



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

Pinchot Partners Monthly Meeting

7.20.2022

9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Location: Via Zoom

In Attendance (21): Pete Krabbe; David Owen; Fred Norman; John O'Brien; Anjolen Ngari; Sharon Hanna; Eli Asher; Ashley Short; Janene Ritchie; Elizabeth Robinson (FS); James Donahey (FS); Josh Chapman (FS); Kyung Koh-Willis (FS); Cheyenne Adamonis (FS); Anthony Pena (Sen. Murray); Collin Swanson (Rep. Herrera Buetler); Sarah Kahout (Sen. Cantwell); Christina Donehower (CIT); Andrew Spaeth (DNR); Anna Baklund (Tread Lightly); Gina Owen; Tyler Jackson (Run Gifford Run); Sheryl Hall (GP Trash Force); Olivia Awbry (Olympic Forest Collab); Amber Kurt (Run Gifford Run)

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM

Welcome and introductions

**MOTION: A motion was made to approve today's agenda 1st: John O'Brien 2nd: Ashley Short :
MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the June meeting minutes 1st: Sharon Hanna 2nd: John O'Brien: MOTION CARRIED

Treasurers Report/Janene Ritchie: The current checking balance is \$29,411.37. This includes 1 previously unfulfilled DNR invoice. Janene and Andrew confirm that final invoice for DNR Building Forest Partnership 2021-22 grant will be finalized and deposited any day.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the purchase of the QuickBooks and accrual system 1st: Fred Norman 2nd: Sharon Hanna: MOTION CARRIED

Programming Meeting:

Proposed Recreation Fees - Kyung Koh-Willis: Public involvement for new proposed rec fees will go from July 15 to September 6. Looking for public comment on the proposed new fees that we have and increased fees. It's pretty comprehensive across the forest, the purpose of the fees is to support operations and maintenance of the developed rec sites across the forest, allows us to pump toilets, maintain the campgrounds, in some cases to maintain trails, etc. 95% of the fees are retained on forest for the benefit of the public and to support the amenities that we have available at those sites. Open house up at Packwood on Tuesday, August 2. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out directly to Kyung. Also encourage people to look at our [website for an interactive map](#) that has all the types that are included in the fee proposal tool. We also have set up an inbox specific for the proposals. So it's helpful if comments can go

there as well so that it doesn't get lost in my inbox. These fees are not related at all to concessionaires, and do not go to support those.

Anna Baklund asked about transparency on the plan for where how the money's going to be used and concerns about how much it's going to cost and not knowing exactly how that's going to be used – if there's no trail crew this year, where is the money going? Kyung says that any fee revenue generated goes back into operations and maintenance of the developed rec sites, not necessarily trail maintenance. It supports seasonal supports for service personnel to go out and operate and maintain those sites as well. So transparency, in that sense, yes. But in terms of planning the Forest budget, that's a different conversation. The only exception to this is the Catt Creek OHV area, since that is a special recreation permit. If this fee were to go through, any revenue generated from that would go towards operation and trail maintenance at that site specifically; planning those dollars will happen if the fee goes through.

Sheryl Hall asked if there any further discussion about trying to hold dispersed campers more responsible - people are acting like these are developed areas and they're not and others are paying the consequences. Kyung: Not specifically in this fee proposal process, but there is always ongoing discussions on the forest around dispersed camping management, but that is outside of the proposal. The trash forces does a lot in terms of picking up garbage and FS really appreciates that.

Silvicultural prescription in riparian reserve Position Statement Discussion - Janene Ritchie: The committee has been working on this one for quite a while now, moving through a few different phases. What we've come to is that riparian reserves are a complicated issue. We have more learning to do, and while there are certain things that the group can come to consensus on a broad level, because repairing reserves have to be managed on such a site specific/project level basis, we may not come to consensus at that level. Generally the Partners support that riparian reserves are identified early in the NEPA analysis that the Forest Service use the best available and most recent science. We also encourage the FS to consider treatments in inner riparian areas that achieve Aquatic Conservation Strategy goals, and that for us as a collaborative to be able to provide meaningful input on riparian reserve treatments, we need information from the FS on those in a timely manner. We propose creating a mutually beneficial information sharing process. Need more input and feedback from folks who are not on the position statement committee

Andrew Spaeth: Appreciates the work of the committee - great document, organized well, and it seems to flow and make a lot of sense. Suggests more clearly stating where there's the potential for common ground, for example, in a plantation that's within a riparian reserve, is there a general agreement that that would be a good place to try to conduct active management to increase heterogeneity, accelerate the development/ increase the amount of large woody debris on the ground? Janene agrees, will add to document. Andrew also mentioned roads and their impact on riparian areas. This was touched on in the Roads position statement, but Janene will look into cross referencing any relevant issues. Andrew also brought up the relationship between some of the extreme restoration work (log jams, etc) and other like recreational values. American Whitewater is one of the groups that's been working on these issues (most relevant to like the Cispus, which is a really popular whitewater run, in places where you're going to be placing large woody debris or directing fall logs towards the stream that's used by whitewater recreationists. Whitewater advocates ask for communication about when that's occurring, where it's occurring, because it can create absolute safety hazards for people that might be recreating.

Elizabeth Robinson: agrees that the FS has not communicated about progress on riparian reserve management in a timely manner – lots of moving parts. Please to hear discussion around management for ACS objectives. Mentions section of NW Forest Plan, which Josh Chapman shared after meeting.

Janene proposes circulating another draft, and working toward a more formal way to continue the conversation outside of Position Statement committee, knowing that this is a working document and we can come back to this later once we have had those conversations and have a more informed and kind of engaging perspective on this.

Next steps: Janene will update document with discussed changes (include consensus around overstocked plantations and incorporate comments) and redistribute draft for next meeting.

Up next for Position Statement: Recreation & Climate Change

Yellow Jacket EA letter Discussion – Janene Ritchie: Janene sent out a draft of that. This letter was based pretty heavily on our response to the scoping, which was last year. And I know that there were a few changes between the scoping and the draft EA. So in this, I did, there were a few projects that were removed. And then I did add a couple of statements, mostly about the mixed use designation of forest roads for OHP use and then the North Fork Campground redesign. Anjolene has language that we should add specific to socioeconomics.

Next steps: Janene will update document with discussed changes and get letter back out for approval at end of week.

Communications Coordinator Contract Review – Janene Ritchie: We have selected a communications coordinator, Constance Mears. Will make a fantastic addition to our team. She's got diverse experience not just in written communications, but also photography, art, graphic design. Her contract is straightforward, similar to Executive Director contract, except number of hours per week and the hourly pay rate. May need to an addendum to the contract that discussed copyright and who will be retaining copyright to certain work that she does for us. Will wait to revisit when she gets a work rhythm.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Communications Coordinator contract for Constance Mears 1st: Ashley Short 2nd: Sharon Hanna: MOTION CARRIED

Executive Director Updates – Janene Ritchie: Janene has been communicating with Constance about her coming on. The first year of Building Forest Partnerships funding for this biennium wrapped up at the end of June, so we are now in our new 22-23 contract. Janene has also been working with Elizabeth and James on getting our agreement together \$75,000 from the FS. Includes funding for my role, the communications role and \$12,000 for an update to CFC's Huckleberry work that had been done a few years ago. Tiffani Johnson has taken on a new role within the Cowlitz tribe as the executive assistant to the COO of the Cowlitz tribe. Until the Natural Resources Department is able to fill her role she'll be transitioning between the two roles. Will join for the August meeting work with our new communications coordinator, Constance, and with Fred to get her up to speed on the note taking and whatnot. Excited for her, but will miss her.

Gambler 500 Updates – Tyler, Amber, Sheryl. Gambler was cancelled last minute, a group is trying to organize a smaller cleanup in the area. They can't use any of his resources to do this cleanup due to legal issues. Biggest need is a dumpster. James will connect with them on the dumpster. Sheryl can be contact person. Anna Baklund will also follow up to potentially provide support from Tread Lightly.

MOTION: A motion was made to elect Anna Baklund as a director of the board 1st: John O'Brien 2nd: Sharon Hanna

Discussion: Anjolene Ngari: No doubt that we're lacking in the recreation department on the partners. Mission statement = jobs, recreation, watershed health. One thing we have lacked is the social aspect as well as the recreation piece and those fit together sometimes and so it's a really nice fit. Expressed concern about the amount of people on the board versus what we're missing - has nothing to do with Anna personally, and supports her nomination. We need input from AFRC but they haven't been active for quite a while, - need a proxy for Matt because we're lacking perspective from the industry/forest products. Others include land trusts, conservation districts, county Natural Resources Department, or commissioners, congressional representation. Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Washington DFW. Need to make sure there is room at the table for those organizations.

John O'Brien clarifies that our by-laws allow up to 15 board members, currently have 12.

Fred expresses concern, cannot support Anna joining the board. The board agrees to have a separate meeting to discuss both Anna joining the board and the composition of the board in general. Anna confirms she still wants to be involved, no matter how the board decides.

MOTION: A motion was made to table the motion to elect Anna Baklund until further discussion can occur. 1st: Ashley Short 2nd: Sharon Hanna: MOTION CARRIED

Forest Service Updates: James Donahey, Acting District Ranger

Roads: FR 23 road closure at Camp Creek is coming, likely end of July, alternative route will be FR 21. FR 8440 remains closed due to helicopter logging on Catt Timber Sale. Skate Creek FR 52 anticipated to begin brushing work soon. Pinchot Partners EA: Road decommissioning contract underway. Danger tree removal contract awarded on FR 77, FR 28, FR 55. FR 21 road grading contract anticipated in the near future.

Recreation: Blue Lake Trail Bridge Replacement Trail 271A– July 18-29th Walupt Lake CG opened, Takhalakh/Olallie/Horseshoe CGs just got approval to open this week July 25. Fee Increase Open House in Packwood Community Center August 2nd, 4-6PM

IRP: Yellowjacket EA 30-day Comment Period closes Monday July 25th, received 27 comments. Skate Planning Area: Some field work underway, however project delayed due to staffing shortages.

Timber: Current operations: Catt/Trapper/Skinner. Bid opening in the next month: Ames and Soldier Reoffer. Helilogging done by renewable Northwest renewable energy. Anjolene excited to hear this, has only been done on Colville NF. Hampton is having some issues with regional targets right now, mills at risk of shutting down. When you lose infrastructure, you no longer have the ability to make sales economical because the home costs are so great. And so we certainly wouldn't want to see that here – there are other places where Anjolene is at risk of not working on those forests anymore because they are not actually achieving anything.

Fire: Two “stat” fires on forest this summer – small escaped campfires. Some District fire staff has been off-forest supporting nation-wide fires (NM, CA, AK) most returning around July 28

Special Uses/Outfitter and Guide: Transcascadia Mountain Biking events throughout July/August; the Wunderland and Bigfoot 200 races in August

Staffing/Personnel: James Donahey detailed as Acting District Ranger –Based on arrival of new permanent District Ranger anticipated in September, 2022. Forest is at approximately 70% staffing, filling positions as rapidly as we can. Current District Vacancies: Support Services Specialist, Visitor Service Information Assistant (Tentative selection made), Packwood Lake Recreation Ranger. Elizabeth Robinson, 120 day detail as Forest Environmental Planner.

Anjolene Ngari: Socio economic subcommittee on Okanogan – field tour to go out look at a sale area where they haven't yet laid out the timber sale, to discuss what makes a sale economical, what can be improved and what we can do as a collaborative to help. We need the right people present and we're missing some key players. There are a handful of folks on this in this group that have concerns about the earlier what polygons will be cut out of the planning area. Would be helpful for collaborative to understand that process more.

Yellowjacket Update - Elizabeth Robinson: Still working on Yellowjacket EA and will finish that out. New detail will not affect involvement with Pinchot Partners. The majority of comments on Yellowjacket have had some criticisms. FS has initiated our consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service and with NOAA Marine Fisheries. Will get riparian reserve document for Yellow Jacket published by the end of the day

Roundtable Updates: Sharon Hanna: happy to see representatives here from Herrera Beutler and Cantwells office. Hopes that they are hearing some of the issues in terms of resources and funding for FS, and can help from the top down. We are working from the bottom up and sometimes it's hard. Hopes that you will continue to join even after the elections are over.

Anjolene Ngari: August 22 – September 9th, on vacation, then out for surgery on September 15th for the rest of the month.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Notes prepared by Janene Ritchie.