



# Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

**MARCH 15, 2023 | 9:00 AM-11:30 AM**

Location: St Mary's Mission, Toledo, WA and via Zoom\*

## 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\*, Bob Guenther *Staff:* Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears  
*USFS:* Theresa Tanner\*, CVRD Ranger; Josh Chapman.

*Guests and Visitors:* Andrew Spaeth\*, DNR; Peter Sandifer, aide to Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez; Anna Baklund\*, Lewis Trails; Christina Donehower\*, CIT Tribe Natural Resources Department; Dalton Fry, CIT Natural Resources Department; Sheryl Hall\*, GP Trash Force; Brooke Squires, Packwood resident; Gina Owen, Randle resident\*, Kevin Carlson, DNR; Greg LaDue Grove, CIT.

## Introductions

## BUSINESS MEETING

**Today's agenda.** John O'Brien asked that we revisit the new mission statement to reconsider changing sustainable recreation to responsible recreation. Janene will add to the April Agenda.

MOTION to approve: John O'Brien. 2nd: David Owen. **CARRIED.**

**February meeting minutes.** MOTION to approve: John Squires. 2nd: Ashley Short. **CARRIED.**

**Treasurer's report.** David Owen: Current balance of **\$9,104.92**. MasterCard is at zero balance.

Janene: Money from WA Department of Natural Resources and Title II funds from the Forest Service will be invoiced in March 2023. MOTION to approve: John O'Brien. 2nd: Anjolene Ngari. **CARRIED.**

## Action items / Key Tasks

**Janene** will add revisiting the mission statement language around recreation to the April operations meeting agenda.

✓ Due: April 12, 2023. Status: Completed.

**Janene** will add a station planning segment to the April Operations meeting.

✓ Due: April 12, 2023. Status: Completed.

**Theresa Tanner** will get a date for the Skate Creek Clean-up event to Sheryl Hall.

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

## **PROGRAMMING MEETING**

**Strategic Priorities update: Janene Ritchie**

**Mission statement:** *"The Pinchot Partners work within the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and surrounding areas, to promote watershed health, create quality local jobs, and encourage sustainable recreation."*

2023-24 Priorities with examples of related projects:

- Engage *meaningfully* with Forest Service: Zones of Agreement position statements; Yellowjacket - Skate Creek EAs and implementation; Micro-education at meetings.
- Promote and advocate for local jobs: FS jobs workshops; address housing issue; find funds for an economic study of how special forest products impact local communities.
- Maintain consistency between FS turnovers: Create a transition document.
- Community Stewardship Education opportunities: Leave No Trace event; Complete Tree round display project; Help reinstate the Discovery Team program.
- Build and maintain strong collaborative relationships.

The goal is to complete by June 2023, a new strategic plan that will identify measurable deliverables under these overarching priorities. We will then update the operations manual to reflect the new focus.

Suggested additions:

- Aid the forest service in meeting its targets and hold them accountable.
- Prioritize timber jobs to ensure the mill stays open.
- Connect with Chase Buffington at Cispus Learning Center to explore outreach opportunities.
- Establish post-project, "lessons learned" sessions to celebrate wins and identify areas for improvement.

### **Tree round project update: Bob Guenther**

Bob has contacted the ESD for funds to cover the cost of coasters and plywood. The wood rounds need to be sanded. Bob has located a production company for the design work.

### **20th Anniversary Celebration: Janene Ritchie**

A public event is being planned for June 21, 2023 in either Packwood or Morton.

Site suggestions:

- Longmire Springs Brewing, Packwood.
- White Pass Country Museum, Packwood.
- Morton Community Hall, Morton
- John Squires offered to give a tour of the Grove of Matriarchs if the event is held in Randle.

Partner organizations will each create and man a station for the first hour. The group will then assemble for a 30-minute presentation that includes an overview video of the history of the group and a message from Janene and Pete Krabbe. An official anniversary group photo will be taken.

Suggestions for tables: Locals, Hampton Lumber, CFC, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, AFRC, GP Trash Force, DNR, Forest Service, PP Founding members, Sustainable Recreation, Congressional table, White Pass Discovery Team, Mount St Helens Institute, and WSU.

Janene will add a station planning session to the April Operations meeting.

**Communications Update: Constance Mears**

Constance submitted an Artist Licensing Agreement to Pinchot Partners that establishes her copyrights on original artwork she creates for the Field Notes social media series. MOTION to approve Constance's Artist Licensing Agreement: John O'Brien. 2nd: Anjolene Ngari. **CARRIED.**

**Logo.**

Constance presented the final round of logos, urging the Board to select option #4. MOTION to approve logo #4: Ashley Short. 2nd: Anjolene Ngari. **CARRIED.**

**Forest Service Update: Theresa Tanner, Cowlitz Valley Ranger**

**Staffing.**

Four new employees: 3 permanent, fire crew-related, and includes a ranger for the Packwood Lake area. Other positions, such as trails crew, drew zero applicants. The FS would like direct local hiring but is prohibited by FS procedures.. The Agency is aware that hiring is an issue. Other rangers are also addressing it. Theresa will share other plans for hiring soon.

Elizabeth Robinson who was the NEPA lead for Yellowjacket has taken a detail in Carson, New Mexico. Currently there are five NEPA lead positions on the GPNF. Last attempt to fill the open position failed to recruit. The FS is leasing the Packwood Bunkhouse and creating RV pads to provide housing for new hires.

**Outreach.**

The FS is planning a public meeting on May 3, 2023 at the Community Center in Packwood to address the Goat Rocks Fire. The presenters will include some external personnel from EMS and Firewise. Cheyenne presented Cowlitz Valley specific information at Centralia College in February. Theresa will be at the Mountain Goat in Packwood at 10:30 am Friday, March 17 to chat with local residents.

**Recreation.**

An amazing trails coalition is growing. OHV (Off-Highway Vehicles) group seems underrepresented in the collaborative.

**Trash Force: Sheryl Hall**

Skate Creek clean up is a volunteer annual event that needs a solid date from the Forest Service as soon as possible. The contract was handled by Andrea Durham. Theresa will look into this.

**Operations Update: Janene Ritchie**

The Gifford Pinchot Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met on Thursday and Friday, March 9-10 and voted to partially fund our request. The agreement will fund \$50,000 for the next year, which will pay for part of Janene and Constance's contracts and \$20,000 going to CFC Gifford Stewards.

**Other business:**

None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20  
Minutes prepared by Sharon Hanna  
Notes taken by Constance Mears