



Gifford Pinchot National Forest Joint Collaborative Meeting

August 22, 2023 | 10am – 2pm

Joan Stout Hall, Room 124, Clark College

1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663

Facilitating Josh Petit, Ph.D., Executive Director, South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative
Janene Ritchie, Executive Director, Pinchot Partners

In attendance

Pinchot Partners: David Owen, Ashley Short (CFC), Anjolene Ngari (Hampton Lumber), John O'Brien, Fred Norman, Bob Guenther, Anna Baklund, Constance Mears, Sheryl Hall (GP Trash Force), Dalton Fry (Cowlitz Indian Tribe Dept of Natural Resources)

South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative:

David Howe (WDFW), Amaia Smith (WDFW) Jeremy Grose (Green Diamond Lumber), Sue Wright, Mary Repar, Molly Whitney (CFC), Emily Stevenson (Skamania Cty Noxious Weeds), Michael DeCramer (WTA), JP Anderson (WKO), Bob Robison, Gary Collins

USFS: Theresa Tanner, Erin Black, Kyung Koh Willis, Jody Nickerson-Powell, Josh Chapman, Jessica Hudec, Johanna Kovarik

DNR: Kate Williams

Sustainable Northwest: Kailyn Klotz

Rep, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez's Office: Peter Sandifer, Cameron Kockritz

Introductions

Collaborative Presentations & Updates – Josh Petit & Janene Ritchie

Overview of Pinchot Partners – Janene Ritchie

Mission: The Pinchot Partners work within the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District and surrounding areas to promote watershed health, create quality local jobs, and encourage sustainable recreation.

Founded: 2003

Pinchot Partners web site | www.pinchotpartners.org

501(c)3 Nonprofit Status

VOTING MEMBERS: Board of Directors

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: General Advisory Committee, Staff (ED & Communications Coordinator), Forest Service, Washington DNR

Subcommittees are comprised of a combination of both voting and non-voting members

Areas of Focus: 2-Year Strategic Plan, Zones of Agreement, Yellowjacket & Skate Creek Planning Areas, Huckleberry Monitoring, 20th Anniversary Celebration

contact: janene.ritchie@pinchotpartners.org

Overview of South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative – Josh Petit

Mission: The SGPC's mission is to collectively improve the development, facilitation, and implementation

of projects that enhance economic vitality, forest ecosystems, outdoor recreation, and public safety on the south end of GPNF and its surrounding communities.

Formed in December of 2011

Operations Manual (living document, revisited and amended) Monthly meetings (third Thursdays from 1-3:30pm)

SGPC web site | www.southgpc.org

Areas of Focus: Little White Salmon watershed; Salvage logging, fire, recreation, OHV access, visitor use impacts); Zones of Agreement; Recreation; Monitoring; Strategic Planning (Operations Manual, procedural updates)

contact: joshua.petit@southgpc.org

Sustainable Trails Planning Process Update – Kyung Koh Willis

***Seeking public input on Trails Plan by Sept 30:**

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/giffordpinchot/home/?cid=FSEPRD1121095&width=full> Comments sought on website above and will help FS decide where to do more planning. Specific projects will need to pass through the NEPA process.

Working with small group of partners: Washington Trails Association, Trans-Cascadia, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Northwest Motorcycle Association, Access for All, and Volunteers of Lewis Trails.

The Cowlitz Valley hosts popular motorized trails, including the Blue Lake Area, and has the most miles of motorized trails (close to 180 miles) than anywhere else on the forest. In addition, another 177 miles of trail out of the total 556 traverse through the four wilderness areas Glacier View, William O. Douglas, Tatoosh, and Goat Rocks found within the unit.

The Mount Adams Ranger District, adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, includes Mount Adams, and three wilderness areas: Indian Heaven, Trapper Creek, and Mount Adams. Offers excellent opportunities to find serenity and solitude on the 123 miles of trails throughout them. Overall, the Mt Adams Ranger District hosts an impressive 612 miles of trail including the beautiful Lewis River and Sleeping Beauty Trail.

E-bikes - input would be helpful.

Workshop scheduled for Nov. 2 to dive deeper:

Four focus areas: a modern trail system, stewardship, outdoor opportunities, and economic impacts. Each focus area will address social, economic, and ecological dimensions. These focus areas will be further expanded to establish action plans and projects.

- Education is needed. Enforcement is an ongoing challenge
- Forest down about 8,000 fire positions in the last 20 years.
- Not enough partnership and collaboration.
- We never have enough FS staff. Requires us to lean into volunteer and partners.

Recreation Discussion – Josh Petit

Objectives:

- Provide feedback for sustainable trails initiative (if appropriate)

- Identify valued collaborative recreation resources
- Identify areas of concern and/or resource impacts
- Brainstorm ways to address concerns/impacts

(1a) What are your favorite activities taking place on trails on GPNF?

- Game trails
- Huckleberry picking
- Water - that doesn't have King County
- Seclusion / Peace / quiet
- Volunteer trail maintenance
- Mushroom hunting

(1b) Which trails are most important to you on the Forest and why?

- Trails that lead to Alpine areas
- PCT
- Wilderness without bikes
- Trails with view and waterfalls
- Motorized and non motorized
- Trails that connect with other trails
- Loop opportunities

(1c) Which GPNF trails currently need the most maintenance or improvement?

- Blue Lake
- Jennifer Ridge
- Bishop
- Devils Staircase
- Indian Heaven -
- Siouxan System
- Lewis River Trails
- Equestrian trails

(2) Where are your favorite places on the Forest to recreate and why?

(3) What are some ways to improve the recreation experience on the Forest?

(4) What are recreation issues not currently being addressed that you feel are important?

(5) What are some suggestions for addressing pressing recreation issues on the Forest?

- Trails Closer to Portland metro areas. Closest is Village.
- Work collaboratively with Columbia River Gorge.
- Safe roads to get to the recreation sites.
- Community Forum or open houses around sharing info on an open community.
- Prioritize maintenance.
- Allow OHV on Forest Roads.

Ways to solve those problems:

Statewide recruitment panel led by collaboratives.

Outreach to prospective urban communities to talk about trail etiquette and Leave No Trace principles.

Permanent rather than just seasonal volunteers.

More law enforcement for vehicular break ins at trailheads. Vital sign indicators project.

Section the Forest off into zones by use.

Be open-minded and conscientious of others.

Increase recreation opportunities on private timber lands. Public outreach: signs and education.

Q & A with WA-03 Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

Some of our priorities for collaborative capacity:

- Investments in dedicated funding to support collaborative capacity
- Flexibility in matching funds requirements
- Provide advanced funding instead of reimbursements
- Strengthen/support strategies for co-management of National Forests
- Workforce Development – local hiring preference

MGP points:

- GNA \$ going to loggers not the logging industry. I support the ability to be independent.
- I support all kinds of recreation. They are all equally valuable, whether or not they contribute directly to the economy.
- We need to follow science and also to honor deep, cultural place-based knowledge.
- Technique cannot replace “care.” Wendell Berry It’s important that you are gathered here and developing these relationships with mutual respect..

Brainstorm Future Co-Collaborative Events – Janene Ritchie

- Combined field trip
- Beer drinking
- Monument discussion
- Bring the Collaborative Network Workshops back
- Rendezvous at campground area
- Trail Work Party
- Shared outreach - reach a broader audience
- Forest bathing experience
- Get everyone together on an annual basis
- Educating the kids - kids stuck on their computers

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm

Notes taken by Constance Mears, Pinchot Partners