



Meeting Notes | August 20, 2020, 1:00-3:00pm Zoom Remote Meeting

Participants:

1. Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County
2. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade Inc.
3. Erin Black, Mt. Adams District Ranger, USFS
4. Lucy Brookham, Cascade Forest Conservancy
5. Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
6. Jon Day, Forest Silviculturist, USFS
7. Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Saving Skamania County
8. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
9. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
10. Brian Hatfield, WA Department of Commerce
11. Mackenzie Karnstein, OSU Student
12. Sarah Kohout, Senator Cantwell's Office
13. Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner
14. Rick Larson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
15. Tom Linde, Gifford Pinchot Accountability Group
16. Matt Little, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, WA Chapter
17. Jay McLaughlin, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
18. Dave Olson, GPNF Restoration and Stewardship Staff Officer, USFS
19. Josh Petit, SGPC Coordinator
20. Anjolene Price, Hampton Lumber
21. Matt Reilly, USFS/OSU
22. Andrew Spaeth, WA Department of Natural Resources
23. Bryan Stebbins, Senator Patty Murray's Office
24. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
25. Eric Veach, GPNF Forest Supervisor, USFS
26. Philip Watness, Skamania Pioneer
27. Bill Weiler, Friends of Mt. Adams
28. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
29. Molly Whitney, Cascade Forest Conservancy
30. Sue Wright, Community Member
31. Aaron Zusan, PNW Research Station, USFS

Meeting Purpose: The meeting involved: (a) a presentation on regional fire history and ecology by OSU/USFS scholar, Dr. Matt Reilly (b) a presentation by Skamania County Commissioner, Tom Lannen and (c) a review of historic USFS Osborne Fire Lookout Panorama photos to select photo(s) for full professional re-creation.

July Meeting Notes: Approved as written.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Matt Reilly (USFS/OSU) presented a talk on fire history/ecology on the westside, past research on the Yacolt burn, and the westside history project (including GPNF).

- Review of regional fire environment
- Early 20th century fires
- Co-production approach
 - Wildfire suitability – see on map a clear dividing line of large wildfires from eastside and westside
 - Ignition - fire starts - not a lot of lightning on wetter westside forests
 - Regional bioclimatic setting - summer temperature, summer precipitation, summer drought
 - Historical fire regimes – infrequent with high severity, moderate frequency with mixed severity, and frequent with low severity
 - Frequent, low severity fires - more typical of dry forest east of Cascades but also characteristic of low elevation oak woodlands
 - Numerous fire scar studies have been used to identify regimes
 - Long periods of fire exclusion have led to increase in density and change in composition of fires, and increase potential for uncharacteristic fire
 - Infrequent, high severity
 - Long time periods between stand-replacing fires
 - Evidence for pre-settlement ecological role from age structure as opposed to fire scars
 - Primarily in wet or cool forest types
 - SW Washington – larger fires than NW Washington
 - Oregon Coast Range fire history (1850-1940)
 - Can see from mapping of study the Oregon Coast was hammered in 1850s
 - In the 1890s to 1920s - things recover
 - Lags in development of new vegetation over time
 - Coarse scale mosaic
 - Remote sensing of burn severity – are contemporary fires looking like historic fires
 - Rapid change across large scale
 - Large, high severity fires are the norm
 - Westside fires - (Tillamook 1933)
 - Ignition is rare in area
 - Very dry conditions
 - East wind event - Foehn Winds – E-side high pressure, W-side low pressure
 - The fire skunked around for 10 days, then in 24hour period grew immensely from E winds (25-30mph)
 - East Wind Events
 - project to identify where and when vulnerabilities will occur - average number of east wind days

- common in winter, drop in summer, between Aug and Sept huge increase - window of vulnerability
- Geography of dry east wind events
 - Occur 2-3 days per year in Portland
 - Northern California occur 6-10 days per year
 - East of Brookings area - high number of days – area of Biscuit fire
 - North Cascades - lower but potential nuance
- Yacolt burn – (slides provided by Andy)
 - Sep 1902
 - Burned 700,000ac
 - The Eagle Cr fire burned 50,000ac – gives some perspective
 - most of 500,000 ac burned from Carson to Yacolt on the night of 9/11
 - anecdotal descriptions - “fire seemed to be traveling 2 mi/min”
- 1910 Big Burn - flaming fronts, powerful winds
 - Regeneration was prompt and copious – where did it come from?
 - Experiments found if some trees killed by high severity fire become serotinous – called facultative serotiny - is a mechanism of resilience
 - Siouxon portion of Yacolt: confirmed prompt regeneration in 1902 burn; but delayed regeneration if burned again - if remove seed cones and overstory, more difficult to regenerate
- Multiple intense reburns occurred in young brushy stands with lots of dead wood in the Yacolt as well as the Tillamook - apparently due to carelessness during dangerous weather
- Eagle Cr Fire Progression
 - In a couple days had big runs from east to west
 - % of area burned - might not be that different from historic fire regime
 - Not stand replacing in areas - about 20% burned at high severity, most low and moderate
- Re-evaluating historical fire regimes in westside forests of the Pacific Northwest
 - Background - outcomes of Co-production Workshop:
 - 1) Better geographic understanding of historical regimes: frequency, patch sizes, burn severity patterns
 - 2) Better characterization of post-fire establishment, stand development, and succession
 - 3) Identify linkages between climate and fire
 - Project 1: Characterizing early 20th century patterns of fire and forest structural conditions
 - Characterizing historical fire on westside has novel challenges
 - Look at legacy fires
 - Lot of uncertainty around historical data sources
 - Multi-proxy approach to find agreement
 - Project 2: Pre-Euro/American fire regimes in the western Cascades
 - Poor understanding of variability in pre-settlement fire frequency and fire severity
 - Patterns of structural development and succession are more complex than previously thought
 - Lack of cross-dated fire history studies limits understanding of linkages between fire & climate
 - Co-production Approach
 - Promote Involvement
 - Foster buy-in to maintain commitment and co-ownership
 - Delivery

Q & A

- Anjolene: Pinchot Partners and Darrington Collaborative would be interested
 - Matt: Great, partners will be participating as well
- Tom Linde: Increased public access of forest, and reduced maintenance of road system - is that being considered in fire spread?
 - Matt: Anthropogenic ignition is biggest problem, and quick response is key. Dave Peterson will dig into deeper when looking at Climate Adaptation
- Jim W.: Have you talked to Native American tribes?
 - Matt: The relationship with Native American burning is a little foggy on westside. Definitely something to consider - was probably major source of ignition - the exact relationship is not as clear.
- Emily S.: When exactly did the Yacolt fire start?
 - Matt: Loose evidence if all trees killed - Jim Agee's book talks about 1300s and 1500s. Evidence in charcoal in Olympic Peninsula. Maybe something will turn up when looking at age structure
- Tom Lannen: Watched Eagle Creek Fire come over ridge and spent next 14 days heavily engaged. How can we work together to develop better management plans? Knowing what happened during the Paradise Fire keeps Tom up at night. Highway 14 is the only way out. Need very robust notification, want to share map with Matt.
 - Matt: Westside Fire Initiative is looking at future fire using climate change and fuel conditions, and linkage with anthropogenic ignitions. Outreach is key.

Introduction of new GPNF Forest Supervisor (*Eric Veach, USFS*)

- Enjoyed Matt's presentation.
- Started career as Fish Biologist at Deschutes, moved to other regions, Alaska, Idaho.
- Worked at Park Service in AK. Superintendent in Wrangell St. Elias. Had lots of large fires there.
- Worked on fisheries, caribou, mining projects.
- Enjoys hunting and fishing.
- Grew up on small family farm in Oregon. Still has farm in AK that is off the grid – feels very fortunate to have had that challenging lifestyle and love of job.
- When interviewing, heard of Collaborative's role and excited to work with the group.

Guest Speaker: Skamania County Commissioner, Tom Lannen, presented a talk entitled "The Importance of Natural Timber Resources for Rural Counties—A Commissioner's Perspective: Skamania County, WA"

- Portion of each state that is federal land - 47% of the West
30% in Washington, 53% in Oregon, 45% in California
- 80% of population resides on 4% of the land - very dense in East – population centers/political power and money
- The three sources of basic supplies for any society – agriculture, timber, mining – come from rural areas.
- Skamania Co budget - \$14 million
 - Discretionary spending – ~50%
 - 26% of budget comes from private harvest tax, USFS timber or SRS, DNR state Trust, PILT Feds

- Timber payments prior to NSO - OWL payments begin after 1990
 - 2000 - SRS program to offset revenue that county originally got
 - SRS expired in 2006 - need reauthorized each year but reduced and in 2016 did not repay it
- Stewardship sales vs. timber sale (25% of regular timber sale receipts to county)
 - Stewardship sales receipts started in 2008 - because FS weren't getting funded
 - Lost 25% revenue stream from standard timber sales
 - Collaborative originally started for stewardship sales
 - Stewardship sales make up ~50% of all sales
 - County gets money only if services in county
- What do you mean only 1.8% is taxable on full market value? Shows a set of sticks that explain how we ended up with such a low % of fully taxable land.
 - red-federal 800,000 acres - never taxed
 - grey - preserves/fisheries - never taxed
 - green – private timber taxed when cut once every 35 to 45 yrs
 - blue - state DNR land providing revenues from active management
 - white - land taxed at full mkt value = 1.8% - 19,000ac
 - white is short end of the stick – the smallest portion
- Tourism vs timber – annual income
 - Tourism Income = \$20,000
 - Timber Income = \$46,000 + benefits
- Skamania Co average annual income growth
 - Over 30yrs Skamania income increased by 7%
 - Outside county up 42%
 - State average with King Co. - 63%
- County workforce total = 5,435
 - Out of county jobs 3,641 - 67%
 - In county jobs 1,793 - 35%
 - Best paying jobs are timber, followed by schools
 - Crapo-Wyden Senate Bill SB 1643 - creating new trust - support timber trust - continue to support infrastructure
 - SRS - looked at as handout - and the start stop has created havoc in budget
- Would like to learn more about carbon
 - There are very disparate sides and opinions on it.
 - Some want larger trees, old growth.
 - Science shows active management and new growth has higher sequestration.
 - Bring to caucus to make informed decision.
- Explosion of growth of recreation
 - Sees what goes on to support search and rescue.
 - Last weekend there were so many cars along the road, services couldn't get out.
 - Lower Lewis Falls - large amt of trash and whatnot, concern for fire, difficult people. There is a cost associated with it
 - County has one station for EMS - cover large area, run is very long.
 - County is not making money from tourism
 - Erin: seems to be problem across the country this year
 - Mary Ann: asked Dana from PCT to come to meeting; has some history, hope to make changes

- Hikers need education - don't even have maps
- Roads not properly signed
- County can't make up difference

Discussion: Review of Osborne Panorama Photos: A review of historic USFS Osborne Fire Lookout Panorama photos for selection of a photo for professional re-creation (*Jay McLaughlin, MARS*)

- Background
 - DNR all Lands grant
 - Emily Platt requested work with John Marshall to scan photos
 - 49 locations scanned
 - 131 photos
 - We need to choose which to replicate.
 - He has agreed to do 1 or maybe 2 locations.
 - Brief review of each photo/site (i.e., screenshare):
 1. Badger Peak
 2. Big Huckleberry 1941
 3. Bird Mtn 1937
 4. Bunker Hill 1934
 5. Burnt Pk 1936
 6. Clear Ck Bu 1936
 7. Cougar Rock 1941
 8. Council Bluff 1934
 9. Diamond Gap 1941 - East of forest
 10. Dog Mtn 1929, 1937
 11. Flat Top 1941, 1936
 12. Grassy Knoll 1934
 13. Greenleaf Mtn 1934
 14. Gumboot Mtn 1937
 15. Horseshoe Ridge 1934
 16. Huffman Peak 1934
 17. Hungry Peak 1935
 18. Lemei Rock 1937
 19. Little Baldy 1934
 20. Little Baldy Peak 1936
 21. *Little Huckleberry 1936
 22. Lone Butte 1937
 23. Lookout Mtn 1937
 24. Meadow Butte - 1941 - off forest
 25. Michell Peak 1934
 26. Monte Cristo - 1936 - east edge of Little White
 27. Mowich 1934
 28. Mt. Zion? 1934
 29. Observation Peak - 1937
 30. Red Mtn 1937

31. Saturday Rock 1934
32. Signal Peak - on Yakama Res?
33. Silver Star - 1934
34. Siouxon Peak 1937
35. Sisters Rocks 1934
36. Sleeping Beauty 1929
37. Smith Cr Butte 1936
38. Spencer Butte –on Yakama Res?
39. Steamboat Mtn 1929
40. Stevenson 1929?
41. Summit Guard Station 1937
42. Summit Prairie 1937
43. Switchback 1935?
44. Termination Peak 1937
45. 3 Corner Rock 1934
46. Twin Butte - 1935
47. West Point -1934

- Lucy: wanted to look at Observation Peak again
- Thinking of discussions and may want Little Huckleberry looking North
- Sue: likes Red Mtn photos
- Idea to create map of photo locations
- Emily: favorites are Gumboot, Council, Dog, Little Baldy, Lookout
- Follow-up item: decision matrix with objectives, locations, perspective

Update: USFS Ranger Updates (*Erin Black, USFS*)

- Can buy NW forest pass in person, new window
- Went to Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) II this week. Partial Hoot owl. Restrictions - stop by 1pm.
- Forest Road 90 corridor: heavy recreational use, many first timers who may not be as careful
- Mt. Adams climbing starting to decline
- Upper Wind: specialists currently writing reports
- Hired someone to draft Upper Wind Environmental Assessment

Next Meeting Info & Closing

- September speakers planned: Drs. Matt Betts (OSU), Dave Peterson (UW), Mark Swanson (WSU)
- October fieldtrip planned to Sebo GNA site. Stay tuned for details.
- Reminder: Meetings will be conducted remotely until further notice based on the evolving Covid situation. Hopefully, in November we can resume in-person monthly meetings.