

## Hebo Stewardship Group Meeting

### MINUTES

March 8, 2012

Lincoln City

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Alex Sifford	NNWC	Luke Gmazel	City of Lincoln City
Ross Holloway	Facilitator	Lisa Phipps	TEP
Jackie Nichols	Cascade Pacific	Anne Walker	USFWS
Michael Reichenberg	Hebo Ranger District	Wayne Patterson	Hebo Ranger District
Ron Hudson	Hebo Ranger District	Guy Sievert	NNWC
Mike Brouwer	Siuslaw National Forest	Paul Katen	SDCWC

### Introductions and February Meeting Notes (Ross)

Brief introductions were made because we had new staff members at the meeting. February notes were approved by consensus.

### FS Road Projects in the Nestucca Basin (Mike Brouwer)

Mike introduced himself as Roads Engineer for the Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) and a member of the interdisciplinary planning team for the Nestucca Roads Project. Mike provided an overview of the USFS 2001 Roads policy, which includes criteria and definitions for determining the “minimum” road system on national forest lands. One component of this determination is identification of roads that are not needed for management, and can therefore be “decommissioned”.

Two key criteria involved in making decisions on retaining or decommissioning a particular road are: 1) The financial costs and sustainability of retaining a road, and 2) the extent to which a road is needed for ongoing access and management.

Mike reviewed some key pros and cons associated with forest road systems, including:

- Roads can disconnect elements of the aquatic system.
- Roads can lead to increases in landslide frequency.
- Roads can facilitate off road impacts, i.e. off road vehicle use.
- Roads also provide access for many forest uses and users.

Overview of Siuslaw National Forest Road Analysis – The analysis is accomplished through a NEPA process, and is considered by the District Ranger in their decision on the EA. The analysis document describes the existing condition of roads in a basin, and also the desired future condition for the road system in the basin. This basin-level process is refining and expanding on a 2003 road analysis prepared for the SNF, and is incorporating landscape level planning considerations. System roads are inventoried, and unneeded roads are identified. The SNF has

*Approved*

approximately 95% of the “minimum” road network identified for the forest. Unneeded roads fall into two categories:

- Storage - Road that is not needed in the short-term, but intended to be used again for management in the future.
- Decommission – Road that is not needed in the long-term. Road is closed and removed from the system.

For the Nestucca Basin proposed action, the following road system numbers were shared:

- Total road miles in basin = 328.4 miles
- Miles to be “decommissioned” = ~24 miles
- Miles to be “stored” = ~138 miles
- Miles to remain open = ~166 miles

Funding sources for accomplishing work on the forest road system include:

- Congressional appropriations through normal FS budget.
- Legacy funds – specific additional funds provided in 2010 and 2011 to address backlog of road maintenance.
- PAYCO – funds allocated by RACs to forest projects.
- Road use permits – funds collected from others using FS roads for commercial purposes.
- Timber sales
- Stewardship funds (retained receipts)
- Emergency funds

The next FS basin scheduled for a road analysis is the Schooner Creek/Rock Creek watershed area.

### **Bixby Thin Discussion (Michael Reichenberg)**

The group continued their discussions on the potential for the planned Bixby Thin to be a stewardship timber sale. Lisa Phipps asked if it would be possible to “stockpile” some logs from this sale to be used as a match against OWEB funds. Michael indicated that this is a possibility. Wayne Patterson reported that he received an e-mail from Tillamook County Commissioner Chuck Hurliman stating his opposition to Bixby Thin being offered as a stewardship timber sale. His concerns are related to the amount of down wood and snag creation involved, and his desire that these trees go to a mill rather than be retained on site. He also indicated that the County may have to pursue “Cooperator” status in future NEPA processes. Wayne indicated that such a request would have to come from the entire Commission. In response to a question, Michael indicated that approximately 29 acres of the 200 acre sale is within Tillamook County. Group members discussed the need to communicate the indirect flow of benefits from retained receipts back into the local economy. Following the discussion, the group members present reached consensus to recommend approval of Bixby Thin as a stewardship timber sale.

## **Outreach funds**

The group continued discussions on how best to allocate available outreach funds. Funds available for allocation include \$1500 in appropriated funds provided to Cascade Pacific, and some additional funds available from the National Forest Foundation grant received for the start-up of the HSG. The group affirmed their decision from the last meeting to allocate \$250 towards the monitoring summary brochure discussed at the Joint Meeting in December.

Alex Sifford shared a written project work plan for use of outreach funds to conduct an outreach/education event for the Neskowin-Nestucca Watershed Council. The group approved allocation of \$750 in funds for this project.

Lisa Phipps will be preparing a work plan to be presented at the next meeting, which will request ~\$750 be allocated to TEP for development and distribution of outreach materials.

## **Spring Field trip planning**

The group continued discussion for a field trip in Wildcat/East Beaver Creek area. A tentative date of June 1 was selected, with an estimated field trip timeframe of ~ 10:00 to 1:00 that day. Tentative sites/stops will include a visit to a thinning study site on FS land near Hemlock, and sites on East Beaver Creek to look at recent culvert replacement and log placement work. Michael and Alex will continue planning for the field trip and provide an update at the April meeting. It was agreed that this field trip will take the place of the Group's regular June meeting, which had been scheduled for June 14.

## **Announcements**

- Future meeting dates & times
  - April 12<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 – 5:00 - Pacific City –  
Topics to include: Information/presentation by FS on another potential stewardship timber sale (Nesko Thin), update on field trip planning, presentation of TEP outreach project work plan.
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> – Lincoln City

The group decided to stay with afternoon for at least one more meeting and make a determination about the May meeting in April.

Future topics for consideration – Guy Sievert suggested a FS presentation on how stand treatment prescriptions are developed. Michael indicated that he was working with the sale administrator to prepare a presentation on how stands are thinned. They are taking photos of actual operations for inclusion in a presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.