

**New Stewardship Group Meeting
February 9, 2011 6pm
Beaver Fire Hall, Beaver, Oregon**

Introduction: Official welcome and introduction of attendees.

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Alex Sifford	Nestucca-Neskowin WC	Michael Reichenberg	Hebo Ranger District
Duncan Berry	Ecosystem Services LLC	Wayne Patterson	Hebo Ranger District
Pete McSwain	Salmon Drift Creek WC	Dan Avery	ODFW- Coastal
Catherine Pruett	Salmon Drift WC	Chris Knutsen	ODFW Tillamook
Brett Sommermeyer	Salmon Drift WC	Amy Kocourek	USFWS
Paul Katen	Salmon Drift WC	Anne Walker	USFWS
Lisa Phipps	Tillamook Estuary Partnership	Mike Kennedy	Siletz Tribe
Chuck Hurliman	Tillamook County Commissioner	Luke Gmazel	City of Lincoln City
Paul Thomas	Siuslaw NF	Wayne Hoffman	Mid Coast WC
Frank Davis	Siuslaw NF	Josh Lambert	Lincoln SWCD
Jackie Nichols	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Jane Barth	Facilitator
Briana LaFord	Hebo Ranger District		

Michael Reichenberg, Hebo District, opened the meeting. The main goals for the meeting were to:

1. Determine if the stakeholders want to form a Stewardship Group
2. Determine if the stakeholders are comfortable with one Stewardship Group for the Hebo RD or if a Tillamook Co. Group and a Lincoln Co. Group would suit their needs better.
3. Learn what makes this area important to meeting participants, to gather initial information to develop a vision for the Group(s).

All participants introduced themselves sharing their community, affiliation and what makes this area important to them. The following are some of the statements:

- Protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat for bird species and elk
- Improving Salmon habitat
- Enhancing and restoring habitat for endangered species including salmon and wildflowers
- Manage lands better for timber and recreation
- Protect and restore Cascade Head

Stewardship Overview

Michael Reichenberg gave a PowerPoint presentation about stewardship: its goals, how it works within the USFS and Siuslaw NF, specifically. He gave some history of stewardship and stewardship groups on the Siuslaw. He stressed that Stewardship Groups are not Forest Service-run groups being advised by the citizens, but rather citizen-run groups being advised by the

Forest Service. A sense of ownership is critical to the success of this collaboration. The Forest Service provides technical and support services to the Groups, but do not “lead” them. His PowerPoints will be made available electronically upon request and as a handout at the next meeting. He answered questions that elicited the following points:

- There are some potential thinning/stewardship sales in Drift and Hebo already within completed and almost completed Environmental Assessments.
- Knowledge of EA’s for other group’s projects for planning are available for this group’s information.
- Not all sales become stewardship for pool of funds. The FS follows a general rule of 30% stewardship sales, 70% traditional sales.
- Retained receipts are a tool for involving local contractors as they get extra points during bid evaluation.

Alsea and Marys Peak Stewardship Group Experience

Alsea Stewardship Group participants (Wayne Hoffman, Josh Lambert, Mike Kennedy) explained the timeline, major steps and initial activities they followed to get chartered and active. They each shared from their perspective the value of the stewardship group.

Wayne Hoffman: The stewardship idea came up for the Siuslaw River basin. It was a Pilot project to see how it worked. The results were good enough to go nation wide. They wanted to move towards the Alsea River Basin. When it was started it was all about \$- to get projects funded with retained receipts. But now see there are multiple benefits:

1. Invited to participate in environmental development projects: EA to manage and funds for projects.
2. Bring together on what to do: Improving meadows and salmon habitat were able to influence FS and make suggestions.
3. Improves FS and local knowledge. You can look at rules for stewardship and timber sales under stewardship rules and they look better economically than traditional timber sales. They also took less staff effort on the FS side of things.

Mike Kennedy: The benefits with the Alsea stewardship were:

- Being a part of the planning
- Local knowledge helps
- Share knowledge with the FS staff
- Be group that prioritize Wyden Projects for FS

Josh Lambart – As a program manager all he could see initially was \$ as well. It’s been a good process and learning curve. And, his organization has gotten grants for stewardship projects.

In addition, Frank Davis, the key FS liaison for the Marys Peak Stewardship Group, explained how these groups work in the area of agreement between extremes showing the following diagram:



He stated that stewardship will not work if everyone doesn't meet in the middle. Public organization will have to come together with the FS. The FS is there to assist with the process. FS has been able to step back and let the public help. He also explained that becoming chartered is not a legal requirement, but that on the SNF it is the practice to set up these collaboratives. The charter is where the groups lay out their purpose, goals, activities, and area of focus. The process of drafting the charter also is a time when a new group defines its decision-making process, groundrules, subcommittees, etc. This process has taken 4-6 months for the 3 existing stewardship groups.

Full Group Discussion

Wayne Hoffman – Everyone has to believe in forest management, and then you can come together. Siuslaw is a great forest to work with because they play by the rules.

Duncan Berry – Unaware of LSR practices on Siuslaw and thinks most of the public could use some education about this. Question: Do the dollars that come out of stewardship thinning get sent to general fund or are they kept on this forest? Answer: kept on the forest

Pete McSwain– At recent joint stewardship group meeting in Newport heard both stewardship and Wyden authorities were in need of an extension. Is it premature to create the group? Answer: Wyden Authority does not expire. Stewardship Authority expires in 2013 but efforts are in process to work on getting it extended or permanent. The FS will keep the group informed.

Pete McSwain- Can the time members of stewardship group spend participating on the group be paid for by grants? No, but Wayne shared that his time is covered by his organization.

Wayne Hoffman – FS staff still does a heavy load. Stewardship load can be as big or small but the point is to assist to have a good outcome.

What is the distance from the federal forest for projects to meet Wyden criteria? Wayne Hoffman – 1 ½ mile from public land- not written in law. It does have to benefit the land on the forest.

- 1 mil – 1 ½ mil is a default
- If you are within that you can assume that Wyden applies, unless a weird case.
- A fish passage would be a good cause, can be used on a stream on private land if goes through federal land.

Final thoughts on creating a group

The group was polled to test their interest in forming a stewardship group and to find out if they had a strong opinion that 2 rather than one group was needed. All participants expressed support for forming a group. Some of the main benefits stressed were: recirculation of funds locally, habitat improvement via projects, community- building, relationship-building with the Forest Service, expertise sharing and getting people into the FS planning process. A few expressed concerns that the new group will need to address as it moves forward. The main concerns were:

time commitment to more meetings, retained receipts taking money from the counties could be an area of friction, and the challenge of getting large private industrial landowners involved.

In sum, meeting participants were in favor of moving forward with forming one Stewardship Group. They decided to meet again on March 9, 2011 at the same time. Over time the group will meet in different locations to accommodate the geographic distribution of participants. Next meeting tentatively set for Pacific City with Lincoln City as back-up. Jane will coordinate with Alex, Lisa and Michael to get the logistics set and meeting notice out. Jane encouraged everyone to get her contact information for other stakeholders who ideally will get involved in the group. At the March 9th meeting, the group can take time to discuss other stakeholders and best ways to recruit them.

[Note: Jackie Nichols works with the Cascade Pacific RC&D, the organization that manages stewardship funds for the FS. Her organization also contracts the facilitators for the stewardship groups. Jane Barth, tonight's facilitator, is the MPSG facilitator and will facilitate the initial 3-4 meetings of this new group. Jackie is applying for a grant to obtain funds to support facilitation and also outreach activities for the new group. She will know if the proposal is successful in April.]