

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
January 26, 2012**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Amber Reese	City of Corvallis	Jim Fairchild	Private landowner
Mike Totey	ODF	Ken McCall	RMEF
Heath Keirstead	Benton SWCD	Viva Worthington	SNF
Liz Graham	Benton SWCD	Kraig Kidwell	SNF
Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator	Matt Mellenthin	IRM

Meeting began at 6:00 PM. November notes were approved by consensus.

Updates

Coast Range Stewardship Fund: Viva reported that the Regional Office worked with Dan Segotta to resolve issues on several of the projects, including the one from this group. They expect a letter of approval for all the projects soon.

Past/ongoing stewardship projects: Amber reported that the City is almost done with its project and does not expect to spend all the funds.

Bridge Thin: Kraig reported that there has been no new activity on the sale. They are waiting on an updated operating plan from the contractor. Doing some cutting this winter is still an option.

County invasives strategic planning process: Heath reported that the third and final workshop of the process was postponed until February 13th due to the recent storm. They have put together a recommended EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) list, pulled together several scenarios for a Weed Board and created maps to show priority sites and vectors. They will make a recommendation to the County Commissioners on a Weed Board in the next couple months. Heath also recommends the formation of a Cooperative Weed Area (CWA) to foster collaboration on education and outreach strategies. People can request copies of the EDRR and landscape level planning maps from Heath.

Joint Meeting Debrief

People looked over the draft notes from the joint meeting. No edits or changes were recommended. Since the meeting, the FS, CPRCD and IRM have discussed ways to improve future multi-party monitoring report. Matt shared the following:

- Have project leads report their activities on an annual basis, for example how many acres of trees planted each year. Right now the reporting is only for the contract period.
- Do an analysis of the plots they have in place now to see which ones they have a lot of information on and which ones they need more information on. This can help prioritize what plots to retain as add new ones in the Hebo area.
- Add canopy cover to the analysis and possibly do more downed wood data collection.

- Produce a tri-fold giving an overview of results from '08 through '12. This would be a document to help people talk about the value and impact of stewardship to gain support for Reauthorization. Please send Matt suggestions for what would be useful to include in the tri-fold. He will work with Johnny on the content. IRM and CPRCD as looking for ways to pay to produce this document.

Each group was asked to identify a volunteer to serve on an ad hoc committee to suggest improvements to the Coast Range Stewardship Fund application form. Ken McCall agreed to be MPSG's representative. Ross Holloway, ASG/SSG facilitator, will convene the committee.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Presentation/Discussion

The group invited Ken McCall to give a presentation on the RMEF as a way to initiate discussion of potential collaboration with new landowners who are members of that organization. Ken graciously agreed. He distributed a copy of RMEF's newsletter, Oregon's Elk Country Legacy, to everyone and then shared the following points:

- RMEF has conserved or enhanced close to 6 million acres and has a steadily growing membership (approx.. 187,000 nationwide)
- The organization is supportive of stewardship contracting. RMEF has a staff person located in the Missoula Headquarters office responsible for the stewardship program nation-wide. The headquarters staff is considering drafting a letter of support of Stewardship Reauthorization.
- Ken is a member of a volunteer group that monitors agency plans. The group reviews project and policy plans and drafts letters for regional staff review. Regional staff forwards draft letters to agencies to headquarters for approval and signature.
- RMEF supports projects with funding and volunteers through two programs. The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) allocates available RMAF funds to projects submitted, reviewed and accepted by the PAC. This past year the RMEF PAC approved funding of meadow maintenance work on the Central Coast District of the SNF among other projects in Oregon. The State grant program recommends funding of submitted projects for conservation education, hunting education and wildlife management. Projects are approved through the headquarters office.
- Ken sees the possibility of stewardship projects in the MPSG area that might involve volunteer effort of RMEF. The string of meadows on FS, City and private lands along Old Peak Road are good examples of potential projects.
- In response to the question of if RMEF would bring project proposals forward for Coast Range Stewardship funding, Ken suggested a more probable approach would be find an adjacent landowner RMEF can help to pull a proposal together. Likely projects would be treating invasives and enhancing early seral habitats. RMEF also would support stewardship projects on FS lands that meet RMEF objectives.

Jane offered that a future field trip might be done in collaboration with RMEF.

Annual Review of MPSG

Jane asked the group to share their thoughts on what has gone well and been accomplished this past year and what could be improved or done more. Lots of great ideas were shared for how to increase participation in and visibility of stewardship and the MPSG. A great phrase was spoken during the discussion of why more organizations should get involved in stewardship: "It brings management of federal lands down to the local level."

Request: Anyone who was not at the meeting, please send your annual review comments to Jane so she can integrate them into these notes and her workplan for follow-up.

Went Well/Achieved	Ways to Improve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Got own stewardship sale going which means active management is happening. + Local operator won the sale which will have local economic impact + Having a Wyden project funded each year keeps the group going + Partnerships, especially with MRWC, and with new organizations like RMEF + Renewed participation by Benton SWCD + MRWC's outreach work very effective + Continued fund sharing + The Roundtable; easy integration of the Hebo group + Invasives committee work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get more conservation organizations involved. Great with Lon participated from Sierra Club, but has moved away. Hope another person volunteers to participate in MPSG. - Outreach to contractors to encourage more to participate in and support stewardship. Suggestion that IRM could help with this. - Do more committee work, in particular move onto a specific action on invasives now that know the scot's broom site must be tabled. County's planning effort will help inform this. Engage Marty Stein more in these MPSG discussions. - Be more sensitive about project size in future Coast Range funding cycles. - Involve students more. Ideas were to 1) have them come talk about the research they are doing or are interested in doing and 2) look for ways to engage them in projects, for example to help with monitoring. - Get basic information out to organizations about stewardship. Help them see how they can be involved and why they should be interested. Ideas were to 1) write articles for their newsletters and 2) partner on a field trip. - Create a new member packet to help people know the history of the MPSG.

Updates and Next Meetings:

We will discuss allocation of outreach funds (\$1500) at the February meeting. Contact Jackie if your organization is interested in applying for some or all of those funds.

Jane will contact Ron Exeter to see if he can come talk about BLM's invasives species treatment program as well as what the BLM has completed on the Peak since the Marys Landscape NEPA was done. If Ron is not available, Jane will look at another option for a presentation based upon the Annual Review notes above.

We also will work on Spring field trip planning; possibly do trip in April because the ODF room is not available on the regular meeting night.

Meeting concluded a little before 8:00pm.