



## Meeting Notes

December 16, 2021, 1-3:30pm PST  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Participants:

1. Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade
2. Erin Black, MARD District Ranger, USFS
3. Lucy Brookham, Cascade Forest Conservancy
4. Laura Burkle, Montana State University
5. Gary Collins, Back Country Horsemen of WA
6. Conner England, USFS
7. Rebecca Hoffman, Monument District Ranger, USFS
8. Amber Johnson, WDFW
9. Phoebe Jud, Forest Youth Success
10. Matt Little, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
11. Somer Meade, Forest Youth Success
12. Jeffrey Mocniak, Melchemy Craft Mead
13. Josh Petit, SGPC Coordinator
14. Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
15. Sean Tackley, GPNF South Zone Lead, USFS
16. Sean Tran, WA DNR
17. Estan Vargas, WA DNR
18. Jim White, Underwood Conservation District
19. Sue Wright, Community member
20. Missing your name here? Let Josh know!

### • Introduction

- Meeting objectives This meeting featured: (a) an update on the Forest Youth Success program, (b) a presentation on salvage logging, and (c) USFS updates and Collaborative news.
- Introductions from attendees (using chat box)
- November Notes: Approved as written

- **Update: Forest Youth Success program update (Somers Meade, WSU Skamania County Extension 4-H)**
  - FYS Background
    - local teens in Skamania County to give teens work experience and help with project partners (FS -primary) to help maintain trails
    - learn about environment, stewardship, life skills etc.

Somers

- Stevenson/Carson SD fiscal agents
- WSU Extension does oversight (Somers is Technical Advisor)
- FS, Mt Adams Institute other partners
- Phoebe is Program Coordinator
- Program structure; training; COVID-19
- 3 crews of 5
- Variety of ages
- No COVID – success!
- High school kids
- COVID planning challenges
  - Smaller crews than non-covid times and types of projects different (more outside trail work with distancing)
  - Smaller overall program during COVID but feel prepared as a result
- Dean Robertson in Rec Operations
- Botany
- Bengt Coffin at Dam legacy site
- City of Stevenson
- Port of Skamania
- School districts
- Skamania County parks and rec
- No injuries or disciplinary issues
- Ahead of schedule and even looking for more projects to do!
- Skills-based learning and Friday lessons (kept things in classroom – Zoom speakers)
  - Environmental ed (ID plant/animals)
  - How to conduct surveys
  - How to use skills in applying for jobs
  - First paycheck most kids ever receive so bring in money mgmt. folks to help guide
  - At-risk youth so disadvantaged in this sense; local/regional job scene
- Future
  - Trying to transition into year-round program to maintain momentum
  - Have launched FYS club (open to 8-12 studies in SC); youth-led; volunteer basis
  - Donations to sustain club and carry on excitement
  - Expanding advisory board; looking to diversify
- Funding
  - Looking to be fully-funded for another season
  - \$107k remaining (savings from last year's reduced season)
- Will continue to follow school districts
- Direct work value for program partners of \$66k

## Phoebe

- Familiar trails; lots of trail work (only thing could do)
- Seed collection for FS (with Evan Olson)
- 9 lbs of seed collected to be sowed to reseed areas affected by wildfire

## Q&A

- EB: What does your funding look like?
- SM: Looking good for 2022 but beyond that funds exhausted so will need more funding

## • ***Guest presentation: Post-fire salvage logging impacts on pollinators (Dr. Laura Burkle, Montana State University)***

- Part of our ZOA Subcommittee's work (meeting monthly) to find areas of consensus related to salvage logging; will share study findings related to SL and pollinator impacts
- Expertise in pollinators
- Important to note that findings not necessarily applicable elsewhere
- Will share techniques and hopefully are informative to other regions
- Wildfire effects on pollinator diversity
  - Mass flowering and opening of canopy; allows understory plants and seed banks to go crazy
  - Know less of effects of fire on pollinators; think there are strong effects
  - Nests in twigs in shallow earth (areas susceptible to fire)
  - Can indirectly affect due to changes in floral composition
  - When fire occurred? Severity? Size of area? Might all be important factors.
- 30,000 bee species in world (5,000 in N America)
- Swinging nets around looking for if insect is contacting reproductive part of flower
- Is salvage impacting pollinators? Soil compaction? Depleting snags/downed logs/course woody debris (bumble bees)?
- Different ways to implement SL and different ways these communities can be impacted
- Could have positive or negative effects on pollinators
- Effects on PFSL on floral and bee communities
- 1 ) Number, biodiversity, composition of species
- 2 ) Pollination of fire tolerant flowering shrub
- Masters thesis related studies (Forest Ecology and Mgmt)

## First study

- Local floral and bee density, richness, composition
- Compared results for two fires in watershed to compare how might differ from older fire (24 years ago and 8 years ago)
- How do local patterns scale up to influence larger patterns?
- Scales don't often align for research, fire, landscapes, SL
- Two fires in Mill Creek Drainage (Thompson Creek, Wicked Creek)
- Selected these fires as most similar of options in various aspects (forest type)
- Selected sites with logged and parts not logged; SL took place in places burned in mixed-severity;

unlogged sites restricted to mixed severity zones as well (and accessible to roads)

- Tried to standardize as best as possible
- Fieldwork in 2014 and 2015; transect tapes and circular GPS plots; sampled all plant species; comp; #flowers for relative abundance of species; watched flowers for bees/insects; were able to quantify; did each week
- 152 bee species and 125 flowering plant species; 236 flowering plant species total
- Results:
  - Floral and bee density higher in logged sites
  - Higher species richness: effects didn't persist in older fire (logged/unlogged same or unlogged slightly higher)
  - Compositional diffs in flowers and bees observed in recent and older fire
- Summary Study 1
  - Local benefits for flowers and bees from newer fire
  - Compositional effects lasted in both older and newer
  - If all you want to do is preserve bee/floral biodiversity, good to have a mixture of old/new some logged and unlogged; areas of both to present different environmental conditions; mosaic of disturbances and land mgmt. types
  - SL could be considered if balanced with other areas and mgmt. actions
- Summary of Study 2
  - Thompson Creek (older fire) focus
  - Testing long-term consequences of SL on plant reproduction and pollen limitation (how much plant is missing out on due to lack of natural pollination)
  - Compared snowberry densities; env conditions; coarse woody debris; canopy cover
  - Pollen limitation studies to apply pollen with paintbrush; job of perfect pollination; other plant in pair left alone to be naturally pollinated by bees; difference between is assumed pollen limitation value
  - Humans not as good as bees so tough work that no one enjoys but gold standard technique for studying plant rep success and pollination
  - Findings: no effects of SL on reproduction of naturally pollinated plants; reproduction of snowberry individuals were pollen-limited but only in unlogged areas (half as many seeds in open pollinated treatment)
  - Plants in unlogged areas have higher rep. potential but unable to achieve due to lack of pollination
  - Vis. subnetworks – richness of plant species compared to snowberry higher in logged areas
  - SL restricted reproductive potential in this older fire, but effects likely due to altered abiotic condition and lack of pollination

## Q&A

- ES: Native plants or all species when looking at richness?
  - LB: Included them all and had lots of nonnatives
- JW: How did you know seedlings weren't there from before the fire? Could have been there before the fire.

- LB: Don't know; no way to tell; hopefully enough sites to wash out those effects
- JW: As was disturbance, did you expect more diversity?
  - LB: Had a student who selected different fires in same area
- Connor: question in chat box about wildfire severity quantification
  - LB: Good question, tried to select only mixed severity fires for a number/range of severity
- ES: Look at other species of pollinators? Did salvage areas get replanted versus others?
  - LB: When sampled, collected any insect visiting flowers (flies, butterflies); in end those other groups were 4% of sample so decided to focus on bees; not replanted areas; were air drops of grass seeds in some parts of fire areas; was clear where this happened; believe only grass and patchy so was easy to avoid
- **Update: US Forest Service Updates (Erin Black/Sean Tackley - USFS)**
  - Intro of Rebecca Hoffman (Monument Ranger)
  - In 2 year cycle where we look at new areas (next 2 will be Lewis and Kalama)
  - Filling fire management officer and other positions on engine
  - Dave Olson retires in a few weeks; big part of why GP successful; Sam Grimm will fill in on interim until position filled permanently; will bring Sam to next meeting
  - Summer personnel – reduced funding for seasonal in rec (not as many user fees collected due to covid)
  - Rec/for use: worth repeating that starting Jan 1 firewood will be free (personal use only); exciting and public will probably appreciate
  - Active logging but moving into snowy season (maybe more when really snowy)
  - One groomer got contract for forest this year; snowmobiles and cross-country maintenance; east side snow parks and state responsible for plowing; trouble finding contractor; challenge but may be some contractors lined up;
  - Restoration/planning - LWS meeting today and details of proposal to come; working with DNR and modeling team to be forward thinking and stay at landscape-scale and think about CC and future
  - Paying close attention to infrastructure bills; expecting funds for fuels/fire
  - Title 2 / RAC authority to reconvene to apply funding to programs; won't be in place for this year so will do plan B; old proposals added money to; within next 6 months group convened to send down T2 funds; looking good 3 years out
  - ES: Questions about RR funds and 43 Road plans
  - SW: Any plans for old nursery area used as experimental; plans for future?
    - EB: Should stay same
  - ST: Next month sending out scoping letter for Cold Spring Trailhead improvement; increased use and climbing/hiking activities; parking improvements; overnight bivouac sites for climbers; scoping letter
- **Update: Collaborative Monthly News (Josh Petit - SGPC)**
  - ZOA work ongoing; seeking out resources and additional guest speakers (please forward anything along); survey will be sent out in coming weeks (please give us your feedback)
  - Rec Subcommittee met with CATS director and FS yesterday to discuss OHV issue; interest among group; productive discussions; likely will target finding areas of agreement related to OHV access on South GP and help advise FS and provide some public insight

- High Cascade Objection to UW Decision: Will be discussing ESH again at one of our upcoming meetings to try to get a sense of where the full Collaborative stands given the BHF when we tried to capture this (stay tuned for more info)
- **Closing**
  - January meeting (1/20 from 1-3:30pm) – Location TBD; targeting in-person but might not be possible due to omicron
  - Another salvage speaker among other items (still ironing out details – stay tuned)

