

**JOINT STEWARDSHIP GROUP
MEETING NOTES
December 2, 2010 11:30 to 4:00 pm
Beverly Beach State Park Meeting Yurt
Newport, OR**

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jane Brass Barth	MPSG Facilitator	Ron Hudson	USFS-SNF – Hebo RD
Ross Holloway	ASG & SSG Facilitator	Michael Reichenberg	USFS-SNF – Hebo RD
Dan Segotta	USFS-SNF – CCRD	Michelle Dragoo	USFS-SNF – Hebo RD
Vicky Mugnai	USFS-SNF – CCRD	George Buckingham	USFS-SNF – Hebo RD
Elmer Ostling	ASG, Alsea WC	Wayne Patterson	USFS-SNF – Hebo RD
Chandra LeGue	Oregon Wild	Wayne Hoffman	ASG, Mid Coast WC
Worthington, Viva	USFS-SNF-CCRD	Fran Recht	ASG, PSMFC
Ken McCall	MPSG, ASG, USFS, City of Corvallis	Nathan Poage	Clackamas Stewardship Partners
Lon Otterby	MPSG, Sierra Club	Stacy Polkowske	Lincoln SWCD
Jackie Nichols	Cascade Pacific RCD	Matt Mellenthin	IRM
Corrina Chase	Salmon Drift WC	Lisa Phipps	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
Alex Sifford	Neskowin-Nestucca WC	Liz Vollmer-Buhl	SSG, Siuslaw WC
Jerry Ingersoll	USFS-SNF-SO	Linda Johnston	ASG, Alsea WC
Johnny Sundstrom	Siuslaw Stewardship Group	Peter McSwain	Salmon Drift WC
Luke Gmazel	City of Lincoln City	Mike Wilson	Tribes of Grand Ronde
Duncan Berry	Ecosystem Services, LLC	Andy Kittel	ASG, Alsea WC
Jeff Uebel	USFS-SNF-SO	Mike Kennedy	ASG, Siletz Tribe

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Overview

A new stewardship group will possibly form in the northern area of the forest; representatives from Siuslaw National Forest, Hebo RD and north area stakeholders were in attendance.

Stewardship Overview

Stewardship on the Siuslaw National Forest, Dan Segotta, Forest Service

- The focus of stewardship sales: restoration, best value, and end results oriented to achieve community and resource objectives. Stewardship is a tool, not a program. Background discussion: FS timber sales are focused on thinning, not clear-cutting, aiming for restoration and habitat improvement.

- Use of Retained Receipts
 - ✓ Can be used for implementation of Natural Resource Restoration, Protection and Improvement projects only.
 - ✓ Can be used for recreation improvements that benefit a resource; e.g., water quality.
 - ✓ Cannot be used for project monitoring, outreach and education, planning and design, equipment, facilities, recreational improvements, research, Forest Service employee salary or land acquisition.
- Wyden Authority Projects
 - ✓ Projects located on non-NF lands are funded through stewardship and Wyden Authority.
 - ✓ Projects utilizing Wyden authority must provide resource benefits to NFS lands.
- Accomplishments and Benefits
 - ✓ 3 Stewardship Groups on the forest
 - ✓ 13 Stewardship Timber Sales awarded
 - ✓ 48 Wyden projects approved (approx \$940K)
 - ✓ 50 FS retained receipts projects approved (close to \$2mil)
 - ✓ Generated \$1,189,53 in matching funds
 - ✓ Resources are being restored, learning is happening, relationships and trust are being built.
- Future Opportunities
 - ✓ North Hebo Ranger District
 - ✓ South North Fork Smith River & Southern ODNRA
 - ✓ Research OSU & SO/PNW co-location
- Issues and Challenges
 - ✓ Reauthorization of stewardship and Wyden authorities
 - ✓ Limited funding
 - ✓ NOAA consultation, riparian forest restoration

Coast Range Stewardship Fund Annual Project Cycle, Jackie Nichols, Cascade Pacific RC&D (handout provided)

- History: Cascade Pacific RC&D started working with Siuslaw National Forest in 1998; collaborated with Neskowin-Nestucca WC prior to 1998.
- CPRC&D provides administration for projects on non-federal land that benefits the National Forest (Wyden authority projects).
- Siuslaw Stewardship Group formed in 2003 with 40 projects implemented between 2003 and 2008 (large wood and lots of riparian planting projects).
- Alsea Stewardship Group formed in 2006 and Marys Peak Stewardship Group formed in 2007.
- How it Works
 - ✓ Form stakeholder groups
 - ✓ Determine restoration goals, map boundaries, help plan stewardship sales, apply for project funds

- ✓ Process allows an opportunity to strengthen application (unlike OWEB process)
- ✓ Funds allow for facilitators, outreach and education, multi-party monitoring contractor
- ✓ Stewardship group meetings provide opportunities to refer applicants to other/better sources of funding (better fit)
- Other discussion points: matching funds, stackable funds, when NEPA applies – when it is not required.

Stewardship Project “Show and Tell”

Alsea Stewardship Group, Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild (handout provided)

Chandra provided an overview of the West Alsea Project (restoration of ecological conditions within 40,000 acres of the Coast Range). This is an example of where the ASG was engaged early in a NEPA planning process. Project includes photo point monitoring. The project underscores success in collaboration and better end results.

Marys Peak Stewardship Group, Ken McCall, MPSG, ASG, USFS, City of Corvallis

- Historical overview: originally, the Siuslaw NF did not include the Marys Peak area. City of Corvallis Rock Creek municipal water use predates the Siuslaw NF. Citizen concerns led to transfer of land from BLM to the Siuslaw NF for municipal watershed purposes. 7500 acres of USFS land within Rock Creek watershed comprise 80% + of USFS lands in the Marys Peak Stewardship Group (MPSG) area.
- How MPSG Differs: area comprises east flank of the Coast range; drains into the Willamette River (no coastal Coho issues); USFS land base relatively small, primarily within a municipal watershed.
- MPSG formed in 2007, using the Siuslaw and Alsea Stewardship Group experiences and documentation as models.
- Public Outreach Efforts
 - ✓ Collaboration with Marys River Watershed Council and Benton County HCP, focus on the Greasy Creek neighborhood (out of 113 landowners, 107 gave permission for access to the stream)
 - ✓ Tour of snag creation project and Rock Creek fish passage, and Marys Peak meadow restoration
 - ✓ Open house – picnic at Marys Peak
 - ✓ Small Group Tours
 - ✓ One-on-one contact with landowners
- Three-Phase Strategy for outreach
 - ✓ Direct contact with landowners
 - ✓ Completion of rapid bio-assessment on key streams
 - ✓ Neighborhood meetings
- Ken highlighted the 2008 Fish Passage projects which included the following successes: opened 8 miles of high quality fish passage (trout) and removed 6 fish migration barriers. Among the benefits: these projects had been identified as high priority by the Siuslaw NF, so MPSG was able to address these issues without Siuslaw NF having to address them. Net result: 60% increase in trout population.

Siuslaw Stewardship Group, Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Siuslaw Watershed Council

- Liz highlighted Riparian Restoration Projects (aka native plant distribution).
- History: This project was started in 1998, in response to assessments that identified a lack of riparian vegetation as a limiting factor. The project started with distribution of donated surplus trees to landowners.
- Process: landowner recruitment, plant selection, site prep, supplies (plants and protection), coordination of “distribution day” (minimum of 10,000 plants distributed; numbers normally approach 16,000+), inspection and reporting, release and protection.
- Accomplishments: over 375 landowners have participated, 50 riparian acres planted with each project year. Many more acres maintained and protected. Projects provide gateway to further restoration work with many landowners.
- Successes are being mapped and graphed.
- Discussion: project purely voluntary, subsequent landowners not bound to project, but generally, through education, will voluntarily continue project.

Multi-Party Monitoring Report, Matt Mellenthin (handouts provided)

- Draft version will be posted on Cascade Pacific’s website [www.cascadepacificstewardship.org].
- Report is available for feedback.
- Highlights of IRM’s presentation:
 - ✓ What differs from last year’s report: data collection process stream-lined for FY09 and two field trips included in report
 - ✓ Methodology explained
 - ✓ Economic Impacts discussed
 - ✓ Matt provided overview of the bio-physical accomplishments
- Matt presented a PowerPoint showing what the Access database looks like (it is compatible with the FS’s database program).

Discussion points/suggestions: possibly include external benefits. Include more plots as budget allows (funding comes from appropriated funds).

When Stewardship Groups convene in January, develop ideas to improve report and other monitoring work, provide feedback to IRM.

Stewardship Reauthorization, Ross Holloway & Johnny Sundstrom (handout provided)

The Permanent Stewardship Authority (Sec 323 of PL108-7) is due to expire in 2013. The Wyden Authority Amendment expires in 2012. The two different authorities are fully implemented on the Siuslaw NF to carry out all the projects on both federal and non-federal land.

Issues that could influence reauthorization: tightening federal budget and the secure rural schools act (federal receipts to counties).

The annual programmatic stewardship monitoring meeting on November 16 in Medford (hosted by The Watershed Research and Training Center) resulted in the following ideas for inclusion in a renewed authority:

- Consolidate the two authorities into one
- Include in the allowable uses of Retained Receipts:
 - ✓ project planning and design
 - ✓ monitoring
 - ✓ collaborative group expenses
 - ✓ [Idea submitted at this meeting: include FS materials in allowable uses of Retained Receipts.]
- Delegate authority for approving Retained Receipts projects to the Forest Supervisor level.
- Extend allowable contract period to 20 years (to facilitate biomass facility investments).

Discussion about a larger, over-arching group called the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC), a national group developing strategies on stewardship contracting reauthorization. Ross and Johnny will be attending the RVCC annual policy meeting next week. Groups can provide input to the RVCC; compiling information and data on our successes would be helpful. Identify key allies/decision-makers and consider forming an independent, ad-hoc group to advocate on stewardship issues.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm