

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
April 25, 2013**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Wayne Hoffman	Mid-Coast WC	Jane Brass-Barth	Facilitator
Mike Albreck	MRWC	Kraig Kidwell	SNF
Steve Trask	Bio Surveys	Lisa Windflower	Landowner
Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC	Vanessa Petro	OSU
Jeff Uebel	SNF	Courtney Schreiber	SNF
Janna Seeliger	Landowner	Chris Hirsh	SNF
Ronda Foster	Landowner	Jennifer Ward	City of Corvallis
Kirk Shimeall	CPRCD	Ed Rettig	Landowner

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

Special Topic Presentations

Wayne Hoffman, Mid-Coast Watersheds Council

A presentation was given by Wayne Hoffman on the importance of beaver for fish habitat, nutrient benefits and hydrological benefits. His PowerPoint slides can be made available upon request. The following are a few points from the presentation:

- Beaver ponds provide multiple ecosystem services
 - e.g., habitat for salmon, trout, wildlife
 - nutrient cycling and distribution
 - hydrology, flow moderation
 - primary, secondary productivity
- Major decline in dams and ponds since 1990.
 - Baseline data from Aquatic Habitat inventories
 - Decline is counted in dams and ponds, not in animals. Decline in size and number of ponds.
 - Data collected from Tillamook Basin, Upper Five Rivers, Upper Yaquina and the rest of Yaquina Basin
- Strategies suggested for restoring
 - Reduce Trapping
 - Restoring food supply
- Things we can do
 - Assess beaver habitat contributions
 - Assess limits to beaver pond abundance
 - Address limiting factors
- What can be done for landowners
 - Community outreach
 - Teach them about non-lethal damage control
 - Demonstration sites

The following are points made during the discussion that followed Wayne's presentation:

- ODFW has a publication called Living with Beaver. Jane will circulate this to the group.
- The connection between beaver and salmon habitat is well documented.
- In the Klamath Basin area, they use sheets over culverts as exclusion devices. Novel idea!
- Most of the "healthy" beaver populations found in the Yaquina Basin areas were adjacent to industrial timber land
- Many *legacy* beaver dams blew out during the 1996 floods. Could have been from high flow and also debris flow. Likely negative effect on beaver population.
 - Beavers like the stream conditions created by large wood placement.

Jeff Uebel, Siuslaw National Forest

- Siuslaw National Forest manages land; it does not manage animal populations. The SNF focuses its resources on habitat management for beaver. *If built it, they will come* approach.
- ODFW and USFW manage populations. USFS coordinates with these agencies on studies.
- There is recognition of the value of beaver in the ecosystem. SNF considers beaver in their restoration plans. They appreciate information people have on how to plan restoration with beaver in mind.
- More research is needed to help to reinforce dam building and in proper locations.
- Strong need to build public support and to change perception of beaver.
- Jeff to look into historic aquatic surveys to search for data on beaver dams.

Forest-wide Stewardship Project Update- Jennifer Ward, MPSG rep on ad hoc committee

[Note: Handout given at meeting. Copy included at end of these notes.]

- Mid-Coast Watershed Council applied for a National Forest Foundation on behalf of all 4 stewardship groups to work on the joint project. Funding will be announced in late May or early June. The consensus of the ad hoc committee is to still go forward even without the grant.
- The grant would allow for things not usually allowed in Wyden projects, i.e. signage, outreach and project planning.
- The money in the proposed budget for each group is intended to help them plan a project that fits within a joint theme of beaver/salmon habitat restoration. So far, the ad hoc committee has envisioned the joint project involving some activities that are done by all groups, in particular education/ outreach, but also independent restoration work within their areas. Discussion at the MPSG explored the notion of all 4 groups investing in habitat restoration in one area to have morphological impacts on beaver. Jennifer, Jane and Kirk will relay this discussion to the ad hoc committee for further discussion as they effort to figure out a joint "project" continues.
 - The power of collaboration moving forward with the power of four
 - Idea to start building towards collaboration and bringing ideas to each group and borrowing others ideas
 - First year a theme that works throughout the four groups that can potentially morph into a collaborative project

- Or, slow down and spend this first year on building the collaboration rather than striving to get coordinated on-the-ground projects funded in the upcoming Coast Range Fund cycle.
- There was discussion about the purpose of a joint project. Some people see the intent as an opportunity to raise visibility of stewardship. With all 4 groups and potentially the SNF all working on a common issue, this could be a strong story to tell. Others focused on the goal of increasing collaboration across the 4 groups.
- This round of NFF grants is oriented towards collaboration. It was mentioned that this increased collaboration could be not only among the 4 groups, but also within the MPSG.
 - Identify a project within our group and work on making it more of a collaborative effort- some participants could be involved in the restoration project, others could be involved in the public outreach/education, others could work on the marketing aspect.
- Group agrees to talk about the joint project in more depth at the May meeting
 - More in depth look as to where this project would get the most benefit. Good for Frank to bring STWD map to next meeting so the group can consider where it would make sense to do a project(s).
 - What do we want to do? Who wants to do what?
 - Are we as a group willing to commit all of our outreach dollars to the forest wide project?

Noble Thin Sale - Kraig Kidwell, SNF

The goal of the Noble Thin is meadow restoration. The sale will include a large quantity of biomass. The SNF is concerned that if the sale continues as a Stewardship it will lose potential buyers. Since the removal of the trees is the restoration work so it will get accomplished through both a commercial or stewardship sale, the Timber department would like the option to advertise it as a normal timber sale. Group agrees by consensus to allow the Siuslaw Timber department to make decision on how to sell Noble Thin.

Spring Field Trip Planning – tabled due to lack of time

Updates/Announcements

- The City of Corvallis is participating in Natural Areas Celebration week. Presentation May 6th at library at 6:00pm.
- Annual City of Corvallis Watershed tour is May 29th. Contact Jennifer for more information.
- Marys River Watershed Council will hold a prairie tour and wine tasting in the Wren area on May 27th, Memorial Day. Contact Karen Fleck-Harding for more information.
- Joe Acosta sent out e-mail detailing Rock Creek bridge. Contact Kraig Kidwell for more information on this topic.
- The Roundtable will hold its spring meeting on either May 28th or 30th. On either date, one of the regular MPSG representatives cannot attend so an alternate is needed. Karen volunteered.
- Next regular MPSG meeting on May 23rd.

Attachment - Forest Wide Stewardship Project

Background and Concept: The “forest-wide stewardship project” (FWP) concept was raised by a participant at the 2012 stewardship group roundtable. The idea was for all the stewardship groups in the Siuslaw National Forests to work together on a similar project—working with each-other and with the forest service to advance restoration work and perhaps leverage more resources. With initial support for the general FWP idea from each stewardship group and the forest service, an adhoc committee was set up to discuss ideas and put forward a proposal for such a project.

The adhoc committee, composed of representatives from each group¹, suggested that a FWP focusing on Salmon/Beaver habitat would be a good starting project and one that would emphasize the benefits of working with nature and increasing tolerance for these habitat-forming animals.

The group suggested that the benefits of such a forest-wide project would be:

- ◇ getting all the groups working together for more impact
- ◇ allowing effective collaborations, e.g. for outreach materials, public messaging
- ◇ new and positive media attention to a greater collaborative effort (within and between Stewardship groups, within and between forest districts, and between Stewardship groups and Forest Service)
- ◇ providing, if effective, a national model for Stewardship groups elsewhere.

The groups also suggested that it would be important to set this Project up to:

- ◇ allow flexibility for each group to make such forest-wide projects “work” in ways that make sense for their area and focus.
- ◇ assure that any on-the-ground project proposed under the FWP would have to have scientific merit; pass the same technical review



Each Stewardship Group (SG) was asked to consider this Salmon/Beaver concept and see if they would be interested in participating. The groups expressed interest in moving this forward, but wanted more details on what this might mean in terms of existing work and priorities. In particular, some questions were raised about:

1. Could a group decide not to participate in the FWP?
2. What would happen if another project, not fitting the FWP focus, was the group’s priority? (now, each group’s priority project gets funding, if resources allow).
3. What does the FWP focus mean for allocating the limited outreach dollars available. (CPRCD has \$1500/each for a total of \$6000 available now)

¹ Ad-hoc committee: Paul Katen and Catherine Pruett, Hebo SG, Jennifer Ward and Heath Keirstead, Mary’s Peak SG, Jane Brass Barth, facilitator, Hebo and Mary’s Peak SG, Fran Recht, Alesa SG, Chandra Le Gue, Siuslaw SG, and Kirk Shimeall, facilitator, Alesa and Siuslaw SG)

Roundtable Input Desired: The Ad-hoc committee suggested that these questions would be appropriate for round table discussion. As a starting point, it suggested the following option as a “strawman” proposal:

1. that SG could opt out of participating, but there should be an attempt to get everyone to opt in, for maximum benefit and public relations purposes, and to foster the most extensive inter-group communication and coordination. (Incentives?)
2. Where resources allow (this year has enough funding) and at least for this first FWP, up to 2 projects be funded—one a FWP (that meets the technical merit criteria) and one meeting another, existing group priority.
3. that at least some of the outreach resources be committed to the FWP.

Grant Application Submitted to Help Fund Salmon/Beaver Forest Wide Stewardship Project
Fran Recht, committee and ASG member, wrote and submitted an application to National Forest Foundation (NFF) “Community Capacity and Land Stewardship” awards for maximum amount \$24,000 by March deadline. Decision on the application is expected in late May, early June. Have at least one year to complete.

Grant Purpose: Provides funds for Siuslaw National Forest stewardship groups to develop plans regarding beaver habitat enhancement and problem mitigation projects to benefit threatened coho salmon.

Includes \$4000 for each stewardship group to use to figure out a course of action for their individual group that helps advance the Forestwide Stewardship beaver/salmon habitat focus and that results in:

- ◇ at least one project that benefits beaver/salmon and/or shows beaver mitigation methods;
- ◇ a tour conducted of that project;
- ◇ a workshop for local contractors, interested parties (e.g. state/county road managers) to learn how to install fish-friendly mitigation devices²;
- ◇ a Wyden application for developing an on-the-ground demonstration site or an on-the ground salmon/beaver project that group wants to do (submittal by Sept 2013).
(project manager will help)

(The NFF proposal also includes funds for travel costs for each group (\$250) (e.g. for tour vans).

Beyond the above, group can decide

- how to advance the general topic of beaver/salmon benefit.
- which party/parties within group wants to do work or could do it by contract.
- to use existing project and enhance for beaver with tours, interpretation etc.

Budget is \$17,000 for Stewardship group use; workshop trainer(s) (\$1200), project management (Recht, \$2000), interpretive signs (\$1800), fiscal sponsorship (MCWC, \$2000).

² Project manager can bring in consultant to go to each group to conduct workshop, or groups can choose their own.

These funds are not considered sufficient to cover costs of signs, workshops, etc. But, they would be a good start and can be match for new grant requests, including Coast Range Stewardship outreach funds.

PROPOSED PROCESS MOVING FORWARD

If NFF grant awarded:

1. Each Stewardship group affirms interest in participating. If so:
2. Group identifies what they desire as their action plan for a beneficial “salmon/beaver habitat” project. (e.g. some potential discussion points-- if already have project to feature for tour, have site they need to mitigate which would be good for a workshop (could apply for small grant funding or Wyden funding in Sept, for spring work in 2014) or if there is interest in outreach to find a willing landowner develop a new project.
3. Group identifies if any party(s) in group want to take on project;
4. Funds, expected to be awarded in June (if the grant is successful), is turned over to each group with simple contract for above 4 deliverables (project, tour, workshop, grant application). Stewardship group entity(s) (as designated by each group), receives lump sum payment(s) totaling to \$4250 (or MCWC can cut checks, based on invoices, as group desires).
5. Group coordinates with project manager about any help re: interpretive materials, speakers, workshop, grants etc.

If NFF grant not awarded:

1. Each Stewardship group affirms interest in participating. If so:
2. Drafts an action plan that makes use of Outreach Funds, other resources (in-kind, staff, match) to advance outreach or other work to move the FWP concept forward.