



**Meeting Notes**  
**February 20, 2020, 1:00-3:30 p.m.**  
**Rock Creek Hegewald Center, Stevenson**

**Participants:**

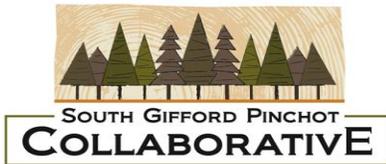
1. Jake Anderson, Klickitat County
2. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc.
3. Erin Black, Acting District Ranger, Mt. Adams Ranger District
4. Lucy Brookham, Cascade Forest Conservancy
5. Tracy Calizon, Community Engagement Staff Officer, GPNF
6. Gary Collins, Back Country Horsemen of Washington
7. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
8. Kyung Koh, Recreation Program Manager, GPNF
9. Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner
10. Rick Larson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
11. Tom Linde, Gifford Pinchot Accountability Group
12. Matt Little, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, WA Chapter
13. Jay McLaughlin, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
14. Somer Meade, WA State University Extension
15. Lisa Naas Cook, SGPC Coordinator
16. Jon Nakae, Silviculturist, Mt. Adams Ranger District
17. Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association
18. Emily Platt, Special Project Coordinator, USFS PNW Region
19. Amy Ramsey, WA Department of Natural Resources
20. Mary Rapar, Community Member
21. Ryan Sanchez, Yakama Nation Tribal Forestry
22. Chuck Stambaugh, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
23. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
24. Tom Torres, Acting Forest Supervisor, GPNF
25. Bacha Tovvudorj, University of Washington/WA DNR Intern
26. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
27. Molly Whitney, Cascade Forest Conservancy
28. Sue Wright, Community Member

**Meeting Purpose:** To discuss the draft Upper Wind early seral proposed action and collaborative zones of agreement work in a way that fosters trust and shared understanding so that members' interests are incorporated in project details finalized this fall.

No changes or additions to January Meeting Notes.

**SGPC Partnership Survey** (*Bacha Tovvudorj and Amy Ramsey, WA DNR*)

Bacha, University of WA student and WA DNR intern, invited SGPC members to complete a survey assessing the collaborative's activities. Lisa explained that input on certain questions (e.g., interest in extending work off-Forest, or All-Lands approach) will be especially helpful in strategic



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planning discussions planned for the coming year.

**Action:** Lisa to send out SGPC Survey by email or members may complete written copy and turn in at meeting.

**Recreation Subcommittee Update:** (*Tracy Calizon, USFS; Ryan Ojerio, WTA*)

- Welcome new GPNF Recreation Program Manager, Kyung Koh!
- **Recreation Site Analysis:** This analysis was completed for 210 developed recreation sites across the forest. FS is working with a new concessionaire (Rocky Mountain Resource Corp.), and there will be a learning curve, particularly for campgrounds like Kalama Horse Camp that have not been run by a concessionaire in the past. Tracy welcomes feedback from partners on how it's going. A few specific updates: Lower Lewis River Falls has new toilets. Also received state funding (\$370,000) for replacing toilets on Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

**Action:** Lisa to post link to Recreation Site Analysis on SGPC website.

- **Next Phase of Sustainable Recreation Planning (Trails):** Tracy is mapping out an engagement process that starts with a meeting of partner groups involved in trails to help shape the public engagement component. Will build off an annual volunteer summit where partners come together to discuss work on trails. This "sustainable trails" launch is tentatively planned for March 26 or 27. The Rec Subcommittee is supportive of this approach and expressed a desire for FS to consider the needs of local communities (e.g., emergency services to visitors and parking congestion) throughout this planning effort.

**Action:** Tracy to share confirmed date of sustainable trails launch with collaborative.

- **RAC Title II Funding:** Supervisor's Office is working on developing criteria to select projects based on what has already been approved and highly-supported in the past. The goal is still to finalize the Resource Advisory Committee so that new proposals may be considered. Should know by mid-March which past projects will receive funding, including SGPC facilitation/coordination.

**Discussion of Draft Upper Wind Early Seral Proposed Action** (*Erin Black, Jon Nakae, USFS*)

**Background:** Erin and Lisa provided a summary of how the early seral project idea came to be:

- May 2017: Early seral was identified as a value/interest in a Wind River watershed values mapping workshop held in Trout Lake with USFS/SGPC.
- August 2018: Early seral field trip with Jerry Franklin (UW) and Vince Harke (USF&WS).
- April 2019: ZOA subcommittee had initial discussion about early seral project concept and management sideboards with Ranger and several planning team members.



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- June 2019: FS presented the concept and Ranger sideboards to collaborative. Group identified interest in several science topics and invited presenters below:
  - Upper Wind Early Seral Field Tour, July 2019: Tom Spies (ecological value of early seral, management considerations, and Northwest Forest Plan Science Synthesis) and James Johnston (role of natural disturbance and silvicultural treatments in creating early seral in westside forests).
  - Early Seral Presentations, November 2019: Charlie Crisafulli (role of early seral for diverse wildlife species) and Jessica Hudec (early seral range of variability in western WA).
- ZOA subcommittee identified some guiding questions/considerations based on collaborative discussions that the FS considered in developing the proposed action (in brief here):
  - “Complex” early seral conditions—what are we seeking to create?
  - Rationale for location and patch size (e.g., older stands, adjacency to sensitive areas, needs of diverse plant/animal species)
  - Relationship to natural causes of early seral
  - Management over time
  - Economic cost and prolonged timber rotations
  - Need to learn from project—monitoring and research

Erin also reminded group of **Ranger Platt’s initial sideboards**: Avoid impacts to older forests/edges; exclude areas of high-quality owl habitat; focus on younger homogenous stands (i.e., plantations); incorporate areas to benefit rare plants, (e.g., pale blue-eyed grass); and create patch sizes of several hundred acres. Planning team further refined stands that met Ranger sideboards: tried to avoid spotted owl historic activity center core area circles and northern goshawk protective areas; looked at proximity to black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk biological winter range; and looked at proximity to existing early seral habitat. After applying these to the landscape, Ranger explained that in order to get to a larger patch size in the range of what might occur from natural disturbance, sideboards could be flexed to consider older stands.

**Project Overview:** Jon Nakae walked the group through project rationale and design features. *Please see the Early Seral Proposed Action handout from the February meeting for details.*

- Overall goal was to create a larger, contiguous early seral patch. Trying to emulate natural disturbance. Existing 40-60-acre plantations across the landscape is not natural pattern.
- Proposed area is on Matrix land; surrounded by national forest; higher elevation; lots of meadows.
- Adjacency to existing early seral—there is connectivity to Lone Butte natural early seral area to the north.
- Species of concern/interest: no threatened and endangered species; good huckleberry, bear grass, and pale blue-eyed grass (endemic species) habitat.

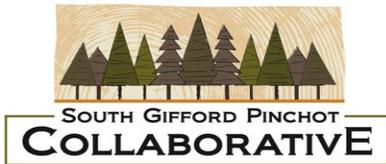


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- Originally, seeking 600 acres in size; ended up with about 450. Took a conservative approach through these protections:
  - No treatments in suitable owl habitat and riparian reserves.
  - Old-growth buffers to protect microclimate for soils and avoid edge effects:
    - Old growth (180+ yrs)/suitable owl habitat adjacent to late-seral (120 yrs): 180-meter buffer
    - Old growth (180+ yrs)/suitable owl habitat adjacent to mid-seral (30-55 yrs): 40-meter buffer.
  - Will have about 30% total retention when taking into account riparian reserves and 15% no-cut retention areas (per Northwest Forest Plan). Important to have retention clumps be large enough to maintain mycorrhizal function.

**Discussion points and questions:**

- Is this early seral project considered a “keystone” project, or example/template for future projects? (Erin Black) No, not setting it up as a model to be replicated. Interested in learning from it.
- How will this project fit within FS fire management strategies? (Emily Platt) In Upper Wind area, historically had long fire return intervals. Fires that would have burned here in the past will not be allowed to burn now because of intensity and safety concerns (e.g., extensive canopy and other fuels leading to crown fire). Can’t rely only on natural fire here as source of early seral habitat because fire suppression is a reality. Also, can’t do extensive prescribed fire in westside forest like this because of burn intensity.
- Is broadcast burn a possibility for remaining surface fuels? (Emily) Younger plantations often don’t have sufficient fuel load, so difficult to burn. Won’t manage older stands with fire. Could consider burning some activity fuels and slash on landings.
- Concern about managing future entries to maintain short-lived, early seral habitat over the long-term. Consider how post-harvest management practices may be used to prolong habitat.
- Consider how proposed action relates to broader early seral management needs across the forest as identified in the 10-Year Integrated Vegetation Management planning effort underway with collaborative input.
- Consider long-term effect on timber rotation intervals in Matrix land allocation.
- Interest in learning from this project: monitoring and research opportunities. Collaborative could play a role in identifying priorities, providing volunteer capacity, and/or seeking funding to assist FS and academic partners.
- Concern about treatment in older stands in the 100-120 age range. These are mature trees on trajectory to “old growth” (180+). Jessica’s presentation at November meeting indicated that there is a lack of late seral on the landscape, too. Uncomfortable going into these stands. Needs more discussion.



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- (Emily): An ecological reason for going into these older stands, and not relying only on plantations, is the need for legacy features to create “complex” early seral habitat. Intent is to emulate disturbance/fire which would have had these legacy features, unlike plantation. The existing stand affects the quality and complexity of the early seral habitat created from it.

**Upper Wind Planning Timeline:**

- Late March: Upper Wind scoping document to go out.
- March-May: ZOA subcommittee to finish early seral document and share with collaborative for feedback and approval.
- June-October: Schedule field tours to discuss remaining site-specific issues as needed. Finalize project-level recommendations for Upper Wind (e.g., road decommissioning/closure, other restoration work, etc.) to incorporate in Upper Wind comments submitted after Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is out in late fall.
- November: Draft EA is expected to be released.
- December: Submit final Upper Wind comments, including completed early seral ZOA work and project-level recommendations on other topics. May choose to reference the completed ZOA for Plantation Thinning for the thinning component of this project.

**Next Steps:** Group agreed that treatments in older stands are a key topic needing focused discussion. ZOA group will discuss older stands and other concerns/issues in more depth at next subcommittee meeting in March.

**Collaborative and South Zone Planning Updates**

- Erin Black is Acting District Ranger for the Mt. Adams Ranger District until the position is filled.
- **Youth Mentor Program in Skamania County:** Somer Meade, with WSU Extension, received a grant for mentor program for youth interested in natural resource careers. Goal is to provide a year-long opportunity that extends the experience Forest Youth Success teens get in the summer. Mentors may volunteer about 4 hours a month over one year. Anyone interested in learning more may contact Somer.  
**Action:** Lisa to send out a program description and Summer’s contact info by email.
- **10-Year Integrated Vegetation Management Priorities Survey:** Lisa reminded everyone of survey sent out by email and offered copies to complete at the meeting. Jessica Hudec, GPNF Ecologist, will be compiling results and an update will be shared at May/June meeting.
- **Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) Update:** Translating ZOA work into Condition-Based NEPA (*Erin and Lisa*)  
**Action:** Given time constraints, group decided to move this topic to March meeting agenda.



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The meeting concluded with Lisa sharing her appreciation for the group and a send-off with thank-you gifts from collaborative members and partners.

**SGPC Annual Meeting:** March 19, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Skamania Lodge Adams Room, Stevenson.  
Happy Hour to follow!

**Save the Date:** [PNW Forest Collaboratives Workshop](#), Hood River, April 9-10