

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group  
Meeting Notes  
February 28, 2013**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Ken McCall	RMEF	Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC
Kraig Kidwell	SNF	Art and Betty Sleight	Landowners
Heath Keirstead	Benton SWCD	Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator
Steve Trask	Bio-Surveys Inc.	Sarah Drydahl	Guest presenter
Jennifer Ward	City of Corvallis		

Meeting began shortly after 6:00 pm. November and January notes approved.

**Special Presentation: Treating Reed Canary Grass**

Sarah Drydahl with the Calapooia, North Santiam and South Santiam Watershed Councils gave a very informative presentation on restoration of aquatic habitats dominated by Reed Canarygrass in the Mid-Willamette Valley. The presentation included information on beaver habitat, which connected quite well to the MPSG's ongoing discussion about a stewardship project to restore beaver habitat. Sara's powerpoint slides were distributed in pdf form to everyone after the meeting. The following are a few of the points made during the lively discussion with Sarah:

- The cost was \$5-7,000 per acre over 6-7 years for the combination restoration, revegetation and in-stream habitat work. The costs were higher in the early years.
- Need to take a 10-year approach. Decide the desired future condition before starting out on restoration: emergent wetland, shrub-scrub wetland or bottomland hardwood wetland.
- Managing not eradicating. Both mechanical and chemical treatments needed.
- Judging success by comparing to reference site.
- Set up beaver feeding stations and beavers used them. Reduced the damage beaver would have done to the riparian planting.
- How to prevent reed canarygrass if isn't there now? Have a functioning habitat without disturbed, bare ground.
- Converting reed canarygrass flats to beaver habitat to restore stream function could be the approach to take on the forest-wide stewardship project.
- Sarah recommended people visit the Talking Water Gardens, adjacent to Simpson Park in Albany. Talking Waters is a joint undertaking by Wah Chang, City of Millersburg and City of Albany. Similar to the TMDL project that is being proposed by the City of Corvallis, it cools treated industrial and municipal wastewater through a series of manmade ponds and wetlands before returning it to the Willamette.

**Follow-up to January Meeting**

Beaver Discussions in other groups

All groups have identified volunteers for the forest-wide project committee. The committee will meet soon via conference call. All other SGs are discussing the topic of beaver habitat restoration. The ASG is planning a presentation by OSU student, Vanessa Petro, on her research on beaver relocation.

*Approved*

### Forest Service Upcoming Sales

Kraig distributed a handout with a timber sale map for the Marys Landscape Management Project EA. There are 3 or 4 sales left out of the EA. Next sale will be Noble. This sale will thin at viewpoints and the campground as well as do meadow restoration on the Peak. Plan to advertise the sale in mid-May and award sale in mid-August. Woods and Franklin Thins projected to be sold in FY2014 and Dinner Thin is 2 years out or more. They are looking into thinning young stands for flying squirrels and voles. Could sell to biomass market.

### Forest Service Past Sales

Bridge Thin is wrapping up logging in March/April.

Rock Thin stopping logging end of March and will return in the fall. Will replace the bridge this summer. Rock Thin stewardship components include tree topping, weed control, and road decommissioning. Kraig will let group members know if/how they can be involved with bridge design. Some members expressed concern over bridge size, design and cost.

### **Updates/Announcements**

- Kirk Shimeall, Stewardship Coordinator at CPRCD, will be contacting all applicants during the next 2 weeks to draft contracts for stewardship projects approved this past round. The FS is still working on how to provide the logs for a portion of the Greasy Creek project, but applicants are assured that the project will happen.
- Vanessa Petro will present at the March 18<sup>th</sup> ASG meeting in Waldport. All invited.
- City of Corvallis Watershed tour will be May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Natural Resources Week starts May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Future Meetings**

- Jane will query members about an alternate date or canceling the March meeting.
- People expressed interest in hearing from Forest Research staff on beaver.