

Hebo Stewardship Group Meeting MINUTES

July 14th, 2011

Kiawanda Center, Pacific City

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Alex Sifford	NNSLWC	Lisa Phipps	TEP
Wendy Sleeten	NNSLWC	Paul Katen	SDCWC
Jackie Nichols	Cascade Pacific	Jane Barth	Facilitator
Michael Reichenberg	Hebo Ranger District		

Welcome and Agenda

In response to Jane's inquiry about any additional agenda items, Jackie asked Lisa what Tillamook Estuaries Partnership is and does. Lisa responded by stating that it is a National Estuary Program (NEP) under the Clean Water Act. It is one of 28 NEPs in the nation. It dates back to the 1990's and originated to address water quality impacts to the salmon and oyster fisheries in Tillamook Bay. It has since expanded to work with all of the estuaries in Tillamook County. They assist watershed councils with projects such as habitat restoration and water quality monitoring. More information can be found at:

<http://www.tbnep.org/about-us/our-mission>

FS Updates

Michael attempted to answer a few questions from last meeting, with mixed results:

1. *Can retained receipts be used on a project on other federal ownership that benefits FS land?* – Yes, it is stated in a piece of FS correspondence providing guidance on Wyden Authority that Michael handed out during the meeting.
2. *Can Wyden Authority be used on BLM lands if it benefits FS lands?* – The technical answer is yes, but Jackie advised that the BLM has its own Stewardship Authority and that a Wyden project on BLM land might not make it through the FS technical review board.
3. *Can FS logs be used as matching funds?* – Still working on this one.

Updates on Coast Range Stewardship Project Proposals

Alex shared with the group that NNSLWC is thinking about putting their support behind having SDCWC's proposal for Bear Creek be the initial Hebo SSG Wyden project. SDCWC is contacting private landowners along Bear Creek to see if they're interested in the project. Jackie inquired as to the cost of the Bear Creek project and Paul replied with an estimate of about \$28,000. Lisa voiced her support for the Bear Creek project due to its manageable scope and high probability of being a success.

Wendy asked if there is competition between groups for the money in the Coast Range Stewardship Fund. Jackie responded that there is potentially enough money for each group to fund \$40,000 worth of projects. However, the money in the fund will not be split evenly. Each group will have its top priority project funded. Alex pointed out that a group's top priority could exceed \$40,000. Jackie reassured the group that there is strong interest in making sure Hebo's top priority is funded.

Paul and Wendy both questioned if Hebo could get more projects funded if other groups' projects had less merit than ours. Jackie and Jane explained that unless the other groups' projects were technically unsound, each group would have one project funded before any group had its 2nd, 3rd etc priority projects funded. In the past, there has been enough funding to fund 2-3 projects from a group. Jackie then took the opportunity to remind the group to involve the FS and get FS support for projects to assure they are technically sound.

Finally, the possibility of using Stewardship retained receipts to perform trail maintenance on Cascade Head was discussed as a future project.

Field Trip!

The group discussed a future field trip. It was decided that the field trip would focus on commercial thinning, riparian planting and LWD placement in the Little Nestucca project area.

Paul asked if we want to expand our list of invitees for the field trip to members of the public. Jackie advised that this would be a great opportunity to do some outreach to our communities. Jane added that HSG members could use their mailing lists to publicize the field trip. After the discussion, however, the group seemed to prefer targeting just HSG participants for this first trip. This can be discussed further at the September meeting.

Whether to have the trip on a weekday or a weekend was discussed. Paul mentioned SDCWC experienced good turnout on a Saturday field trip. Wendy commented that a lot of the local public is retired, therefore a weekday may work.

Jackie commented that on the FS typically provides vans or other vehicles for field trips.

Lisa suggested that we survey the group for dates that may work. Paul added that later in the year the leaves will be off the brush and it will be easier to see into the woods. Jane will sample the group for dates in October and November.

Outreach

Jackie shared with the group that she has outreach funding available. It is in the form of a grant from the National Forest Foundation. We can use this money to contact the public, contact landowners, produce publications or hold an outreach event such as a picnic. Jane asked if the money could be used for mailings. Jackie responded in the positive. Alex asked if the money could be used for a newspaper ad to publicize the field trip, Jackie said yes. Jackie added that

other groups have made informative brochures to distribute to the public. Paul added that it could be a good avenue to educate the public on restoration activities and alternatives to even-aged intensive forest management. Lisa advised that our outreach should be modest as we are still figuring out who we are.

10-year Celebration

As previously mentioned, the Siuslaw SSG is holding a ten-year celebration on August 17 in Mapleton. The "Two Chiefs" award will be awarded. There will be group and personal awards.

Next Meeting

The group decided to cancel the August meeting. There will be no meeting in August. Stay tuned for details on the field trip and September meeting.