



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

January 17, 2024 | 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Location: Zoom only due to weather

In attendance

Board Members: John O'Brien, Bob Guenther, Ashley Short, David Owen, Matt Comisky, Anjolene Ngari, Fred Norman. *Staff:* Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.

US Forest Service: Theresa Tanner USFS; Kyung Koh-Willis USFS

Guests and Visitors: Gina Owen; Andrew Spaeth, DNR Forest Resiliency Div.; Christina Donehower, CIT; Dalton Fry, CIT; Josh Petit, Southern Gifford Pinchot Collaborative; Justin DNR; Lenae Discover, Lewis County; Maia Darrington Collaborative facilitator; Sean Tran, DNR Federal Lands Program; Sheryl Hall, GPTF; Anna Baklund.

Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

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

December meeting minutes. Action items: Adding a report for Huckleberry to the annual meeting agenda, gathering feedback for agenda. In progress. MOTION to approve: David Owen; second Fred Norman. **CARRIED.**

Treasurer's report, Ashley Short: Current balance is **\$18,836.62** in the checking account. Credit Card balance is \$0. Forest Service invoice came through for approximately \$17,000. Janene met with Mountain View CPA to go over QuickBooks glitches, which have been resolved. MOTION to approve: Fred Norman; second Bob Guenther. **CARRIED.**

ACTION ITEMS:

Janene will send options for times for a virtual subcommittee meeting to Ashley Short, Anjolene Price, John O'Brien, Bob Guenther, Matt Comisky, and Sheryl Hall.

✓ Completed.

Operations Update: Janene Ritchie

The federal System Award Management document (application), the system through which our Forest agreements are processed, is due within the next 60 days.

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe Statewide Foundation funding request with Sarah Cooke has been rescheduled to March 2024. I will provide her with everything she needs to present to the committee.

In the January Northwest Forest Collaborative meeting, we talked about the possibility of putting together a combined comment letter about the NW Forest Plan amendment. Comments are due February 2, so we would need to have a separate subcommittee to address this. The collaboratives are writing individual letters. Pinchot Partners will submit draft and submit a comment letter to specifically address concerns regarding the Gifford Pinchot NF. Janene will send options for times for a virtual subcommittee meeting to Ashley Short, Anjolene Price, John O'Brien, Bob Guenther, Matt Comisky, and Sheryl Hall.

Forest Service Update, Theresa Tanner

Hiring

We are in the middle of a major hiring blitz: 22 temporary seasonal employees, 10 new permanent seasonal employees, six open permanent positions and 1 new archeology position, all for the Randle area.

We have enough bunk house space for temporary employees. We do not have enough for permanent positions. The FS requests suggestions for available housing among the community.

Eight trailer pads at Skate Creek will accommodate additional ad hoc housing.

Using Great American Outdoor funding, the FS installed electric and a new septic system at Wis Wis last year. The guard house there was planned to become a rec.gov rental. The housing situation is so challenging, that Theresa requested the space be used for seasonal employees.

Yellowjacket EA

FS is working on the draft decision, addressing comments particularly regarding watershed conditions and old growth areas. The FS hopes to publish the decision in January, triggering a final objection period for anyone who commented during the scoping phase.

Fire

FS personnel are meeting next month to look at fuels management program, do strategic planning and to assess staffing needs. Regional Forester wanting to be proactive.

- Regarding fire, what would Pinchot Partners like to see at the Annual Meeting in March?

FS fuels planner David O'Neil will present at the February Board meeting.

Trail maintenance request, Kyung Koh-Willis, USFS

The FS needs a partner organization to host a trail maintenance data and volunteer input document on its website.

- Would Pinchot Partners be willing and able to do that?

Discussion ensued about whether this aligns with Pinchot Partners mission statement and priorities regarding recreation. Referring to the most recent Zones of Agreement document regarding Recreation, this is an example of leveraging partnerships to assist the FS. The content would own and maintain the content. Pinchot

Partners would simply host the document. At the moment the group is hesitant to be the go-to public-facing regarding recreation.

Josh Petit said he would ask the South GP Collaborative group at the next meeting.

The FS plans to have a draft plan of the Sustainable Trail plan for review and comment in March.

Upcoming projects, Janene Ritchie

- Host an in-person workshop in late summer for people interested in working for the FS.
 - Anjolene suggested creating a subcommittee to discuss strategies.
 - Bob Guenther recommended that Pinchot Partners take this to the legislative level.
 - Subcommittee volunteers: Anjolene Price, David Owen, Sheryl Hall, John O'Brien

- Identify the next "big" project. Spend a few months identifying a project in collaboration with the FS that can be folded into the next round of DNR funding and future RAC funding requests.
 - Staffing and hiring issues
 - Housing – manufacture, possible with DNR funding
 - Restoration / stewardship-type projects
 - Road work – 100 miles of fuels removal
 - Programmatic plantation thinning
 - Skate Creek
 - Community Fire Preparedness Education (Firewise)
 - Bio fuels
 - GNA sales
 - Discovery Team (on-going)
 - Using retained receipts for roads and aquatic passages
 - Firewise education
 - Huckleberry monitoring
 - Riparian buffer zone monitoring

Round table updates

Tree Round Timeline, Bob Guenther

Tags have been printed and are ready to go. Bob would like to know the timeframe for approval, and proposed whether we want to send them to the schools without the placards. Constance will check in with Gala at the FS to get an estimate on approval process timeline.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

Minutes prepared by Sharon Hanna

Notes taken by Constance Mears