



Meeting Notes

January 30, 2020, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Rock Creek Hegewald Center, Stevenson

Participants:

1. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc.
2. Lucy Brookham, Cascade Forest Conservancy
3. Carson Coates, Office of Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler
4. Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
5. Jean Daniels, Pacific Northwest Research Station
6. Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Saving Skamania County
7. Katie Fielding, Community Member
8. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
9. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
10. Paul Hendricks, Stevenson City Council
11. Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner
12. Rick Larson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
13. Tom Linde, Gifford Pinchot Accountability Group
14. Trevor McConchie, WA Department of Natural Resources
15. Dean Myerson, Friends of Mt. Adams
16. Lisa Naas Cook, SGPC Coordinator
17. Max Nielsen-Pincus, Portland State University
18. Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association
19. Dave Olson, Restoration and Stewardship Staff Officer, GPNF (phone)
20. Emily Platt, District Ranger, Mt. Adams Ranger District, GPNF
21. Anjolene Price, Hampton Lumber (phone)
22. Amy Ramsey, WA Department of Natural Resources (phone)
23. Mary Rapar, Community Member
24. Ryan Sanchey, Yakama Nation Tribal Forestry
25. Andrew Spaeth, WA Department of Natural Resources
26. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
27. Troy Stump, High Cascade, Inc.
28. Bacha Tovuudorj, University of Washington/WA DNR Intern (phone)
29. Sean Tran, WA Department of Natural Resources
30. Philip Watness, Skamania Pioneer
31. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
32. Molly Whitney, Cascade Forest Conservancy
33. Sue Wright, Community Member

Purpose: To learn about and discuss (1) preliminary results of the GPNF Economic Contribution of Stewardship Contracting Study and (2) Good Neighbor Authority state-wide and local programs so that collaborative members have the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback on projects connected to the group's mission to enhance economic vitality and forest health on the southern GPNF and in surrounding communities.



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No changes or additions to December Meeting Notes.

Before presentation, Trevor presented Lisa with an appreciation plaque from DNR.

DNR Federal Lands Program/Good Neighbor Authority Update and Q&A (*Trevor McConchie and Sean Tran, DNR; Dave Olson, USFS—by phone*)

Overview: Federal Lands Program is within WA DNR Forest Health Division. Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) is one program tool—allows states, counties, and tribes to work as agents of federal government to conduct work.

See slides sent by email.

Discussion points and questions:

- GPNF has 5 or 6 GNA projects. Typically, commercial projects are around 3-5 million board ft.
- In 2019, GNA sales increased total timber output by about 20% (NEPA ready projects). Currently, about 2 years of NEPA shelf stock. Haven't addressed the planning side through GNA yet. Output on GPNF is highest it's been in the past 20 years.
- Wake sale (Iron Crystal EA) on north end of forest is example of multiple partners working together: Pinchot Partners developed proposal for DNR All Lands Restoration Grant to use GNA to complete a timber sale; funded Sean's position to put sale together; Haul route (25 road) was an issue; Skamania County road crews contracted to do the road work for Wake. While no net income for the county, provided 3 weeks of work for crews and enhanced a haul route that can be used in the future. Example of collaboration across counties.
- Update on GP Program: Active sale, CEBO, about 45% complete; should be finished in Oct. 2020. Setting up two more sales: Ferris on north end (Iron Crystal EA) and another on south end (Upper White EA).
- Question about FS vs. DNR contracts, e.g., FS requires road tolls and DNR does not. Interest in making contract specs consistent across FS and DNR, e.g., unit of measurement used for wood removal affects stumps. Opportunity for FS to look into how these could be better aligned.
- Question about roundup used in Upper White work? No.
- Question about public comment opportunities: Forest Service already completed NEPA for vegetation projects that these GNA sales come from, and public had opportunity to comment during the NEPA process. Using state contracting mechanism to complete a sale doesn't affect the federal NEPA requirement.

Preliminary Results of GPNF Economic Contribution of Stewardship Contracting Study (*Jean Daniels, PhD, Economist, Pacific Northwest Research Station and Max Nielson-Pincus, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, Portland State University*)



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See slides sent by email for details.

Overview: Study period is 2005 through September 30, 2019 (FY 19). Only includes stewardship contracts, no timber sales. Looks at entire GPNF (north and south zone planning areas). Proportion of GPNF by county—Skamania largest at 64.9%. Restoration expenditures by contractor location: Lewis (1), Cowlitz (2), Skamania (3) (*slide 12*). Timber value by purchaser location: Skamania (1), Lewis (2), Cowlitz (3) (*slide 13*). Economic impact analysis summary: \$1M in Stewardship Expenses contributed to 14.6 Jobs, \$720,000 Labor Income (~\$50k/job), or about \$138,000 in Output/Job. 1 million cubic feet harvested contributed to 52 jobs or 4.3 jobs/MBF and \$2.9M in Labor Income (~\$56k/job) (*slide 21*).

Discussion points and questions:

- Discussion focused on criteria for determining what “local” means. Counties with GPNF land? Areas a certain distance from restoration activity? Is Clark County local? Many felt Clark County isn’t local. Point raised that measuring locality through strict county boundaries doesn’t get at the variation of economic contribution across the broader area. Could we consider local area as a polygon that cuts through various counties, rather than adhering to boundaries? Line officer can specify what “local” is in each stewardship contract—have used counties in recent contracts.
- Suggestion made to share final study results with Skamania County Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce.
- Question about whether Categorical Exclusion (CE) can be used for stewardship contracts. Yes, CE is possible, though typically use Environmental Assessment (EA).

Next Steps: Jean and Max will be looking at impacts by project type, impacts by contract type, and refining the impact of volume harvested. They will share final results with both collaborative groups when complete.

Collaborative Business/Announcements

- **Wind River Business Park Update** (*Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner*): County continues to move forward with a variety of rentals including hemp seed grower, preschool, and microgreens/firewood/biomass project. Working to finalize conveyance. The two rentals we saw during June meeting/tour are not moving as fast as they expected; think the reason is no linens and will add them as amenity.
- **Funding Update:** RAC Title II and DNR Building Forest Partnerships Grant Award:
 - Currently, waiting on FS decision to allocate some of \$1M Title II funds to projects with strong support that have received funds in the past (e.g., Forest Youth Success and GPNF collaboratives). Amount would likely be similar to past request. FS is putting together a list of potential projects, including SGPC. Effort is still underway to finalize approval of committee members. Funds may be available by spring, but no official date set yet. Want to get money on the ground this field season.



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- SGPC also received full funding (\$40K) through WA DNR Building Forest Partnerships Grant. Will help fund collaborative coordination/facilitation through June 30, 2021. Still need additional funds to support a half-time coordinator over the next 2-3 years, and RAC grant would hopefully cover this need.
- **Coordinator Transition Plans:** SGPC is currently seeking a new coordinator. Hiring committee includes Lisa, several SGPC Steering Committee members (Jeremy Grose, Jay McLaughlin, Emily Stevenson, Molly Whitney), Erin Black (USFS—non-voting), and Andrew Spaeth (DNR—non-voting). Job application deadline: February 7. Lisa's last meeting is February 20. She has flexibility in new position to provide some overlapping training time whenever the new coordinator is hired.

Next Meeting: February 20, 1:00-3:30 P.M., Hegewald Center, Stevenson: Focus will be discussion of scoping details for Upper Wind Vegetation Project Proposed Action

Save the Date: March 19, 9:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.—2020 SGPC Annual Meeting