

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group  
Meeting Notes  
May 23, 2013**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Courtney Schreiber	SNF	Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator
Mike Totey	ODF	Art and Betty Sleight	Landowners
Ken McCall	RMEF	Jennifer Ward	City of Corvallis
Mark Miller	Trout Mountain Forestry	Jim Fairchild	Landowner
Steve Trask	Bio Surveys	Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC

Meeting began shortly after 6:00 pm. April notes were approved by consensus.

## **Updates/Past Projects**

### Special Field Trip

Mike Totey and Jennifer Ward shared their reflections on a recent Congressional field trip with Dan Whelan, Natural Resource aid to Senator Merkley.

- Senator Merkley's aids contacted the Siuslaw NF and wanted to come out to look at forest stewardship projects.
- Looked at Rock and Bridge Thins, City of Corvallis restoration sites, and bridge that is slated to be replaced.
- Talked about the value of collaboration and the potential it could have for the counties.
- Talked about bidding process. One concern that the Senator's office expressed was that there is only a smaller group of potential buyers for the stewardship sales.
- MPSG participants on the tour included Mike Totey, Ken McCall, Jennifer Ward, Xan Augerot, Kirk Shimeall, Mark Miller, and Jeff Uebel.

### City of Corvallis Snag Creation Project

Jim Fairchild shared concerns he has about how the City of Corvallis has carried out snag creation. He shared these concerns as a nearby landowner and forest manager. The following are some points he raised and responses from others at the meeting.

- Stewardship snag creation on his lands were post thinning; on city lands snag creation was pre thinning resulting in potential loss of an unknown number of created snags and negative impact on snag recruitment.
- Cited one example of an existing older natural snag that was damaged by logging plus some unspecified number of down logs being disturbed and moved around.
- Tree falling on city lands resulted in trees being felled across the property line onto land managed by Jim.
- According to a call to Tom Penpraze, City of Corvallis, trees to be topped were marked in red paint. No stump marks on city trees topped; implication was some unknown number of created snags may have been removed by logging.
- Concern about lack of adequate supervision of logging in snag creation locations, inadequate detail in selection of trees to be topped prior to logging.

Ken McCall offered the following information:

- Snag creation referenced by Jim was not a stewardship project and was not fully vetted by either the MPSG or the normal stewardship grant process by USFS. CPRC&D.

*Approved*

- The funding came from ARRA. USFS chose to use the stewardship grant format to select projects and distribute funds. MPSG was informed of the grant application and project but not directly involved in project formulation.
- City application for the available ARRA funds used the same design criteria for snag creation post thinning that was fully vetted through stewardship group/process in an earlier stewardship project that included topping of about 150 trees.
- City staff (Ken) and consultant (Mark Miller of Trout Mountain Forestry) discussed the project proposal in detail with USFS wildlife biologist (Paul Thomas) prior to submitting application.
- City and Trout Mountain considered the potential effect on pre thinning snag creation; locations within expected future thinning units were located away from planned landings, outside and near the ends of expected yarding corridors.
- City and USFS thinning sales do not include individual tree marking other than trees to be protected, such as those designated for wildlife tree prescriptions. No stump marks are used on city trees selected for snag creation.

Mark Miller, consultant with Trout Mountain which manages the City's forest (*not sure this is the correct terminology*), added the following points to the discussion:

- Reiterated points made by Ken on the project not being a MPSG sponsored project.
- Described in detail the steps Trout Mountain took to lay out the snag creation clumps in a way to minimize any potential impacts on snags during logging.
- Snag creation was done in areas not expected to be thinned such as riparian reserves.
- The ARRA project added about 450 trees to be topped using the same prescription as the previous stewardship project that included 150 snags created by topping. These snags are located across City property in marked clumps around other wildlife structures.
- Stated the position on existing snags in thinning units must follow accepted OSHS and State forest practices rules; some snags will in fact be felled or damaged during logging but in all cases possible existing snags are left standing.
- The trees to be topped were initially marked in blue paint, some re-marking was done in red paint.

Group discussion following focused on monitoring. There is currently no formal monitoring of the snag creation project. Trout Mountain has records of snag creation prescriptions and GPS data on location of all snag "clumps" but is not collecting data on use of the snags. Discussion on effectiveness of snags in terms of wildlife use centered on cavity creators and users with the understanding minimal use to date is a result of created snags not yet experiencing enough rot to encourage such use. More time is needed to see results.

A suggestion was made to include a clause in future stewardship project contracts that landowners must not cut any snag created for at least 10 years. The group also strongly supports finding a way to fund monitoring of snags. A topic for a future MPSG meeting and possibly field trip would be to learn from FS and ODF experience with creating snags for wildlife.

*Approved*

## **Forest Wide Stewardship Project**

- Request for the Forest Service data website to add on the shape files of the stewardship boundaries.
- Steve and Karen passed out a map created by PNW Kelly Burnett to show CLAMS data for Coho intrinsic potential
- The yellow part of the map is where there is currently beaver or has been historically
- Lidar coverage would be beneficial
- Southern portion and Middle East is not showing as much beaver presence because explorations of those areas are not complete
- At what level do we want to be working on the beaver focus?
- An example of a past project would be to treat an entire drainage that is totally dominated by reed canary grass. Scalp the reed canary and plant it with cotton wood and other plants. Our goal would be to try and establish a canopy of wood species that are a preferred source for beaver
- Jennifer – wanted there to be a common theme and elements. A on the group project, and educational workshop and then an on the ground field trip
- Betty – outreach and education as a place to start. How do you decide on a project when there are so many questions still UN answered?
- Steve – there are lots of things that beaver do that have a positive effect on system function and education would be very beneficial
- Group agrees on outreach and education
- Get people who have lived with beavers tell their story

## **Current Year (2012-13) Outreach funds**

- Outreach funds to get out – willing to invest in something jointly, but there really isn't a call for a joint investment right now
- Mike – if there is a good joint effort to pull money that would be a good discussion at the joint meeting
- Steve – the project submitted by Xan to see if money comes to the table and if that will affect how we spend our outreach dollars
- Karen – Xan pointed out that we currently have a similar proposal that will fall outside the stewardship area, but if there was broader reach to keep that in mind

## **Field Trip Planning**

- Jennifer brought up a project that Sara Dyrdaahl is doing with Reed Canary grass in Albany in Simpson park
- Beaver related fieldtrip – Nashville
- Steve mentioned his Nehalem beaver tour that would work for the Hebo group more
- Field trip to tentatively set for the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. 5:00, start here if you are going to car pool. Directions to come out.

## **Summer/Fall Schedule Updates/Announcements**

- July meeting changed to the 18<sup>th</sup> instead of the 25<sup>th</sup>
- City of Corvallis has their watershed tour next week
- Watershed council has a tour on Monday starting at Wren Community Hall at 1000

*Approved*