

Hebo Stewardship Group Meeting Minutes

October 24th, 2013

Pacific City, OR

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Ron Hudson	USFS	Michele Long	ODFW
Alex Sifford	NNWC	Wayne Patterson	USFS
Paul Katen	SDCWC	Mike Kennedy	Siletz Tribe
M-C Cuthill	landowner (Otis)	Gunther Schmidt	landowner (Otis)
Lisa Phipps	TEP	Jane Barth	Facilitator
Marilyn Burkhardt	landowner (Hebo)		

The meeting began soon after 3pm. People introduced themselves and welcomed the three landowners who were attending a meeting for the first time. July and August meeting notes were approved and will be posted at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/siuslaw/stewardship-groups>.

Updates/Other Business

Stewardship Thins

Wayne Patterson, District Silviculturist, gave a summary of past and current stewardship thins and an overview of the stewardship process and terminology. He described that Thin is done to open up stands to allow the larger trees to grow, with the goal of creating late successional reserves. In brief, Bixby Thin was the first stewardship sale. It was an “off-site” stand, meaning the trees are not of native stock. The second stewardship sale, Panther Thin, is currently in process. The USFS has the bids and contracts are ready to be signed. The recent federal government shutdown has slowed down the finalization of the sale. For this coming year, the Hebo District has 3 planned sales. The USFS recommends Battle Thin be the stewardship sale as it is the best fit with stewardship and has the chance of generating better retained receipts. Buzzard Thin will require significant helicopter use, which will result in lower receipts. The final planned sale is an “off-site” stand. Given that the Hebo District has decided to sell “off-site” stands as commercial and stewardship sales in alternating years, this sale will go as a commercial sale. This policy is intended to give contractors alternate options over time. At the end of the explanation, Wayne asked for the group’s support of Battle Thin as this year’s stewardship sale. The group gave its support by consensus.

M-C Cuthill, landowner in Otis, OR, had questions about the Panther Thin. Wayne explained that all activities within the sale will be sold together to one contractor. That contractor likely will subcontract some activities. The first activity will be road building, likely to start next year. This will bring existing roads up to standard for handling the logging operation. One concern of local landowners is loss of use of roads that they are accustomed to having access to. Ron Hudson explained that most of the road system will remain accessible. Additional points were made to describe the difference between road decommissioning, road storage, etc. M-C will work with Jane to plan a field trip in the area to let local folks know and understand what will

happen to their access and what activities will be done within the stewardship sale. This trip will be planned for Feb/March timeframe. The group is excited about this opportunity to connect with more landowners to help get information about FS activities out to local people.

M-C also asked if the local areas where stewardship sales occur get priority during the funding of Wyden and FS stewardship projects. This is not how funds have been allocated, but the Hebo group could look for projects within specific thin areas in the future, if there are interested property owners.

2013 Coast Range Fund Project Proposals

Rod led this discussion about the two Wyden proposals from the HSG. He gave several overview points from Chuck Fisher, head of the Technical Review Team. The team's general process was to review the projects on paper; no site visits were made. Each proposal was reviewed by at least 7 reviewers. The number is listed at the bottom of the Technical Review Scores summary handout. Chuck advised people not to focus on comparing the scores of different projects as all projects scored well. Rather the focus during today's discussion and during proposal revision should be on the main recommendations at the end of the individual project review reports. Ron circulated copies of the reviews and summary tables for the 11 total project proposals.

1: *Bower Creek Fish Passage Enhancement* by the Nestucca-Neskowin Watershed Council; Request of \$52,520

This project scored 3rd highest in the technical review. The few concerns raised called for more detail on final design. Alex has drafted responses and he circulated a handout with the draft response. He will integrate these into a revised proposal or include as addendum, based upon advice he'll get from Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD.

2: *Invasives Species Control Project* by Tillamook SWCD; Request of \$12,920

Although this project ranked 9th, it still had a high score of 92.4 and the review team felt it would provide benefit to the National Forest. A main concern was that the project was proposed for only one year. Alex, representing the applicant, explained that they applied for one year, but certainly would either scale up this year's proposal to include additional years if funds were available. They had anticipated applying for funds for this effort again next year. Alex circulated a handout with the responses to all concerns. Marilyn expressed interest in having her property included in the invasives control project, if possible.

Meeting participants expressed continued support for both project proposals. They anticipate sufficient funds for both projects, but would put Bower Creek first on the priority list at the Roundtable. They pointed out that the ASG has 5 proposals compared with 2 from each of the other SGs. At the Roundtable, HSG reps will advocate for the additional years of funding for the Tillamook SWCD project, should funds be available.

Late in the meeting, it was mentioned that the SDCWC originally anticipated submitting a proposal for a culvert replacement project on Mink Creek. Unfortunately, it did not receive the information it needed in time to meet the Sept 1st deadline. They will pursue alternate funding for that project.

Forest Service Stewardship Projects

The FS has approximately \$600,000 from retained receipts to do stewardship projects on FS land. Ron provided a handout of the slate of projects. The one project proposed in the HSG area is a Living with Beaver project on Cedar Creek Road. The goal is to allow the beaver and the road to co-exist. They will use this project as a demonstration site, too. Joe Acosta is the project lead. Ron thinks they will use a beaver deceiver. Michelle Long will help connect Ron with her ODFW colleagues who work with beaver. The FS also wants to do a beaver-oriented project on Cedar Creek, but it will require a more complicated fix. They may include it in their slate of 2014 stewardship projects. This is a potential site for a future field trip.

Roundtable Preparation

On November 13th, the Roundtable will discuss and prioritize the 11 Wyden projects. Total estimated funds available for Wyden projects this cycle is \$404,000. The total request is \$446,885.

- Marys – \$115,002 (2 projects)
- Hebo - \$65,440 (2 projects)
- Alsea -\$129,580 (5 projects)
- Siuslaw – \$136,863 (2 projects)

Paul Katen and Alex Sifford are the HSG's regular representatives on the Roundtable. Unfortunately the best date for most Roundtable representatives (Nov. 13th) is a date that Alex is unable to participate. Alex will see if Guy Sievert from his board is able to attend in his place. If not, Mike Kennedy, who attends for the ASG, will be able to talk for the HSG, too.

The annual joint meeting is coming up in December. Jane and Kirk will circulate a doodle poll soon. The group had the following suggestions for presentations during the morning of the annual meeting: LiDAR as an assessment tool, habitat connectivity, safe wildlife corridors, and forest water storage/lower groundwater levels (which could be a connection with beaver). Jane will connect with Michelle for some presenter suggestions. With regard to the water level issue, Alex suggested people have the Water Master come talk to Water District members. He and Paul also encouraged people to come to their watershed councils when they have issues.

Announcements

- The SDCWC has a great fundraiser dinner/silent auction planned for this Sunday. Contact Paul for tickets.
- The Siletz Tribe has hired a new Wildlife Biologist, Jeanne Spaur. She is coming from northeastern Montana and helped create the 1st tribal wildlife refuge.

- At the Nov. 14th HSG meeting, we'll debrief the Roundtable, discuss joint meeting, and consider outreach fund proposals.
- The Siuslaw Stewardship Group is having a speaker from the BLM on November 7th. All are invited to attend this meeting at the Mapleton HS. Jane will email information.