



Pinchot Partners

FOREST COLLABORATIVE

July Meeting Notes Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9am-11:30am St. Mary's, Toledo, WA & Zoom

In attendance. * indicates participant attended meeting through Zoom
PP Staff: Janene Ritchie; *PP Board:* John O'Brien, Ashley Short*, Anjolene Ngari, Matt Comisky, David Owen*, Bill Little, Andrew Spaeth*; *PP Advisory Group:* Gina Owen*, Christina Donehower*, Dalton Fry, Ryan Ojerio, Deidre Hayward, Jessica Hudek*; *US Forest Service:* Quentin Hall, Josh Chapman; *Washington DNR:* Justin Tamez; *National Forest Foundation:* Anna Nakea*

Today's Agenda. MOTION to approve: David Owen; second Bill Little. CARRIED.

April Meeting Minutes. MOTION to approve: Bill Little; second Matt Comisky. CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report, Ashley Short. Checking account balance is \$16,744.06. Credit card balance is \$0. MOTION to approve: Fred Norman; second: Anjolene Ngari. CARRIED.

Action Items. Janene will distribute slide decks (completed) and schedule meetings for Zones of Agreement and By Laws subcommittees (completed)

Programming Meeting

Forest Wide Plantation Thinning and Potential Control Lines Environmental Assessment

Slide Deck, Josh Chapman.

Plantation thinning – 200,000 acres of previously regenerated plantation stands from 35-77 years in adaptive management area, Late Successional Reserve, and matrix. Prioritize oldest stands before they age out. Will start with targeted areas near good road access.

Potential Control Line – no longer potential operational delineation. Only treating road systems that define the watershed boundaries. 500 ft on either side of 500 miles of roads: noncommercial, less than 8" diameter; piling and burning.

No more than 1,000 acres per year – treatment area is ~59,000 acres. Can expand beyond this in emergency situations.

Group expressed concerns around the acreage limits per year and would like to see a focus on a mosaic of age classes rather than a uniform prescription across acres. Group also expressed gratitude for leadership of Josh and the GP in pursuing this EA, which should help the forest reach timber targets annually.

Washington Trails Association update on work in the Cowlitz Valley

Slide Deck, Ryan Ojerio.

"Trails for everyone forever" / responsible recreation, routing people to less used areas. *Can we package trail work with retained receipts? Interested in staying connected where our work intersects and building relationships.*

In 2023: 3,560 volunteers; 152,000 hours of trail work; 290 trails across the state

Work on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District: Annual Maintenance & Construction on Covell Creek Reroute near Randle; Iron Creek Campground & Woods creek log out; Angry Mountain, Carlton Creek, Lost Lake, Nannie Ridge. More proactive lately – higher level of training/advanced skillset needed – hosted chain saw/sawyer/bucking/felling training at Cispus Center

Planning & Advocacy: Silver Star visioning plan to steward landscape collaboratively; Packwood Trail Project: trails near town, lower elevation; Gifford Pinchot Sustainable Trails plan – Angry Mountain/Jordan Creek loop (keeping up with annual maintenance); Coldwater Trails Plan near Mt. St. Helens: partnership with Mt St Helens Institute & Cowlitz Tribe - conceptual right now, making it shovel ready, connect Coldwater learning center with hummocks trail and boat launch.

Forest Service Updates, Quentin Hall

- French Butte seed orchard: DNR is doing inventories. This orchard is mainly white bark pine.
- The Gifford Pinchot Resource Advisory Committee is recruiting new members
- Fire restrictions: No open campfires, only in rings/designated campsites
- Hiring Freeze: the Forest Service is \$7.5 million over on salary budget. National hiring freeze, no outside applicants hired, only internal transfers for the foreseeable future (1-2 years)

Operations Updates, Janene Ritchie

- Sarah Yeoman will be our new Communications Coordinator, starting August 6th.
- Working with Mountain View CPA on our 2023-2024 taxes, due November 15th
- Expect emails rebooting the Zones of Agreement and Bylaws subcommittees
- National Forest Foundation Collaborative Capacity Grant: PP submitted a request of \$40,000 for professionally facilitated strategic plan and funding diversification strategy
- Janene on family vacation from July 22nd – 29th

Roundtable Updates

- John O'Brien joined the National Old Growth Amendment field tour recently
- Justin Tamez: Grey Towers timber sale contract is with the forest service for review, will go out for advertisement at the end of July.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10am. Minutes prepared by Janene Ritchie