

**JOINT STEWARDSHIP GROUP
MEETING NOTES
January 15, 2014 10:00 to 4:00 pm
Oregon Coast Community College
South Beach, OR**

Attendees:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Connie Barnes	CPRCD Office Manager
Marc Barnes	IRM, ASG
Jane Barth	HSG & MPSG Facilitator
Carl Bauer	USFS-SNF-CCRD
George Buckingham	USFS-SNF-Hebo RD
Michael Cairns	CPRCD Board Treasurer
Chris Cornwell	Lincoln County
M-C Cuthill	HSG, landowner
Jean Daniels (speaker)	USFS PNW Research Station
Kent Daniels	CPRCD Board Secretary
Frank Davis	USFS-SNF-SO
Michelle Dragoo	USFS-SNF-Hebo RD
Dave Eisler	SSG
Karen Fleck-Harding	MPSG, MRWC,
Matt Fehrenbacher	Trout Mt, ASG
Ginnie Grilley	BLM
Luke Gzamel	City of Lincoln
Paul Harcomb	CPRCD Board Vice President
Casey Hawes	USFS-SNF – CCRD
Chris Hirsch	USFS-SNF-CCRD
Wayne Hoffman	ASG, Mid-Coast WC
Ron Hudson	USFS-SNF-Hebo RD
Jerry Ingersoll	USFS-SNF-SO
Michelle Jones	USFS-SNF-CCRD
Chris Jordan	NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC
Paul Katen	HSG, Salmon Drift Creek WCMike
Kennedy	Siletz Tribe, ASG, HSG, SSG
Heath Kierstead	MPSG, BCSWCD
Chandra LeGue	Oregon Wild, SSG, ASG
Ken McCall	USFS-SNF-SO
Matt Mellenthin	IRM, MPSG
Adriana Morales	USFS-SNF-Hebo RD
Vicky Mugnai	USFS-SNF-CCRD
Wally Orchard	ASG
Elmer Ostling	AWC, ASG
Nathan Poage	Black Inc.
Catherine Pruett	HSG, Salmon Drift Creek WC
Kirk Shimeall	ASG & SSG Facilitator

Guy Sievert
Alex Sifford
John Spangler
Johnny Sundstrom
Jimmy Taylor
Mike Totey
Jeff Uebel
Donni Vogel
Liz Vollmer-Buhl
Anne Walker
Jennifer Ward
Dan Whelan (speaker)
Deanna Williams

HSG, Nestucca-Neskowin WC
HSG, Nestucca-Neskowin WC
ODFW
SSG, Siuslaw Institute
USDA, National Wildlife Research Ctr
MPSG, ODF
USFS-SNF-SO
USFS-SNF-CCRD
SSG, Siuslaw WC
HSG, USFWS
MPSG, City of Corvallis
Merkley's Field Representative
USFS

Agenda Overview/Welcome/Introductions/

This meeting is the fifth annual gathering of the stewardship groups on the Siuslaw National Forest. It is convened to share project ideas and hear and give feedback about the annual multi-party monitoring report. Special topics for this year's meeting included a presentation by Chris Jordan, NOAA and Jean Daniels, USFS PNW Research Station. Presentation materials will be posted on CPRCD's website.

Beavers and Climate Change: research and "on-the-ground" restoration perspectives, Chris Jordan, NOAA Fisheries, NW Fisheries Science Center

PowerPoint authored by Tim Beechie, Michael Pollock, Chris Jordan

Presentation highlights

- climate change predictions
- recent changes in processes and habitat
- land use and salmon habitat
- loss of stream habitat due to human activity
- restoration potential of lost stream habitat
- Can stream restoration ameliorate climate change effects?
- reducing climate change effects through restoration
- process-based flow restoration: groundwater storage
- storage losses through channel incision
- increased storage v climate change (loss and projected loss)
- beaver activity matrix, determining management opportunities
- Coho intrinsic potential, mapping the landscape
 - slope v drainage area for reaches with beaver ponds
 - low energy environment
- considering options for using beaver; examples of beaver "aquaculture" which may be effective way to successfully relocate beaver but is very expensive and time/labor intensive
- Showed table of benefits of beaver or beaver-mimicked restoration for ameliorating climate change impacts
- existing populations in the Coast Range unknown

- beaver dam indicators, beaver dam density, beaver management strategies that address interaction issues (historical and current, some successes)
- mimicking beaver dams; key factors of success are landscape gradient and size of watershed/catchment area—example from Utah
- survival as a response to treatment actions

Q&A / Discussion Highlights

- Wayne Hoffman with AWC offered that there is strong documentation of a substantial decline in beaver populations on the west side of coast range since the 1990s
- differentiation in statute designations for trapping in Oregon and Washington
- incentivizing landowners with on-the-ground programs
- implications of failed beaver dams on the east side of the Coast Range and elsewhere
- translocation strategies – successes and cautionary tales
- Johnny Sundstrom, SSG, offered there has been a significant increase in dams in the SSG area in the past decade due to restoration projects. Lesson learned is that good overall process-based restoration strategies are beneficial to beavers.

Lessons Learned from Stewardship Monitoring

Multi-party monitoring, Matt Mellinthin

Siuslaw National Forest Stewardship Contracting Multiparty monitoring report FY12

IRM has had the multi-party monitoring contract since 2009. The FY11 report was made available in handout form at this meeting. Data is housed in a Microsoft access database and is available online.

Presentation highlights

- biophysical accomplishments of FS stewardship timber sale contracts
- economic impacts
 - worker production rates
 - federal wage determination rates
 - FTE jobs (direct and indirect)
 - by county
 - tax revenue
 - by FS Retained Receipts projects, Wyden projects, and all projects combined
- five year data comparison
 - mmbf harvest trending upward since 2008
 - FS Retained Receipts expenditures
 - Wyden project expenditures
- ten year comparison of data, all projects combined
- new projects approved for FY13: FS Retained Receipts projects and Wyden Authority projects
- FY12 Implementation Monitoring: pre and post photo points, stand exam data and comparison of data
- overview of stakeholder field trips (HSG, MPSG, ASG)

- IRM proposals/possibilities for FY13
 - modify Wyden Authority project's annual reporting
 - analyze annual tax revenue to counties
 - introduce wildlife habitat monitoring to inventory
 - photograph understory vegetation in early stewardship timber sales
 - implement 360 degree monitoring video
 - put monitoring database online

Q&A / Discussion

Question was raised about the absence of forest plan monitoring data for FS traditional sales. Michele Jones pointed out that while funding is not available for monitoring, traditional sales are implemented in the same manner as stewardship sales, to include designation by prescription. As such, we expect the same type of reaction for either type of sale. Suggested feature for online multi-party monitoring – being able to pull up plotted areas at the click of a button.

Economics of Stewardship Presentation by Jean Daniels, USFS PNW Research Station

Presentation Highlights: Socioeconomic Monitoring of Stewardship Contracts on the Mt Hood National Forest: A Case Study

- local economic benefits of projects administered as stewardship contracts
- R6 timber harvest data 1975-2011
- Mt Hood NF payments (secure rural schools) to counties, 2004-2012
- multi-stakeholder forest collaborative groups working on public lands, for example the Clackamas Stewardship Partners
- stewardship contracting values on the Clackamas River RD, Mt Hood NF, 2006-2011
- innovative links between stewardship contracts and projects
- trying to quantify economic benefits of individual stewardship contracts and compare to 25% traditional timber sale receipts. Methodology:
 - interviewed contractors, ranger district personnel, Clackamas River basin council
 - data categories: harvest operations, mill operations, goods for services, retained receipts
 - 3 contracting case studies (Bugeye, Spoon, and K9 Thins)
- conclusion: what does it take?
 - a functional collaborative: trust is key
 - accounting system: first in/first out
 - active fiscal agent: channel funds, leverage, match
 - supportive county officials
- overview of Siuslaw payments to counties (Secure Rural Schools) 2004-2012

Q&A / Discussion

- trends since 1980s
- the value of putting energy into showing local purchasers how to submit bids
- local employment helping to drive the local economy, economic intangibles

- the value of comparing equivalent sales (traditional v stewardship)
- what is the purpose of this information? To convince, persuade, educate and market stewardship contracting. Not a data issue inasmuch as it is a perception issue.

Stewardship across Oregon and Update on Reauthorization, Dan Whelan, Senator Merkley's Office

- House will vote on the omnibus bill today; senate will vote tomorrow
- reauthorization is packaged with other remnant bills, and includes extension of the Wyden Authority until the end of the fiscal year
- Omnibus includes
 - increase in hazardous fuels dollars
 - money to pay back fire borrowing
- What stands out for Senator Merkley: value and flexibility that stewardship contracting provides to mitigate fire risk
- Jeff Uebel's update: 22 submitted projects were approved by the Regional Forester. The Siuslaw can move ahead with FS projects immediately. The 11 Wyden projects: we have the agreement with CPRCD just about done. We will be able to get the agreement in place and get funds committed by the following week.

Stewardship Project "Show and Tell"

Three of the four stewardship groups on the Siuslaw shared an example of work they have done over the past year(s). The goal of this segment is to increase awareness of the range of work that stewardship groups can accomplish through outreach, planning and implementation. Each presenter produced a PowerPoint, which will be posted on the CPRCD stewardship website.

Hebo SG – Alex Sifford

Butte Creek Culvert Replacement Project, Nestucca-Neskowin Watershed Council

- replace a fish passage barrier, improve stream complexity
- multiple partner approach
- salmonid and lamprey bearing stream
- riparian planting and monitoring will occur 2014
- Bower Creek Culverts, south of Nestucca will be future project

Q&A/Discussion

Bridges v pipes? Bridges becoming standard practice (at 20 feet). At 25+ feet, bridges are placed on the national highway inventory and are subjected to federal inspections.

Alsea SG – Matt Feherenbacher

Big Elk Riparian Restoration, VanEck Forest Foundation

- 7200 acres in Lincoln County
- foundation's overarching goal is to restore late seral structure
- overview of previous restoration activities
- limited source of large wood was the primary issue

- activities
 - removal of invasives
 - site preparation
 - large wood placement
 - planting and protection of native species
 - on-going release of stock
- \$60K project
- pre-treatment conditions: reed canary grass dominated
- treatment activities: scalping, log placement, took advantage of large wood opportunities
- results: 8 acres scalped, ten log placement sites identified, sites were sprayed, 70 logs placed
- lessons learned
 - scalping productivity (slower than anticipated)
 - timing of scalping (early v late)
 - scalping depth/extent (go deeper, closer to stream)
 - soil conditions (dry v wet)
- next steps
 - planting and protection
 - seedling release
 - continue phase 2 upstream on Sugarbowl Creek

Q&A/Discussion

Production rate: 8 hours per acre; scalped material was pushed to edge of treatment area and was treated with herbicide. No plans to re-contour the site. Sediment fencing was used in a limited area for erosion control, a variety of species were planted, no evidence of past manipulation of stream was found in the project area, drowning canary grass as a treatment option was discussed.

Marys Peak SG – Karen Fleck-Harding

Rock Creek Restoration 2006-2014

- project area: tributary of Greasy Creek, headwaters on east side of Marys Peak
- multiple partners, including City of Corvallis, whose watershed (about 30%) is in Rock Creek
- system limitations, fish passage and temperature
- 2008 large wood placement by USFS
- lower end of creek project area is comprised of 11 log placement sites, with landowner cooperation
- culverts replaced with larger culverts
- fish ladder redesigned
- woody debris is limited by watershed management
 - there is an opportunity in February to make some adjustments with woody debris needs
- limitations to spawning access areas

- pre and post monitoring demonstrates spawning abundance and a change in distribution (even distribution above and below dams)
- 2013 RBA summaries are based on a 20% census of pool habitats
- 2010 to 2013 monitoring data, and what the results mean, are pending
- work happening on main stem of Greasy Creek with riparian restoration
- temperature issue in watershed, looking for opportunities to drop warm spill line

Q&A/Discussion

Three years may be too short a period to evaluate change. Lesson learned: if project involves a change in water rights, this will take time and could involve a cost. The Fresh Water Trust can help in these situations.

Siuslaw SG

- no formal presentation at this year's meeting
- Siuslaw SG shared this lesson: do not take no for an answer, wait patiently. The advent of stewardship contracting came out of the initial concept of work started on the Siuslaw NF decades ago.

Updates / Announcements

- Society for Ecological Restoration Symposium: Chandra LeGue: handout
Symposium title: "Stewardship in the Siuslaw National Forest: Whole watershed restoration for ecological and economic benefit". October 6-10, 2014 at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond. Chandra LeGue shared a draft proposal for a panel. There was strong support for her to submit the proposal.
- Topic Committee on Beavers
 - committee met January 14 to lay groundwork for project direction
 - interested in maintaining beaver on the landscape as an ecological contributor as well as community outreach
 - working with the forest to find an on-the-ground implementation demonstration opportunity
 - Name for the habitat that beavers create? Suggestion from Nathan Poage is Castor Zone – a riparian/aquatic zone occupied, influenced by beavers as evidenced by trees felled, girdled, and/or eaten. The Castor Zone often extends further upslope than the riparian zone.
 - importance of assessing where the greatest benefit would be
 - inherent beaver potential and how to apply that to the landscape
 - contribution of stewardship group members' time and expertise
 - additional participation is welcome
 - SNF has a habitat focus for a multitude of species. Functionality of the habitat that beavers provide is the emphasis. Consider regarding beavers as contributing to preserving disturbance processes. Beaver as keystone species.

- Jerry Ingersoll's final thoughts on today's meeting: he is impressed with the way partners lead, it is exceptional, and is what makes the Siuslaw unique. Partners have developed and sustained a collaborative culture. It is impressive to see the program of stewardship grow. Jerry also recognized Dan Segotta's leadership over the years. The Siuslaw is committed to carrying this effort into the future.
 - Secure Rural Schools act reauthorized for another year. Funds have leveraged with stewardship and other resources for projects that benefit NF lands or resources.
- Retirement party for Dan Segotta is February 15, 1 to 4 pm, in Florence (bowling alley on Hwy 101)
- Next Year's Meeting: January is the better month, rather than December

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30