

Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes Draft
July 21, 2011

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator	Lon Otterby	Sierra Club
Mike Totey	ODF	Jeff Uebel	SNF
Henry Storch	Benton SWCD	Frank Davis	SNF
Steve Trask	Bio-Surveys	Kraig Kidwell	SNF
Jim Fairchild	Landowner	Viva Worthington	CCRD
Amber Reese	City of Corvallis	Jerry Ingersoll	SNF
Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC	Jackie Nichols	CPRCD
Heath Keirstead	Benton SWCD		

Meeting began at 6:00 PM. June notes approved with spelling corrections.

Project Updates

Jackie reported that the 5 year agreement is nearly ready to be signed. This agreement covers projects approved last Fall. She also reported that there may be some project money left over from projects that were completed under budget. She could add up to 10% to existing projects if there are additional specific, on-the-ground needs.

Frank reported that the East Alsea LMP Decisions were signed in June and the appeal period recently ended with no appeals. This project was modified to have no effect on coho salmon and added more analysis regarding deadwood. It is available for viewing on the Siuslaw website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=25906>.

The discussions with National Marine Fisheries Service regarding consultation have been evaluated to the Executives. A scientific committee has been reviewing the issue. They have met 3 or 4 times and expect to complete their review by the end of September. Analysis tools are being developed as part of the process.

Jeff reported that the partnership with the Stewardship Groups was nominated for and received the Two Chiefs award as a collaboration restoration example in the US. At the 10 year Stewardship celebration on August 17 in Walton, Oregon, that award will be presented to several groups including the Marys Peak Stewardship Group and several individuals, including some from the MPSG.

Henry reported that he has contacted Starker Forest regarding the knapweed on Highway 34 and they will treat it.

Bridge Thin sale closes August 11th.

Coast Range Stewardship Fund Project Proposals

Viva shared that the amount of funds available may increase from the initially-projected \$160,000 to around \$200,000.

Jeff reported that, although there was strong support for a pilot project to address the Scot's Broom along Highway 34 (as discussed at the June meeting), the general consensus was that it was hard to make a case to treat something that far from FS land. He said that if an applicant can document that there is a tie, such as source of seed tracked up to FS land, the project could be considered under Wyden Authority. But, the staff at this time could not find that relationship. If treating this property was packaged with adjoining ODOT, Benton County, and City of Corvallis

lands, the case could be stronger. The conclusion was to not pursue this project for the current Coast Range cycle.

Amber reported that the Peacock Larkspur proposal would be ready for review at the next meeting.

Karen reported on the Upper Greasy Creek Project proposal. A handout with a summary and attached map provided information. The project would replace 4 culverts and provide stream simulation at another. Also a dam would be removed. This would increase water quality and provide habitat needs for the meta population influencing Rock Creek. The group supports this project proposal moving forward.

Matt, IRM was unable to attend. He may bring forward an invasives project at the next meeting.

Jane shared that the 2 watershed councils involved in the Hebo Stewardship Group were working on project proposals. No one had specific knowledge of project proposals underway by the ASG or SSG.

Benton Soil & Water Conservation District County-wide Invasive Species Strategic Planning Effort

Heath provided information on the county-wide invasive species strategic planning effort Benton SWCD is beginning. It will bring together the multiple partners working on weed control. The process will help everyone know what each other are doing so they can work together better. They have already identified about 50 people to participate. Involvement entails completing an on-line survey (approximately 20 minutes), reviewing documents as they are created by a core group over the Fall, and attending a December meeting (optional). Jane will forward Heath's informational email to the Group so that interested persons can participate.

Jane shared a note that she had received from Ron Exeter about BLM's efforts to control noxious weeds within Benton County. (see text attached to end of these notes.)

Field Trip Planning

Several ideas were discussed. The one that floated to the top was combining with the Greasy Creek neighborhood to view the work on Rock Creek and Greasy Creek, probably sometime in October. Serve as field trip information sharing and outreach. Next step is for Karen to check on dates with the neighborhood folks and for Amber to check with Tom Penpraze about access to the city sites.

Meeting concluded at 1935 hours.

Next Meeting:

August 17 – 10 year celebration (see flyer). Jane will circulate information on car pooling and other details as she gets them from the SSG.

August 25 at 6 pm.

Hi Jane,

I wondered if I could add a bit to your notes for your information on BLM efforts to control noxious weeds within Benton County.

This year the Salem BLM, Marys Peak Resource Area will complete its roadside inventory of noxious weeds for Benton County and begin some surveys in Polk County near Pedee and Little Grass Mountain. From our first year data, false brome is very widespread, saddening as I thought I could get rid of it on BLM lands. However, I will keep at it. Believe it or not, after 3 years of pesticide treatments, we are running out of dense stands of Scot's broom to treat on BLM lands. We may be able to share our BLM weed location data (ARCGIS format), but don't know how it would be transferred or by disk. Certainly I do not need any additional work by entering the data to another system, but you should be aware noxious weed location data on BLM lands in Benton County may be available and is current.

Also, I have been actively targeting and spraying Scot's broom, blackberries, meadow knapweed, peavine and false brome sites not only on BLM lands in Benton County, but also have been working with WeyerCo, Plum Creek, ODF (Philomath in 2010), Starker, Forest Capitol and a few other private land owners, plus working a bit with Marty Stein (USFS) in spraying weeds on their lands on major road systems in Benton, Polk and Lincoln Counties . Henry Storch knows of a few places I have been treating and I worked with him to get some meadow knapweed treated on private lands and/or ODOT lands.

In your notes you mention targeting Hwy 34 for Scot's broom. This is the second year I have treated Scot's broom, Peavine, false brome and Geranium on Hwy 34 on BLM lands, including section 3 on the Marys Peak road and the upper rock pit on Marys Peak Road and false brome on USFS 30 road toward Harlan and at Conner's Camp on USFS lands. The BLM lands in these areas are looking pretty good as far as reducing the number of noxious weeds, in particular the Scot's broom. Next time through, note the brown Scot's broom on BLM lands! I agree with Henry that a 2 year commitment is needed for good reduction/control.

I just left a message on Marty Stein's phone that I have a contractor available and fully funded to spray Scot's broom on USFS lands if I have the go-ahead. All it would take is for a USFS employee to meet me and my contractor in the field or otherwise mark locations on the ground.

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