

McKenzie Stewardship Group Meeting Notes*

May 16, 2008 2:00 pm—4:30 pm

Upper McKenzie Community Center

*Revisions from 1st Draft are in Blue Text

Participants:

Bill Barton	Native Forest Council
Chandra LeGue	Oregon Wild
George Regas	USFS, McKenzie River Ranger District
Jeff Trejo	Willamette National Forest
Jim Baker	Blue River CDC
Johan Hogervorst	USFS, Willamette National Forest Supervisor's Office
Karl Morgenstern	Eugene Water and Electric Board
Kurt Steele	USFS, McKenzie River Ranger District
Larry Six	McKenzie Watershed Council
Marcus Kauffman	Resource Innovations
Mary Allison	USFS, McKenzie River RD
Monty Wilson	Blue River Resident
Nancy Toth	Eugene Water and Electric Board
Penny Harris	USFS, McKenzie River RD
Rachel Barton-Russel	Infraspect Environmental Auditing
Ryan Ojerio	Resource Innovations
Shane Kamrath	USFS, McKenzie River RD
Steve Northway	Lost Valley
William Blair	Infraspect Environmental Auditing

Upcoming Events

	Date	Time	Location
Stewardship Group Field Trip	Friday, June 27th	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	TBD
Stewardship Group Meeting	<i>Tentative</i> Thursday, July 24th	5:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Vida-McKenzie Community Center (<i>Pending confirmation</i>)

Updates and Announcements

Bridge Thin project update

Jeff Trejo, the Stewardship Coordinator for the Willamette National Forest, gave an update on the Bridge Thin Project. Due to current conditions in the market for timber, the Forest Service has decided not to offer sales from the Bridge Thin Project as [\(Integrated Resource Timber Contracts- IRTC\)](#) Stewardship contracts at this time. Rather, the initial offerings will be traditional timber [sale](#) contracts. Future sales from Bridge Thin may be offered as Stewardship contracts in 2009 and 2010 if market conditions improve by then.

Because timber prices are so low at this time, it is possible that a Stewardship contract would not even yield sufficient timber value to cover the restoration service projects included on the Service side of the “Goods for Service” authority. In an IRTC, the value of the timber is used to offset the cost of the service projects. A traditional timber sale (TSC) contract and an IRTC both establish Base Rates. The Base Rates for a TSC may be established at a higher value than for an IRTC. The price of the timber may not drop below the established Base Rates due to de-escalation or rate re-determinations in either an IRTC or a TSC. The Base Rates must be paid for in cash. In the case of an IRTC, only the timber value in excess of the Base Rate amount may be used to off set the cost of the Service (restoration) projects. If the rates in an IRTC drop to the Base Rate value, there would be no timber value to pay for any service (restoration) projects on the Service side of the Goods for Service. Jeff noted that both Stewardship contracts and Traditional Timber contracts are tools to achieve a goal. He said that regardless of which tool is used, the intent is to meet the purpose and need as identified in Bridge Thin EA.

Mary noted that there are a lot of acres in the Bridge Thin Project and anticipates at least six sales will be offered over the next few years. Depending on the economy in the near future, there may be opportunities to offer some of these as Stewardship contracts. She also expressed the hope that this group would continue to be a constructive venue for people to engage with the Forest Service in land management decisions, even if they may not be able to implement a Stewardship project in the short term.

One participant asked if the Forest Service had quantified how much they anticipated losing in the layout and NEPA planning of the sales. Jeff responded that no figure has been calculated, but that such an analysis would also have to account for the benefits that have been identified in the purpose and need of the project. The participant commented that the value of leaving the trees standing would also have to be included.

Another participant asked if funds from a project could be carried over and accumulated for future restoration work, even if they were insufficient at the time of the project. Jeff said the Forest Service prefers to not carry over funds, but rather see them go to projects, but he’d have to have some discussions to find out if it would be possible.

Jeff noted that one concern with the depressed market is the loss of capacity in the workforce to do the type of restoration work that is needed in the forest as people look to other industries for employment opportunities.

Group Agreement

At the last meeting, discussions where at times heated. Therefore, Ryan facilitated a discussion to list suggestions to clarify the group’s shared expectations for participation. During the discussion the group agreed to use these agreements as guidelines that the participants “should” adhere to rather than ones that participants “shall” follow. Another point that was raised, which could become a future agenda item, was the question of how to represent those who are not at the meeting, e.g. absent members or the public at large, in order to recognize perspectives that are absent from the table.

The following list was generated by the group to serve as a “1st draft” to be discussed and refined at a future meeting as necessary.

- Group agreements “should” be followed.
- Seek civility.
- Involve other folks, too.
- Identify other realms.
- Membership is open, folks can come and go.

- Figure out how to bring new folks in, if necessary.
- Embrace agreements and discuss disagreements.
- Agree to disagree.
- Seek understanding and common ground.
- Offer solutions.
- Be committed.
- Keep discussions pertinent.
- Honor agreements made in the group.
- Listen actively.
- Be respectful of opinions.
- Be recognized before speaking.
- No personal attacks.
- Use humor.

Terms and Definitions

Participants at the last meeting put a high priority on defining terms. To start that process, Ryan asked participants to generate a list of terms they would like to clarify. A participant suggested that they have some time to consider which terms they would like to clarify and also time to look for references. Another suggested that the interest and values discussion would help to highlight terms that need to be clarified.

One participant asked what authority this group has to define these terms and noted that they are already defined in many instances in legislation and policy guidelines. Ryan reflected the question to the group and someone noted that it is important for this group to decide what they think the terms mean and how they ought to be used in the group's discussions.

The group agreed to take on the task of generating a list of terms and looking for relevant references. Ryan agreed to collect people's suggestions and make these available on the website and for the next meeting. The following is a list of the terms that the group identified as a starting point.

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • thinning | • plantation |
| • climate change | • riparian |
| • forest health | • restoration |
| • natural conditions | • local |
| • collaboration | • mitigation |
| • sustainability | • value added |
| • constructive dialogue | • ecosystem services |
| • old growth | • stewardship |

Interests and Values

Next, Marcus facilitated a discussion of interests and values that would be a foundation for establishing the group's vision statement and goals. Each group member was asked to state their interest or values in a positive statement. The exercise resulted in the following list. Marcus then tasked the members with writing a one-sentence vision statement that captures the group's core interests and values and communicates what the group is about.

There were many areas of overlap where participants shared and supported the interests of others in the group. In particular, many participants expressed an interest in the restoration of plantation stands and the protection and enhancement of water quality in the watershed.

- Collaborate to share ideas and create positive outcomes.
- Develop strategies for the future and a lab for adaptive management to demonstrate and communicate results.
- Demonstrate genuine collaboration.
- Use prescribed fire as a tool to manage forests.
- Restore plantations to (Late Successional Reserve) LSR trajectory.
- Manage the forest to sustain and protect water quality.
- Learn about forestry.
- Manage for [fish and](#) wildlife.
- Protect public lands from subsidized extractions and mis-management.
- Allow the lands to recover and achieve true restoration and remove roads.
- Maintain natural functional biodiversity.
- Maintain recreation and scenic values.
- Create community participation in land management.
- Shift management to maintain core values.
- Ensure land use change maintains and protects values and water.
- Promote sustainable management with timber output.
- Capitalize on education opportunities youth and others.
- Remove invasive weeds to help native plants communities.
- Create local value added projects.
- Learn about forest management.
- Form public and private partnerships.
- Promote local participation in the management of public lands.
- Develop collaborative projects.
- Protect and enhance water quality in the basin.
- Protect the wildness of the watershed.
- Restore and rehabilitate forests to natural conditions.
- Provide forest jobs.

Defining Goals

Goals are specific outcomes or conditions that can be achieved that support the overall vision of the group. Marcus asked group members to describe a goal for the group, framed as a positive statement of a desired future condition. Participants created the following list that will be a starting point for future discussion to narrow, clarify or prioritize the group's goals.

- There is open communication and the community participates in the planning process.
- The group accomplishes a demo project that builds the group's cohesion.
- Water quality on public and private lands is restored.
- Individual interest, ideas, and energies create synergy ("build a rope").
- There is an integrated strategy that provides a roadmap to 2055 at the landscape level

- There is a diverse group that finds the middle ground and implements projects.
- There is a group that plants a seed of integrity in land management.
- There is a stop to corporate extraction and extreme compromise in forestry management.
- Information is captured and used for adaptive management.
- There is agreement in how to protect and restore the watershed.
- The focus shifts to plantation and managed stands and bigger picture restoration objectives.
- There is a change in the management paradigm to the “least harm” criteria.
- Timber manipulations are done for fish, wildlife, silviculture, wildfire risk reduction and water quality protection.
- Public and private lands are restored.
- People are educated about forests and natural restoration.

Plan Stewardship Group Field Trip

The date for the field trip was confirmed for Friday, June 27th from 9am -3 pm. Transportation will be provided; location to be determined. Ryan shared a list of topics that he developed from previous meetings. Monty Wilson and George Regas offered to work together to develop an itinerary for the trip. The list of topics is:

- Areas proposed for thinning.
- Examples of different types of thinning.
- Areas that have been thinned.
- Areas in need of restoration (besides silviculture treatments).
- Roads in need of restoration/closure.
- Roads that have been treated.
- Areas proposed for prescribed fire.
- Areas previously treated with fire.
- Areas in need of restoration to improve wildlife habitat.

Next Meeting

Since the group has a field trip in June, they agreed to not have a group meeting. Then next group meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 4th Thursday in July (24th) from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Vida-McKenzie Community Center.

Next Steps

- Group members will think of terms that the group should discuss and clarify and pass on any relevant references for Ryan to compile and make available on the website.
- Group members will write a one-sentence vision statement and bring with them to the next group meeting.
- Monty and George will take the lead on developing an itinerary for the field trip.

