



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

FEBRUARY 9, 2023 | 9:00 AM-1 pm
Location: PACKWOOD, WA and via Zoom*

In attendance Afternoon session

Board Members: Pete Krabbe, David Owen, Ashley Short, Anjolene Ngari, John O'Brien, Bill Little, John Squires, Ashley Short, Fred Norman, Bob Guenther, Matt Comisky, Sharon Hanna. *Staff:* Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.

Guests and Visitors:

Gina Owen, Anna Baklund, Lewis Trails and GP Sustainable Trails Committee; Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force, Friends of Skate Creek, and Packwood Trail Project.

Introductions

Revising Our Mission and Vision: Janene Ritchie

Current Mission read from Operations Manual:

"The mission of the Pinchot Partners is to work within the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District and surrounding areas to promote policies and projects that create quality local jobs, recreational opportunities and benefit watershed health."

Discussion followed regarding:

- The overarching effect that watershed health has on all three components of the mission statement.
- The many aspects of recreation and the impacts it can have (both positive and negative) on the community and forest health.
- The nuance between terms "responsible" and "sustainable" recreation.
- The importance of fostering a sense of stewardship.
- The implication of the phrase, "surrounding areas."

New proposed Mission Statement:

"The Pinchot Partners work within the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and surrounding areas, to promote watershed health, create quality local jobs, and encourage sustainable recreation."

Motion to adopt a new Mission Statement. Anjolene Ngari. 2nd Bob Guenther. **CARRIED.**

2023-2035 Strategic Priorities: Janene Ritchie

- Engage meaningfully in Forest Service planning and implementation.
- Continue working on Zones of Agreement.
- Explore and identify how the Partners fit in with Forest Service work.
- Write and submit a Letter of Agreement to the Forest Service.
- Emphasize Pinchot Partners role of continuity and as history keepers.

Ideas for projects and deliverables

Job focus.

- Host job workshops ahead of FS hiring windows.
- Highlight forestry industry jobs.
- Advocate for better funding of recreation and roads.
- Create a cheat sheet for job seekers on tips for applying.
- Partner with Timberland Regional Library for Forestry workforce development program.

Continuity and history-keeping.

- Emphasize our role as the hub that connects a lot of groups. A lot of groups are doing things but not talking with each other. There is no overarching local organization.
- Emphasize Pinchot Partners' 20-year history and continuity in collaboration.
- Create a "transfer document" for new Forest Service staff that includes predecessor agreements. Consider a one-pager with 15 or 20 links to give to a new Ranger.
- Be proactive in development of Forest Service relationships.
- Create a resume for the Pinchot Partners that includes our history and achievements.
- Be proactive in defining our value.
- Seek a grant for an economic analyst on the impact of FS special products to the local economy.
- Educate the public about the value of FS work by integrating the ecological and the socio-economic.
- Promote information about GNA grant money.
- Open meetings with Cowlitz Indian Tribal acknowledgement.

Stewardship education.

- Educate the public on stewardship: Create a display at visitor info center; local events.
- Encourage/promote stewardship education at the school level, broader than the Discovery Team.
- Explain why forest health treatments are important (aimed toward adults).
- Create a work plan, timeline and budget for completing the wood rounds project. Schedule a work party.
- Leverage partnerships to create a Junior Ranger program.
- Create and distribute materials at Packwood's Saturday Farmers' Market.
- Educate on stewardship regarding dispersed camping with kiosks or signage.
- Host a public field trip when there is a timber sale, where a specialist would explain forest health.
- Create educational materials for local hotels and short-term rentals Reach out to Lewis County to get study of Air BnBs and contacts.
- Host Forestry Day event at urban schools to educate the public about wood products and economics.
- Assist in reviving the Discovery Team program.

Community engagement and education about fire preparedness.

- Educate the public to increase “social license” to do fuels reduction work, both commercial and non-commercial thinning.
- Educate locals regarding community preparedness for fire.

Engage meaningfully in Forest Service planning and implementation.

- Understand monitoring in the Forest Service. How do they monitor and where are the gaps?
- Establish comparative photo plots for Yellowjacket and Skate Creeks.
- Host “lessons learned” evaluation after a project to discuss planning through implementation with the Forest Service.
- Explore Libby Montana program using forest waste.
- Increase Huckleberry monitoring.
- Create a list of backlogged projects and identify gaps in capacity.
- Create a spreadsheet of contractors and capabilities.
- Get the list of shovel ready projects from the Forest Service.
- Get a current personnel list from FS.

Other business:

Sheryl and Janene working on a “Leave No Trace” event July 14-16 at Skate Creek dispersed camping area. The GP was one of 10 sites selected across the country.

Meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Minutes prepared by Sharon Hanna.

Notes taken by Constance Mears.