

Hebo Stewardship Group Meeting and Field Trip Notes

May 31st, 2013

Neskowin Valley School

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Ron Hudson	USFS	Eric Stolsig	USFS
Michelle Dragoo	USFS	Ren Jacob	USFS
Brenda Barton	USFS	Eric Hays	USFS
Katie Sapp	USFS	Nathan Pearson	USFS
Alex Sifford	NNWC	Wayne Patterson	USFS
Paul Robertson	Devils Lake Water Improvement District	Anne Walker	USFWS
Luke Gzamel	City of Lincoln City	Scott McCleod	Area resident
Paul Katen	SDCWC	John & Linda Fink	Area resident
Mike Kennedy	Siletz Tribe	Michael Walsh	NNWC
Pete Owston	Landowner	M-C Cuthill	Area resident
John Fiedler + 12 students	Neskowin Valley School	Gunter Schmidt	Area resident
Carolina Lyddy	Area resident	Mike Lees	Area resident
Guy Sievert	NNWC	Jane Barth	Facilitator

The meeting began close to 11:45am with welcome and introductions. The HSG was excited to have so many new people join them for this meeting and field trip. May meeting notes were not yet available. Jane will send out via email for member edits. They will be approved at the next regular meeting then posted at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/siuslaw/stewardship-groups>. Other HSG information can be found at:

Spring Roundtable Meeting Debrief

HSG Roundtable representatives, Paul Katen and Alex Sifford, shared highlights from the recent meeting. Mike Kennedy, Alsea Stewardship Group representative, and Ron Hudson who also attended the Roundtable added to their comments. Full notes will be circulated to the group in the next few weeks.

- Coast Range Fund: Dan Segotta, SNF Central Coast, told the Roundtable that they anticipate the pool of retained receipts to be approximately \$1,000,000 this year. That means about \$400,000 for Wyden Projects and \$600,000 for stewardship projects on federal forest land.
- Forest-wide Project: All groups support an umbrella theme related to beaver for the forest-wide project. Each group will independently decide how to implement the theme. The new Coast Range Stewardship Fund application form will include a question asking applicants to explain if/how their project relates to beaver/salmon. This is for

Approved

information only, not extra points. CPRCD and USFS think that a forest-wide effort will help raise visibility for stewardship. The Forest Service committed to participating in the forest-wide project by implementing a demonstration project(s) on federal land to help the groups and the SNF learn more about effective strategies for dealing with beaver and for encouraging dam-building in order to achieve positive benefits for salmon. All agreed that there are still a lot of questions to be answered, but that the groups should start on outreach and education about the value of beaver in the stream ecosystem and about ways to live with beaver.

- Outreach Funds: The Roundtable did not decide on any collaborative outreach projects related to the forest-wide effort. They will address this question again at the Fall Roundtable meeting when 2013-14 funds are available. For the 2012-13 stewardship outreach funds (total \$6,000; \$1500 per group) the Roundtable supports asking each SG to allocate \$200 to create 2 banners for groups to use at outreach events. The banners will describe stewardship across the SNF, not specific to any one group, so that all groups can use them.

Action: The HSG approved by consensus allocating \$200 of its 2012-13 outreach funds for the banners. Jane will relay this information to Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD. At the next HSG meeting, the group will discuss how to use the remaining \$1300. One idea from Alex Sifford and Catherine Pruett is to do something at the anniversary of the Cascade Head experimental forest.

Coast Range Fund 2013-14 Cycle

This was the first opportunity for people to share potential projects for the upcoming Coast Range Fund cycle, deadline September 1st. This will be a topic on all Summer meeting agendas.

- The NNWC is planning a culvert removal and replacement project on Bower Creek off the Little Nestucca River. The NNWC has a bunch of partners on the project including NRCS and OWEB. The location is downstream from FS property so there is a connection, thus meeting Wyden Authority. Alex will connect with Ron Hudson and Dave Skelton during project planning. They might request as much as \$100,000 from stewardship. The meeting participants expressed support for NNWC continuing to work on this project proposal.
- SDCWC is just starting to explore a culvert project on Thompson Creek. Ron Hudson will look at the location to determine connectivity to meet Wyden criteria.
- Anne and Paul K hope to bring forward a stewardship project for butterfly habitat restoration with landowners at the Sitka Center.
- Jane reminded the group that the Tillamook Public Works folks who attended the May HSG meeting were interested on dealing with beaver in culverts. Alex will follow-up with them about a possible project as part of the Council's continuing work on beavers. Good to have someone follow-up with them.

The business meeting ended with the group confirming that it would skip its June meeting and hold the next regular meeting on July 11th at the Kiawanda Community Center from 3-5pm.

Field Trip – Friday, May 31st

[Handouts will be posted soon at <http://www.cascadepacificstewardship.org/hebo>]

A group of 36 people traveled in FS and private vehicles to learn about thinning operations. They visited an active logging operation on Nesko Thin where Nathan Pearson, timber sale administrator, explained the various equipment being used, thinning prescription, history of logging on the site, etc. Nathan distributed a handout containing information on the sale volume, skyline profile analysis, topography, and sale unit maps. Nathan answered questions. Many related to the economics of the sale and also how stewardship compares with commercial timber sales. The following are some of the points covered:

- Cutting fir and hemlock; leaving red alder, cedar and spruce
- Georgia Pacific bought the sale. Will send to its mills in Toledo, Coos Bay and Philomath. May sell some to other mills like Stimson in Tillamook.
- Thinning by prescription specified as: find the biggest trees, mark them with red, and then cut anything within 13 feet.
- Has been 49 years since the area was clear cut. This is the first entry. Plan is to end up with approximately 70 trees per acre. On the Central Coast District of the SNF they have done some 2nd entries getting down to 30-50 trees/acre. Anticipate 2nd entries on the Hebo District, too. This approach fits with the Siuslaw National Forest's overall mission of creating "late successional reserve (LSR)."
- Only limited replanting is done; rely upon natural regeneration unless want to plant for diversity.
- Create half the planned snags during the actual thinning. Wait on the remaining snags until see wind effect on the stand. Can pay for snag creation within stewardship contracts. Pay for others with Knutson-Vanderburg funds which are collected on sales and then saved for later use by the FS.

Next stop was a recently completed sale, Austin Thin. Wayne Patterson, Silviculturist, explained how the FS manages the forest to work towards an old growth structure. He distributed a handout on old-growth structural characteristics. In addition, Michelle Drago, Wildlife Biologist, discussed snag and downed wood creation within the stand. She distributed a handout explaining ecosystem processes related to wood decay and also a list of the many different specific fungi that use the decayed wood. Field trip participants engaged in a lively discussion with both these FS specialists and were reluctant to end the trip, but we had to head back to school with the young participants.

Everyone expressed thanks to the FS for leading this very interesting, informative tour. Jane collected contact information for new participants and will contact them to see if they would like to get on the regular HSG email listserv.

The joint meeting/field trip adjourned about 3:30pm.