



# Pinchot Partners

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

## November Meeting Notes Wednesday, November 19, 2025 9am-11:30am St. Mary's, Toledo, WA & Zoom

### **In attendance.**

*PP Staff:* Janene Ritchie *PP Board:* John O'Brien, John Squires, David Owen, Bob Guenther, Fred Norman, Bill Little, Anjolene Ngari\*, Ashley Short\*, Matt Comisky\*, Andrew Spaeth\*, Amy Boyd\*; *PP Advisory Group: US Forest Service:* Johanna Kovarik, Alexander Sherwin, Theresa Tanner, Quentin Hall; *Fish & Wildlife:* Elliot Johnson, Deidre Hayward; *Cowlitz Tribe:* Dalton Fry; *NFF:* Anna Nakae; *Packwood Trails Project:* Kirsten Dodge

**Today's Agenda.** MOTION to approve: Bob Guenther; Second: David Owen; CARRIED.

**September Notes.** MOTION to approve: Bill Little; Second: David Owen; CARRIED

**Treasurer's Report, Ashley Short.** Checking account balance is \$77,248.29. Credit card balance is \$0.

- Most spending on the account has been around Fungi Fest. Fungi fest brought in \$9,477.03, including \$22,292 in gross revenue and \$12,815.91 in expenses

MOTION to approve: Bob Guenther; second: Fred Norman. CARRIED.

### **Action Items:**

- Janene will order new speakers - COMPLETED
- Janene will edit language in plantation thinning Zone of Agreement to reflect that multiple partners can and should be using mechanisms like Good Neighbor Authority and Tribal Forest Protection Act – COMPLETED
- Janene will coordinate \$250 to Livable Packwood on behalf of Pinchot Partners – COMPLETED
- It was noted that Mary Brese would be a good contact for updates on timber sales
- Request to put old newsletters on the website: In Process

### **Plantation Thinning Zone of Agreement, Janene Ritchie and Committee**

MOTION to approve: David Owen; second: Ashley Short. CARRIED.

- Future topics/ further discussion to include:
  - What is at the top of the list for desirability for industry? Discussed quality but not geography. Bring in Ben Zion, Hampton's forester, for discussion
  - Where can we find agreement on over 80 years/20 inches within matrix?

**Forest Service Updates, Johanna Kovarik**

- The government is open, and everyone is glad to be back at work and in the office
- Reorganization updates:
  - Jacque Buchanan is now overseeing Regions 5, 6 and 20.
  - Dan Scafe, former Deputy Fores Sup has moved to the regional office, deputy forest sup role remains vacant.
  - Scott Barh is now the Spirit Lake Coordinator

**Forest Service Updates, Quentin Hall/Theresa Tanner**

- The GP's application for emergency situation determination was successful, so North Packwood CE now falls under this new ESD, signed October 1, 2025
  - One of only two signed so far in the nation.
  - Covers 1.5 miles in from FS boundary and along I-12 corridor
  - Allows for emergency consultation with other agencies (NOAA, NMFS, USFW)
- North Packwood CE
  - Fisheries and hydrology field/stream surveys completed, with not many aquatics concerns
  - Land Boundary survey: 2/3 of Tatoosh boundary is done, will finish rest in spring. Running into root rot along the southern private land boundaries. Still have approx. 3.6 miles to complete, see table below for estimated costs
- FY26-28 vegetation management priorities
  - South Packwood Fuels Reduction CE: 9470 acres total; 1690 under plantation; thin to 40-50% retained canopy cover. Entirely in LSR land allocation and under ESD, with a lot of stands over 80 years and 20 inches. Will be meeting with LSR committee leads next week to get more info of burden of proof needed. Intend to focus on primary and secondary control lines 500ft off either side of road, resulting in 24000 acres of treatment. Most worried about fuels and fire in this area, will likely go here next after North Pack
  - West Packwood Fuels Reduction CE: 5250 acres total, can treat up to 2800 acres with 1102 under plantation; thin to 40-50% retained canopy cover. Initial assessments indicate good road system, all within matrix land allocation and ESD.
  - Questions around what outreach will look like for all of these areas; FS and Pinchot Partners to coordinate efforts to ensure clear, consistent, and frequent communication
  - Funding needed for land boundary surveys:

	Boundary Miles	Cost per Mile	Total Cost
North Packwood	3.6	\$35,000	\$126,000
South Packwood	8.5	\$35,000	\$297,500
West Packwood	9.1	\$35,000	\$318,500

- Other: Cispus Thin/pole sale; High Lakes egress and shaded fuel breaks; FR2430 harvest (survey and manage needed, no ESD, high potential volume); Mineral Block

### **Operations Updates, Janene Ritchie**

- \$250 to Livable Packwood for food backpacks sent home with students for winter break: MOTION to approve: Bob Guenther; second: David Owen. CARRIED.
- Annual Meeting date set for Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Packwood Community Hall. Day one will include presentations from FS and DNR, plus all partners. Day Two will include a board retreat for elections, financial reporting, and strategic annual planning
- December meeting will be a joint meeting with the South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative. We will hear about G-Z contracting from Andy Geissler with AFRC.
- Successful application for LTAC funding for 2026 Fungi Fest: \$18,500 total, including \$7,000 for administrative costs (Janene's time). Application and Presentation received high praise from committee and others in attendance.
- Will hear back about National Forest Foundation Collaborative Capacity grant and Cowlitz Tribal Foundation grant application statuses in December

### **Roundtable Updates**

- **Bob Guenther:** Moible science lab/simulators visited 350 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Centralia; would like to see it moved to east end of Lewis County. Can Forest Service attend?
- **Dalton Fry:** Applied for seed money to enter a Good Neighbor Agreement with the FS

Meeting adjourned 11:21 a.m. : Minutes prepared by Janene Ritchie