

**Meeting Notes June 18, 2020, 1:00-3:00 P.M.**  
**Zoom Remote Meeting**



**Participants:**

1. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc.
2. Erin Black, Mt. Adams District Ranger, USFS
3. Lucy Brookham, Cascade Forest Conservancy
4. Bengt Coffin, South Zone Planning Team Leader, USFS
5. Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
6. Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Saving Skamania County
7. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
8. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
9. Sarah Kohout - SW WA Outreach Director, Senator Cantwell's Office
10. Mackenzie Karnstein, OSU Student
11. Sam Kolb, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
12. Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner
13. Rick Larson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
14. Matt Little, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, WA Chapter
15. Jay McLaughlin, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
16. Jeffrey Mocniak, Melchomy Craft Mead/Cascadia Education Project
17. Josh Petit, SGPC Coordinator
18. Anjolene Price, Hampton Lumber
19. Mary Repar, Community Member
20. Andrew Spaeth, WA Department of Natural Resources
21. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
22. Sean Tran, WA Department of Natural Resources
23. Bill Weiler, Friends of Mt. Adams
24. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
25. Molly Whitney, Cascade Forest Conservancy
26. Sue Wright, Community Member

**Meeting Purpose:** The objectives of this meeting were to: (a) discuss the Upper Wind early seral ZOA survey results and next steps, (b) discuss the Upper Wind Scoping Letter recently released by the USFS, (c) brainstorm future guest speaker and field trip ideas, and (d) get a brief update on the Temp Roads Monitoring Project recommendations.

**May Meeting Notes:** Approved as written.

### **USFS Upper Wind NEPA Scoping Letter Discussion**

- Andrew: Great job on brochure. Good to see the collaborative work so well referenced in document.
- Bengt and team would like comments by July 3rd.

### **Upper Wind Early Seral Survey Results** (*Josh Petit, SGPC Coordinator*)

- Request slides for additional details
- Proposals:
  - 1) Forest Service's Original Plan  
Regeneration harvest of:
    - Old, 80-120 yrs age class: 247 acres
    - Mid-age, 46-55 yrs age class: 200 acres
    - Young, 30-41 yrs age class: 153 acres
  - 2) CFC's Initial Requested Modified Plan
    - Old, 80-120 year old units: Thin half of the units and leave the other half untouched.
    - Mid-age, 50-80 year old units: Manage per the proposed FS plan.
    - Young, 30-50 year old units: Retain or remove these units from the plan if too expensive (CFC will not object either way).
    - CFC also asks:
      - That this not be the format for a "pilot" project for other areas
      - That this area will be extensively monitored to see if successful (terms of success TBD) before implementing or suggesting for other areas.
  - 3) Recent ZOA Subcommittee 'Compromise' Plan
    - Old: start with 40-50 acres (contiguous to mid-age and younger units) and monitor as a trial-run for remaining older stands
      - If possible, CFC requests that this plan target younger or less ecologically-valuable sections of these older stands to avoid removing the taller/wider trees seen on Lidar and 'native stands'
    - Mid age: same as FS and CFC plans
    - Young: same as FS and CFC plans
  - 4) Summary of Preliminary Findings
    - Moderately to highly knowledgeable on early seral
    - Very familiar with Upper Wind

- Well-informed overall on issue
  - Moderately to very important
  - At the moment, most support for FS original plan, but awaiting additional responses
- Remaining Concerns & Information Needs
    - Issues lacking clarity:
      - CFC proposal and ZOA proposal details
    - How would ZOA older stand trial run play out?
    - “I would like to know how extensive the stands of trees in the 80 to 120 year age group are in the Upper Wind River drainage. What is ultimate priority of NW Forest Plan (early seral versus older stands)?”
    - To what extent has the last couple decades of the NW Forest Plan protected Old-Growth for us to feel confident that we can safely sacrifice some old trees for early seral habitat?
- Other Comments & Themes
    - Matrix land is meant to be logged
    - Interest in incorporating recreation interests in project (e.g., trail showing early seral and educating on benefits)
    - Benefits of early seral versus older growth? Prioritizing one over the other?
- Please give us your feedback!
    - Survey still open (see emails for link or reach out to Josh)
    - Need to provide feedback / larger comments letter to FS in July
    - Thank you for your time and feedback!
- *Bengt*: Have surveys going on for Survey & Manage (S&M) species, discussions on IDT. Looked at identifying 40-50ac for regeneration harvest of younger trees, that are close in proximity to early seral block in plan; but realized that not all S&M surveys complete. S&M surveys will give more information and will continue to evaluate the original plan. When have the completed surveys, will look at acres that best meet the given criteria and don't have S&M species present. Erin will look at pros and cons and decide which proposed alternative to choose. She will have full range of options.
  - *Erin*: Will look to ZOA's and where the group finds consensus.
  - Explanation of S&M – part of the Northwest Forest Plan, developed buffers for rare species. There was not a lot of information in 1984.
  - In the Middle Wind project area, surveys found S&M species, so likely in Upper Wind too.
  - Is the modified plan of thinning for older trees still on the table? Yes, the initial CFC proposal is still out there. CFC is still thinking about the 40 ac of regeneration in older stands proposal; looking to see if important to people. Both proposals still out for discussion.
  - As far as EA goes, FS needs to know if thinning option is still in there. Lucy is happy to send out information on benefits of older stands, please contact CFC.

- *Anjolene*: other forests looking to Gifford Pinchot for guidance and direction. For example, the Mount Baker - Snoqualmie is looking at what GP is willing to test and try. She wants to share this with those stakeholders to see where their comforts lie.
- *Jay*: interesting to see the comment about stands in area. Anecdotally, what he has seen, it is an immense swath of natural regenerated stand and is species poor and homogenous, closed canopy stand, not much wildlife.
- *Emily S*: How are older trees viewed/managed in matrix land? *Bengt*: There is no plan on whether older trees will be cut or not cut. The purpose of Matrix is for providing resource. Right now, have not been cutting old trees anywhere. Matrix is where FS gets the planned board feet, use this area for timber production. Forest plan has set aside Late Successional Reserves for habitat for late successional species management. Matrix is actively managed. During Forest plan development FS modeled for species recovery, and considered matrix as being managed. Also, included the Aquatic Conservation Strategy for buffering stream sides.
- What happened with thinning option for rest of 120-year-old stands? *Jon Paul* stated that spoke with *Jon Nakae* and there would not be a benefit from thinning this stand and that is why the 40-50ac regeneration harvest compromise is there.
- *Mary Ann*: What is the GP evaluating, so in 20-25 years from now will see if the treatment was effective. *Erin*: we will get research involved. The NW Ecology Group is planning to get out there and do pretreatment surveys.
- Reminder to hold *Erin* accountable on what are next steps with that!
- The Swift Project acres that were Early Seral Creation will be harvested soon. There is another small area that we could see too.
- *Sue Wright*: recommends contacting *Matt Betts* who is studies early seral habitat.
- *Andrew* stated that DNR developed a monitoring protocol that could be used for monitoring.
- Question: Any analysis done on different stand ages and seral conditions present within the planning area? Eg. x% late closed, mid seral closed?
  - *Erin*: FS is relying on GNN (Gradient Nearest Neighbor vegetation mapping) data but not sure how accurate data is. Both *Jessica* and *Jon* have looked at data. *Jessica* looked at data for larger area not this specific scale. *Jessica* looking at forest level conditions - broad scale landscape. Mt Adams Wilderness would have been included in there.
- *Erin* explained that *Emily* had asked researchers she knew to come analyze this project but to provide their own funding. Also, there is a nationally replicated science monitoring project and the PNW location is at the former canopy crane area - in Wind River Experimental Forest. This project is from the National Science Foundation, the initiative is called National Ecological Observatory Network, NEON.
- ZOA continue to work and will send out for comments.
- *Erin* wants to know how interested people are in moving forward with some level of research. How to account for that.
- *Josh*: Discuss at next ZOA committee meeting. What resources are available? Ecology Group does monitoring.

- *Sharon*: Have asked Jessica about what the Ecology Group will be monitoring and then will try to work with collaborative to find ways to compliment that.
- *Bengt*: Early seral research has been done by Jerry Franklin. Potential to look at what questions collaborative has that maybe didn't happen there and happened here. Or look at what we thought would happen or not.
- Comment that Lisa Naas Cook is working on Vital Indicators Project with Gorge Commission; have funding to do research especially for Climate Change. Bonneville Environmental Foundation is potential funder.

### **Future Guest Speakers and Field Trips Brainstorming Session**

- *Mary*: Pertinent research we could hear about?
- *Josh*: Looked into Matt Betts, Matt Reilly, Garret Meigs (OSU researchers). Topics such as: carbon sequestration, old growth vs. early seral, paleoecology, drought, disturbance
- *Erin*: PNW Research Station - loves to come talk – various areas of interest
- Dan Donato research planting after fire
- Dominick Dellasala researches high severity burns, climate change
- Swift EA up by Lone Butte Snow Park
- Beth Willhite at PNW Research Station - Upper Wind Early Seral
- Look at 5-10 or 15-20 year old thinned area
- Dan Donato, Josh Halofsky, Matt Reilly paper on historic wildfire and early seral habitat <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eap.2013>
- *Sean Tran*: Idea for a field trip up to Sebo timber sale. It is the first GNA sale on the GP and features a regen harvest unit. The project is located by Lone Butte Sno Park.
- *Rick Larson*: talked to Matt Betts last year about coming to SGPC and he was willing. Josh knows him well, published a paper with him. Matt Betts studies impacts to bird species.
- *Matt Little*: suggested looking at Retained Receipts projects. Great to see road & trail conditions - see needs; roads created by users - especially near waterways
- *Jay*: first DNR All Lands grant - Osbourne panoramas scanned and recreated - for this project area or Little White.
- *Erin*: Always wanted subcommittee of Collab focused on user-created roads, closed road/gate breaches, etc. - Trails folks maybe?
- *Jim White*: Bring in a speaker from the DEMO research project, which as implemented in the 1990s on three sites on the GP and two on the Umpqua NF. The study looked at Ecosystem effects of green-tree retention in regeneration harvests. One set of treatments is in the Wind River Watershed.

### **Temp Roads Monitoring Project Recommendations Update (*Sharon Frazey, MARS*)**

- Monitoring Committee has been working on recommendations.
- Will send out to group soon.

## Ranger Updates (*Erin Black, USFS*)

- Closures: only remaining site is the Lower Falls Day Use Area because it is highly congested. FS can't safely put our employees in that area. So far FS has compliance.
- A lot of reservations have gone on line which has reduced face to face contact and FS is able to manage numbers. Front door is not open yet. USDA will tell us when can open. But staff is answering phone 7 days a week. Leave a message if need to as line is busy.
- Timber – there are 2 active sales – GNA/Sebo and Snipe (in Upper White). Ursa should start logging in few weeks.
- Eric Veach is the new Forest Supervisor. Came and drove around district yesterday. Excited to meet collaborative.

## Other Updates

- *Mackenzie Karnstein*: OSU senior studying Forest Ecosystems and Society
- Project researching the most effective communication strategies; specifically impact values have on reaching consensus. She may reach out to some SGPC members for input.
- RVCC policy paper from Jenna Knobloch coming out.
- Note from *Somer Meade*: Forest Youth Success won't be operating this year due to COVID. There are lots of local teens throughout the area that are excited to get back out there when things settle down.

## Next Meeting Info & Closing

- **\*Note** that COVID testing on demand now available!
- *Prompt*: What is the number one thing you are looking forward to 'post-COVID'?
  - Answers: kids in school; really good hamburger, have been enjoying solitude and learning new technology, look forward to socializing at a distance; meeting you in person; hugging loved ones, cold drink with friends, socializing and vacations; bear hugs; traveling
- *Reminder*: Phase 3 of reopening underway.
  - Steering Committee discussing when meetings can be held in Stevenson with limitations and additional protocols.
  - July meeting (7/16) and August (8/20) likely conducted via Zoom, but stay tuned for updates.
  - Considering a 30-minute virtual Happy Hour post-meetings to chat casually.