

Hood River Stewardship Collaborative Meeting

June 15, 2016

Facilitator's Summary

The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings.

Action Item	Responsible Party	By When?
Provide draft meeting summary to Stew Crew for edits	Emily	6/22
Incorporate edits to Stew Crew's Purpose & Objectives – provide to group	Emily	6/22
Coordinate Waucoma Field Trip	Field Trip Sub Group	6/23
Invite FID, HRATS, HR News on field trip	Emily	6/23
Provide meeting summary edits to Emily	Stew Crew	6/28
Draft proposal for TA request – provide to group	TA Sub Group	7/13
Draft language for Stew Crew's Charter – representation & participation	Ann Dow	7/13
Coordinate printing of large map(s)	Cindy & Emily	7/20
Develop list of 'shared ecological goals'	Stew Crew	Later date

Present for all or part of the meeting: Jon Paul Anderson (High Cascade, Inc.), John Dodd (U.S. Forest Service), Sam Doak (Resident), Ann Dow (Resident), Cathy Flick (retired US Forest Service), Casey Gatz (US Forest Service), Keith Harding (HR Valley Resident Committee), Rick Larson (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation), Jay McLaughlin (Mount Adams Resource Stewards), Russ Plaeger (Bark), Rick Ragan (HR Soil & Water Conservation District), Ann Saxby (HR Soil and Water Conservation District), Cindy Thieman (HR Watershed Group)

Facilitator & Notes: Emily Plummer, DS Consulting

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator, Emily Plummer, welcomed everyone to the Hood River Stewardship Collaborative (Stew Crew) meeting, noting that the purpose of the session is to continue discussions on organizational structure and process, technical assistance needs for the summer field season, as well as the upcoming field trip.

May 18th Meeting Follow-up

The group reviewed and approved the May 18th Facilitator's Summary with strong consensus (all 1's and 2's). The final summary will be posted to the Stew Crew website.

As follow up to the May meeting, Emily noted that the first Waucoma field trip is scheduled for June 27th. This will be an all-day event. Recreation Specialists, Botanists and Planners from USFS will be present to provide information to the Stew Crew. Those interested in attending should RSVP to Emily. John Dodd, Rick Ragan, and Ann Saxby agreed to work together to coordinate the field trip, including the agenda for the day and logistics.

→ **ACTION:** John, Rick and Ann will coordinate the field trip and provide details to Emily. Information will be sent out to the Stew Crew prior to the field trip.

Technical Assistance for the 2016 Field Season

The group continued conversations regarding potential technical assistance (TA) for the 2016 field season. To inform the conversation, Cindy Thieman and John Dodd met briefly to discuss how the Stew Crew's technical assistance efforts can also provide benefit to the Forest Service. Additionally, Rick Ragan reviewed the 1996 Watershed Assessment to identify information gaps that could potentially be

addressed through the technical assistance grant. The group had rich discussion around what information is available in existing documents, what would be helpful to inform recommendations, and what will be gathered by the USFS prior to action on the ground. The group discussed evaluating options using criteria such as:

- How will this information be helpful to the Stew Crew?
- How will this information be helpful to the USFS?
- Will the information gathered be outdated by the time the USFS plans projects in the area?
- Is the USFS required to gather this information?

The following table was generated by the group during brainstorming:

Potential Survey	How would this help the Stew Crew?	Is this required by or helpful to the USFS?
Cultural resources	Provide social/cultural/historical information to inform recommendations	Beneficial because the information will not become outdated
Owl surveys	Inform where the Stew Crew should focus recommendations and what types of prescriptions may be appropriate	Required during project planning - FY 2018 (3-yr survey cycle required)
Red Tree Vole surveys	Inform where the Stew Crew should focus recommendations and what types of prescriptions may be appropriate	Required during project planning - FY 2018 (new RTV protocols implemented)
Road & stream crossings	Beneficial because the information will not become outdated	Required during project planning
Opportunity for huckleberry enhancement – identify old fields	Plant associations, opportunities for restoration, and cultural use would inform recommendation	Helpful to identify the plant associations; data will not become outdated
Forest health: Disease, insect damage, stand exams, late successional stands	Forest stand information was utilized in past Stew Crew recommendations – informs how forest can be made ‘healthier’	
Fire regime	Noted as historical impact to the area (1996 Watershed Analysis)	Not required, but would be helpful
Stream & riparian reserves	Information gathered will not be outdated before project planning	Required during project planning - FY 2018; Riparian Reserve information would be helpful
Recreation use patterns	Provide social/cultural information to inform recommendations	Jim Thorton (USFS) & Henry Buckaloo (HR County) may have information on recreation

The group discussed the sideboards of the technical assistance work. It was noted that the level of detail of data collected needs to take into account funding limitations – it is not possible to do an in depth stand exam on 6,000 acres with \$13,000. The group coalesced around the concept of ‘spot-checking’ or focusing surveys in areas of interest that are identified ahead of time. Additionally, the elevation of information desired was discussed: should the Stew Crew gather data on specific acres of land, or at a broader landscape level elevation?

Data limitations were pointed out, including that the available data is old and likely out of date. There were Environmental Assessments (EAs) conducted for activities in the planning area between 2000-2010; this is believed to be the most recent data. Casey Gatz agreed to search for the most recent EAs and provide those to the Stew Crew. The group was interested in looking into resources that have not yet been explored in depth and that may have helpful information, including:

- Red Tree Vole surveys – Eric Foresman (2000)
- Northwest Forest Plan 5-10 year Vegetation Updates
- Spatial data
- Stand age class maps

The group coalesced around the difficulty to determine how to use the TA funds at this point in the process because the group is not yet familiar with the Waucoma area. It was acknowledged that the group will have a better idea of the information needs after the field trip. Cindy pointed out that in the past, the Stew Crew has relied heavily on the stand conditions and fire regime data while forming recommendations; this information will likely be necessary for this planning process too. The group agreed that forest health, including disease, insect damage, fire regime, stand conditions and age is vital information and should be explored as a potential TA request.

- **CONSENSUS:** The group agreed with strong consensus (all 1's and 2's) to develop a draft technical assistance proposal that aims to incorporate information needs around forest health, including disease, insect damage, fire regime, stand conditions and age, and recreation use.

The group formed a TA sub-group to begin drafting a proposal for technical assistance needs for the 2016 field season. The work-group includes: Cindy, Rick Larson, Sam Doak, and Casey.

- **ACTION:** The TA sub-group will draft a proposal for technical assistance work focused on forest health and recreational use. They will also look into what information is currently available, including stand age data, vegetation updates (NWFP data updates), and EAs from 2000-2010. They will provide the Stew Crew with their draft at least a week prior to the July 20th meeting.

Russ Plaeger reminded the group that it is important to be intentional in using this project as a learning opportunity. This is a new process for both the Stew Crew and the USFS, being as the project Inter-disciplinary Team prioritized the Waucoma planning area two years prior to actively planning the project. It was suggested that the group consider a 'pre-work planning phase' during which the USFS provides some level of assistance in order to ensure meaningful work can be accomplished by the Stew Crew prior to the USFS project planning. **Emily noted that she will add this to the agenda for future discussion around lessons learned.**

Stew Crew Structure and Process

Emily thanked Huge McMahan, Tyson Bestone-Riggs, and Rick Larson for their efforts in drafting the Stew Crew's Purpose and Objectives following the May 15th conversation. The group reviewed and provided edits to the draft. There was discussion around the geographic region and content of the Stew Crew's work. The group felt that the geographic scope has historically been the Mt. Hood Forest, and the 'Hood River Valley' may be too broad. There was general agreement that the focus should be on forest lands.

There was concern that the content scope was too broad in stating that the Stew Crew provided recommendations on land management projects to landowners. Some felt that this suggested that the group would be providing unsolicited recommendations to landowners, which is not what the Stew Crew was established to do. Others noted the intention to take into consideration adjacent land management

practices when designing recommendations (landscape level approach), and to utilize opportunities to partner or provide support to public and private landowners alike. The example provided was using Retained Receipts to remove a barrier culvert on private lands. It was clarified that this is not intended to be a ‘commitment’ for neighboring landowners to engage with the Stew Crew, the intention is to invite participation and avoid limiting potential opportunities. The group seemed to feel more comfortable with this explanation, coupled with the shared desire to invite neighboring landowners and users to participate in the Stew Crew. It was agreed that Emily would incorporate the interests expressed into a second draft of the Purpose and Objectives and provide it to the group for edits. Jay McLaughlin, noted that there is currently a draft bill in the U.S. Senate – the draft Wildfire Budgeting Response and Forest Management Act of 2016 - that defines collaboration and may be of interest to the Stew Crew. The draft language can be found at:

http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=1C7CC535-A986-4B28-A56C-9F6B58BEBECB

→ **ACTION:** Emily will incorporate edits and provide another draft of the Purpose and Objective to the Stew Crew for review.

The group also discussed what ‘representation’ and ‘participation’ looks like for the Stew Crew. The group commonly felt that it is important to have regular participation in order to provide well informed and vetted recommendations. They pulled examples from other Collaboratives’ charters, noting that some require participants to be present at 2 of the last 3 meetings in order to participate in the consensus poll; others require 2 of 4, or 1 in the last four months. After the discussion the group agreed that in order to participate in a poll on recommendations, they need to have attended 2 of the last 4 meetings. The group agreed that field trips will be considered ‘meetings’ for this purpose. At that point, the group clarified that an agency or organization can have a designated ‘representative’ as well as an ‘alternate’, and that the alternate’s presence counts towards the participation requirement. The group explored the idea of using a ‘good faith agreement’ to memorialize representation, alternates and responsibilities of Stew Crew members.

→ **ACTION:** Ann Dow will draft the Representation and Participation section and ‘good faith agreement’ for the Charter; this will be provided to the group by July 13th for review.

It was clarified that USFS representatives are not permitted to participate in polling or voting on Collaboratives’ recommendations. However, other agency representatives may participate in polling or voting. It was generally agreed that the Stew Crew wants to encourage participation, be inclusive, and ensure that those participating in the process have the opportunity to provide input.

There was interest in inviting local recreational groups, Farmers Irrigation District, and Hood River County to participate in the Stew Crew, particularly for the Waucoma planning effort. Jay noted that he spoke with the County and is acting as their ‘eyes and ears’ at this point. Russ noted that he reached out to the Hood River Area Trail Stewards (HRATs), and the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA); Cindy noted that Les Perkins has expressed interest in participating in the past. The group asked that Emily follow-up with the HRATs and Farmers to invite them to the field trip on the 27th. Additionally, Emily shared that Kirby Newman, Hood River News, contacted her regarding the field trip and she will follow-up with him.

→ **ACTION:** Emily will reach out to HRATS, FID, and HR News to invite them to the field trip.

Next Steps

The Field Trip sub-group will coordinate logistics for the 27th and provide them to the group. The TA sub-group will draft a proposal for TA and provide it to the group for review and discussion by July 13th. They will also look into what resources are available and compile them for the group. Emily will edit the

Purpose and Objectives and provide a second draft to the group for review by July 13th. Ann will draft the Representation/Participation section, as well as a 'good faith agreement' and provide it to the group by July 13th. Emily will connect with HRATS, FID, and HR news regarding the field trip. Emily will also provide a summary of the meeting to the Stew Crew for review.

The next Stew Crew meeting is a field trip on June 27th the exact time and details will be provided the week before the trip. The following meeting will be July 20th from 2:00-5:00pm.

This summary is respectfully submitted by DS Consulting Facilitators; suggested edits can be provided to Emily at emily@dsconsult.co.