

**Siuslaw Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
February 2, 2012**

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Ross Holloway	Facilitator	Kraig Kidwell	SNF
Liz Vollmer-Buhl	SWC	Jeff Uebel	SNF
Johnny Sundstrom	Siuslaw Institute	Chandra LeGue	Oregon Wild
David Eisler	SWC		

The meeting began at 1:05 PM.

Review Notes and Agenda

The participants approved the January 5, 2011 meeting notes as drafted.

Current Process/Project Updates

Forest Service, Kraig Kidwell

- North Fork Siuslaw – The 30-day comment period for the EA is now open.
- Anticipate that the EA for the Five Mile-Bell project will be out in late February for a 30-day comment period.
- The Supervisor’s Office completed their move to a new location on the OSU campus. So far, parking has not been as big an issue as feared.
- The District Silviculturalist selection is at the Regional Office for review, and a decision is expected soon.

Chandra LeGue

- Chandra reported on a visit to Norm Johnson’s class at OSU to talk about collaborative efforts. She was able to make Norm aware of the local stewardship group efforts. Norm and Jerry Franklin may be willing to come out on a tour with stewardship group members. They are interested in looking at, and discussing, the future of regeneration harvest on federal lands.
- Another potential topic for a future meeting is legislation being considered for management of O&C lands. Chandra could prepare a presentation for a future meeting. She agreed to e-mail information on a proposal being made by a coalition of environmental groups.

SWC – Liz Vollmer-Buhl

- Liz shared some inspection reports from the native plant distribution project.
- SWC currently has an Aquatics Project Manager position recruitment open.

Johnny Sundstrom

- Johnny shared information about a joint news conference by Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and Mary Wagner, on a new plan for the nation’s forests. It included information on an increase in funding for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program projects from \$24 million to \$40 million. The ten previously approved projects will

continue to be funded, and several new projects will be added. They also noted the importance of stewardship contracting authority and the need for Congressional approval.

Overview of Potential Stewardship Timber Sales – Kraig Kidwell

- Kraig shared information on two potential stewardship timber sales that are included in the North Fork EA.
- Buttes Thin is a 96 acre thinning, with a volume of ~ 1.25 million board feet (mmbf). Morris Thin consists of ~ 469 acres of thinning, with a volume of ~ 5.3 mmbf.
- Timber quality is higher on Butte Thin, but the larger size of Morris Thin will result in a larger net value on the sale, and therefore more retained receipts.
- Jeff pointed out that Morris Thin is adjacent to Bailey Creek, which has been discussed as a channel realignment project.
- The silvicultural outcomes between a standard timber sale and a stewardship timber sale are very similar. Using KV funds on standard timber sales does provide the flexibility to include design and layout time in the costs.
- Dave asked about the feasibility of chipping and spreading biomass material on-site, as an alternative to burning. Kraig responded that FS is moving towards more scattering of material, rather than piling on landings. Current contract require leaving up to 20% of tops in the woods. Chipping can be a very expensive option.
- Kraig also shared a list of FY12 and FY13 timber sales for the Siuslaw National Forest.
- Following a discussion of the two potential sales, the group recommended that Morris Thin be designated as a stewardship timber sale.

FY10 Multi-Party Monitoring Report Discussion

- Ross reported on discussions regarding an analysis of existing plot data. Current plan is to add a task to this year's project for IRM to conduct this analysis. The task will be completed as an initial task, so that the conclusions can inform plot selection for the current year.
- Johnny clarified the two documents being proposed as potential outreach efforts. One is a larger (24-36 page) document which was discussed at the Fall Roundtable and Joint meetings. The estimated cost for this is ~ \$5000. This document would highlight the successes associated with ten years of stewardship efforts on the Siuslaw forest, and could be a valuable tool for informing key decision makers as reauthorization discussions take place. The second document is a 3-4 page brochure focused primarily on summarizing the four fiscal years worth of monitoring data that now exists.
- The group expressed concern that previous discussions (Roundtable and Joint Meeting) seemed to imply that funding was available to pursue creation of the documents, but that now those funds are no longer available. The group would like to see each stewardship group consider allocating a portion of their outreach funds to this common effort. It is critical that this work move forward soon (next six months) to be effective in helping with reauthorization discussions. The larger document should include some specific Wyden project case studies.
- SSG members agreed that if the other groups allocate funds to this effort, SSG will do the same.

Future Meeting Dates/Topics Discussion

- March 1 – Next regular monthly meeting
- April 5 – Regular monthly meeting
- Ross agreed to contact ODF about a presentation at the next meeting.

- Chandra agreed to have further discussions with Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin about a future field trip.
- Kraig will follow up with Dan when he returns regarding the status of a workshop related to the Flying Squirrel/Thinning Study.
- Follow up discussion on outreach will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.