



Pinchot Partners

FOREST COLLABORATIVE

Annual Meeting Notes
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Packwood Community Center

Creating new pathways to meet challenges

In attendance. ** indicates participant attended meeting through Zoom*

PP Staff: Janene Ritchie, Sarah Yeoman; *PP Board:* John O'Brien, Fred Norman, Anjoleene Ngari, David Owen, Andrew Spaeth; *PP Advisory Group:* Gina Owen, Dalton Fry, Deidre Hayward; *US Forest Service:* Quentin Hall, Josh Chapman, Andrea Kruse, Jennifer Harris, Jody Nickerson-Powell, Johanna Kovarik, Kacy Smith, Theresa Tanner, Sarah Rockey, Sam Grimm*; *Washington DNR:* Sean Tran, Kevin Carlson, Myles Sailer, Justin Tamez, Ben Hagedorn, Patrick Reed; *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:* Elliot Johnson, *Cascade Forest Conservancy:* Molly Whitney; *Office of Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez:* Erin Masterson

Programming: See slide decks from presenters at this [Google Drive link](#)

USFS Specialist Roundup: Sam Grimm, Kacy Smith, Jennifer Harris, Sarah Rockey, Quentin Hall.

Sam Grimm — Timber sale prep and admin:

- Yellowjacket sales will be GNA sales later in 2025. Program is a little less than what was expected, 25-26 million board feet.
- For FY 26: Yellowjacket sales will be Forest Sales. No GNA sales on the north zone for FY 26. Estimated 40 million board feet of production and aiming to get up to 50 million and maintain that volume in five-year plan. However USFS does not have the capacity due to staffing. Volume in this forest is among the highest in Region 6.
- Staffing: Currently have 10 positions in Forest Service sale prep, but only 4 are filled. Sale administration positions have 4 of 6 openings filled.
- FY 26 targets have yet to be assigned, and there are no hard numbers for FY25 either.
- The duration of a Forest Sale contract is typically 4-5 years, but not uncommon to stretch to 8-10 years, depending on contract term adjustments, fire season, etc. There are not any sale contracts in default according to Sam's knowledge. Most extensions purchasers get associated with terms in contract.

Jennifer Harris, North Zone Fire Manager — North Zone Fire & Fuels:

- North Zone manages over 800,000 acres with a 10-person module — 9 permanent, 1 temporary.
- In 2024, there were 19 fires total in the North Zone, which is about average. Most fires they were able to keep to a small footprint without resistance to suppression. 17 out of the 19 fires were human-caused.
- Have already accomplished scope of work for 2025 for prescribed fire pile burns. Focusing on interdisciplinary project work - suppression, archeology, prevention events etc.

Quentin Hall - IDT:

- IDTs are comprised of many specialties and have run as large as 30 people on a team. They look at everything from timber extraction, rec, subsistence rights, to hunting, roads, human health and safety - a lot of moving parts to every project. They also work through planning projects as well as implementation, working with internal Forest Service staff at all levels, partner groups, fish and wildlife, Tribal partners, basically everyone.
- Work with very diverse projects, like SUPs for new seismic units around Mt Saint Helens to gather volcano data, and reviewing requests for a show about Bigfoot.
- Functional as far as staffing goes and will have busy and productive field season in 2025.
- There are a lot of things being adjusted at the national level regarding NEPA and the environmental council. It's business as usual on the local level until they figure it out.

Kacy Smith, Recreation Staff Officer, CVRD

- FY 2024 accomplishments: There was a Fire in Iron Creek campground spring 2023. They took down hazard trees and gave the site time to rest to see what the other trees would do. Loop A will be open this summer.
- With Great American Outdoors funds they ordered campground furniture - 200 picnic tables to implement. Worked with NW Youth Corps to disassemble 79 old tables and set up 84 new ones.
- Day to day maintenance of fee sites and trails, including new signs at Woods Creek and maintaining dispersed sites.
- Trails: Hired first ever permanent trail crew lead for the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, but they rely on volunteer trail force.
- Replaced 5 bridges, 2 punch ins, removed 200 fallen trees. Built 4 new wilderness permit boxes, installed 5, repaired and reinstalled 1.
- They have 3 wilderness staff - 2 temporary and 1 permanent.
- Broke up 13 illegal fire rings, 1 illegal structure, and packed out 229 pounds of trash. Partnered with White Pass school district, annual skate creek pickup with PP.
- FY 2025: Trying to figure out where VOCs are coming into water system. Bluff Lake trail repair to remove hazard trees from previous fire.

Sarah Rockey, Forest Engineer -

- FY 2024: There were road repairs at Skate Creek and a wash out on the 25 at Elk Pass, with 25 road improvements. Elk Pass won't be able to start until July but hoping will be done by snow time.
- Road improvements: more deep patch repair work. Purcell Creek culvert replacement has been needed for a while and it was funded with multiple job codes.
- Covell Creek Bridge: now complete with new bridge.
- FY 25: Planning to finish Skate Creek and Elk Pass. Huffaker Bridge will be closed this season. Crystal Creek Bridge goes in - a lot of culverts turning into bridges.
- Cowlitz complex fire repair job has capacity and funding issues, so DNR is taking on a few projects.

Good Neighbor Authority Update

Sean Tran, Washington DNR -

- Fund and co-manage a forestry position with Skamania County that is currently vacant.
- Federal Lands Program sits at around 35 staff in the NEPA section. They also have an engineering program.
- DNR has a new commissioner so there will be a transition period. So far all indications point to the new commissioner being supportive of the federal lands program.
- Life cycle of a GNA project:
 - Start with seed money. Pinchot Partners helped contribute seed money in 2018 to get the cycle going, creating the first permanent forester position for the Southwest District.
 - Enter into an agreement for a commercial project, like a timber sale.
 - Retain revenue for salaries and program operations.
 - Remaining funds are put into new agreements, as well as to conduct restoration work.
- Changes to GNA: The Explore Act and the Fix our Forests Act expanded the GNA through what it can be used for and who can participate in GNA agreements. Now they can apply toward recreation, not just restoration. Counties and Tribes can retain revenue from GNA projects. NEW GNA project revenue can now be spent off the forest it was generated from, though limitations on that are still being determined.
- Have been able to utilize DNR heavy equipment crew for Forest Service projects. Helping with NEPA planning capacity across organizations.
- FY 25 commercial projects:
 - Yellowjacket sales. Hope to get Grey Towers out for bids by June.
 - Langile cost analysis is challenging, and it can't be treated like a normal timber sale. They are using the Pacific Cascade Region heavy equipment crew to install culverts to make it more desirable for purchasers. It's the biggest partnership with heavy equipment crew and the DNR to date.
 - Moving into contract writing phase with Galena, hoping to get sold this year. Apex was removed from Galena to manage acres that would normally not be treated. Working toward if it is viable or not.
- Noncommercial projects: Herbicide, continue stand surveys for plantation thinning NEPAs, noncommercial thinning components, engineering noncommercial projects. Offered first public works contract and have several aquatic passage public works contracts going out to bid. Partnership with Skamania County, but funding is a challenge.
- Environmental planning, science and monitoring: adapting and preparing the forest for disturbances, thinking holistically about forest management in an uncertain climate future. Working on fire preparedness within the community — home hardening, go bags, etc. It's been a challenging legislative session, and they are anticipating less funding and getting creative to figure out how to support community partners.

US Fish & Wildlife Biological Opinion / Forest-wide Thinning Plan

Josh Chapman, USFS - See presentation slides

- Collaboratively developed project, worked through scoping letters for long-term forest resilience, providing sustainable flow of timber products, protecting species, developing needs for first food and tribal partners, addressing disturbance related needs. 156,000

acres of stands ranging from 35-78 years old analyzed for commercial thinning. Variable density thinning and variety of canopy covers. Feeder projects for future GNA partnerships.

- Final touches on document to get sent up to regional office for executive order review. It will then be sent out for public notice and comment. Developed story map for this project as well. Hope to sign EA in June or July.
- WWRCZ: BA covers 19 Forest Service activities. Rather than consult on every project, refer to one biological opinion to adhere to. Will have to go back and review activities with fish and wildlife. Reduced buffers within plantation thinnings.

Changes to Program of Work

Theresa Tanner, USFS

- Across the forest, big vegetation projects are coming out. Little White on the south zone will be in the spring going into the summer. East Fork Lewis pre-implementation work.
- Have vacancies in key positions. North Zone lost temporary 1039 work force, affecting ability to do survey work, surveying property lines on WUI. Moving around permanent work force to fill in gaps. This means backing off Skate EA in order to support the rest of the forest, and continue as people as available.
- National priorities of acres treated hasn't changed. Campgrounds will be able to operate though changes in level of service able to provide. Sitting well on admin staff, though lobby hours could be reduced. Have been able to hire around fire, and has full hand crew, though a high-severity year could stretch full crew. Two vacancies for engineer positions. Spirit Lake outflow and emergency planning continues.

Small Group Exercise *(a more complete summary will be shared at April meeting)*

Question 1 - Transparency

- Use different forms of communication, some in writing, to retain information better.
- Create a living document of collaborative priorities and goals or each org and to better list multiple voices of priorities.
- Host a storytelling event to share stories and partners have an open dialogue. In-person meetings to build relationships.
- Hold post-mortems of projects to learn and adjust.

Question 2 - Priorities

- Support the Forest Service. Overall talk specific details around projects. Looking for discreet specific ways to help — seed money and other similar efforts.
- Community input on priority zones such as rec and huckleberry.
- Focusing on current work while also discussing sideboards.

Question 3 - Roles and Responsibilities

- Going to Rep. Gleusenkamp Perez' office for issues. What is Pinchot Partners' ability to lobby or organize for days of action or government involvement?
- Emphasize common ground and finding more efficient ways to operate.
- Think outside the box of how we can do things other than the status quo.

Question 4 - Outcomes

- Work with White Pass High School discovery team - Community engagement, reach out to younger generations, different ways to expand into community. Younger generation is the one coming into future natural resource jobs.
- Aspire to make Skate Creek a demonstration of how well community Pinchot Partners and the Forest Service can work together.
- Have one new person each month show up to board meetings.
- Pinchot Partners relies on being reactive to the Forest Service, but now they can't move as fast, PP could be an organization that looks beyond that role to see what it can do in the community. Rather than being reactive, asking the forest service how to show up and how to benefit, incorporating that into the new model.
- Potential representatives from Discover Lewis County can foster relationships.

Heritage and Forest Service

Andrea Kruse - North Zone archeologist USFS

- Examples of heritage in the forest include ceramics, glass bottles, lithics, nails, historic structures and lookouts.
- Archeologists run Section 106 review process working with SHPO and TPOs to resolve any adverse effects. Have not had an adverse effect on the north zone in a long time.
- Determines status of areas for national register of historic places and addressing adverse effects. New EOs will impact Section 106, not sure how it will work for heritage.
- Future projects include: High rock lookout, PCT, timber sales, historic trails, pre-contact trails in Skate, cabin at Bear Meadows.
- NEPA and Section 106 timelines don't match up, but they work with PA and Tribes to expedite processes better.
- What new EOs look like for archeology program: More focus on when people are out doing timber sales and time delays later on because of discoveries. Will heavily rely on Tribes on special areas because of shortened time frame. Conjecture is difficult because expecting litigation on EOs.
- Private land owners would call SHPO office if they find archeological items.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm. Minutes prepared by Sarah Yeoman



Pinchot Partners

F O R E S T C O L L A B O R A T I V E

Annual Meeting Notes
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Packwood Community Center

Creating new pathways to meet challenges

In attendance. ** indicates participant attended meeting through Zoom*

PP Staff: Janene Ritchie, Sarah Yeoman; *PP Board:* John O'Brien, Fred Norman, Anjolene Ngari, David Owen, Andrew Spaeth, Bill Little, Bob Guenther, Ashley Short*;

Review of Day 1.

- Highlights: Small group exercises and hearing good conversations. Janene will condense notes from each group's notebooks into 3-5 key takeaways and topics to incorporate into monthly meetings.
- Specialists from Forest Service — was great to see that many people from different disciplines gathered together. Now they have first-hand knowledge of Pinchot Partners.
- It was a forward-thinking group, creating something succinct for the Forest Service to better understand what we do. Collaboration at its best when bringing all different facets together.

February Meeting Minutes. MOTION to approve: David Owen; second: Bob Guenther; CARRIED

Action Items.

In progress: Pursuing a letter and/or meeting with Glueskamp Perez. Continuing work on operations and bylaws committees. NWFP letter submitted Monday afternoon.

Treasurer's Report, Ashley Short. Checking account balance is \$86,182.58. Credit card balance is \$0. Bought some supplies for the meeting but some will be returned if not used. MOTION to approve: Bob Guenther; second: John Squires. CARRIED.

Budget Overview, Janene Ritchie. FY to date (since July 2024)

- Gross profit is \$116,752.42. The bulk is from Cowlitz grant. Some from DNR and Forest Service. New donation line item since Pinchot Partners can now accept web donations.

- Expenses: Bulk of expenses are contract and professional fees. Accounting fees with Mountain View CPA, as well as subgrant to CFC. Most of that went to support huckleberry monitoring as well as the Gifford Pinchot stewards program. Minor expenses: directors and officers insurance, office supplies.
- Net revenue: \$69,360.24. Janene has a meeting with point of contact for the Cowlitz grant to see if it needs to be completely spent by the end of the one-year term.
- Proposed budget: Several scenarios with different grants and agreements (see Janene's chart). Suggests operating on the Current Total scenario, which operates on what we currently have - \$84,985. Does not include Forest Service agreements. Have about \$15,000 left as a subgrant to support CFC. Janene was in the process of setting up an agreement for \$50,000 in RAC funding, but all RAC funding is frozen so will not be able to count on Forest Service money for the foreseeable future. Request for Proposals for DNR funding will be coming out this spring. Building Forest Partnerships grant will happen, but unsure at what level due to state budget shortfall. Feedback from last year's National Forest Foundation collaborative capacity grant was strong, but the program is possibly frozen for this year. If and when program comes back, what PP was requested was in line with their parameters.
- Salaries of staff are safe and taken care of, anything additional can go straight to programming.
- Potential fundraising and donations: Set a goal for web donations and strategy. Put together annual campaign for December. Fungi Festival in the fall estimated to bring in \$16,000 if Pinchot Partners wants to participate. Would need to create a development committee to strategize on fundraising.

Board Elections

- **Director re-election** - Andrew Spaeth nominates Matt Comisky to another four-year, bob SECOND: Bob Guenther. Vote by acclimation.
- **Officer Elections:**
 - **Chair:** Turned over to John Squires. NOMINATION: **John O'Brien** by Bob Guenther. SECOND: David Owen. John accepts. No other nominations. Vote by acclimation.
 - **Vice Chair:** NOMINATION: John Squires by Bob Guenther. NOMINATION **Anjonele Ngari** by John Squires. SECOND: Andrew Spaeth. Anjonele accepts. Vote by acclimation.
 - **Treasurer:** NOMINATION: **Ashley Short** by Anjonele Ngari. Ashley accepts. SECOND: Fred Norman. Vote by acclimation.
 - **Secretary:** NOMINATION: **John Squires** by David Owen. SECOND: Bob Guenther. Vote by acclimation.
 - **At large:** MOTION to have **Matt Comisky** be at large by John Squires. SECOND: Anjonele Ngari.

- New director nomination discussion: Currently have 10 board members, can have up to 15. NOMINATION: Amy Boyd by Bob Guenther. Board moves to vote today and add agenda item to next meeting to welcome new board member, giving Amy the chance to decline. Amy Boyd voted to join the board by acclimation.
- NOMINATION: Dalton Fry by Ashley Short. Board moves to hold on his nomination.
- Signing of declaration of commitments for board members.

Exercise on Revisiting our Values - Janene Ritchie

Value areas: Community, commitment, connection/belonging, compassion, vision

2025 Goals and Objectives: - Janene Ritchie

- Identifying top 3-5 priorities for 2025.
- Named priorities: Outreach and community, science-based forestry and restoration work, organizational health, developing Forest Service partnership. Janene will take items discussed around these priorities and develop objectives to present at the next meeting. Suggested that group has a brainstorming session with the Forest Service to figure out where Pinchot Partners fits in their needs.

Meeting adjourned 12 p.m. Minutes prepared by Sarah Yeoman