



Pinchot Partners

F O R E S T C O L L A B O R A T I V E

August Meeting Notes Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9am-11:30am St. Mary's, Toledo, WA & Zoom

In attendance.

PP Staff: Janene Ritchie, Sarah Yeoman; *PP Board:* John O'Brien, John Squires, David Owen, Anjolene Ngari*, Ashley Short*, Matt Cominsky, Bob Guenther, Amy Boyd*; *PP Advisory Group:* *US Forest Service:* Theresa Tanner, Dusty Vaughn*; *Fish & Wildlife:* Elliot Johnson, Deidre Hayward; *DNR:* Andrew Spaeth*; Jessica Hudec*, Dalton Fry, Sheryl Hall*, Elizabeth Squires, Christina Donehower*,

Today's Agenda. Agenda updated to include time for reviewing July field tour notes. MOTION to approve: Bob Guenther; Second: John Squires; CARRIED.

July Field Tour Notes. Review of missing names in field tour notes and reviewing field discussions. Discussion on language details and questions brought up during field tour. MOTION to approve: David Owen; second: Anjolene Ngari; CARRIED

Treasurer's Report, Ashley Short. Checking account balance is \$76,948.83. Credit card balance is \$0.

- Most spending on the account has been around Fungi Fest – merch to sell (half coming from Fungi Fest budget, half from general fund), etc. Fungi Fest tickets sold: \$570. \$4750 in sponsorships received; paid \$983 in Fungi Fest expenses.
- The original Fungi Fest budget had an error – estimated revenue from tickets is \$20,000, not \$2000. If we meet that goal, expected revenue after expenses is between \$20,000 - \$24,000

MOTION to approve: John Squires; second: Matt Cominsky. CARRIED.

Action Items:

- **Approving updated bylaws and operations manual.** Not a lot changed, just clarified items. Changed requirements for becoming a board member. General advisory committee is now called general membership. Ensured documents were consistent with changes and added information about executive director role. MOTION to approve: John Squires, Second: David Owen. CARRIED

Forest Service Updates, Theresa Tanner

- Aug 26th is deadline for comment to the USDA for reorganization of the agency. Ask that either the collaborative or individuals or groups submit comment. Collaborative agreed to submit comments separately.
- Being asked to increase volume. They are at less than a third or a quarter of the staff depending on what sector.
- Changes in tools to implement: Feds want to streamline processes. Memo under emergency determination situation mapped out forest service lands at greater risk of fire, disease or pests. Opportunity to propose increasing forest service lands to add lands to ESD. Looking at what the criteria are and potentially submit a proposal to include some of the Packwood area. Group discussion on what streamlined ESD processes might look like.
- Forest Service wanted to use CE process even before direction change to implement risk reduction around the Packwood community quickly. Time limit for an EA is now 1 year for implementation. This shuffles where Forest Service can start the clock on prep work.
- Huckleberry updates: Not seeing camps they have in the past. Didn't hire the 1039's so no forest protection offers out like typical. Worried about the enforcement piece but so far haven't had any issues. Positive input from group seeing abundant berries and not running into commercial pickers, but did see multiple officers. Will be looking for feedback from Tribes and personal pickers.
- Discussion on special use permits and community impact with Forest Service resources.
- Updates on recent fires and fire conditions.

Operations Updates, Janene Ritchie

- Forestwide Plantation Thinning EA received objections, including Pinchot Partners so we can have a seat at the table in the discussion. Other parties include South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative, some of our members. Also objections from Wild Earth Guardians and Sierra Club. Objection meeting will take place the week of September 15.
- Grant application updates - Cowlitz Tribal Foundation for \$50,000 submitted. Applied for network from landscape conservation for \$20,000. App for national forest foundation collaborative capacity program for \$33,000. Anticipates it will be very competitive. Should hear from those between October and December. Bob Guenther suggested Gesa Credit Union has a grant program. Knows someone on the grant committee who has indicated they want to put money into local orgs. Another grant opportunity through the National Forest Foundation matching awards foundation, but not sure if survey would fall under that and not sure about timing, but Janene is looking into it. When that portal opens later that year, she will see if that could help cover land survey work.
- Community wildfire preparedness event on July 30 - thanks to Andrew for putting that together. Good turn out and good conversations.
- Elizabeth Squires: six week Discovery team - team of five did nine picnic tables and Blue Lake Creek campground. Couple of days of managing invasive plants, nine miles of trail brushing, 500 sand bags, trash pick up, huckleberry surveys, and meadow work in Midway.
- Janene is having a meeting with folks who have experience with youth and other crews, the elements are there but we haven't been able to get them to coalesce with each other. Janene would love to have someone from Glacier Peak Institute present about the youth

crew to the partners. Then get CFC and Elizabeth and PP and maybe someone from GPI to talk about what this could be in the future. Meeting of the minds to make something like this happen.

- Fungi Fest updates: Exceeded sponsorship goal! Can now concentrate on ticket sales and spreading the word. Janene will send out an email to share. Also secure vendors for vendor market. Speakers and event flow almost finalized. Discounts for military and seniors. In honor of Pete, offering local mycological club one free scholarship to attend the festival. There will be forays each day and have gotten locations and coordinates to the Forest Service and waiting to hear about permits.
- Next month's meeting will be here. Field tour in October in Packwood about fire history of the area.
- Packwood trail days Aug 22
- CFC Forest Fest Sept 6
- Mt St Helens Boots and Bowties is on Oct 11

Roundtable Updates

- Request to put old newsletters on the website

Meeting adjourned 11:09 a.m. : Minutes prepared by Sarah Yeoman