

**Hebo Stewardship Group Meeting  
 March 9, 2011 6pm  
 Nestucca Valley Elementary School, Cloverdale, Oregon**

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and their affiliation.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Alex Sifford	Nestucca-Neskowin WC	Ron Hudson	Hebo Ranger District
Duncan Berry	Ecosystem Services LLC	Wayne Patterson	Hebo Ranger District
Pete McSwain	Salmon Drift Creek WC	Sherry Vick	NNWC
Catherine Pruett	SDWC	Wendy Sleeten	NNWC
Brett Sommermeyer	SDWC	Guy Sievert	NNWC
Paul Katen	SDWC	Anne Walker	USFWS
Guy Holzworth	NNWC	Mike Kennedy	Siletz Tribe
Chuck Hurliman	Tillamook County Commissioner	Mike Wilson	Grand Ronde Tribe
Mark Main	ODF	Rick Kneeland	BLM
Chris Knutsen	ODFW		
Jackie Nichols	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Jane Barth	Facilitator

Jane Barth reviewed the agenda. Objectives for the meeting included:

1. Identify current Hebo Ranger District planning efforts and discuss potential stewardship contract areas
2. Identify the steps necessary for chartering a Hebo Stewardship Group – determine if this group is ready to map a boundary(ies), identify key stakeholders, and draft a charter(s).

Jane reviewed draft meeting notes from last month and asked if there were any suggested changes. No changes were proposed. Meeting notes were accepted by consensus.

**Hebo R.D. Current Planning Efforts**

Ron Hudson described the current planning process – environmental analyses are conducted on watersheds, or groups of watersheds, by taking a holistic look at all of the watershed protection and wildlife/fish habitat improvement work needed in the area. He then identified the areas of on-going efforts:

- Salmon-Neskowin – project is close to completion.
- Bixby-Niagara (includes Foland, Tony, Boulder, Alder, Limestone, Powder, and Niagara Creek drainages on the North side of Mt. Hebo) – scheduled for completion at the end of 2011.
- North Nestucca (includes all national forest system lands in the Big Nestucca drainage north of the Nestucca River) – just starting work, scheduled for completion at the end of 2012.

Ron also described the minimum roads analysis that is occurring district wide to identify the level of road system that the Forest Service can afford to maintain based on current and reasonably anticipated budgets. When he stated that the Forest Service recognizes that there is

not enough funding available to maintain the current road system, several concerns were voiced by the group about the need for fire protection, and access for recreation and general land management. The Forest Service recognizes those concerns and is giving them full consideration, while trying to balance them against the current budget realities and environmental risks.

Ron also mentioned the Legacy Roads multi-year effort that is to start this Summer. They have some funds for this project that will include culverts and road decommissioning and “storage”, but this may be a place to use stewardship funds.

### **Potential Stewardship Sale Discussion**

Wayne Patterson described the Siuslaw National Forest focus on restoration work and how commercial thinning for wildlife and fish habitat improvement often results from Forest Service planning efforts. The Forest currently recognizes the following priorities for stand treatment:

1. Thinning of the young, even-aged, stagnating stands that resulted from clearcutting.
2. Thinning the even-aged stands planted with “off-site” stock after the 1910 fire.
3. Treatment of the alder dominated stands that resulted from three “settlement fires” within a 100-year period of time on Mt. Hebo.

The amount of thinning offered for sale in any year is based on funding levels established by Congress and the President. Following the last Hebo Stewardship group meeting, the Forest received direction that “stewardship contracts and agreements will be the primary means of managing natural resources and implementing watershed and ecosystem restoration projects.” Chuck Hurliman was concerned about what that meant for receipts to counties and asked how the Forest was interpreting the new direction. Wayne advised that discussions would be on-going regarding the new direction, but at the very least it indicates an increase in stewardship contracting and likely a “flip-flop” from our current 30% stewardship/70% standard timber sale contracts to maybe a 70/30 split – it is unknown exactly what it means at this time, though.

The primary considerations for whether or not a project would be able to be considered for stewardship contracting include:

1. The project must be within the boundary of the area designated by the stewardship group.
2. The contract must be awarded within the timeframe established to meet Congressionally designated targets. This is a concern because stewardship contracts take additional time for preparation, review (the Stewardship Board also must review and approve), and advertisement (prospective contractors are given an additional month to review the project and submit proposals).
3. The timber must generate enough money to cover the costs of some additional projects.

The following sales may meet those criteria:

- Morton Thin (~400 acres scheduled for sale award in September 2011 (tight timeline)
- Widow Thin (~120 acres scheduled for sale award in December 2011
- Bixby Thin (~200 acres scheduled for sale award in February 2012

## **Chartering the Hebo Stewardship Group**

To start off this portion of the meeting, Jackie Nichols was asked what is needed for Forest Service approval of the Hebo Stewardship Group – we need to submit an application, including charter and map of the stewardship area. This led into a discussion regarding what the stewardship area boundary should encompass. Dan Segotta had suggested that we only include National Forest and non-Forest lands that members of the group were specifically interested in working on. Jackie displayed the Marys Peak Stewardship Group's map and began describing the process that they went through.

Jackie described the process that Marys Peak and Alsea Stewardship Groups went through to apply for stewardship status. She displayed their charters on the overhead projector and led a discussion regarding their applicability to the Hebo Stewardship Group. Everyone appeared to tentatively support the adoption of the Alsea charter and asked that an electronic version be shared with the group for adaptation. In addition, Michael Reichenberg will be asked to draft the FS sections of the charter prior to the next meeting. Duncan Berry and Catherine Pruett agreed to be lead reviewers, so that a draft would be ready for the entire group's review at the next meeting.

The question of how big an area to include within this group's stewardship area was again discussed. The other groups on the Forest mapped the area on which the group wanted to work and are using a written description (e.g. - companies hiring workers within one hour driving time, 50 miles, or some other mutually agreed upon criteria receive extra points on their proposal) of an economic impact area to encourage potential stewardship contractors to hire local workers. Alex outlined a tentative boundary on a map on the wall. It included the two watershed council areas and all other portions of the Hebo Ranger District. Michael will circulate an electronic version of a base map before the next meeting. Jane will get information from Dan Segotta and email it to the group. Alex agreed to take on a lead role in working with Michael to get a draft map ready for review at the next meeting. The group thought that it might be good to invite Dan Segotta to the next meeting to provide insight on mapping the boundary.

## **Identifying Key Stakeholders**

The group identified several potential partners/collaborators that were not yet involved in the Hebo Stewardship Group – Lincoln and Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District (it was suggested that this might be difficult for them due to limited staffing these days, but to at least invite them), all private and industrial timber land owners within the stewardship area (once that is defined), and potential contractors. Members will look for opportunities to make contacts between now and the next meeting, but the main push on outreach can come after the charter work is completed.

## **Next Steps and Announcements**

The group discussed meeting dates and schedules and agreed to have some meetings on weekdays during business hours. Next meeting will be on April 13, 2011 from 3:00 to 5:00 and likely will be in the Lincoln City area. Jane will get the logistics set and meeting notice out. Goals for the next meeting are to approve a charter and map boundary, and to draft ground rules.