



SGPC Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2020, 1:00-3:00 P.M. (Zoom)

NOTES

Participants:

1. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc.
2. Erin Black, District Ranger, Mt. Adams Ranger District
3. Lucy Brookham, Cascade Forest Conservancy
4. Tracy Calizon, Community Engagement Staff Officer, GPNF
5. Bengt Coffin, Acting Planning Team Lead, Mt. Adams Ranger District
6. Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
7. Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Saving Skamania County
8. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
9. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
10. Bob Hamlin, Skamania County Commissioner
11. Brian Hatfield, WA Department of Commerce
12. Sam Kolb, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
13. Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner
14. Rick Larson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
15. Tom Linde, Gifford Pinchot Accountability Group
16. Matt Little, WA Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
17. Jay McLaughlin, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
18. Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association
19. Josh Petit, SGPC Coordinator
20. Anjolene Price, Hampton Lumber
21. Andrew Spaeth, WA Department of Natural Resources
22. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
23. Sean Tran, WA Department of Natural Resources
24. Philip Watness, Skamania Pioneer
25. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
26. Molly Whitney, Cascade Forest Conservancy

** **Note:** Zoom indicated there were 28 participants, so please let us know if we missed you! **

Meeting Purpose: To: (a) meet our new SGPC Coordinator, (b) receive an update on the Washington Forest Action Plan, (c) receive an update on the Temporary Roads Pilot Monitoring Project, (d) receive an update on the Upper Wind scoping letter, and (e) discuss a stewardship change.

Introductions from our new Coordinator (*Josh Petit*) and attendees.

February meeting notes: No changes.

Washington Forest Action Plan Update (*Andrew Spaeth, DNR*)

Andrew presented slides on the Washington Forest Action Plan

- Washington Forest Action Plan is a statewide plan established in the 2008 Farm Bill. Tied to USDA state Cooperative Forestry Programs (e.g., community forestry, forest health, small forest landowners, etc.)
- Planning process core tenets: collaboration, respect diverse partners, peer-reviewed science, ID milestones, etc.
- Partner engagement: outreach, review, technical panel, forest action plan webinars
- Key objectives: identify opportunities to align strategies, resources; reinforce commitment, create enabling conditions to develop Western WA Forest Health & Resilience Strategy
- Threats: climate change, insect & disease, drought, wildfire, invasive spp., conversion
- Overarching strategies: landscape resilience, wildland urban interface & fragmentation, community & urban resilience, stewardship, wildlife, water
- Shared Stewardship MOU: seven core tenets (e.g., best science, all authorities, id priority landscapes, use existing strategies, target investment, partnerships)
- Other planning efforts: Strategic Plan, 20-Year Plan, 10-Year Wildland Fire Protection Plan, Climate Resilience Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, Strategic Plans & Guidance
- ArcGIS Dataset maps incorporated into Action Plan: landscape resilience, conversion risk, forest stewardship, urban & community forestry
 - Eastern Washington priorities: looked at data and then incorporated feedback
 - Western Washington forest health & resilience
 - Landscape resilience indicators + values at risk = priority areas
 - Indicators: drought vulnerability, forest departure, water quality, biodiversity
 - Values at risk: fish & wildlife, drinking water, rare & unique habitats, timber
 - Stakeholder input: consider programs, tools available, focus planning on NF lands, through partnerships, non-industrial private landowners
 - Restoration Needs Assessment: shows Huc 10 priorities and highlights western part of GP
 - Timber data layer: potential areas to treat, masks out wilderness, old growth
 - Areas affected by drought data layer
 - WDFW data layer: summarizes habitat (e.g, requires active restoration, unique habitat)
 - Fish Habitat Index data: darker where more work needed
 - Forests to Faucets data: water for downstream communities
 - 303d listed waterways data: temp, turbidity – WA Dept Ecology
 - Carbon data layer: above ground biomass
 - WDFW new datasets: not incorporated in draft prioritization
 - Habitat Connectivity Working Group layer
- Derek is drafting a document describing analysis. Estimated to be completed at the end of June.

- Question on why didn't include state management of state trust lands?
 - Response was that state trust lands have their own set of priorities they are managing for.
 - There is interest in identifying synergies to accomplish goals, but State Trust Lands is not a program funded through cooperative forestry programs.
- Question on why does the state prioritize Forest Service lands?
 - Response was that after the huge wildfire seasons in 2014/15, legislature directed DNR to develop plan and treat acres.
 - There is too much mid seral habitat.
 - USFS is good partner to accelerate restoration.

Update: Temporary Roads Pilot Monitoring Project (*Sharon Frazey, MARS*)

Sharon presented slides on results from the 2018 & 2019 field work

- Why roads? During Winter 2017/18 entire collaborative brainstormed topics of interest, ranked them and came up with a few to explore further, then Monitoring Subcommittee ran these through several criteria. Came up with roads because:
 - There is a lack of current data on how roads recover
 - Temp roads are a topic generating many comments in NEPA
 - Opportunity to build capacity for collaborative agreement
- Road selections
 - Chose a range of roads between westside(green)/eastside(yellow) (5/5)
 - Sale types (4 stewardship, 6 traditional)
 - Ranges in time: 2-11 years old
 - Roads were 600-1200ft in length
- Metrics
 - Photos: help tell story, decipher data
 - Closure parameters: identify if roads stayed closed or not
 - Drainage parameters: identify erosion
 - Road surface conditions: identify road vegetation
 - Values: qualitative questions where match up what seeing with how you feel about it
- Pilot
 - 2018 tested protocol – visit same 2 sites with 2 different groups
 - Revisions – edited question descriptions, streamlined metrics
- Findings
 - Road closure:
 - Structure: 3 of the roads used logs only, 7 berms/tank traps
 - Effectiveness: yes as 0 breached
- Drainage parameters
 - Match slope: 5 flat, 2 mostly flat; 3 steep banks (>6ft)
 - Erosion/gullies: none
 - Water bars: one on Cascade Cr where changed direction, some on road left open (functioning)
 - Crossing: one small draw; no evidence of water scour/deposition

- Road surface parameters
 - Filtration: appear lumpy? (ripped, scarified, roughed up, fractured, uneven); yes to all
 - Can you see wheel tracks? no to all
 - Cover: bare soil = low, litter duff = moderate, low amt crushed rock, high amount of slash and vegetation
 - Avg depth slash >1ft; good as slash provides shade for new seedlings, protects soil surface, enhances nutrient cycling, & dissipates water energy
 - Revegetation: seeded grasses were not identified, found moderate to high diversity of veg composition, saw lots of tree seedlings coming up as well (<5ft)
 - Noxious weeds in 6 out of 10 roads: small amounts; useful to let Emily S. with County Weeds Program know so can treat quickly!
- Interesting to note: found piles at end of most roads. Found a landing at the end of Smoky Unit 7 with heavy amount of dispersed slash. Question in field on amount of slash - helps reduce invasives, but will it be able to regenerate?
- Value questions: does it look like you thought it would? Do you like the way it looks?
 - Cascade 2014: no, less visible; yes, blends in well
 - Dry Cr 2010: yes, still sign that road was here; yes, more vegetation than slash, no erosion, no use, good species diversity
- Summary
 - Temp roads will remain discernable for a long time (decade) especially if located cross slope
 - We can keep them from being reused for motor vehicle roads
 - We can restore water infiltration and prevent surface erosion
 - Roads will revegetate (albeit with some weeds)
- What's next? Share with Ranger district, Western Washington ecology group (MBS, Olympic), other collaboratives?
- Monitoring Plan with 3 focus areas
 - Assess ZOA recommendations
 - Evaluate Retained Receipt restoration process
 - Integrate science learning
- Thank you to all who contributed: 2018-2019 Field Work & Monitoring Subcommittee
- Comment from Emily Stevenson: could identify roads that had cleaned equipment vs. not as some roads had weeds present along the road but not in the unit.
- Jon Paul Anderson commented that grasses were seeded only along roads where there was not enough slash to cover exposed soil. Seeded in Abo, Curly Stewardship, and Bolt Timber Sales.
- Erin Black asked that we incorporate findings/discussions into Upper Wind comments.

Ranger & Recreation Updates (*Erin Black, Mt. Adams District Ranger; Tracy Calizon, Community Engagement Staff Officer, GPNF*)

- Forest Service personnel mostly working from home. Some personnel are working in the field for critical exemptive work.
- There is a developed recreation closure. Still seeing some members of public driving out to the forest. The closure order will be in place until the Governor's order is lifted (disperse where congregating, firewood cutting is allowed).
- There are some road closures: Curly Cr to the East of 90 except exempt activities and local residence. The 83 road is closed.

- In some areas where there are large amounts of recreation, FS will coordinate with state at regional level. May lift closure after ensuring safety in place.
- There are personal use restrictions around fire.
- FS still has someone at the front desk to answer questions over the phone.
- Planning team: scoping letter for Upper Wind is moving forward.
- *Request:* please explain that our first responders do not have training in COVID-19. People are still out on GP and on other forests. Skamania County has 1 EMS station that serves 50 miles & only 2 crews on at a time. When called out for recreationists, detracts from what can do for citizens.
- Tracy reports that CA is considering closing the PCT and thinks OR & WA will follow.
- Can apply for mushroom permits by mail. Climbing should open sometime this summer. looking to create an on-line system.
- FS focus is first on firefighting and safety. Impact to rural economies is the next most important priority.

Zones of Agreement for Early Seral Subcommittee Update (*Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber; Molly Whitney, CFC*)

- Jeremy: The ZOA subcommittee has not been able to come to a consensus but there is a compromise. Will make a recommendation but will not be the full acreage.
- Molly: CFC is concerned about some specifics in the ZOA and pushing back on some recommendations and making space.

Closing

- Thoughts on impacts of social distancing on future collaborative work?
- Comment that attendee liked Zoom and thought it worked out well.
- Reminders: reach out for today's PPT slides, next meeting also conducted via Zoom.