper White that might need treatment in older stands for ecological reasons. Discussion also focused on use of “later” to refer to successional stands and ambiguity around this word—are we talking about “Late Successional Reserve,” older stands, anything post-early successional to late successional? Original intent was to be inclusive of older stands (not specifically LSR land allocation). Group decided to change the last sentence to: “All forest successional stages should be managed to support current and evolving structural diversity.”
 - Decided to include definition of “beaver dam analogues” as footnote—see approved ZOA for details.
 - The last paragraph mentions Upper Wind and Early Seral Habitat Creation recommendations to follow. This language will remain in ZOA submitted for Upper Wind, and will be omitted when the Forest Restoration document introduces other issue-specific ZOAs or future project-level recommendations.

Decision: Group unanimously approved ZOA: Forest Restoration with the edits noted above.



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Next Step: ZOA subcommittee to meet in October to continue work on Early Seral Habitat Creation document.

Early Seral Science Speakers: Group discussed possible topics and presenters for upcoming meetings.

- Matt Betts: Forest Landscape Ecology Lab at OSU, coordinator of Early Seral Biodiversity Science and Management Workshop in Corvallis this past June. Research focuses on how landscape composition affects animal behavior/species distribution/ecosystem function. Has broad background—could cover a variety of early seral topics, including wildlife.
- Charlie Crisafulli: PNW Research Ecologist, worked at MSHNVM since 1980, focuses on ecosystem recovery following large-scale disturbance (volcanic eruption). Could focus on wildlife.
- Alex Foster: Conducting a Cispus River Elk Forage Management study on northern GP. Study just started looking at utilization of gaps, as well as thinned and unharvested stands, by elk in relation to forage availability. Won't have preliminary data to share until next summer/fall.
- Meg Krawchuck: Landscape Fire and Conservation Science Research Group at OSU. Current study in SW OR (Klamath ecoregion) compares early seral sites with high severity fire, high severity fire + salvage, and intensively managed private plantations (essentially public versus private lands). Group wondered if there is research looking at managed plantations on public, rather than private industrial lands?
- Interest in understanding the historic range of variability of early seral habitat on the GP. Is it possible to have someone present on this? Jessica Hudec said that she can provide data on this, and the challenge is that the range is so wide (0-100%) that it doesn't give us clear direction on what is needed now. Discussion of what we're managing to—past conditions or likely future conditions resulting from climate change? Comment made that maybe focus of ZOA work should be to identify agreement on percentages of different seral stages the group would like to manage for at a given time. Lisa mentioned that there was a presenter at Corvallis workshop, Daniel Donato with DNR, who talked about historic range of early seral habitat in western Washington Cascades and will forward his slides to the group.

Next Steps: Lisa to contact Matt Betts and Charlie Crisafulli to check on availability for Oct./Nov./Dec. meeting. Will continue to look for presenter/research focused on early seral on managed plantations on public lands. Will talk with Jessica about sharing historic range of variability info with group and forward Dan Donato's slides to the group. Group to continue conversation about science questions through ZOA work, specifically when we get to discussion of possible monitoring component on Upper Wind project. Will contact Alex Foster in Spring 2020 to check on possible summer/fall presentation once preliminary study data are available.

Next Meeting: October 17, 1:00-3:30 p.m. at Hegewald Center, Stevenson

Remaining 2019 Meetings: November 21, and December 11 (2nd Wednesday), 1:00-3:30 p.m.