

**Siuslaw Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
January 5, 2012**

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Ross Holloway	Facilitator	Dan Segotta	SNF
Pam Gardner	SNF	Chris Finn	BLM
Jeff Uebel	SNF	Chandra LeGue	Oregon Wild
Liz Vollmer-Buhl	SWC	David Eisler	SWC
Johnny Sundstrom	Siuslaw Institute	Seth Mead	Siuslaw SWCD
Mike Kennedy	Siletz Tribe		

The meeting began at 1:05 PM.

Review Notes and Agenda

The participants approved the October 6, 2011 meeting notes as drafted. The participant reviewed the Joint Meeting notes of December 6. Johnny Sundstrom offered an edit to the notes to clarify a point made during his presentation on the Restoration Economy.

Current Process/Project Updates

Forest Service, Dan Segotta

- § North Fork Siuslaw – Expect a decision this year. There are two potential stewardship timber sales included, Morris Thin and Buttes Thin. Dan agreed to provide more details on these two sales at the next meeting.
- § Process of filling District Silviculturalist position is ongoing, with some good candidates being reviewed at this time.
- § Dan highlighted the results of a recently published study on the effects of thinning on northern flying squirrel habitat. While the study was done in a different forest type (Cascades), it may have implications for thinning on the Siuslaw. Dan suggested that a special meeting be scheduled in Corvallis, to focus on this study and other recent research on the effects of thinning on wildlife habitat.
- § The Siuslaw Supervisors Office is scheduled to move to their new location on the OSU campus around January 29.
- § This will be Pam’s last meeting, as she is scheduled to report for her new job in Montana in about two weeks.

BLM, Chris Finn

- § The budget for stewardship work this year has been reduced from last year’s amount of \$400,000 to approximately \$80,000.
- § The project being planned includes up to six units of the Bear West sale (not able to sell), and will be a combination of restoration work, snag creation and down wood creation. The goal will be to balance costs and revenues in the contract, with no excess receipts retained.

Multi-Party Monitoring Discussion

- § Dan is still working on what kind and how many plots will be needed in the coming year's agreement. We are reaching the point where post-harvest measurements and follow-up will be a significant workload in the future. There is a need to consider which sales and which plots should be carried forward, or dropped from the system. Suggestion that next year's work and report include an analysis of the current plot set, and recommendations on a subset to carry forward, as well as what additional plots are needed. We need to determine the best path forward with a manageable project.
- § Dan explained how the initial sets of plots were selected to represent a range of site conditions and stand prescriptions.
- § Chandra suggested that the analysis in the coming year include assessing when we will have enough information to evaluate trends.
- § Ross and Dan will determine the timeline for last year's final project report to be available, so that the group can review it before the next meeting.

Project Application Subcommittee Discussion

- § Liz volunteered to represent SSG on a subcommittee to work on identifying improvements to the project application process and materials.
- § The group suggested that Chuck Fisher, FS Technical Review Committee coordinator should be included in the subcommittee.
- § The subcommittee meeting will likely take place in mid- to late-February, with a goal of having proposed revision ready for review by individual groups and the Roundtable in May.

Future Meeting Dates/Topics Discussion

- § 2012 meetings will continue to be on the first Thursday of each month, same time and location.
- § Several potential topics were discussed for inclusion in future meetings...
- § Flying Squirrel/Thinning Study – Dan will take the lead on developing this, probably for a workshop in Corvallis in the Spring.
- § Oregon Department of Forestry – The group expressed an interest in hearing about what they are doing on ODF lands in regard to young stand thinning and restoration. Ross agreed to contact Ole Buch at the Western Lane District office to see if a presentation can be made at a future meeting.
- § Liz and Chandra reported on a conversation they had with Jerry Keck of Georgia-Pacific regarding activities on a stewardship timber sale. The group agreed that being more involved in implementation would be a benefit. Two possible future topics were suggested as a result. First, a presentation from FS on specific stewardship timber sale contract provisions and how they are administered would be helpful, and second, a field trip to an active stewardship timber sale to view how it is carried out on the ground.
- § It was suggested that the topic of the recent 9th Circuit Court decision regarding forest roads and the Clean Water Act, and the subsequent Congressional action could be discussed in more detail at a future meeting. What does it mean and how might it impact FS operations?
- § It was suggested that the group discuss what to include in an informational brochure to highlight the success of stewardship groups on the Siuslaw National Forest. This would be timely in light of efforts to renew stewardship contracting authority.

Potential February 2 Agenda Items

- Multi-Party Monitoring Report Review
- Outreach Funds Update/Discussion
- Presentation on potential timber sales (Morris Thin and Buttes Thin)
- ODF presentation
- Stewardship reauthorization update (input for brochure)
- Update on status of Region's review and approval for stewardship projects

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.