

Hood River Collaborative Stewardship Group – Retained Receipts meeting  
Nov. 30, 2015 – OSU Extension meeting room, Hood River

Attendees:

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Anne Saxby, HRSWCD                  | Sam Grimm, USFS     |
| John Dodd, USFS                     | Leo Segovia, USFS   |
| Christina Mead, USFS                | Bob Ballard, USFS   |
| Whitney Olsker, USFS                | Marc McHenry, USFS  |
| Rick Ragan, HRSWCD                  | Darcy Saiget, USFS  |
| Jon Paul Anderson, High Cascade/WKO | Claire Pitner, USFS |
| Nate Ulrich, Hood River County      | Casey Gatz, USFS    |

After self-introductions, each USFS proponent provided background on his/her project(s). Bob Ballard said his highest priority was the Watershed Wilderness Boundary project, followed by the McCubbins project, Cloud Cap Inn Access project and lastly by the Gibson Horse/Shell Rock project. The Watershed Wilderness road work is a health and safety issue as it provides the only way out from that area should a fire occur. It would involve removal of two culverts and the project is upslope of The Dalles Municipal Watershed. The McCubbin project asks for a small amount to solve an ongoing sediment problem around a campground. It would include re-opening two plugged culverts. The Cloud Cap project would extend the life of a heavily-traveled road. All but the McCubbins project are scalable. Bob is also the proponent for the Wildlife Gate Reinforcement which would armor around 4 road closure gates to prevent illegal access and provide security to wintering deer and elk. This would be the third armoring of the gates. It is not scalable.

Darcy Saiget gave background on the Marco Creek culvert project. The Upper West Fork Hood River is a priority for the regional USFS office. A number of projects in the area have been completed. The design for the culvert replacement is done and now funding is being sought from a number of sources for the \$400,000 culvert replacement. Cost is high because the stream is steep in that location. There are no anadromous fish present, but the current culvert is a barrier to resident fish.

Claire Pitner said both of her projects would utilize NW Youth Corps crews to brush and log out trails in and adjacent to wilderness areas. The USFS doesn't have enough staff to do this work on a yearly basis. Her highest priority is the Mark Hatfield Wilderness project. Her projects can be scaled, but the crew costs \$8,250 per week.

Whitney Olsker said her projects were not scalable. The Aspen Restoration would reduce conifer encroachment in an aspen stand. Of the other three projects, the Voodoo Mastication is her highest priority. It would complete fuels reduction work done within the The Dalles Municipal Watershed. The second priority was the Leopard Thinning, with the Hesslan Thinning last. She suggested not funding Hesslan, which was the most expensive project proposal this year.

Christina Mead said her Noxious Weed Treatment project is scalable and any amount is helpful. She is getting funds from several partners to treat weed infestations along USFS roads.

After hearing the presentations, rankings from stew crew members were tallied. The rankings were as follows:

1. Wildlife Gate \$5,000

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2. Marco Culverts       | \$45,000*                     |
| 3. Noxious weeds        | \$21,050*                     |
| 4. Aspen Restoration    | \$4,500                       |
| 5. Cloud Cap Access     | \$20,000*                     |
| 6. Hatfield Logout      | \$16,500                      |
| 7. Wilderness Watershed | \$24,950 (tied with Hatfield) |
| 8. Voodoo Mastication   | \$13,000                      |
| 9. Leopard Thinning     | \$10,000                      |
| 10. Gibson Horse        | \$26,800                      |
| 11. McCubbins           | \$12,125                      |
| 12. Badger Lookout      | \$33,000                      |
| 13. Hesslan Thinning    | \$68,000                      |

The top eight were recommended for the \$150,000 in funding. The ones with asterisks were reduced to allow funding of one of the thinning projects. Although the Leopard Thinning actually ranked above the Voodoo Mastication, the group felt Whitney's top priority should be funded. Two of the stew crew members whose rankings were used to prioritize projects (BARK and HRVRC) were not at the meeting so they didn't get the benefit of hearing about proponent's priorities before doing the ranking.

Sam thanked everyone and said he'd get information about the recommendations out to cindy Thieman to distribute to the entire collaborative group. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Anne Saxby, Recorder