



Pinchot Partners

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

2024 Annual Meeting Notes
Day 1 | Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
Packwood Community Hall

In attendance:

PP Staff: Janene Ritchie

PP Board: John O'Brien, John Squires, Ashley Short, Sharon Hanna, Matt Comisky, Anjolene Ngari, Bob Guenther, David Owen, Fred Norman

PP Advisory Group: Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force; Gina Owen; Brook Squires; Elizabeth Squires

US Forest Service: Josh Chapman, Theresa Tanner, Cheyenne Adamonis.

WA DNR: Andrew Spaeth, Sean Tran, Justin Tamez, Ben Hagedorn, Kevin Carlsen, Chris Danilson, Derek Churchill

Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez's office: Peter Sandifer, Erin Masterson.

WA Department of Fish and Wildlife: Elliot Johnson

Today's agenda. MOTION to approve: David Owen; second Ashley Short. **CARRIED.**

2023 Forest Service Accomplishments – Theresa Tanner, USFS. [Slide Deck](#)

Major Takeaways:

- *Hiring* – Currently there are 39 permanent roles and 25 temp employees in Randle. Still some vacancies, but in a much better place than 2022. Quentin Hall, Cowlitz Valley NEPA planner will start in early April. Coming from Tongass with a young family, will be local by late April.
- *Housing* - In 2023, rented Packwood Bunkhouse; Constructed 8 RV pads. Ahead in 2024: Split old trailer into 2 efficiency apartments; renovate old standalone kitchen into laundry/shower facility. 2025: Purchase 1st 'park model'/tiny home? Add affordable single family home rentals through contract?
- *Engineering* - investing \$21 million + in Aquatic Organism Passages and bridges
- *Recreation* - no trail crew/interns meant 5,000+ hours of volunteers on ~180 miles motorized trails; 180 miles Wilderness trails; 140 miles of non-motorized/non-wilderness trails; Iron Creek Campground closed due to fire; La Wis Wis campground closed due to renovations. Both to reopen (except for loop on Iron Creek damaged in fire) for 2024 season
- *Fire* - 52 named fires total for 2023 - about 18 human caused (dozens of abandoned campfires, including Packwood Lake and Skate Creek Rd) North Zone = 811,380.89 Acres; Cowlitz Valley = 575,000 Acres; Mount Rainier = 236,380.89 Acres
- *Planning & Restoration* - Yellowjacket EA objection meeting April 10; Forest Plantation Thinning & Potential Operation Delineations EA Scoping in early May; Greater Skate Area EA, DNR's Western Washington Pilot landscape evaluation; Multiple small project CEs; non-commercial thinning - RAC funds 580 acre total contact, 50% completed 2023, final to be completed 2024. Ongoing work: field surveys, invasive treatments through counties and intern crews, road decommissioning, snag creation for wildlife. 11 active Knutsen-Vandenberg plans.
- *Timber* – Fiscal Year 2023: 38,086 million board feet sold (target was 46-48,000); Plan to hit 38,000 million board feet in 2024 as well; having no timber sale administrator has been challenging.

- *Special Forest Products* - Forest wide Fiscal Year 2023 revenue generated = \$229,856; total value = \$442,250

Skate Creek Landscape Evaluation – Derek Churchill, DNR. [Slide Deck Report - “Assessing Forest Health in Western Washington Landscapes”](#)

Major Takeaways:

One of two all-lands approaches to complete a process similar to the East side’s 2020’s Forest Action Plan effort to summarize forest health. The other pilot area is Middle Snohomish. Greater Packwood/Skate Creek area includes 150,000 north and south of US 12. This initial report includes prioritization and treatment targets and summarizes all aspects of watershed assessments. This non-regulatory process includes consideration of:

- Ecological forest health & resilience - what are the indicators of forest health in Western Washington? How are they different than Eastern Washington?
- Social and Economic outcomes and benefits - tribal uses, carbon, timber supply
- Climate Change - drought vulnerability, etc.
- Vegetation structure - may need to break mid seral into further classes
- Fire risk & fire refugia - burn probabilities, risk to homes, potential control lines, potential operational delineation boundaries, defensible space
- Operational feasibility & economics: cable v. downhill v. ground

12 - 1pm Lunch Break! Thank you, Brook!

2023 Good Neighbor Authority Update – Sean Tran, Kevin Carlsen, Justin Tamez, Ben Hagedorn, DNR Federal Lands Program. [Slide Deck](#)

Major Takeaways:

Kevin, Justin, and Ben each gave updates on the status of their respective projects, including a mix of timber sales (Wake, Huff, Ferrous, Grey Towers, and Langille) and rock pits (Alec and Pinto). Plan to use road work performed during timber sales to strategically access other timber sales (Grey Towers into Langille). The ultimate vision for the next few years is to balance the program into revenue generation and restoration investments as well as planning. 50% of timber sales reinvested back into restoration and public works packages.

2023 accomplishments:

- 77.5 miles of road maintenance
- 9 miles of road construction
- 4.6 million board feet

Knutsen-Vandenburg (KV) Funds – Cheyenne Adamonis, CVRD silviculturist. [Slide Deck](#)

Major Takeaways: KV funds can be used within a specific project area to complete restoration work, within certain parameters, and also ensures that required re-planting takes place. Work must be consistent with established forest plans; must be covered by NEPA; and must be within the same sale area. It is NOT meant to mitigate the effects of sale operators. The group discussed how the Partners might be involved in providing feedback about where/what projects are funded through KV. This would require regular updates from Cheyenne (mid-summer and early fall at a minimum). We could also provide feedback the same way we provided feedback for Retained Receipts in 2022 under Nikia and John Day’s leadership. This conversation will continue!

Day 1 Adjourned at 4:00pm

2024 Annual Meeting Notes
Day 2 | Wednesday, March 20th, 2024
 Packwood Community Hall

In attendance:

PP Staff: Janene Ritchie

PP Board: John O'Brien, John Squires, Ashley Short, Sharon Hanna, Matt Comisky, Anjolene Ngari, David Owen,

PP Advisory Group: Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force

WA DNR: Andrew Spaeth

Cowlitz Indian Tribe Natural Resources Department: Dalton Fry

Intention Setting: One word to describe your hopes for 2024: Growth, Resilience, Harmony/Conflict, Focus, Servant/service leadership, Understanding (to lead to growth), Intention, Transparent, Open, Capacity, Science (follow it!)

February meeting minutes: MOTION to approve: Sharon Hanna; second: David Owen. **CARRIED.**

Treasurer's report, Ashley Short: Current balance is **\$24,619.73** in the checking account. Credit Card balance is \$0. MOTION to approve: Anjolene Ngari; second David Owen. **CARRIED.**

Tree Round Project Discussion: After discussing the updates that the Cowlitz Tribe made to the timeline, The Forest Service is unable to approve use of their logo on any part of this project. They have reached out to the Yakama Nation for their feedback on the language, but in the meantime cannot give us permission to use the logo, and they feel it's unlikely that the Yakama Nation will agree to the language as is. Theresa will directly provide an update at the April meeting.

The group discussed a variety of options, including reaching out to the Yakama Nation directly to see if agreeable language can be reached. However, this will likely be a lengthy process, and Denny Larson needs his workshop space back sooner rather than later.

MOTION by Anjolene Ngari to move forward with language that the Cowlitz Tribe cultural resources board has already approved and without the Forest Service logo. Prior to next school year, we can pursue avenues to include more robust language, with input from the Yakama Nation; seconded by John Squires. **CARRIED.**

2024 Board Officer Elections:

- **Chair:** John O'Brien. Nominated by: David Owen; Second: Sharon Hanna. Elected by acclimation.
- **Vice-Chair:** John Squires. Nominated by: Anjolene Ngari; Second: David Owen. Elected by acclimation.
- **Treasurer:** Ashley Short. Nominated by: Anjolene Ngari; Second: Sharon Hanna. Elected by acclimation.
- **Secretary:** Anjolene Ngari. Nominated by: Ashley Short; Second: John Squires. Elected by acclimation.
- **At-Large:** Matt Comisky. Nominated by: Anjolene Ngari; Second: John Squires. Elected by acclimation.

2024 Board of Directors Re-Elections:

Our directors serve a 4 year term. No directors were up for reelection in 2024.

2024 New Director Nominations:

Andrew Spaeth, WA DNR. Nominated by: Anjolene Ngari; Second: Sharon Hanna. Elected by acclimation.

Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force. Nominated by: John O'Brien. Nomination declined. Sheryl prefers to remain part of our non-voting advisory group. Thank you to Sheryl for your continued involvement with the Pinchot Partners and for providing updates on the GP Trash Force's activities. Sheryl is a valued member of the Partners!

2024 Board Resignations:

Sharon Hanna resigns her position as a director of the board as of April 10, 2024. Thank you, Sharon, for your 4 years of service on the Pinchot Partners board, and 1 year of service as our secretary!

Other Board Discussions:

Anjolene expressed interest in serving as the Vice Chair next year. She agreed to fill the newly vacated secretary role with assistance from a new communications coordinator, Janene in the interim, and with use of voice recording and transcription. Thank you to Anjolene for stepping up!

The board discussed interest in having a board member who is an employee of the Cowlitz Tribe Natural Resources Department. Dalton Fry expressed interest, but has limited capacity right now. He will let us know when his capacity will allow him to accept a nomination to the board of directors.

Due to a conflict of interest, Andrew Spaeth will recuse himself during any discussions of the Pinchot Partners application to future Washington DNR Building Forest Partnership grant funding.

2024 Subcommittee Volunteers:

- *Zones of Agreement*, resuming in June: Ashley Short, John O'Brien, John Squires, Andrew Spaeth, Anjolene Ngari, Matt Comisky
- *Communications Role Hiring*, starting in April: Anjolene Ngari, Ashley Short
- *By Laws and Operations Manual Edits*, starting in April: Bob Guenther, Fred Norman, David Owen, John O'Brien, Ashley Short

The group discussed standing up either a "local jobs" subcommittee, a "local housing" subcommittee, or both. This discussion made it clear that the board considers both promoting quality local jobs and addressing the lack of housing for FS employees high priorities for the group. Janene mentioned that the board had identified housing as a potential large project (as discussed during monthly meetings in January and February 2024) and that the issue of

housing might be naturally addressed through consistent updates on that process in monthly meetings, making a subcommittee redundant. There are concerns among the group that our ability to make effective progress on the issue of housing through a large project might be limited; we will continue to revisit both local jobs and FS employee housing and decide on how to proceed with subcommittees for these topics when there is more clarity around our perceived role and ability to make meaningful progress on these issues.

Board Succession/Development Discussion:

- Local foresters/logging technicians: for local on-the-ground perspective. Loved having Paula Hopkins on the board.
- Local/County representatives: all three commissioners, but especially Lindsey Pollack
- Local high schools and colleges: presentations by board members; permission/funding for attendance at PP meetings? Who are the Natural resources policy instructors?
- Shifting the communications coordinator role to include more outreach roles and responsibilities to assist with presentations at schools
- Rolling jobs and housing all together?

The board discussed that both fundraising/development and recruiting new members are part of their responsibilities. The board committed to bringing one person into the group during their tenure as a director. We will revisit specific commitments to fundraising/development within the next year, as Janene develops a fundraising strategy with input from the board.

Action Items:

- Janene will present an update on strategic plan at the next operations committee meeting
- Generate a list of local organizations and points of contact for targeted outreach efforts (use notes above for a starting point)
 - Delegate this list to board members for initial outreach
- Get clarification from Theresa on logo for tree rounds and process for potential feedback from Yakama Nation moving forward
- Circle back on KV funds discussion to establish a timeline for information sharing and feedback loop

Day 2 Adjourned at 12:05pm

Minutes prepared by Janene Ritchie

Notes taken by Janene Ritchie