

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
January 24, 2013**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Mark Barnes	IRM; Landowner	Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC
Kraig Kidwell	SNF	Art and Betty Sleight	Landowners
Courtney Schreiber	SNF	Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator
Steve Trask	Bio-Surveys Inc.	Mike Totey	ODF
Jennifer Ward	City of Corvallis	Heath Keirstead	Benton SWCD
Matt Mellenthin	IRM	Xan Augerot	MRWC

Meeting began shortly after 6:00 pm. November notes distributed; will formally approve at February meeting. The main topic for the meeting was follow-up to the December joint meeting. In particular, all groups were asked to discuss next steps on a potential joint stewardship project and to identify volunteer(s) for a new committee on outreach.

Joint Meeting Debrief

- Well attended
- Good summary on Spotted Owl. Jane and Kirk working on finalizing meeting notes and getting all presentation slides posted on the SNF and/or CPRCD stewardship websites. Jane will send out draft notes.
- Talked about how the different groups have used outreach dollars in the past. Goals have been both to engage new landowners in stewardship and to do public education regarding stewardship. Joint outreach tended to be brochures about the stewardship fund and stewardship outcomes. Decided to convene a committee across all four groups to discuss any useful joint outreach needed at this time before allocation of new outreach funds are designated for individual groups. Jane and Kirk will convene committee once all groups identify members.
 - Heath and Jennifer volunteered to serve on the committee for the MPSG.
 - Jennifer suggested the committee address both joint outreach and joint stewardship project since they seem interdependent. Meeting participants concurred. Jane will relay this message to other groups.
- Reauthorization was a major topic. There could be some joint outreach around this, too.
- Jane to look into question about whether the Farm Bill passed with stewardship as part of it.

Joint Stewardship Project Idea Discussion

The Hebo Stewardship Group suggested a “living with beaver” public outreach and restoration project for other groups to consider as a joint project. Jane asked Steve Trask and Karen Fleck-Harding to share information on beaver habitat restoration with the MPSG to help think about this potential focus. She will share this project idea with Kirk Shimeall so the ASG and SSG can add to the discussion. At next month’s meeting the MPSG will explore invasives as a different focus for a joint project. All groups are still at the idea generation and sharing phase of implementing this new concept of a joint stewardship project. Jennifer pointed out that the groups need a process to decide what to do jointly; been discussing since Fall Roundtable. Jane will follow-up with Kirk on this wise suggestion.

Approved

Beaver Habitat Restoration

- Karen gave background on a Salmon and Beaver Habitat Improvement Plan that she and Steve put together through an extensive outreach effort with the Upper Five Rivers Community. Copies of the plan were distributed.
- Karen identified several challenges to working on beaver restoration:
 - Need a sustained monitoring effort to see if making an impact
 - Need all landowners to be supportive as beaver in a stream will affect all of them, not just the ones who are excited to have beaver return
 - People outside the immediate neighborhood may object
 - Need to have agencies supportive. (ODF, ODFW, NMFS)
- Questions were raised about why beaver are important. The importance of beaver for fish populations in streams make beaver habitat restoration fit with stewardship fund goals.
- Questions were raised about methods to increase beaver populations. Do we know what to do to make them return? Some places and sometimes they just return. Example of east coast given. Acknowledgement of the need for more research on methods and their impact.
- Group concurred that restoring habitat for beaver really involved general riparian restoration actions like replanting and treating invasives, but tailored a bit. For example, would plant different species and would focus invasives treatment on reed canary grass.
- Group admitted that working on beaver would have some socio-political challenges, but also agreed that it could have some good appeal in the Beaver State and Beaver Nation so worth continuing to analyze.
- Mark Barnes to look for feedback as to what the ASG thinks at its upcoming meeting.
- Jane will ask Catherine Pruett, Salmon-Drift Creek Watershed Council, to write up a synopsis of the Living with Beaver project idea. She will circulate this to all SGs.

Spring Field Trip Initial Planning

- Look to do a field trip with a beaver component in April or June.
- Invite ASG members to go on the tour.
- Steve and Karen will work on details of a tour once we get feedback from other SGs on the idea of beaver as a project focus.

Updates/Announcements

- SNF almost finished with work on Franklin Ridge Road. City will continue its thinning which it put on hold while the SNF work was active.
- Benton SWCD ongoing native plant sale. Orders due Jan 31st and plant pick-up day Feb 16th
- SWCD Weed Spotters training on May 18th in collaboration with Greenbelt Land Trust
- SWCD Urban Creek Tour – June 1st Dixon Creek, Corvallis
- City of Corvallis planning its annual watershed tour for some time in May.
- Next month's MPSG meeting
 - Group wants to meet at the Woodsman again. Liked having dinner while met. A future location could be Ixtapa because they have a separate room.
 - Interested in discussing upcoming timber sales and invasive species, in particular reed canary grass. Jane will find a person to lead the invasive species discussion. Kraig will bring information on new sales.

Approved