

Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes Draft
June 23, 2011

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator	Lon Otterby	Sierra Club
Marty Stein	SNF	Jeff Uebel	SNF
Art and Betty Sleight	Landowners	Courtney Schreiber	SNF
Mike Totey	ODF	Henry Storch	Benton SWCD

Meeting began at 6:00 PM. April notes to be officially approved next time.

June 8th City of Corvallis Forest Field Trip Debrief

Jeff Uebel stated that the field trip was well attended. Jane Brass Barth shared her thoughts on the trip. The field trip really did help to get people aware of stewardship projects. And there was a stop where Frank Davis talked about the Bear Thin sale. The press was there, but unfortunately there was no story after the trip.

Project Updates

Courtney Schreiber reported that the Bridge Thin STWD sale is advertised and proposals are due August 11, 2011.

Jeff reported that SNF got back the approval for the stewardship group for Hebo. There are now four stewardship groups on the Forest. The Hebo Ranger District says that there could be some stewardship sales from the Hebo Stewardship Area, soon.

Marty Stein reported that false brome herbicide treatment has been implemented. It picks up where the city left off around the watershed and Marys Peak. It appears it was successful. Art Sleight shared that he found some false brome around Franklin Ridge road between his property and the city property. Marty stated that the Forest Service side is getting treated this year on the Franklin Ridge Road. It could be a potential small Stewardship Project, but that would treatment would not happen until next year. Art does not want to put it off till next summer. Marty added that part of the Bridge Thin Stewardship project is to follow up with any additional false brome treatment that is needed.

Coast Range Stewardship Fund Project Proposal Idea Sharing

City of Corvallis project: Jane read an e-mail from Amber Reese, City of Corvallis, about a potential project of encroaching woody vegetation. Mike Totey asked about connectivity to the Forest Service. Jeff 's initial thought was that this project could qualify. The city project mentioning native plant community restoration would help with connectivity of project. Henry advised controlling grasses over a period of a couple years before planting native seeds to be more effective. Art thought a higher city priority would be the Reed Canary Grass on Rock Creek. Group consensus was that it is a riparian area which is why it is not discussed as much. The email did indicate the city is considering other stewardship projects for this cycle, too.

Invasives Project Ideas

Heath Keirstead, Art Sleight, Matt Mellethin, Karen Fleck-Harding and Jane met last week to discuss potential projects and an overall strategy for this priority area of the MSPG. Matt, IRM, potentially will submit a proposal for a project this round based upon MSPG discussions aimed at determining project(s) locations and target species.

Art shared that the project the subcommittee discussed as a priority was the patch of Scotch Brome on Hwy 34. The subcommittee felt that treating this highly visible patch could have a snowball effect to getting other landowners to treat invasives on their property. It was sprayed once before but no follow-up and it was allowed to come back. The dilemma is not so much getting it under control once again, but a long term solution. Unless it is turned into a productive property it is always going to be open to invasives. The other challenge to this project is landowner support and involvement. Art has been working on finding an effective contact person..

Discussion centered on the issue of connectivity to FS land to meet Wyden Authority. Jeff volunteered to round up some troops and see if we can make a case for the patch and how it connects. A one time treatment does not make sense. The key would be to change the site characteristics. Reclaim the site. If the landowner committed to full restoration of the site, it could be used as a demo site.

Art shared that the thing that has held us up a lot before is surveying where invasives, but now the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District has a volunteer group who will go out and do that part. A strategy can be to link private landowners with these Weed Spotters and then we could write up a proposal from that. Now that the city, National Forest and BLM are doing something it is time to get the private landowners on board. Talk about starting at Rock Creek and pushing towards 34 and see if we could get all the landowners in between educated and excited. The subcommittee brainstormed a tentative plan to convene a neighborhood meeting(s) next February to start the education and outreach process (see subcommittee meeting notes at end of these notes.)

Henry mentioned that Meadow Knapp Weed is a source population at the old Larson Lumber site. This would be another potential Stewardship project. It is not a big site, about an acre.

Other Project-related Points

Henry suggested getting Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation involved if there as some sort of meadow restoration that could be done in that area near the proposed city project site. It would be a chance to get landowners on board who might otherwise be skeptical. Jane suggested that a future presenter might be RMEF. She will follow up with Henry for potential presenters.

Mike Totey stated that it would be really nice at the July meeting to hear about all the projects that are going to be submitted so that any re-vamping could be shared at the August meeting. The more details, like budget amount and match and connectivity arguments, that applicants can bring to the July meeting, the better.

Question for Karen – Has there been any outreach for meadow work on Woods Creek?

Fall Field Trip Planning

Group agrees to wait till next meeting to decide

Announcements & Updates –

- § Potential to move the July meeting to the 21st. Jane to send out an e-mail to see if possible.
- § September meeting move to the 29th to fit Tech Team schedule
- § SSG 10-year Celebration on August 17th 3-7:30pm; food, music, merriment and even campsites available if you want to stay over. Jane will send out information when it is available.
- § August 25th regular MPSG meeting
- § Willamette Valley Refugee website – the 30th is the deadline to comment on Elk _____?

Attachment Meeting on Invasives held June 15th Matt, Heath, Art, Jane, and Karen (via phone)
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Purpose: Identify specific strategies and actions to bring to the full MPSG meeting.

Ideas:

1. Continue to support work on Greasy Creek with MRWC in lead and submitting proposals for funding to treat additional stretches/acreage each year.
2. Come up with a plan to get rid of the scotch broome “patch” on highway 34.
How: Seek funding to treat the area. Need to contact the landowner to find out if willing to treat area, what concerns might have over treatment method, what could be planted in the area after treatment (e.g. return to hay field), and how local land management could be established to help prevent reinfestation.

Who: Matt will take the lead on treatment planning and fund seeking. Heath will help with suggestions on funding sources. Jane will ask Frank to invite Marty Stein to MPSG meeting to discuss if/how this project fits Wyden and therefore Coast Range fund. Who is best to communicate with the landowner? Art or Matt or Karen or team?

Timing: Near-term so can use this project as visible evidence of MPSG’s and it’s partners’ commitment to working on invasives. Ideally this effort can serve to motivate other area landowners to want to work on invasives on their land with us.

2. Convene a neighborhood meeting (or 2) to activate a broader network of landowners to work on invasives. Target areas would be Greasy Creek to build off ongoing efforts by MRWC and Westwood Creek to push out from where City, FS and private landowners like the Sleights are now active.

How: Partner with Benton SWCD to develop and put on program.

Who: Jane and Heath

Timing: Hold meeting(s) next Winter with the goal of leaving the meeting with local landowners signed up to have Weedspotters come out to inventory for

priority invasives on their property. From those inventories, new stewardship projects can be developed for the 2012 Coast Range Fund cycle.

Prep Work: Get clearer on MPSG's priority invasives list. Anticipate concerns meeting attendees will have regarding proposed treatments so able to address them. Develop presentation materials. Potential information to share: ongoing city, SNF, MRWC, BSWCD efforts to address invasives; Nature Conservancy powerpoint on how to prioritize species and develop strategic plans to address them; and potential funding sources for treating invasives.

Other Points: The fact that the City and SNF are both treating invasives now makes it a good time to build off these. BSWCD is helping MPSG address the past "missing link", which was the inventorying step.