

ALSEA STEWARDSHIP GROUP
MEETING NOTES
June 20, 2011 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Alsea Public Library

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Ross Holloway	Facilitator	Dan Segotta	USFS
Jackie Nichols	CPRCD	Mike Kennedy	Siletz Tribe
Elmer Ostling	AWC	Trish Wilson	BLM
Ray Hughey	RMEF	Andy Kittel	AWC

Welcome and Introductions

Review Notes and Agenda

Notes of the May 16 were accepted with one minor spelling correction.

Project/Agency Updates

Forest Service, Dan Segotta

- Climate Change Workshop summary – A meeting summary from the May 16 workshop was handed out. Dan also has copies of several of the Powerpoint presentations used at the workshop if anyone is interested. The overall take home message from the workshop is that pending changes are unpredictable enough that no changes in tree species that the forest is planting are being planned at this time.
- Personnel Updates – Pam Gardner is scheduled to return from her detail to the Klamath National Forest in mid- to late-July. District is currently in the process of filling the Silviculturalist and Pre-Sale Forester positions vacated by Russ Volke and Pat Barnes.
- Five-Year Watershed Plans – The final watershed in the current 5-year plan is Beaver Creek, which will come up next year. A new 5-year watershed plan will be drafted in the coming months. ASG will be involved in scoping on a preliminary analysis. Dan informed the group that snag and course wood prescriptions are changing due to a new model being used. Dan offered to have Marty Bray, Wildlife Biologist attend a future meeting to explain this change.
- Forest Service Retained Receipts Projects – With the addition of a Stewardship Group at Hebo, that District is planning some retained receipts projects on FS land. This may increase competition for a limited amount of funds.

Cascade Pacific RC&D, Jackie Nichols

- Jackie reported that the latest Multi-Party Monitoring report is now available on line. The application period for the next round of project funding is now open, and application materials are also available on-line at the CPRCD website.

- 5-year agreement between CPRC&D and the FS – Current agreement ends February 29, 2012, and a new agreement is being finalized. Jackie is currently reviewing funds expended under the current agreement to see if there are any surplus funds. Surplus funds can be “returned” to the FS and re-obligated to the next agreement, or individual existing project agreements can be increased by up to 10% if applicants could make use of additional funding by next February. Ross agreed to send an e-mail out to ASG members making them aware of the potential for increased funding under existing agreements.
- “Two Chiefs” Award – Jackie announced that the “Two Chiefs” Award (NRCS and USFS) will be presented to Siuslaw National Forest Stewardship partners at the 10-year Celebration event scheduled for August 17. Ross will work with Jackie to identify who will be receiving the award and include a place for presentations in the program being developed for the event.
- Elmer asked if CPRCD records the number of “hits” on the monitoring report on their website. There is a counter for “hits” on the CPRCD website, but not specific to the monitoring plan.

Hebo SG, Mike Kennedy

- Initial ideas for project applications were discussed at the last meeting. Salmon Drift WC is putting a project together.
- Hebo RD has several timber sales that are “NEPA ready”, and will be offering stewardship timber sales soon.

Other

- Andy Kittel reported that three potential contractors participated in a “pre-bid” walk through of the Canal Creek project area.
- Five Rivers outreach efforts by AWC and MCWC are underway. There is a meeting scheduled for June 23, with Steve Trask, Karen Fleck-Harding, FS Staff and local landowners.
- Dan reported that timber sales are still active due to a backlog of inactive sales that are nearing the end of their contracts. Price index has dropped recently, but demand for logs is still high.
- Andy reported that on Saturday, August 6, there will an event to recognize Bill McKinney as an Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year.

Salem District BLM Update, Trish Wilson

- Work is ongoing on the Alsea Recreation Area Management Plan, which is a 15-year management plan. Alternatives have been published and can be accessed via the BLM website. There are three alternatives. One is the “no action” alternative. Alternative 2 proposes to increase campsites by converting some existing day use area to camping, and developing a group site. Also proposed more “non-road” trail development. Alternative 3 proposes more development than 2, with a horse camp and additional trail development. There have been two public meeting to date, with about 12 people attending each.
- North Fork Overlook and Buck Roberts timber sales will be offered in July and August respectively.
- Beginning Yaquina Head management plan process to develop a 15-year management plan.

- BLM budgets have been reduced with the effect of a 10-15% cut in the size of the organization. With recreation use increasing, agency is considering how to strategically spend limited recreation dollars.
- Vegetation management EIS is being done for the Salem District. Scoping has begun, with a 30-day comment period. Additional information is available by contacting Claire Hibler at 503-375-5677.
- In response to a question from Elmer regarding a “Valley to Coast” horse trail passing through BLM land on Beaver Creek, Dan reported that the current proposed route for the “Corvallis to the Sea” trail is the subject of NEPA work, and does not pass through the Beaver Creek BLM land.
- In response to another question, Trish reported that there has been no further progress on a replacement plan for the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

Summer Field Trip Discussion

- The group discussed three possible options for field trips in the coming months.
- Ross shared the possibility of touring the new Seneca Jones Biomass facility in north Eugene. He attended a tour there last week. The group is interested in this as a field trip in addition to a forest-based trip.
- The group also would like to assess interest in a field trip to the Cataract Thin Research area in conjunction with the August 17 10-year celebration event.
- The group also would like to assess interest in a field trip later in the year to look at the Canal Creek project area, Siletz Tribe land on Arnold Creek, and other nearby sites.
- Ross will put together a Doodle poll or survey to get feedback from the group on these options.

Discussion of Anticipated Project Applications

- AWC has several potential projects under consideration...
 - Large wood project in Alsea Estuary,
 - Large wood placement in Lobster and Preacher Creeks,
 - Meadow maintenance and large wood project, and
 - Large wood project in Parris Meadow area.
- Ross reported that Lincoln SWCD (Josh) will be developing a project proposal for additional invasive species work and riparian plantings.
- Applicants need to be making contact with FS Resource Specialists to review Wyden guidelines and get their buy-in on projects. Ross will send a reminder to folks.

Announcements

- Mike reported that the Oregon EQC just passed a new water quality standard that includes a fish consumption rate. Tribes had pushed for a higher rate. The newly adopted rate is ten-fold higher than the previous standard.
- Benton SWCD is looking at an outreach effort on water quality in the Alsea Basin.
- MCWC is studying lead contamination issues related to the use of lead sinkers.

- Status of consultations between NOAA and USFS – There are no further consultations planned. FS (Forest Supervisor) has issued a “no effects” decision, eliminating the consultation requirement.

Future meeting dates and agenda items

July 18 6 – 8 pm Central Coast Ranger District office, Waldport

August 17 3 – 7:30 P.M. 10-year Celebration Event (Dave Eisler’s property in Walton)

The group agreed to consider cancelling their regular August meeting depending on field trip scheduling, and in lieu of the August 17 event.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm