



Pinchot Partners

FOREST COLLABORATIVE

January Meeting Notes Wednesday, January 15, 2025 9am-11:30am St. Mary's, Toledo, WA & Zoom

In attendance. * indicates participant attended meeting through Zoom

PP Staff: Janene Ritchie, Sarah Yeoman; *PP Board:* John O'Brien, John Squires, Anjolene Ngari, Fred Norman, Bob Guenther, Ashley Short*, Matt Comisky*, David Owen*, Bill Little; *PP Advisory Group:* Dalton Fry, Amy Boyd; *US Forest Service:* Jessica Hudec*, Josh Chapman*, Christina Donehower*, Diane Bedell*, Theresa Tanner*; Brooke Squires, Anna Nakae*, Greg Ladue-Grove

Today's Agenda. Amendment to present Forest Service updates first. MOTION to approve: John O'Brien; CARRIED.

November and December Meeting Minutes. MOTION to approve: Bill Little; second: Anjolene Ngari; CARRIED

Treasurer's Report, Ashley Short. Checking account balance is \$83,111.56. Credit card balance is \$0. Pending DNR grant for between \$12-13,000. \$10 donation from Giving Tuesday. MOTION to approve: Bob Guenther; second: John Squires. CARRIED.

Action Items.

Janene will reach out to people interested in forming a committee around work with Rep. Gluesencamp Perez. Rep.'s staff recommended to start after the inauguration. Most likely, the group would go to her office with the south collaborative. Rep. is sponsoring two bills in line with some of the concerns Pinchot Partners was bringing to her.

Annual meeting will be at the Packwood Community Center.

Add meetings and announcements to Facebook are in progress.

Forest Service Updates, Theresa Tanner, Josh Chapman

- A housing unit trailer containing two efficiency apartments burned down. Loss of housing is a big hit for future needs. No one was living there at the time. Working with a fire investigator. Kudos to Randall volunteer fire department who arrived within 10 minutes. Knowing the budget climate, may not have funds to replace dwelling.
- Attended NWFP public meeting for EIS draft in Olympia. The next meeting is in February. There will be another public meeting on the south side of the forest concerning the GP.

- Q1 NEPA completed between Oct and Dec, and all projects were completed on time. Q2 projects include: permit for USGS for six seismic sensors across multiple districts; IRFO project for flood damage that occurred on forest road 99; PCT needs regarding expansion and trail improvement. Also launching Skate Creek: Quentin will have info on the next share establishing project boundaries inside the WUI.
- Forest Service and DNR engineers started coordinating roads listed for summer field review. Road review will start in neighborhoods closest to Packwood.
- Theresa will be sending out invites for informal coffee chats on Friday mornings.
- Working on wrapping up support for potential control land line, and will release the draft EA at the end of February. Fisheries services are making good progress on BOs. The draft will come in within the next few weeks for review.
- There might be a hitch in multiday prescribed fires. Things are moving in a positive direction for that consultation
- Finalized the program of work with no additional seasonals. Starting the planning process for FY 2026. They are still working under a continuing resolution extended through March 14. Outlook for the budget is grim.
- National Old Growth Amendment has been pulled.

Programming Meeting

Discussion on Northwest Forest Plan Amendment from Zones of Agreement committee

Came up with a list of points to include in the comment letter. Will be going over a draft letter at the February Zones of Agreement committee meeting. Points from meeting include:

- A concern specifically for Alternative D. Alt D would result in less harvest in dry forest with reasonings being more harvesting in moist forest types. However, it doesn't match with the reality of what would actually happen.
- Base condition listed in draft EI is based on the NWFP as implemented not as it was originally written, which skews the analysis that takes place and will impact timber volume and socioeconomics and limit future harvest. Concern about lack of analysis.
- Need an analysis of available funding to make any of this happen.
- Access: Group discussed concerns around accessing areas that need both thinning management and stewardship. Those areas could overgrow and burn more easily.
- Because of social pressure there isn't enough Forest Service activity to move the needs in climate resilience to protect forests from climate change, fire, insects, etc.
- Full consensus on the fact that NWFP did not take tribal perspective into account, and should be at the forefront of this amendment.
- Funding an annual species review process has not happened since 2003. An annual review process for species that can and should be removed should streamline the process of survey and manage.
- Delineation of two broad forest types - dry vs moist. How do we better create guidelines for the transition areas and deploy managers? Forest types have to be managed completely differently.
- If NWFP was intended to save the Spotted Owl, where is the nexus with the amendment? Group brought up issues with bald owl management and questions of how those management meetings would go collaboratively. It's unclear what Fish & Wildlife will say because of the level of modeling that needs to be done, and they are

waiting for the Forest Service to have a preferred alternative. In general, wildlife could have been covered better in the document.

- Alt D changes to survey and manage within a quarter mile of structures within the WUI.
- Group discussed clear cutting and getting over the idea that we are thinning the forest to nothing. There is hesitation about regenerative harvest, but that is a very specific conversation about this happening in matrix, which is a very small percentage of the land. The trade off with Alt B was to allow more intensive harvest in existing old growth because the overall land base would shrink.

Needs and concerns of group:

- Anjolene made a document that summarizes Alt B and draft comments. Found a lot of common ground between Hampton's comments and collaborative comments.
- Pinchot Partners should look closely at the under-analyzed economic opportunities and community sustainability.
- Fire zoning part of Alt D, particularly the community protection zone.
- A strong point in the comment letter should be pushing for funding for recreation and engineering and roads to maintain access to recreation facilities, which is not possible because of the lack of temporary employees. Lack of road repair impacts small gateway communities. Access also should include firefighter safety, tribal access, etc.
- Conversations around forests should not just focus on timber, but holistic ecosystems including fungi and roots and vegetation. Disappearing old growth has an effect on the rest of the forest and smaller forests.

Operations Updates, Anjolene Ngari & Janene Ritchie

- Results of annual meeting survey: This year, the second day is for board members only. Partner input for topics on the first day: potential restoration or noncommercial projects, and changes to Forest Service program of work.
 - Survey results for day 1: Creating discussions with a predetermined topic. Janene is meeting to make sure most of the desired topics are covered. Survey results emphasized having a clear vision and time to build group rapport. New people will be joining that have not engaged with Pinchot Partners before.
 - Day 2 will be administrative discussions and identifying goals for 2025.
- Submitted 1099s for contractors.
- Reached out to Rep. Gluesencamp Perez' office for assistance in navigating the IRS.
- Janene will draft an agenda for next month but will not be in attendance. Letter for NWFP will be the biggest time-sensitive item.
- Locals in Packwood and Randall are organizing the first Gifford Pinchot fungi festival slated to happen October 24-26. Reached out to Pinchot Partners to be beneficiaries of this festival. Phone call scheduled to get more details.

Roundtable Updates

- Bob Guenther: Has a meeting next month to see if a grant is possible to get a fridge for the seed program. There was interest from folks on the south zone in this project and kind of funding. Partnering with them can possibly ease the burden of work and benefit both collaboratives.

- Timber rounds are out in a lot of schools. Danny Larsen gave a report to students in Toledo. Four are left. One is going to Kalama, one to Boisford and maybe one to Toledo Grade School. Brooke will see if Packwood Museum is interested in one.
- Ongoing program with Hampton to develop the portable lab: Continuing to work to get more hands-on equipment. Applied for a grant to hook up every school in Lewis County. Matt Comisky might take it to the legislature. The trailer will be taken to Olympia on April 9 for Forest Products Day.
- John O'brien: Believes there will not be any commercial harvest of huckleberries in the Gifford Pinchot this year due to not having seasonal work staff. Concerned about forcing harvesters onto less and less land, and that the Forest Service will not benefit from permit revenue from commercial harvesting, with a big economic impact on Randall and Packwood.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am. Minutes prepared by Sarah Yeoman