

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
August 23, 2012**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator	Rollie Bowers	Corvallis to Sea
Jackie Nichols	CPRCD	Kay Daniels	Private landowner
Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC	Rana Foster	Interested citizen
Steve Trask	Biosurveys	Steve Northway	Interested citizen
Art and Betty Sleight	Private landowners	Randy & Pam Comeleo	Interested citizens
Diana Blackney	Private landowner	Eric Stolsig	SNF
Heath Kierstad	BSWCD	Kraig Kidwell	SNF
Mike Totey	ODF	Cindy McCain	SNF
Mark Miller	Trout Mountain		

Meeting began shortly after 6:00 PM. Introductions were made as there were many people who do not regularly attend MPSG meetings. June notes, which were distributed electronically, will be approved at the October meeting.

Updates

Kraig Kidwell, Forest Service:

- Brenda Barton has been hired to be the new contracting office. She replaces Bob Nowak who retired earlier this year.
- Rock Thin was sold. GP bought this stewardship sale and will contract with Miller Timber in Philomath as primary operator. They anticipate a net value of \$460,000 over the life of the sale. Road will start soon and may begin logging in November.

Coast Range Stewardship Fund

Project Proposals for the 2012 cycle

- Mark Miller provided information about a project on Diana Blackney and Kay Daniels property, which is within a mile of Forest Service land. He distributed a handout detailing location of the project.
 - Will treat false brome over 3 years. Project will complement false brome treatment being done by the City of Corvallis and the SNF. Will also treat scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry.
 - Total cost will be about \$14,000; requesting a little less than \$10,000 from the stewardship fund.
 - Treatment will be done with backpack sprayers.
- Karen Fleck-Harding distributed a handout detailing the location of a riparian restoration project on Greasy Creek.
 - The project will revegetate areas treated for Japanese knotweed over the past 3 years with stewardship funds. They will target open riparian areas.
 - She has done preliminary landowner recruitment and has 2 landowners on board. Landowner recruitment will be ongoing. The landowner recruitment work is covered by other MRWC funds and is match to the

stewardship fund request. She also has some OWEB funds in hand as match.

- They plan to use large stock and will do 3 years of tree release.
- The budget is not yet finalized, but they anticipate requesting about \$37,000 from the stewardship fund.

Participants at the meeting expressed support for both these projects moving forward. The group will prioritize the projects at its late September meeting after hearing the Technical Review Team's report.

Tour of Marys Peak

After the business meeting, Cindy McCain and Kraig Kidwell led a tour of stewardship work that has been completed and is planned in the near future on the Peak. This tour gave MPSG participants and interested parties an update on stewardship on the Peak since the MPSG held the Picnic on the Peak during the EA process. Some points shared during the tour were:

- Noble fir bough sale was sold 2 weeks ago for \$11,000.
 - The buyer is local, from Lebanon. The funds generated by the sale are real plus, since usually boughs are left in the forest or burned.
 - The bough sale was done in just the meadow restoration area. Funds generated will go into the Special Forest Products fund. This money stays on the forest to support monitoring and administration of special forest products program.
- Will prepare the Noble Fir Thin to advertise next Summer. This sale will cover 60-70 acres.
 - ½ acre at the overlook to “frame the view,” open up the appendix meadow, clear fragmented spots to reconnect meadows.
 - Want to get the work done on the Peak during the first year, working September through mid-October. Current plan is to do no work on weekends to avoid tourism on the peak.
 - They do not anticipate generating retained receipts from the Noble Thin sale. Material likely sold for biomass; maybe some firewood sales.
- Meadow restoration will be done after the logging with goal to complete by 2015.
 - Wildlife emphasis, good bird habitat. Also have botanic and scenic objectives.
 - Anticipate broadcast burning where logged to deal with slash and to better enable reseeding the meadow with desired native plants. Will get seed from natural seed bank.
 - May or may not leave big old snags which were the pioneer trees in the area. An OSU professor uses this area for a laboratory course. (One idea is to have this professor come share with the MPSG what he and his students have learned about the progression of noble fir on the peak. Jane will check into this for a future meeting.)
 - Will do monitoring using a grid system. Will be intense about treating invasives, including ox-eye daisies and spotted knapweed.
 - Some work has already been down by the NW Youth Corps with PayCo \$.

- The group expressed concern about how to let the public know what would be happening on the Peak so they would not be surprised. The work is going to greatly impact what visitors are used to seeing when they visit the Peak.
 - The FS plans newspaper stories and the SG can help play a role in getting information out.
 - The FS might consider closing the Peak during the logging work as it closed the Peak during road construction in recent years. The reason for using this approach is that the work could be done much quicker.
- The group asked many questions of both Kraig and Cindy, and we all learned a lot. Thanks to Cindy and Kraig for coming up on the Peak on what turned out to be a cold night!