



# Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

## ANNUAL MEETING 2023: FEBRUARY 8

Location: Packwood Fire Hall, Packwood, WA and via Zoom\*

### FEB 8 MORNING SESSION: 9:00 AM-NOON

#### In attendance

*Board Members:* Pete Krabbe, John O'Brien, Anjolene Ngari, John Squires, Ashley Short, David Owen, Bill Little, Matt Comisky, Fred Norman. *Staff:* Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.

*Guests and Visitors:* Andrew Spaeth, Environmental Planner in the Forest Resilience Division at the WA Department of Natural Resources; Anna Baklund, Lewis Trails; Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force, Friends of Skate Creek, and Packwood Trail Project.

#### Introductions

### BUSINESS MEETING

**Today's agenda.** MOTION to approve: John O'Brien. 2nd: Anjolene Ngari. **CARRIED.**

**January meeting Minutes.** MOTION to approve: Ashley Short. 2nd: David Owen. **CARRIED.**

**Treasurer's report.** David Owen: Current checking balance is **\$16,003.86**. There has been limited checking account activity.

MOTION to approve: John O'Brien. 2nd: Bill Little. **CARRIED.**

#### Action items / Key Tasks

**Janene** will send links to Cheyenne's slideshow and the article on migration-assisted planting to the Board.

✓ Due: March 8, 2023. Status: Completed.

**Board** will revisit the Secretary role and amend By-Laws to reflect current needs.

● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

**Board** will discuss a Communications strategy and set priorities for messaging.

● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

**Cheyenne Adamonis** will email the list of topic ideas for future meetings.

● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

**Andrew Spaeth** will inquire about getting a report of how the GNA Wake Sale money has been spent.

● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

**Constance** will present another round of logos based on feedback from the board.

● Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.

**Gina Owen** will email the contact information for a Lewis County study on 600 Air B&Bs in the area.

● Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.

**Bob Guenther** will invite the new Commissioner to join our Board and report back. Matt suggests asking all Lewis Co. commissioners and let them decide who will represent.

● Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.

**Bob Guenther** will send information to Janene about having Rick Gustafson, Ph.D., present at a Pinchot Partners board meeting. [pulp@uw.edu](mailto:pulp@uw.edu), 206) 543-2790.

● Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.

### **Budget and Funding: Janene Ritchie**

We are now using Quickbooks. Janene supplied a budget worksheet (attached) for potential funding sources for the 23-24 fiscal years.

Discussion ensued with suggestions:

- Request an extra 10% as “unrestricted” funds for flexible expenses, overhead, and cash reserves.
- Focus two board meetings per year on funding issues, or as needed.
- Diversify our funding sources as much as possible.

### **Board Elections**

Three Board members were up for renewal: Anjolene Ngari, Fred Norman, and Sharon Hanna.

MOTION to retain all three: John O'Brien. 2nd: John Squires. **CARRIED**

### **2023 Officer Elections**

Chair: Anjolene nominated Pete Krabbe, who was accepted by acclamation.

Vice-Chair: Bill Little nominated John O'Brien, who was accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer: John O'Brien nominated David Owen, who was accepted by acclamation.

Ashley will consider stepping in later this year, but needs to check with Molly Whitney.

Secretary: Anjolene nominated Sharon Hanna, who accepted by proxy (David Owen) and was voted in by acclamation. Suggestions were made to redefine the roles in the by-laws to reflect current duties.

At Large: Anjolene Ngari and Matt Comisky. Discussion ensued about the purpose and duties of At Large positions.

### **Constance Mears Contract Renewal: Janene Ritchie**

Constance has been in the Communications Coordinator position for 6 months.

MOTION by Anjolene to renew her contract for 1 year with a review of her rate June 2023 (when new grants are secured) with the possibility of a (retroactive) raise to \$22 per hour. 2nd: John O'Brien. **CARRIED**

### **Committees**

Discussion tabled until project and focus priorities are established.

### **BREAK**

Awesome lunch by Squires family.

### **PROGRAM MEETING: 1-4 PM**

## **In attendance**

*Board Members:* Pete Krabbe, David Owen, Ashley Short, Anjolene Ngari, John O'Brien, Bill Little, John Squires, Matt Comisky, Fred Norman, Sharon Hanna. *Staff:* Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.

*USFS:* Josh Chapman, Natural Resource Staff Officer; Cheyenne Adamonis, District Silviculturist; J.D. Jones, Fisheries Program Manager; Jennifer Harris, CVRD Zone Fire Management Officer.

*Guests and Visitors:* Sean Tran,\* DNR; Kevin Carlson,\* DNR; Elliot Johnson, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Biologist; Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force, Friends of Skate Creek and Packwood Trail Project; Andrew Spaeth, WA Department of Natural Resources; Anna Baklund, Lewis Trails; Peter Sandifer, aide to Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez; Gina Owen, Randle resident.

## **Introductions**

### **Forest Service Presentation of 2022 Accomplishments: Cheyenne Adamonis**

[Slideshow link.](#)

#### **Timber Sales**

- Soldier and Watch timber sales
- 2022 harvest total of 39MBF is down from 2021 total of 42MBF.  
Anjolene would like follow-up on why that happened.
- 2023 target: 45MBF.

#### **Recreation Update**

- Trail bridge on Blue Lake #271 Trail funded by Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA).
- Received \$153,000 of grant funding for motorized trails through the Recreation Conservation Office.
- Received Title II grants for two Wilderness Rangers.
- Supported the Discovery Team from White Pass High School to work in the Woods Creek area.
- Enlisted Northwest Youth Corps for three weeks of wilderness trail maintenance.
- New or increased fees proposed for recreation sites after amenities are established or improved. Potential fee sites include: Big Creek and La WisWis Guard Stations and Burley Mountain Lookout. FS will use fee revenue to maintain sites.
- 132 of 550 miles of trails maintained, even with no trail crew last year. This shows how important volunteer trail crew work is to recreation. Volunteer groups included: GP Trash Force, Washington Conservation Corps, Discovery Team, NW Youth Corps, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Backcountry Horsemen, Washington Trails Association, Volunteers of Lewis Trails, Northwest Motorcycle Association, Southwest Off-Road Riders Association.

#### **Great American Outdoor Act Funding**

- FS Road 90 contract for \$100,000.
- Road repairs on FS Road 25.
- La WisWis water system improvements.
- Improved Aquatic Organism Passages (AOP) on Camp, Lammy, Cobble, Dry, and Yellowjacket Creeks.

#### **Other projects**

- Decommissioned roads 4400026, 4400032, and 460025, with the Pinchot Partner EA.
- Removed 1500 danger trees on FS Roads 55, 77, 28, 81, 83, 57 and 58.
- Completed brushing over all of FS road 52, partnering with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.
- Graded FS Roads 21, 23, and 56, with 75 percent completed. Work will resume this spring.
- Installed windows in the bunkhouse and an office gate in Randle.

## Vegetation Management

- Thinned 98 acres of Western White Pine, Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, funded from Bromo timber sale. 46 of those acres were an Assisted-Migration planting using stock from varying elevation bands.
- Surveyed 144 acres for natural regeneration on active timber sales for volunteer seedlings after sales.
- Surveyed 21 recently-planted acres to check on seedling health.
- Collected 3 bushels of Western Red Cedar cones to use for replanting.
- Partnered with Lewis County and Washington Conservation Corps to complete 270 acres of invasive species treatments.
- Updated species list on the GPNF to 2700 species, which includes mosses, liverwort, lichens, mushrooms and other vascular plants. Inventory done through volunteer effort.

## Special products permits

- Types: Bear grass, salal, mushrooms, berries, transplants and cones, firewood and posts, rails and poles.
- Generated \$334,640 in revenue from 2,827 permits for CVRD.
- Gifford Pinchot is the largest supplier of special forest products in the U.S.
- Question: How many citations are being issued to folks who are poaching.
- **Discussion:** Consider seeking grant money to pay for an economic analysis of the influence that special products have on the community. Josh Chapman is interested in partnering with us to seek a grant.

## Fire

- FS responded to 23 fires on the north zone in 2022.
- Performed prescribed fire for fuels management on 704+ acres in 2022.
- Goat Rocks fire is still active, with 66% contained. Presently, 6,196 acres have burned. Jennifer anticipates an October-December announcement of full containment.
- Fire-related road/trail closures based on FS #1 value: protecting the community. Soil instability, snags, etc. present danger to hikers. Suppression repair is ongoing. FS plans to host a public meeting in April or May in Packwood to talk about road closure orders. Jennifer said there will be a small change to the road closure order soon.

## Micro-Education Topics

Theresa would like to schedule micro-education topics for future meetings and welcomes input/prioritization of topics such as:

- Fire overview in Western Washington
- Overview of the prescribed fire for forest management and fuel reduction'
- Firewise Communities
- Goat Rocks' Fire
- October/November - status update once it is considered out
- Updates to NEPA: Changes in policy and categorical exclusion
- Implementation: How the work gets done and funding mechanisms.
- Highlight on our many trail partner volunteer organizations
- Socio-economics in timber sales
- Climate change and drought
- Migration-assisted planting strategies
- Root rot (field trip suggestion)

- Identify gaps or needs of Forest Service. How can we help get work done?
- Monitoring on timber sales (TSA/TMA)
- Overview of data sets that the FS is collecting
- Specialist presentations

**DNR Update: Sean Tran, District Manager Southwest District, WA Department of Natural Resources**  
Part of the Forest Resilience Division, focused on restoration projects on Federal lands, funded by the Good Neighbor Authority.

[Slideshow link.](#)

### **DNR Purpose**

- Sean’s team implements restoration work focused on Federal lands specifically through post-NEPA-approved timber sale management.
- Revenue from these DNR sales is used for restoration work on the forest from which it came. Some funding is provided by the Good Neighbor Authority.
- **Kevin Carlson** is Lead Restoration Specialist on the GP, and started in mid-November.
- Sean shared new funding mechanisms. Breaking work into smaller contracts will allow small, local businesses to bid on and perform some of the work.

### **Progress**

- 2020: 1 staff member, 1 contract type, 1 restoration project that completed 10 miles of road treatment, and yielded 3MBF to generate \$800,000.
- Today: 4+ staff members, 7 contract types, 12 restoration projects, more than 100 miles of road work contracted, 6 AOPs installed, and harvested 31MBF, which will generate approximately \$9 million.

## **BREAK**

**Watershed Overview: J.D. Jones, FS**

[Slideshow link.](#)

### **Backlog of Needs**

- Forest-wide, there are 200 known barriers on roads that need hydro-stabilizing: closing roads, pulling culverts, and removing anything that adds sediment to streams.
- In the Cowlitz District, Yellowjacket and Camp are priority locations for work based on watershed indicators such as: terrestrial and aquatic biological metrics, water temperature, road density, wood complexity, and fish barriers. Yellowjacket is considered operating “at risk.”

### **In-progress and planned creek restorations**

- Yellowjacket work plan (once EA is signed): Restore 6 miles of stream, 5 miles of which we want to add wood, 8 miles of road closures and hydro-stabilizing, and two main barriers to replace with open-bottom arch Aquatic Organism Passages (AOPs).
- Camp Creek: Continue instream restoration work (adding wood) in Cispus River, working with CFC.

- Woods Creek watchable wildlife area: Remove bulk of canary grass before we introduce beavers or install analog dams. The area was treated by mowing and applying herbicide.
- Work funded in part by: Cowlitz Recovery Fund (\$14 million), given to the Cowlitz Tribe as compensation for the Mossyrock dam; and Legacy Roads Bill (\$250 million-nationwide) for AOPs, trails, roads, and watershed restoration.

### **Vegetation Management**

- JD submitted a separate forest-wide vegetation management EA, so work doesn't need to wait for the site-specific timber-sale focused EAs. He is focused on acquiring more funding now.

### **Partnerships**

- FS is working with partners such as Cascade Forest Conservancy, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and DNR.
- Pinchot Partners members offered backstories on various work areas.

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

Minutes prepared by Constance Mears and Sharon Hanna.

Notes taken by Constance Mears.