

DRAFT
ALSEA STEWARDSHIP GROUP
MEETING NOTES
March 19, 2012 3:00 to 5:00 pm
Oregon Hatchery Research Center – Fall Creek

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Ross Holloway	CPRCD Facilitator	Fran Recht	PSMFC
Dan Segotta	SNF - CCRD	Jeff Uebel	SNF - CCRD
Jackie Nichols	Cascade Pacific RCD	Joe Rohleder	AWC
Elmer Ostling	AWC	Linda Johnston	AWC
Vicky Mugnai	SNF – CCRD	Tom Davis	AWC
Chandra LeGue	Oregon Wild	Mike Kennedy	Siletz Tribe
Wayne Hoffman	MCWC	Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC

Review Notes and Agenda

No additions or changes to agenda.

Notes of the February 27 meeting were accepted as corrected:

- Fran Recht needs to be added to the attendee list.
- Page 1, fifth bullet should read *Mill-Wright*-Beaver basins, rather than Millwright-Beaver.
- Page 3, first bullet should more accurately capture the separate concerns: strike the word “current” from the first sentence. The third sentence should read “Concerns have arisen regarding discussions about beaver *release* plans in the area”. The fifth sentence should read “*Beaver release* appears to be a controversial issue...”

Project/Agency Updates

Forest Service, Dan Segotta

- FS roads were hit hard with the recent winter storm system. Many trees are down due to heavy snowfall, primarily at the lower elevations and primarily alder trees. Beginning today, CCRD is offering “snowdown” firewood cutting permits until March 31 (personal use and commercial use). Permits will be for downed trees only along identified key FS roads, within the 15’ boundary of road shoulders.
- The District Ranger vacancy is closed; there is a large pool of qualified candidates.
- Missouri Thin Stewardship – appraisal will be wrapped up soon; sale will be advertised in the next couple of weeks.
- Final budget published two weeks ago. Budget shortfall this fiscal year amounts to approximately \$400K less than last year’s final budget. An additional \$200K would be a big help in covering our fixed restoration program costs.
- The Regional Office has offered the Siuslaw NF an additional \$200K provided the Forest agrees to support a stewardship service contract on the Colville NF. The Colville project is a complete “bundled” project that includes NEPA planning, layout, timber harvest and restoration actions in a single stewardship contract. The timber harvest receipts would cover the service items of the contract. The Siuslaw’s role would be to “insure” the project;

i.e., if the project did not produce a timber sale or enough timber product revenues to cover the full \$200K in contract services, the Siuslaw NF would cover the expense with retained receipts from the Siuslaw. Under this scenario the Siuslaw's retained receipts would only be needed if the project was unsuccessful and the funding would be deducted from Forest Service portion of retained receipts project funding. The success of the Colville project and the required availability of Siuslaw Retained receipt would not be known for a couple years or more.

The Colville NF has been operating under a new "Proof of Concept" pilot business model for the last few years. Under the pilot program they have substantial flexibility with many budget and policy limitations including stewardship authority. If successful, this "outside the box" project could provide an example for increasing stewardship authority to include contracted NEPA and project design with retained receipts.

CPRCD, Jackie Nichols

- Continuing the activities announced at last month's meeting.
- Working with multi-party monitoring.
- In the Grants Agreement process.
- Time to get permits ready; the next 6 projects are going to contract. CPRCD will notify grantees they can begin projects April 1.

MidCoast Watershed Council, Wayne Hoffman

- Grant application will not be submitted next month as planned; will submit to OWEB during OWEB's fall cycle.
- AWC received funding for their Starr Creek project. They're making good progress, thinning is done, mixed use birdhouses are up. Most of the planting is done with the Natural Resource Crews. Still working on invasives (scotchbroom and ivy).
- MCWC supports the Fiver Rivers Outreach proposal for the following reasons:
 - Riparian restoration provides for a choice of planted tree species to increase desirability of beaver food.
 - Plan will address beaver vulnerability to predators: introduce large wood placement in certain places for protection and increased pond level. (Steve Trask is in discussion with the FS about adding log placement to the structures the FS put in at Prindle Creek.)
 - Improve co-existence between animals and property owners: make provisions for property owners to respond to any beaver problems (for example, wrap fruit trees, and insert standpipes through beaver dams to prevent flooding and damage to restoration).

Marys River Watershed Council, Karen Fleck-Harding

- Fiver Rivers Outreach proposal input: Karen has been talking to a landowner whose property is adjacent to the FS's Elk Meadow project and is talking to Marty Bray, wildlife biologist, about expanding FS's project to include private ownership. Perhaps stewardship could respond to this idea better than OWEB could.

Announcements

- Linda Johnston: the Five Rivers meeting about beaver habitat improvement was rescheduled for April 19 (7:00 pm at Fall Creek Hatchery). Linda circulated the *Alsea Valley Voice* newsletter whose leading story highlighted the 2012 Alsea flood.

- Fran Recht: the U.S. Navy is holding a public hearing and open house March 20, 5 to 8 pm, to discuss their plans for sonar defense testing. The public comment period is open through April 27. Let Fran know if you're interested and she will email you meeting information.
- Mike Kennedy: remember the Siletz Tribe's Arnold Creek field trip last fall? The tribe now owns the adjacent 9 acres that was private land. At this time, the tribe has no plans for the property, other than removal of the dwelling.
- Supervisor's Office open house is April 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the USFS PNW Research Station building on Jefferson Street on the OSU Campus.

Wyden Project Application Revisions, Ross Holloway (draft meeting notes provided)

- The attendees at the March 9, 2012 meeting included representatives from ASG, SSG, MPSG and Chuck Fisher-CCRD Hydrologist and Technical Review Team Leader.
- The RFP discussion focused on strengthening the review process on the front end: projects must document and validate advance consultations with forest staff, and the group is proposing a written documentation form be developed for this; threshold questions must be answered prior to submitting applications to Cascade Pacific.
- Other March 9 Discussion Points:
 - Process issue must be resolved at the earliest possible opportunity.
 - Threshold questions could be simplified.
 - Technical staff will help applicants answer threshold questions and advise as to whether or not the project meets Wyden criteria.
- The ASG proposed making space for summary project descriptions on the *Threshold Questions* form. Also, allow for district level comments on this form. Have district staff present project to SO staff (appropriate technical staff is listed on CPRCD's website).
- The application subcommittee's discussion included the following: cleaning up the first page and eliminating FS Fiscal Officer information.
- The application subcommittee proposes that questions be added for:
 - ongoing/multi-year projects
 - projects that are a component of a larger effort
 - projects that are re-submitted: reason for submittal, what has been changed since the last submission?
- The subcommittee also proposes adding two components that mirror OWEB's application: *Required Permits and Licenses, Project Completion and Reports*

The plan moving forward is to review a revised application with at the Spring Roundtable meeting (May), prior to implementing it for the upcoming application cycle. The ASG is interested in reviewing the final and improved application.

Workshop on Owl Research

No updates this month; topic rolled over to the April 16 ASG meeting

Outreach Fund Allocation Discussion

- Clarification by Jackie: the \$1500 is new outreach money under the new 5-year agreement, and therefore does not have to be expended in the short-term. Jackie reminded members that not all projects have billed CPRCD for last year's outreach funding.
- Previous funding decision: \$500 to the monitoring summary report document. At this meeting, the group needs to make a decision as to allocation of the remaining \$1000.

More discussion on the proposal to allocate \$750 in outreach dollars to support the Five Rivers Beaver Habitat Improvement Plan:

- Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) was conducted and concluded that restoring beaver in the basin would improve Coho juvenile populations.
- There are funds to do outreach in the Five Rivers basin to implement the recommendation of the LFA. There are applications under development for the restoration work.
- \$750 in 2012 outreach dollars would further the effort and result in another opportunity to solicit more landowner involvement (the previous outreach meeting garnered the attendance of six landowners).
- Allocation would allow for a description of the Beaver Habitat Improvement Plan to be sent to all landowners.
- The plan would involve face-to-face contacts with landowners.
- Outreach dollars would be used to involve landowners with monitoring and sustaining efforts.
- This outreach effort will lead to multiple grant applications, more restoration work, the furtherance of stewardship goals, and ultimately benefits the work the FS is doing in this basin.

Discussion about Outreach Proposal Process:

- Standardize/formalize future proposals (Jackie offered to send ASG members an outreach template for nominating purposes).
- We need a process that shows a connection between outreach and stewardship.
- Outreach fund allocation should be a discussion topic at the Roundtable and decided in advance by the Roundtable.
- Effective outreach strategies could be discussed at the Roundtable level, and any projects that benefit multiple groups could be discussed there.

Jackie offered to write-up the Five Rivers outreach proposal on the proposal form and submit to Ross by April 9 for distribution to ASG prior to the April 16 meeting.

Fran withdrew her proposal of last month to allocate \$750 to Fiver Rivers outreach. Proposal will be revisited next month.

2012 Field Trip Ideas

Ecological Forestry

Chandra LeGue is continuing discussions with Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin about a late May or early June field trip (this timeframe works for them). Norm would like to look at the most recent prescription areas and look at units being considered for second entry. Dan offered to work with Stu Johnston at the Supervisor's Office on the idea. All SGs will be invited. Consider preceding field trip with a question and answer session in a meeting room. Consider reserving a school bus so that attendees could be involved in discussions as they travel.

Starr Creek

Look at AWC's work late in the summer or next spring (thinnings, snag creation, bird nesting).

Tour 2012 Wyden Projects before September 1

Either by field trip or open house

Five Rivers Outreach Results

Late summer

Mill-Wright-Beaver Basins

The next planning area will be starting this spring/summer

Future meeting dates

- April 16 6:00 – 8:00 PM USFS – Waldport
 - Jane Barth will provide meeting facilitation
 - Review outreach proposal documents
 - Finalize *Ecological Forestry* field trip details
 - Review Wyden Project application revision work
 - Update on plans for northern spotted owl research workshop
- May 21 6:00 - 8:00 PM Alsea Public Library

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm