



Pinchot Partners

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

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

In attendance.

PP Staff: Janene Ritchie

PP Board: John O'Brien, John Squires, Ashley Short, Bob Guenther, David Owen, Fred Norman, Bill Little, Andrew Spaeth*

PP Advisory Group: Sheryl Hall*, GP Trash Force; Gina Owen*; Brook Squires; Anna Baklund*, Christina Donehower*

US Forest Service: David O'Neil, Cheyenne Adamonis

** indicates participant attended meeting through Zoom*

Today's agenda. MOTION to approve: Fred Norman; second David Owen. CARRIED. MOTION to record Zoom meetings for note taking purposes. John Squires; second: David Owen. CARRIED.

Annual Meeting Minutes. Action Items: Edit notes for clarity; include a glossary for abbreviations/acronyms. MOTION to approve with edits: David Owen; Second Bob Guenther. CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report, Ashley Short. Checking account balance is \$18,291.85. Credit card balance is \$0. More detailed expenses will be provided at operations committee meetings. MOTION to approve: John Squires; second: Bill Little. CARRIED.

Action Items

Janene will edit annual meeting notes for clarity; include a glossary for abbreviations/acronyms

Janene will post Earth Day event flyer

John Squires will connect Janene with the White Pass teacher who instructs the forestry class

Programming Meeting

Fuels presentation, David O'Neil. Slide Deck

David is the fuels planner for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Role focuses on planning, not implementation.

Key takeaways, directly from David's email on 4/18/24:

- David facilitated a generalized discussion of fuels management, the concept, tools and strategic approach.
- Forest type & vegetation regrowth rates influences approach.
- Upcoming projects: Skate Creek and Packwood - will analyze potential operational delineation (PODs) boundaries as potential control locations (PCLs), forest boundaries & proximity to the wildland urban interface (WUI) to determine where/ how to treat.
- Challenges are several but include funding and organizational workforce capacity. Building this program will take time, but it is a priority of the Ranger and Forest Supervisor.

From presentation/notes:

- Always asking the question: “Does our perception match reality?”
- Fuels planning touches all disciplines
- Manipulating fuels can affect future fire behavior; increase opportunities for success in suppression operations; and shift a treated area to lower fuel models.
- What we do not accomplish through proactive fuels management falls on our fire crews to address in active wildfires

Forest Service Updates, Cheyenne Adamonis.

- 2025 Program of Work: specialists are submitting projects for the program of work to be discussed at forest level
- New forest silviculturist: set to begin June 12; position has been vacant since July 2022
- Administrative review of Yellowjacket EA: in progress. May 9th is end of 45 day resolution period. Will have to review recent old growth policy update before signature.
- Underplanting 317 acres with cedar and white pine in Blue and Tigre sales areas
- French Butte Seed Orchard: Noble fire, white pine. Management includes planned fuel breaks around orchard. Area geneticist based out of Olympia is involved.
- April 29th & 30th: Red Alder study site on Tongue Mountain, 27 year measurement dates
- May 4th: Forest Service will be at the Packwood Mountain Festival
- May 9th: District day with White Pass elementary (k-3)
- June: 9 Onalaska High School students will be on the forest doing work; Seasonal on boarding begins in June

Operations Updates, Janene Ritchie.

- Communications Hiring and By Laws Subcommittees will be starting beginning next week.
- Tuesday, June 18th: DNR Forest Health Advisory committee will be visiting Packwood for a field trip focused on the Greater Packwood/Skate Creek Landscape Analysis
- Wednesday, June 19th: Pinchot Partners field trip with Derek Churchill.
- John O, Anjolene, and Janene had a productive conversation with Josh Chapman, Mary Bresee, and Bryce Michaelis regarding how we can assist in filling vacancies in the timber sales admin shop. This conversation provided clarity to our efforts in jobs/hiring workshops and outreach events to local students & residents. John Squires noted that there is a forestry class at White Pass High School and will connect us with the teacher.
- Peter Sandifer provided an update regarding staffing in Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez’s office. We may not have a consistent staff member; he and Janene are strongly advocating that the collaboratives have a consistent point of contact.

Roundtable Updates

- *Bob, tree round project*: Brought signs for stands, need final decision by Theresa regarding how to proceed with Forest Service logo (QR code or cut it off)
- *Gina*: Earth Day clean up/celebration at Longmire Springs – Monday, April 22nd
- *Sheryl*: May 9th, 9am – Trash Force clean up!

Meeting adjourned at 11:32am. Minutes prepared by Janene Ritchie