

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
February 27, 2011**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator	Mike Totey	ODF
Frank Davis	SNF	Jim Fairchild	Landowner
Matt Mellenthin	IRM	Amber Reese	City of Corvallis
Viva Worthington	SNF	Art and Betty Sleight	Land Owner
Steve Trask	Bio-Surveys, LLC	Jackie Nichols	STWD Coordinator
Donna Schmitz	Benton SWCD	Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC
Paul Thomas	SNF	Jeff Uebel	SNF

Meeting began shortly after 6:00 PM. January notes approved by consensus.

Project Updates –

- Matt Mellethin shared that IRM will add 13 permanent plots in the MPSG area for future multi-party monitoring work.
- Frank shared that the Forest Service has met with the City regarding upcoming timber sales and replacement of the Rock Creek bridge. The first sale in the watershed, Bridge Thin, will focus road work on the Franklin Ridge road. The Forest Service will monitor the bridge as it does the Bridge Thin. Rock Thin, the next sale is proposed to include the replacement of the Rock Creek bridge.
- Karen shared that 31 landowners attended a recent Greasy Creek Neighborhood meeting convened by the MRWC. People spanned the spectrum of new landowners to “old timers.” Attendees expressed appreciation that stewardship had funded the knotweed project. Steve showed his Rapid BioAssessment presentation. People are interested in a landowner-focused tour to see projects on Rock Creek, in particular the large wood placement and fish passage projects. They also are interested in the City partnering on issues on the Creek. Art, who attended the meeting, added that landowners are engaged and ready to take things on themselves. This update elicited questions and discussion about how to get so many people to such a meeting. They sent people the full RBA report plus and invitation and made phone calls.

Karen explained that MWRC had applied for a National Forest Foundation grant to fund outreach and fish passage project design work. The next step is to develop projects that fit the landowners’ interests and concerns and to connect with the City on how they can fit into this effort.

- Karen reported that the planting along Greasy Creek funded by stewardship is almost done.

Hebo Group Formation Update –

Jackie and Jane reported that on February 8th stakeholders decided to move forward in forming a Hebo Stewardship Group. Wayne Hoffman, Paul Thomas, Frank Davis, Mike Kennedy and Josh Lambert all shared from their experience with other stewardship

groups and this was very helpful. A county commissioner in attendance expressed concern about impact of stewardship sales to dollars to counties as compared to traditional timber sales. The group will meet again on March 9th. Michael Reichenberg, Hebo District Ranger, ideally will attend the Spring Roundtable meeting where there will be discussion on how to integrate this new group into the Coast Range Stewardship Fund process. They have some sales that can be sold as Stewardship in the immediate future, so could contribute to the fund as soon as next year.

MPSG Goals and Activities Review Continued

Aquatics: Since last meeting, Steve Trask and Jeff Uebel discussed the Wyden connectedness criteria for including Shotpouch and Scheele Creeks. They explained the need to learn more about how cutthroat use different streams and if or how they interact with headwaters on Forest Service lands. They both believe it is valid to leave the door open for work on Shotpouch and Scheele as they learn more about how fish travel, the barriers, etc. Jeff added that the logical emphasis for stewardship funding now is on Greasy and Woods Creek because of the known connectedness. Next priority would be Shotpouch due to MRWC's work there, since partnering is an important factor. Lowest investment priority would be Scheele.

Karen shared that with Willamette Special Investment Project funding, MRWC did a Rapid BioAssessment on Shotpouch in 2009. They have engaged almost all of the landowners in the subbasin and have a plan drafted to do things like livestock fencing, barrier removal, knotweed control. They hope that Starker and Thompson will get on board. They are partnering with Pacific Forest Trust.

Terrestrial: Sample projects that come under this category are snag creation, meadow work, downed wood. After much discussion, Frank proposed that the group draw buffer of 1.5 miles around SNF land that would represent places where proposed Wyden projects would definitely meet connectivity criteria. If outside of the 1.5 mile area, the project applicant will need to make a species-specific case on connectivity. The group felt it would be helpful to have a list of priority species for the SNF and what their "home range" distances are. Species mentioned were: northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, "other listed species," cavity nesters, and elk. There was discussion about including the area along the Rock Creek road for Fender's Blue since Forest Service has an easement along that road.

Invasives: We have contact information on 70 landowners adjacent to Greasy Creek. Challenge is to get them on board to do invasives work in their land. One suggestion was to let landowners know that the Forest Service is really going after invasives on its land and wants to spread the effort. Jeff will get information on where the Siuslaw National Forest is planning to treat false brome this spring. Heath can share what she is doing on education and outreach with invasive weeds, which has resulted in 40 people along Soap Creek signing up for a invasive weed neighborhood meeting. She had a local person help her out to sponsor and contact neighbors to come to the meeting. which all agreed was an effective approach.

Discussion: A question was raised as to why the group was drawing lines within the originally drawn MPSG boundary. The two purposes for the exercise are: 1) to gain clarity on what areas would indeed meet Wyden criteria so MPSG is better able to respond when a project idea comes forward and 2) to prioritize areas for outreach by MPSG. The original boundary was drawn not only in terms of natural resource priorities, but also to identify contractors as local or “zone of influence”. These highlighted maps should help the group be more strategic.

Subcommittees: The following people agreed to take the lead on moving each priority area forward. *Others, please add your names!*

Terrestrial – Jim Fairchild, Donna Schmitz, Matt Mellethin and Paul Thomas

Invasives – Matt Mellethin, Karen Fleck-Harding (and hopefully Heath from SWCD)

Aquatics – Steve Trask and Jeff Uebel

Spring Field Trip

The City of Corvallis has set June 8th as the date for its field trip. Amber Reese, new MPSG participant from the City, explained that the City would like to partner with the MPSG and SNF on this field trip. She will work with Frank, Ken and Jane on aspects like cost sharing, timing and itinerary. The City plans to highlight wildlife improvement and riparian planting projects. The Bridge Thin could be a part of the tour to show the “before thin” shot. The tour also will pass by thinning the City did in the past to show what a restoration thin looks like following treatment. The tour could stop by the Rock Creek bridge and could discuss the bridge replacement and the management of peacock larkspur. It was suggested that Paul Thomas could talk about species that could benefit from Wyden projects. If time does not allow, this can be worked into a future MPSG field trip.

It was again noted that that Greasy Creek neighborhood is interested in an aquatics tour.

Announcements & Updates –

- March 17th next meeting – one week earlier than usual due to Spring Break