



# Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

## Pinchot Partners Field Tour – Skate Creek

Wednesday, June 15th, 2022

**In attendance (24): PP-** Pete Krabbe, David Owen, John O’Brien, John Squires, Sharon Hanna, Anjolene Ngari, Eli Asher, Ashley Short, Janene Ritchie, Brook Squires, Anna Baklund. DNR – Andrew Spaeth. FS - Matt Mullinex, Josh Chapman (new GP Restoration & Stewardship Staff Officer), Matt Mawhirter, Ken Wieman, Connor England, Nikia Hernandez, Cheyenne Adamonis, Kacy Smith, Elizabeth Robinson, Jennifer Harris, Sarah Rockey. Gambler 500 event - Chip Duncan.

**August 6 Gambler Event, Chip Duncan:** Gambler events remove 100million tons of trash annually, 65 cars pulled out last year. Chip needs locations (GPS coordinates are best, but at least cross roads/trails) for dump sites, where the vehicles are so that FS can run paperwork ahead of time. Janene to connect Chip with Dave at Highway Shopper to run an ad. Elizabeth to connect Chip with organizers of the Bigfoot 200 race.

### **Morning Discussion: Recreation Impacts on Skate Creek Road. Led by Kacy Smith**

Things to consider: Soil compaction, Human waste/bathrooms, Sight lines, Parking issues, Fire Trash. Snopark- non groomed route due to fluctuating snowpack levels

Bigger than incorporating into veg mgt plan, no alignment - will likely need to be separated. BUT, pit toilets, smaller things could be part of skate creek EA.

Sharon - how many can this area support? Elizabeth - under 70, over 70 requires a special use permit

David- Do a survey - who is camping here, zip codes. Kacy/Nikia/Elizabeth – restrictions to what and how FS can collect data. We already have a lot, lack of data isn’t the issue. Kacy/Nikia - 2006 - baseline data of dispersed spots. natl visitor use monitoring survey (FS). 2018 was last one. This would be a point that NVUMS could hit.

Anjolene - Human use mapping done on Naches RD

John S - river keepers awareness program, teach ethics. His goal would be make it a good place for kids again. Compare resource damage from camping vs. thinning. Ken - Methow “respect the river” program/campaign

Anna- won’t ride motorcycle up here, too dangerous. Consider speed bumps?

Sharon - signage for where you can and can’t camp, parking, make it easy to follow the rules. Ashley seconds.



# Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

John S - would like to see it as a campground. Make it a few site without picnic tables. Economic benefit for both Ashford and Packwood. Provide amenities to drive business, drives away less desirable elements. Anna - but are we going to get rid of problem or push it do different part of Forest? Nikia – Can potentially move the problem to an area where the impact won't be as noticeable. There is an in between campground option: dispersed developed campground.

David - Packwood subgroup is exploring what it would take/look like to keep 52 open year round.

Anjolene - “soft” decommissioning of road. Mixed use/long term forest health planning. Safety of active veg mgt and recreation users. Log truck/recreator interactions. “Close/stabilize” vs decommission. Elizabeth - travel analysis!

Nikia - how to fund it? No NEPA yet, but GAOA, Infrastructure, cap improvement. Cowlitz Valley will have new fee sites, MARD/MSH have more fee sites, and therefore bigger rec crews.

Andrew- recreation, human caused wildfires. Do dispersed rec areas have higher incidents of human-caused fires? Jennifer - Responds often to skate creek. Taxpayer dollars for everyone response. Anjolene - Do residents have good ingress and egress? Nikia - no. Wildfire readiness plan/education.

Kacy -Feedback on making it day use only vs keeping open for camping? Nikia - Day use with fee site at beginning? Ashley - what other camp opportunities are nearby? Big creek developed/dispersed. John S - No to making entire corridor day use only, but maybe certain spots. Would be significant public kickback. When you weigh cost/benefit, cost may be more. But certainly use certain spots. David agrees. Ashley agrees with strategically choosing sections for day use only. Anjolene - tribal perspectives on this area? John O - within traditional area, so we use it. Anjolene - Maintain access points for all, handicapped + tribal. John S - if it were to be developed, provide spots for tribal use like Ohanepecosh.

Anjolene - ADA access. Are there spots nearby? Day use sites? Kacy – Not held to ADA, but ABA

Sharon – Interpretive signage, to inspire preciousness. Not admonishment. Kacy - great opportunity for partners to get involved. Sharon - newt campsite etc, partner with tribal cultural connection. Nikia - sensitivity to multiple tribes. Anjolene - road signs about partners, sign boards at site with more info. John S - Lewis Cty lodging tax

Nikia- for EA, a minimum of a pit toilet. Andrew- when NEPA gets split into veg and rec movements, the rec stuff doesn't get done. Can you use the rec part to educate about veg? John O - use timber to generate revenue. John S - more proactive about educating public

What are the issues, what is the current condition, what is desired condition, what actions/how to get there? South of hwy 12



# Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

## *Business Meeting Called to order at 12:23pm*

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve today's agenda 1<sup>st</sup>: David Owen 2<sup>nd</sup>: John O'Brien.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting minutes 1<sup>st</sup>: John O'Brien 2<sup>nd</sup>: David Owen. **MOTION CARRIED**

*Treasurers Report, David Owen:* About \$30,000 in Key Bank, spent time with CPA to get up to date with QuickBooks, will file taxes electronically. \$70,000 from RAC will be available shortly (Nikia).

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the Treasurers Report 1<sup>st</sup>: John Squires 2<sup>nd</sup>: John O'Brien. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to make Ashley Short the Cascade Forest Conservancy board representative. 1<sup>st</sup>: John Squires 2<sup>nd</sup>: Anjolene. **MOTION CARRIED** Anjolene appreciates CFCs continued representation, has worked well with Ashley, and all previous CFC reps.

*ED updates:* Will submit final DNR invoice at end of June - \$18,000+. Will be extending offers for Communications coordinator second interviews by June 24<sup>th</sup>. Invited to present at Lewis County Chamber of Commerce picnic on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

### *Ranger updates:*

Selection on Acting District Ranger – James Donehey to start July 5<sup>th</sup>. Nikia - Last day Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Gathering at 12pm, potluck. After-hours at Andrea Durham's house, 5pm.

*Round Table updates:* Anjolene - September surgery, will be out for most of the month.

## *Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm*

### **Afternoon Discussion: Riparian Reserve Analysis**

Ken - watershed level analysis, what are the indicators and their status. Large wood is pretty minimal, very little large wood over 50ft, fewer pools, etc. many are less than properly functioning. Most streams exceed state standards for temps (long term monitoring). May be cool, but Recreational impacts/veg mgt impacts make it warmer in high use areas. 16 c (60.8F) based on fish bio. Dept of ecology classifies it

Anjolene - what data do you have on PFC /DFC assessment? Ken - based on standards. Look at channels that are and are not impacted by management. Baseline condition established for endangered species. Level 2 protocol, walking the stream. Not level 3 where you can start designing a project, but a level below. GP was instrumental in early monitoring.



# Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

Anjolene - Trout unlimited did stream surveys using BFP funds in Darrington Collab

Ken - 75% of streams are not fish bearing. Channel stability surveys used in non fish bearing.

Elizabeth - surveys initiated by monitoring reports. Want to get back on track with biennial monitoring reports, as of new planning rule 2012.

Ken - direct solar radiation makes a big diff. Highest temps seen July - mid August. Ashley - clean water act, sometimes shade isn't enough so other factors like pool depth are important. Multiple indicators of proper functioning condition.

R6 aquatic restoration decision, moving forward with using it more. Nepa completed, public involvement now

Andrew - shift from rain to snow dominated weather systems. How can we make these more resilient? Ken - Ecologically sensitive stream, use buffers as physical and metaphorical stops to protect streams

Anjolene - disagreement among collabs, laundry list of supportive, a few things where you'll hear from individual orgs instead

Sharon - ID early to focus projects earlier; Janene- also reduces discrepancy if treatment across drop from beginning to end; Nikia - ID team will ID riparian reserves earlier in NEPA process; Anjolene - one concern with doing it earlier in NEPA process is that we won't see what isn't included; making sure that Hampton's silviculturist is in tune.

John S - concern is site specificity and overstocked buffers that won't be cut

Ken - Gordy paper, ample downed wood. Working closer to streams, heavy on the tipped/downed wood. Anjolene - Seems like we mostly agree, but not on numbers

Anna - move past we can't to what can we; Anjolene – not even what can we do, what do we need to do. What is the condition now, what is the desired condition? Landscape needs, not what we want.

Cheyenne -Clarification of manual vs. machine based harvest methods and commercial vs non-commercial harvest types

Closing comments, tour ended at 3:02pm.  
Notes prepared by Janene Ritchie