



SGPC / GNA Upper Wind Field Trip
September 23, 2021, 12-4 pm
Notes

Participants:

1. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade, Inc.
2. Ana Barros, Fire Scientist, Forest Resiliency Division, WA DNR
3. Erin Black, MARD District Ranger, USFS
4. Gary Collins, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
5. Sharon Frazey, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
6. Jeremy Grose, SDS Lumber
7. Chuck Hersey, Forest Health Planning Section Manager, WA DNR
8. Alec Horton, Public Affairs, USFS
9. Gala Miller, Community Engagement Specialist, USFS
10. Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association
11. Dave Olson, Restoration and Stewardship Staff Officer, USFS
12. Alexa Pengelly, Public Affairs, USFS
13. Josh Petit, SGPC Coordinator
14. Sean Roome, Cascade Forest Conservancy
15. Andrew Spaeth, WA DNR
16. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
17. Sean Tackley, South Zone Planning Team Lead, USFS
18. Sean Tran, Federal Lands Program Restoration Specialist, WA DNR
19. Eston Vargas, Forester, WA DNR
20. Sue Wright, Community Member

Trip Overview at Lone Butte Snow Park (*Josh Petit, SGPC*)

- Welcome & introductions
 - *Prompt:* What do you hope to get of today's field trip?
- Overview: This field trip to the Upper Wind watershed focused on GNA contracting and the planning and management of created early seral habitat (ESH), and featured stops at: (a) Lone Butte Snow Park, (b) Sebo unit 7, (c) Sebo unit 8, and (d) McClellan Overlook
- August Meeting Notes: Approved as written
- Discussion of LBSP (site uses, stats, recreation opportunities)

Tour of Adjacent Harvest Unit(s) 3A/3B (*Sean Tran, WA DNR*)

- DNR Federal Lands Program – part of Farm Bill – federal and state as partners, specific arm of DNR specially designated for timber sales
- Sean is dedicated to Gifford Pinchot. New employee, Eston, started 5-weeks ago

- Hiring another forester for the South Zone of the GP. Intent to increase pace and scale, and to generate and spend revenue on restoration.
- Part of Swift EA; Sebo Sale closed last fall; garnering ideas to spend revenue dollars on restoration
- This is a holistic approach with the FS
- Sees FS as brain, DNR as heart in body that achieves forest restoration
- Dave Olson commented that FS is continuing to see decreasing budgets and staff. Increase in demands including recreation. GNA sales are another form of trust funds (revenue stays on the forest). Talking to county about ideas to work with them on projects.
- Stats: agreement with FS:
 - 7 Timber Sales in N & S zones – 2,800 acres
 - 86 miles of deferred road maintenance
 - 12 miles of road decommissioning
 - 34 million board feet
- DNR works closely with FS Silviculturist and Operator so that everyone understands prescription. Checks to see if in accordance and tours with Silviculturist.
- Benefits of GNA – contract easier to implement and more flexible. There is a mechanism for work not associated with removing logs. Integration mechanisms available for restoration: write into contract or can adjust during contract.
- Slash pile will be burned by FS
- Will use Retained Receipts for weed treatments
- Jon Paul noted that cannot compare DNR contracts and FS contracts because FS contracts are difficult due to road tolls, brush disposal, extra flagging, landing designations, road building and maintenance, seasonal mitigations, etc.

Tour of Sebo Unit 7 (*Erin Black and Sean Tackley, USFS; Sean Tran, WA DNR*)

- Discussion of FS planning side of GNA related contracts
- Tour of regen harvest / created early seral habitat (ESH) – this was a part of the Swift EA; focus on legacy left behind, create habitat, huckleberry in understory
- Retention: aggregates and single trees. Legacy features, can serve as lifeboat, is a microclimate for those species
- Left downed wood bundled together
- Contract flexibility allowed to DNR to feather edge during original treatment
- John Day found flexibility in requirement to replant within 5 years – to push out this stage (i.e., maintain as ESH)
- What do you see when you look at this landscape?
- Are we monitoring weeds?
 - FS does not have the capacity to coordinate this
- Question on why we don't see snags

- Trees weren't in the right size class to benefit wildlife
- Comment about how this is human issue / social problem – need to change perceptions
- Question on whether we are perpetuating footprint of past management by avoiding treatment of stands with larger trees
- Trails
 - Would need to consider trail class and visual objectives and/or possibility of rerouting around such a stand treatment

Tour of Sebo Unit 8 (*Sean Tran, WA DNR*)

- Discussion of Sebo project (overall planning, metrics) – Needed to have existing huckleberry understory to be considered for early seral in this EA.
- Tour of stream restoration site (GNA fish barrier removal)
 - Historic log stringer bridge on Outlaw Creek
 - Learned of barrier during contract administration
 - Tributary to Rush Creek
 - Was total fish barrier
 - Bull Trout present and move into smaller tributaries for refuge during high flows
 - Another example of GNA contract flexibility

McClellan Overlook (*Josh Petit, SGPC; Andrew Spaeth and Chuck Hersey, WA DNR*)

- The Big Picture: Cross-boundary work and the role of forest collaboratives in helping achieve forest restoration
 - DNR's perspective on role of forest collaboratives
 - Related funding becoming available – shows this work is valued
 - Benefits of these cross-agency agreements in filling in gaps and getting work done
 - What part of the body do forest collaboratives represent? Skin, circulatory system?
- Closing
 - Meet at Backwoods Brewing for happy hour
 - Next meeting info: October Field Trip (Little White Salmon) 10/21/21. More info to come.