

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group  
Meeting Notes  
July 18, 2013**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Courtney Schreiber	SNF	Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator
Frank Davis	SNF	Jeff Uebel	SNF
Jennifer Ward	City of Corvallis	Steve Trask	Bio Surveys

Meeting began shortly after 6:00 pm. April notes approved by consensus with some edits.

**Updates**

- Good report from group on field trip:
  - Jennifer was struck with how much Dave Shmette has given to beavers
  - Potential future project with stewardship dollars, a beaver-centric project.
- Talking Waters Trip Debrief – Jennifer gave an update on a trip to Cox Creek, an urban creek in Albany, with Sarah Drydahl. Looked at work done on 11 acres to control Reed Canary grass through spraying and mowing. Steve discussed a similar project he did that did not involve spraying. Scalped out areas, planted with 4-6 feet tall trees with goal of shading out grass. Group expressed interest to compare the costs of these different strategies. Jane will forward an email from Jennifer containing cost information for Cox Creek.
- Forest Service Updates –
  - Hebo sale came in with less volume than was estimated so Noble Thin got pushed back to November. Took Cindy McCain out to talk about what trees to save and what to cut. Many trees in 30- 37 inch range were saved. There is a question as to whether Noble Thin will sell or not. Won't be harvesting till after Labor Day of next year. The bough sale allowed for the dropping of some trees but contractor defaulted before he slashed and bucked up the trees.
  - Bridge Thin is done expect for some maintenance.
  - Rock thin is continuing.
  - Bridge replacement pre-work slated to start July 22.
  - SNF has first legal appeal of an North Nestucca EA on Hebo District. They expect resolution soon via a small team out of the Regional Office.
  - Frank shared information on two lawsuits the FS has lost recently. One challenges an Owl Estimation Model. The other impacts what surveys the FS must do. Currently FS is not allowed to award new sales until get direction. The Regional office is optimistic that we will get some relief on survey management.
  - Kraig Kidwell got the Forest Service Representative job on the Gifford Pinchot.
- Past/Ongoing projects:
  - Rock Creek Logs – The process through NIPHS and Fish and Wildlife would be to use the aquatic biological opinion that was signed July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kraig will be out marking the large diameter trees next week. The letter for the 30 day comment is going out next week, and then the decision is signed and goes through appeals if there were comments or moves forward if not. Once all approved, Steve will hire a cutter to cut 66 logs. Other 22 logs are coming from the Fish and Wildlife and are currently logs on the ground. Potential to get a weather dependent wavier if necessary. Frank to e-mail Steve when the 30 day window starts.

- Jeff gave an update about the stewardship funding. The agreement was ready after re-formatting. Looking to get it signed and have the authority to move forward with projects and billing against the agreements by middle of next week.
- Re-authorization – Not yet approved by the Congress. Kirk Shimeall, CPRCD, is tracking this process and will monitor and update as needed.

### **2013 Coast Range Fund Project Proposals**

- Jennifer shared a project the City of Corvallis is interested in doing. It is meadow enhancement on the twin meadows, old peak at the top of the watershed. Oregon Wildlife Institute did monitoring on both of the meadows, what came out is that there is work that could be done to increase the song bird population. Cindy and Jennifer talked about doing it as a joint project with the Forest. Jennifer and Doug Glavich (SNF) have been working with the project. The work (planting natives, creating shrub islands, mowing, cutting back trees) would create more complexity within the perimeter and edges in the vegetation. Groups felt the project fit Wyden criteria and support the City moving forward with a proposal. Follow-up included:
  - Frank to work with Jennifer on getting information about the work planned.
  - Jennifer to bring budget to August meeting.
- Steve asked if the City took care of the boxes that were planned below the intake structure. In the stewardship project done several years ago, there was a design for putting in step pools below the box. Would be a good idea to do that now as another project proposal. Follow-up:
  - Jennifer will see if they were installed yet or not.
- Steve stated that he and Karen Fleck-Harding will share plans at the August meeting.

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

At the Spring Roundtable meeting there was a decision to make banners that stewardship group members could use at festivals. The request is for each group to commit \$200 from its 2012-13 outreach funds to this effort, leaving \$1300 for other outreach. People commented they did not agree this was the best way to do outreach, but said if the other groups wish to use the money that way, MPSG will give the \$200. The group will discuss ways to use the \$1300 at future meetings.

### **Forest-wide Stewardship Project**

- Transitioning ad hoc committee to “technical team” – Suggest, recruit members
  - Steve would be willing to participate. He desired to work on the issue at the sub-basin planning level to really add value and get at ecosystem functions. For example, the 5-mile Bell planning process could include planting prescriptions for beaver. Another opportunity could be the Marshland estuary on the Siuslaw.
  - Jeff stated that technical expertise is going to be limited from the Forest Service. Will be most practical for the committee to develop ideas that the Forest Service can then respond to.
- Demonstration Project on Federal lands.
  - Jeff floated the idea of a joint demonstration project but Michelle Jones, District Ranger, responded that her folks were swamped and starting a project from scratch

would be too much. She did state that we have some problems with known sites where beavers are plugging culverts. If the groups could look at those sites and improve habitat for the beaver up or down stream, that kind of a project could have benefits in terms of public outreach. This could be the start of a cooperative project. Joe Acosta, engineer, would be interested in trying to reduce the maintenance on the culverts.

- Steve commented that given limited availability of FS staff, maybe this is not the time to start this project and look at a more collaborative effort.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events Announcements**

- Next meeting – August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Final project proposal discussion
- September 26<sup>th</sup> – Stewardship Tech Team report
- ASG field trip September 4<sup>th</sup>
- Week of October 15th – Roundtable meeting
- October 24<sup>th</sup> – Roundtable results