



Meeting Notes

June 17, 2021, 1:00-3:00 P.M.
Zoom Remote Meeting

Participants:

1. Erin Black, MARD District Ranger, USFS
2. Lucy Brookham, Cascade Forest Conservancy
3. Tracy Calizon, GPNF Community Engagement Staff Officer, USFS
4. Carson Coates, Office of Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler
5. Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
6. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
7. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
8. Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner
9. Tom Linde, Gifford Pinchot Accountability Group
10. Matt Little, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
11. Jeffrey Mocniak, Melchomy Craft Mead/Cascadia Education Project
12. Josh Petit, SGPC Coordinator
13. Whitney Reynier, Klickitat County Program Coordinator
14. Sean Roome, Cascade Forest Conservancy
15. Andrew Spaeth, WA DNR
16. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
17. Sean Tackley, GPNF South Zone Planning Team Lead, USFS
18. Pete Teigen, Sustainable Northwest
19. Sean Tran, GNA Restoration Specialist, WA DNR
20. Jennifer Watkins, WA DNR
21. Bill Weiler, Friends of Mt. Adams
22. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
23. Sue Wright, Community Member

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting Purpose: This meeting will feature: (a) a follow-up discussion on retained receipts funds prioritization, (b) a brainstorming session for 2021 field trip ideas, (c) a WA DNR presentation about the upcoming budget/funding outlook, (d) USFS Ranger Updates, and (e) SGPC Monthly News & Member Catch-up.

May Meeting Notes: Approved as written.

Discussion: A follow-up conversation to clarify retained receipts funding prioritization for use in FY 2022

- Helping FS streamline RR process for a forest-wide pot of money
- Collaborative prioritizing broad categories / types of work to help inform FS
- Josh chatted with FS to refine list into following categories: invasive species treatment, recreation restoration, road and trail restoration, vegetative restoration, wildlife and aquatic habitat restoration
- Zoom Poll results:
 - 1st - Wildlife and aquatic habitat restoration
 - 2nd - Road and trail restoration
 - 3rd - Vegetative restoration
 - 4th - Invasive species treatment
 - 5th - Recreation restoration
- Specific ideas for local wildlife/aquatic habitat restoration projects:
 - Tom Linde – important wildlife habitat is Lone Butte for elk
 - Veg is grown up and losing habitat for elk, need to thin-out, get forage habitat built up
 - Erin would love to have a Friends of Lone Butte group
 - To consider how to try to keep it non-motorized and could add how to keep elk habitat
 - Jim W – PCT add diversity and create wildlife habitat
 - Emily – RMEF loves road closing for elk areas and they have money
 - Matt - Riparian and aquatic habitat around the burn – drop burn trees into the stream to provide shade and habitat
 - Tom Linde – streamside habitat; could extend burn area to all winter range zones; tie nicely with young stand management
 - Lucy likes aquatic habitat restoration idea
 - Jim W – fish barriers
 - Jeremy – aquatic project idea: Cabbage Cr has multiple fish blockages, in the Little White Salmon River. One large culvert on private land.
 - Bill – Little White is cold water refuge
- Specific ideas for local road/trail restoration projects:
 - Sue – 65 Road washed out at Falls Creek
 - Major route to Tomas Lakes TH at Indian Heaven
 - Rush Creek washout on 65 Road
 - Matt - User created roads – inventorying and restoration
 - Josh not sure if inv could be covered in RR
 - Tom Lannen – FS has reduced capacity to address road issues

- Tom Linde – agrees with Tom Lannen. Emphasis on road decommission and abandonment. Restricts ability for recreating public. 65 washout happens often due to road location.
 - Fuels reduction in Wildland Urban Interface?
 - Tom Linde – In the Yaccoult burn area, Little White roads inaccessible to public.
 - Siouxon trail, Silver Star, Mowich Butte system.
 - Red Mountain lookout road open to public- nice view to forest.
 - Gary – the 4100 and 4200 roads are two roads that are in bad shape. The Silver Star access from the 4109 is also very bad.
 - Sue - 6701 – rebuilt the lookout, road access?
 - Sue - Indian Heaven Wilderness
 - Whitney Reynier - Trails in burn area?
 - Emily – Government Mineral Springs - snow trails near Old Man Pass
 - Whitney Reynier – Takhlakh Lake - high use area
 - Tom Linde – Hemlock Lake day use area needs trail maintenance and access maintenance
- Specific ideas for local recreation restoration projects:
 - Tom Linde - Berry fields
 - Sue W. – Carson primitive camping sights overuse – lots of runoff – past Panther Cr campgrounds
 - More open some areas might take pressure off Indian Heaven
 - Tom Linde – dispersed camping – as closed roads there are lots of sites that can't be used. Panther Cr is 100% occupancy so people are creating new sites where shouldn't be.
 - Sue – enforcement is issue. Tom Linde rarely sees LEOs (Law Enforcement Officer). Idea to have more FPOs (Forest Protection Officer).
 - Gary – restoration of homeless camps is going to be a big expense.
 - Volunteer Wilderness Stewards? Seasonal and volunteers on Indian Heaven
 - Josh – this looks like a potential agenda item at future meeting

Discussion: Brainstorming session for 2021 summer/fall field trip ideas

- Early seral treatment on the Sebo GNA sale
 - Sean – opportunities include seeing the thinning prescriptions, new gate (prohibits access around Lone Butte), removed long stringer bridges for fish
- Ryan – old meadows at Silver Star
- Jim – Little White Salmon where the south end of the forest's next large effort will come
 - Jeremy – 2nds – add Cabbage Cr
- Tom Lannen – Big Hollow burn
 - Erin – access – roads are still closed but might open soon, but could schedule for Collaborative anyhow

- Sue – 65 Road where Falls Cr washout; combine with Rush Cr washout and stream restoration
 - Josh - Kate Day mentioned welcome to come out on fish restoration
- Upper White Fuels Reduction
- Retained receipts tour to see potential areas for future restoration work

Guest Speaker: A presentation on budget/funding outlook related to WA forest collaboratives (Jen Watkins & Andrew Spaeth, WA DNR)

- Strategic Plans, monitoring, and Collaborative engagement and developing implementation

House Bill 1168

- What does legislation say & where does money land?
- Historic to take immediate action statewide, 20 year and Forest Health Action plan
 - Holistic Forest Health, East and West
 - Wildfire response and emergency response
 - Commits to fully fund them – dedicate money every biennium
 - Any state agency can access account – e.g., conservation districts and DNR
 - \$125 million – 25% min goes to Forest Health activities
 - This is Not for suppression
 - Proactive – need more capacity or equipment
 - Nuances
 - Integrates what we know and have been working on
 - Fuel breaks, fire lines
 - New stuff – build mapping tool – how fit and how prioritize
 - Empower small landowners – new office – build out to work together, streamline and capacity
 - Commissioner of Public Lands has to report to Legislature
 - regular meetings, accountability
 - DNR work with Dept of Commerce
 - Other small nuances -- Has to be additive
 - When support products – maximize utility – eg. biomass, biochar
 - With DNR state trust lands – \$131 million this year
 - Wildfire response – BAER assessments across all lands – \$70 million
 - Community resiliency – \$19 million
 - Forest Restoration - \$35 million
 - Forest landowner integrated office
 - Fiscal note – buildout state led NEPA support team for FS
 - Adding support – stand-alone NEPA team – Jan 2022
 - Focus on historic investments and actual treatments
 - 46,000 ac for health treatments on state trusts lands
 - More prescribed fire
 - GNA
 - Cost share program – extension in western WA

- Direct investments – implementation – All Lands Tx
- Forest Collaborative grants – treatments and capacity grants
 - Tighter time schedule
 - Fund project used within same year and compliance monitoring
 - Direct investments to identify treatments
 - Capacity grant – collaboratives – waiting for final funding allocation
- Monitoring – includes monitoring which is rarely funded well
 - Important for adaptive management
 - Need to be accountable and show progress
 - Stand level data collection
 - Tool where track where \$\$ went – treatments
 - Are we making difference? – change detection
- Post fire recovery teams – new programs
- Legislative and funding
 - Takes effect on July 25
 - Details & final plans
 - Prepping for green light
 - Not one time – invest over time
 - Collaboratives called out that get things done
 - Treatments on fed lands
 - Past – Upper White, Planning and survey work
 - Past - Invest in capacity gaps – future focus on implementation
- Can retained receipts be used as match for some of these DNR investments?
 - DNR does not have match requirement
- Tom Lannen – thank you and question:
 - Supreme Court lawsuit – trust lands be returned to all lands
 - Reach out to timber counties discussion - Paul Jewel (on Forest Health Advisory Committee)
 - Would love to have leadership to respond to bill to attend
 - DNR State Forester & Commissioners Office will attend
 - Language to assess management – trust lands vs. natural area
 - Advise to work with Paul Jewel
- Whitney – who would be best contact to discuss community resiliency funds?
 - Andy Tate – runs LOA – may see changes in structures
- Jeremy – making forest treatment easier for private landowners – wonder why forest mapping system doesn't run real time?
 - Will discuss off-line with Jen
- What types of collaborative activities / grant proposals do you want to see? – BFPs
 - Activities include facilitation, focus on project level planning, x-boundary planning, technical assistance – strategic planning, navigating challenge – communications and storytelling, case studies, developing ZOAs, proposals, trainings/workshops
- Reach out with questions or comments: Jennifer.watkins@dnr.wa.gov or 360-338-1688

Update: USFS Ranger Updates (Erin Black, USFS)

- Impressed with brainstorming session – you all know the forest so well
- If not funded through stewardship, can tackle those suggestions in other ways
- Sean Tackley (New South Zone Lead) – Introduction
 - New to FS, last 16 years with ACOE, fish and wildlife biologist in program management and policy
 - Getting up to speed on processes, quick study, hit ground running, believer in collaboration
 - Will make calls to group, reach out to learn interests
- Blake Murphy – new Silviculturist
- New Sale Administrator selection made
- Fire Management Officer is leaving, interviewing and reviewing applications
- Lewis R. permit system started this week
 - A lot of calls regarding nuances
- Roads are free of snow – drive to Randall 23 road
- Sales will be ramping up soon
- Campgrounds open – 60% reservable, more 1st come 1st served this year
- Big Hollow closure – bucking out trails, roads assessed, hopefully opening full/near full opening soon
- Public comments on Big Hollow – due mid-July
- Scoping for Big Hollow – roadside danger trees – 3 major roads in burn area – value of wood pay for removal
- Silver Star – planning effort under way – WTA leading effort
- Whole corridor on Lewis R review
- Berry Fields – encroachment since decade or more ago – Yakama – where need to revisit
 - Fire or other vegetative treatment

Tracy Calizon – Recreation Update

- 25 road open
- 99 road to windy ridge – still snow – plowed out for admin use – open maybe next week
- Johnston Ridge Observatory not open due to technical difficulties – communications systems
- Hope to open in 2-3 weeks
- Tom Lannen – would like to see results from Dede Olson’s study on riparian actions
 - Erin – MARD has incorporated her work on mollusks and salamander into projects – habitat bridges
 - Identified areas and put down logs as bridges
 - Tom is interested in the width of riparian buffers study

Update: SGPC Monthly News & Next Meeting Info (Josh Petit, SGPC)

- ZOA subcommittee – met with Erin to discuss early seral stands
 - Next ZOA topic – post fire salvage logging
 - Important topic, timing is right – scoping letter on Big Hollow
- Osbourne panoramic photo – waiting for weather to turn nice
 - Photographer went up earlier to get drone photos – had some issues and will go back
- Next month – targeting first in-person meeting (hopefully); will shoot for a hybrid setup
 - May be at Hegewald Center conference room or elsewhere
- Field trip ideas – Aug/Sep/Oct – maybe 3 trips this summer/fall
- Waiting to hear on DNR Building Forest Partners grant – approval process different this year
- Next meeting - July 15th from 1-3 (Zoom) or 1-3:30 (in-person)