

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda - February 14, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89551230635?pwd=OVB6eGxxb29zODIlemF4SEdtYmF2dz09>

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2:30 pm | Introductions & Updates (roundtable) |
| 3:00 pm | Overview of Willamette All-Collaboratives Meeting (Kitty with the group) |
| 3:10 pm | Status of Stewardship Sales and Receipts, and Discussion (Darren with the group) |
| 3:30 pm | Where Are We Now and Where are We Going? (Kitty with the group) |
| 4:15 pm | Schedule next meeting and other logistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are voting and non-voting members?• Do people use the Google share site?• Monday meetings best? Quarterly or monthly?• Is there a need to review meeting notes from previous meetings? |
| 4:30 pm | ADJOURN |

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda – April 11, 2022

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88068649450?pwd=OVZoaCtLSHFJbIBOUINpaXZFU2FyUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 6864 9450

Passcode: 641878

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|---------|---|
| 2:30 pm | Welcome and Review and Approve Meeting Notes from Last Month |
| 2:45 pm | Updates (roundtable) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bird survey project• USFS Partnership Webinar• Other |
| 3:15 pm | Discussion of Possible Directions for the Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewardship – how to be involved in project design and selection early on?• Firewise Committee – best ways to re-engage and focus?• Recreation – possible new committee?• DEIA |
| 3:30 pm | Discussion – Do We Want to Adopt Zones of Agreement? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros and Cons• Next Steps |
| 3:45 pm | Discussion & Brainstorming – Potential Field Trip? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose?• Location?• Date?• Next steps |
| 4:20 pm | Summary of Follow-Up Actions |
| 4:30 | ADJOURN |

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda – May 9, 2022

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83953119326?pwd=WTcrlhNN2xEcjN0S3hMTXV3ekVKdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 5311 9326

Passcode: 716092

- 2:30 pm Welcome, Review/Approve Meeting Notes, Quick Updates
- 2:35 pm Field Trip Planning
- Friday June 17th is preferred date
 - Suggested Focus – stewardship sale in Flat Country, understand stewardship sales and thought process of USFS in selecting sales locations; work that was completed at Ridge
 - Snow level and access concerns
 - What has to happen between now and then? (locations, logistics)
- 2:50 pm Firewise
- Review draft messaging (thanks to Nayt Boyt, Upper Willamette SWCD!)
 - Discuss suggested outreach strategy
 - Schedule = outreach through May and June to solicit interest and possible local leadership
- 3:05 pm Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (JEDI)
- Opportunity to weave in JEDI with our project pipeline and outreach to get new MWSG participation
 - Do we need a task team/subcommittee?
- 3:15 pm Project Pipeline Discussion (SEE DRAFT LIST)
- 3:30 pm Summary of Follow-Up Actions
- 3:35 ADJOURN

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda – June 13, 2022

2:30 – 3:15 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89839608644?pwd=W-xUICC sme9O7F6Vzg-J_xktC4_rh0.1

Meeting ID: 898 3960 8644

Passcode: 227392

- 2:30 pm Field Trip Logistics
- Discuss field trip plan (see email)
 - Make any final adjustments
 - Do we need to get an RSVP for a head count or car count?
- 2:45 pm Firewise
- Discuss Firewise messaging email from Ned Boyt
 - Decide on next steps for messaging and for mobilization
- 3:00 pm Jusice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (JEDI)
- Kitty reports out about conversation with Lily
 - Review notes from last meeting about JEDI
 - Discuss and decide on next steps
- 3:35 ADJOURN

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda – July 11, 2022

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89839608644?pwd=W-xUICC sme9O7F6Vzg-J_xktC4_rh0.1

Meeting ID: 898 3960 8644

Passcode: 227392

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|---------|--|
| 2:30 pm | Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ODF – Justin Patten is leaving – we need new ODF representatives• Other updates |
| 2:45 pm | Proposal for Next Few Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking stock – in the last six months we've made progress on Firewise, field trip, project pipeline, JEDI• Next steps – dedicated meetings for JEDI, project pipeline, and visioning discussions (maybe two meetings each?)• Recruiting new partners – who and how? |
| 3:15 pm | Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (JEDI) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kitty reports out about conversation with Lily• Review notes from last meeting about JEDI• Discuss and decide on next steps |
| 3:30 pm | Field Trip Debrief <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft field trip notes• Integration of project ideas with our project pipeline list• Future field trip in November? |
| 3:45 pm | Firewise Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to funnel names to Fire District for outreach• Oregon Dept. of Forestry agreed to publish article• Nayt Boyt will publish social media announcements – need organizational sponsor for those• Next steps |
| 4:00 | ADJOURN |

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda – September 12, 2022

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89839608644?pwd=WaxUICCsmE9O7F6VzgaJbxktC4brh0.1>

Meeting ID: 898 3960 8644

Passcode: 227392

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|---------|--|
| 2:30 pm | Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quartz Creek Bridge grant proposal• ODF staff changes and representation on MWSG• Other |
| 2:40 pm | Review and discuss Siuslaw project selection process and metrics and brainstorm MWSG project selection process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See https://cascadepacific.org/?page_id=1355, Stewardship-Fund-Eligibility-Guidelines, and https://cascadepacific.org/?page_id=1361• What are high-level issues and points we want to include? |
| 3:15 pm | Jusice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (JEDI) Update and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pure Water Partners JEDI Committee priorities• Possible MWSG connection points |
| 3:30 pm | Guest Presentation – Fire History of the McKenzie Watershed, Andrew Merschel, OSU <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft field trip notes• Integration of project ideas with our project pipeline list• Future field trip in November? |
| 3:50 pm | Wrap up and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do we want to plan our next meeting as an in-person meeting? |
| 4:00 | ADJOURN |

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Notes
February 14, 2022

Introductions & Updates

Darren Cross, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – District Ranger

- Willamette National Forest received disaster recovery funds (\$7 million) focused on large fire areas
- Staff are returning to the office now with Memorial Day as target open date
- Head count for Willamette National Forest staff is now up to 200 non-fire positions after getting 11 new staff added
- Able to pay Gifford Pinchot National Forest back for South Fork Project after four years (WOO HOO!)
- Delta Campground impacted by Holiday Farm Fire is being decommissioned as a campground, starting public engagement around that – March 15 public meeting about what to do to navigate continued recreation and restoration

Justin Patten, Oregon Dept. of Forestry – Fire Planner & Good Neighbor Authority Forester

- Working on East Fork Road/1993 Road (EFR) Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sale (70 acre CE) on East Fork of South Fork of McKenzie River, finishing pre-sale work
- Forest Service making good progress on 19 Road rockslide, when finished can move wood off of GM timber sale
- Pushed 2020 road decommissioning project to 2021 and able to get that completed last season and looking for more opportunities to do some of that service work (downed wood creation and road decommissioning); looking to hire some additional staff at ODF – they will send the job announcements and Kitty will share with group

Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development – Executive Director

- Provide fiscal sponsorship for McKenzie Valley Long-term Recovery Group – hiring disaster case managers
- Also taking on fiscal management for Locals Helping Locals in McKenzie Valley

Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council – Director

- Heavily involved in planting right now and Lily helping lead that charge

Johan Hogervorst, Willamette National Forest – Forest Hydrologist

- Congratulations on paying back Gifford Pinchot National Forest!
- There is more restoration and monitoring being done for South Fork Project – it's pretty groundbreaking work

Malcolm Wilson, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District – Board of Directors

Lily Leitermann, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District – Conservation Program Manager

Ramona Arechiga, Oregon Department of Forestry – Federal Forest Restoration Coordinator

Nancy Toth, Eugene Water and Electric Board – Environmental Specialist in Drinking Water Protection

Susan Fricke, Eugene Water and Electric Board – Water Resources Supervisor

Shane Kamrath, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Natural Resources Staff

David Bishop, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Forester

Shadie Nimer, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Timber Management Assistant

Kitty Weisman, Coordinator, McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Kirk – big thank you to hiring committee – Darren, Nancy, Susan and Jared – put a lot of time and energy into interviewing process

Susan – Last year had road access issues with bird surveys so they were delayed; if we want to get that done this spring we can discuss strategy. Contractor would like to schedule work now. Trisha had spreadsheet with details about bird survey sites and funding. Thanks to USFS for allowing access.

Darren – History: An agreement was made in Green Mountain EIS to do some pre-project and post-project bird monitoring related to thinning. They got some grants to do this monitoring work and EWEB agreed to do the monitoring. Fires and rock slides have prevented doing monitoring projects (from 2017 to now), and 19 Road been closed since last summer when boulder went through windshield of a vehicle. Forest Service is repairing that road to prevent future slides and road is accessible now but closed to public until later in spring/summer because still need to pave and put in guardrails (using recovery funding he mentioned). Road can be made accessible/available for bird surveys though.

Overview of Willamette All-Collaboratives Meeting

Kitty gave overview of Jan 26 Willamette All-Collaboratives Annual Meeting and asked for input on her notes (on Google Drive at (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gmZ56vaWEIWPJToaBub0u5lNy7abm1RP>)). Her notes included details about fire recovery funding, Collaborative updates, funding sources other collaboratives are using (state funding and Innovative Funding for National Forests grant received by South Santiam). She also made note of other funding sources including Drinking Water Providers Partnership, Oregon Weed Board grants, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board post-fire grants, etc. Kitty is keeping list of all potential funding sources. Also Duane Bishop with Forest Service mentioned in this meeting that he would like to be invited to future field trips. The meeting also had an update on Conservation Finance and the USFS Forest Resilience Bond – they are ramping this up and we will hear more about this over next few months and years – it’s a potential opportunity for Willamette NF and other forests, good funding for connecting dots between upstream and downstream and enhancing benefits of National Forests, and how you pay to ensure that those benefits remain intact. One example of the Forest Resilience Bond in Tahoe National Forest, and potentially in Ouachita National Forest (drinking water supply for City of Little Rock). There are good reasons to consider it but it’s also a very new program and concept. Kitty will keep group updated.

Johan – DWPP funding has been allocated for 2022 but just got another slug of funding for disaster recovery \$600,000. Kitty will track the timing for funding cycle and share out to group. Several McKenzie watershed projects have received DWPP funding.

Status of Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Sales, Receipts and Projects

Kitty - We have an opportunity to redefine how this group moves forward. This status document will help us get on common ground and can provide a platform for making decisions.

Darren - The status document was put together by Trisha to put all sales, receipts and projects in one place along with MWSG vision and mission statement. MWSG spent a lot of time working through this. There are lots of opportunities to do work and accomplish work in the future.

Guide to acronyms in the document:

EFR = East Fork Road/1993 Road

BB = Big Blue (from the Big Blue Environmental Assessment or EA)

GM = Green Mountain (from the Green Mountain Environmental Impact Statement or EIS)

GNA = Good Neighbor Authority

Good Neighbor Authority Sales and Projects:

- Deck Sales and EFR GNA Timber Sale – funds used by Oregon Dept. of Forestry to prepare planning document for categorical exclusion on Middle Fork, and to do some road decommissioning work
- EFR GNA is timber sale (replace BB timber sale with EFR GNA Timber Sale in status document per Shadie)
- Two rounds of project revenue funding projects
- Aquatic Monitoring project – given extension through June 2022 (per Jared)
- Deer Creek Monitoring Project – extension through April 2022 (per Jared)

Stewardship Contracting Authority – sell timber then use retained receipts to do projects. Funds managed at regional level and can be moved around to different districts as needed. Retained receipts needs to be spent!

- Q and HL timber sales used to pay back Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Can't have access to the funds until the work is completed and some funds are used for forest overhead
- We are waiting for all these sales and work to be completed – then the retained receipts will become available for stewardship projects – by 2027 we will have a couple of million dollars in retained receipts
- RL Stewardship sale hasn't happened yet – in the works
- Next one to be completed is Ridge at end of 2023 – but this has been extended
- WQ sale has also been extended
- Fire seasons and associated shut-downs affect these sales and they need to be extended so dates of completion will be affected
- Delays in receipts could be an opportunity for MWSG to develop a strategy for project development and preparing a project pipeline, as well as an opportunity to seek grants for priority projects
- Projects using retained receipts – gives flavor of what we have done in the past
- Jared – project selection was based on timing and immediate funding needs for floodplain work, funds awarded almost four years ago and then Holiday Farm Fire had an impact on implementation; Dehne & Sullivan project – big lessons learned, Holiday Farm Fire impacted this work; Finn Rock turned into much larger project due to Holiday Farm Fire.
- Relative success and lessons learned? Projects were very successful; learning how to use these funds to support riparian restoration on private lands. Dehne & Sullivan project – biggest lesson learned is that stewardship dollars are best used for implementation within a year or 18 months instead of ongoing programmatic or maintenance project.
- Road decommissioning projects – these projects are required as part of timber sale, and funded through stewardship sales; the work will be completed in next three to five years.
- Monitoring projects – Ridge and Hidden Lake – pushing boundaries of some MWSG member comfort levels in terms of treatments. EWEB and ODF helping to fund these projects too.
- Nancy – we applied for GNA project funding for monitoring of the South Fork and Deer Creek restoration projects.
- ACTION = Kitty will update the status document with notes from Trisha's spreadsheet, and information from Shadie, Jared and others.

Discussion - Where Are We Now and Where are We Going?

Kitty gave overview of what she's heard during her interviews with MWSG members and partners. She's done nine interviews and has about five more to do. These are just ideas she wants group to discuss and consider over the next few meetings to determine next steps. Some of the ideas included:

- Need to get group up and running again and focus on short-term operations like regular meetings
- Develop project pipeline

- Develop project selection process similar to Siuslaw process (which many see as a model)
- Projects can include continued floodplain and forest restoration, thinning and other BMP's, maintenance of roads, possibly monitoring
- Explore connection between MWSG and Pure Water Partners and how to re-integrate these two groups' interests. How can stewardship projects meet needs of PWP?
- Some mentioned need to go to all-lands or watershed scale approach in way we identify projects and fund them; maybe looking at watershed functionality and what projects are best for watershed scale approach. It sounds like this is what Pure Water Partners is doing though.
- Some thought we should get input from more partners on project design in early stages
- Explore upland work for fire recovery and carbon markets
- Address recreation needs – maybe create committee
- Involve more partners including the public in the work we do
- Exploring the role of other funding sources to achieve our goals (DWPP, recovery funding, Build Back Better Funding, etc.)
- Tell our story and do marketing to get the word out about what we do
- Clarify reasoning behind USFS decision to cut older trees so we can explain this to potential partners as we expand participation

Discussion – How do We Move Forward:

- Kitty – what is best approach to move forward with making decisions on what we do over next few years. We have some good ideas and information. We need to prioritize what makes the most sense for our efforts. Hone in on what we think is the most important work to get done.
- The group is in favor of meeting every other month for now until we start to build momentum again
- Prior to Holiday Farm Fire what was the relationship between MWSG and Pure Water Partners?
- Nancy – before the fire, Pure Water Partners was more oriented to protecting riparian areas along McKenzie, working with landowners to enter them into long-term protection agreements, and doing restoration on private riparian lands. Pure Water Partners at the time had a queue of restoration projects and was working on finding funding for these. But following the fire they are now working with hundreds of landowners, focused on doing erosion control, replanting and restoration for fire recovery, and coordinating a large amount of post-fire funding from various sources.
- Jared – Pure Water Partners has become mechanism for collaboration on private lands, trust lands (easements), and federal lands. Engages five or six key partners to address fire recovery on those lands. Ensure Pure Water Partners and MWSG are integrated so they don't duplicate efforts. We need some creative thinking about how to reintegrate these two groups (they started off together as the McKenzie Collaborative). PWP isn't just focused on fire recovery – it has is a tiered approach that includes fire recovery and also developing and implementing a long-term strategy. PWP is using OWEB funding to develop 10-year strategic plan and project pipeline by June and will align projects with funding sources to meet desired outcomes. MWSG likely falls underneath the PWP watershed planning umbrella. MWSG's focus is on Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship projects and focuses on slightly different projects than Pure Water Partners focuses on.
- Kirk – great for MWSG to consider other funding sources, but what we have traditionally worked with is stewardship retained receipts (hence the name of this group) and GNA.
- Susan – In near future, PWP will develop sub-groups (upland, riparian, etc.) and MWSG could be one of those sub-groups. Idea to integrate MWSG with PWP so that MWSG falls under PWP planning and project pipeline.
- The group agreed that MWSG shouldn't be project pipeline for PWP, but can help influence PWP project list.
- Nancy – Firewise – trying to reinstate this group – doing assessment with Justin so will have more information at next meeting.

- Nancy – PWP project pipeline hasn't been completed because of Covid and fires.
- Justin – MWSG made an effort to develop Firewise communities in McKenzie corridor; would like lower and middle portions of the watershed to continue Firewise effort and to help with this. Invasive species are big issue for drinking water and for forest and habitat; lot of work with Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative to do invasive species control and fuels reduction so this is an opportunity for the McKenzie.
- Nancy – After the fire, but while Trisha was still here, MWSG decided on four different focus areas and Firewise was one of the top two focus areas. USFS might be able to facilitate connection with upper watershed for Firewise. McKenzie Fire and Rescue is very active and interested in moving this concept forward in lower part of the watershed.
- Group had discussion about voting and non-voting membership. Original reason for having voting members is to keep people from showing up at meetings and derailing the process. Also there has always been recognition that this group makes recommendations to Darren/USFS so USFS has maintained non-voting status. It may be possible for us to revisit voting and maybe just decide that guests don't get to vote.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Kitty will add Duane Bishop, USFS to our partners list and make sure he gets invited to any field trips
- Kitty will locate bird survey project, and share it with the group
- Susan will work with folks to figure out bird survey sites and let contractor know
- Kitty will put bird survey project status update on agenda for our next meeting
- Kitty will research Trisha's visioning documents, Siuslaw project identification and funding process, and FireWise Committee work – we can discuss at next meeting.
- Kitty will find out the status of the Drinking Water Providers Partnership's next funding cycle with new infrastructure funds they just received
- Kitty will sit in on PWP meeting – Susan sent PWP meeting schedule – there is a meeting next Thursday afternoon.
- For alignment, PWP can invite folks from this MWSG as needed as a courtesy and opportunity to learn
- Kitty will send out meeting notes and ask for any changes, and will ask at beginning of each meeting if anyone has any changes to the previous meeting's notes.
- Kitty will work on Google drive access issues

NEXT MEETING

April 11 from 2:30-4:30pm – we decided to keep the meeting schedule that was originally set up by Trisha, so meetings will be every other Month on the second Monday from 2:30-4:30pm.

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Notes

April 11, 2022

Introductions & Updates

Darren Cross, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – District Ranger
Justin Patten, Oregon Dept. of Forestry – Fire Planner & Good Neighbor Authority Forester
Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development – Executive Director
Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council – Director
Lily Leitermann, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District – Conservation Program Manager
Nancy Toth, Eugene Water and Electric Board – Environmental Specialist in Drinking Water Protection
Susan Fricke, Eugene Water and Electric Board – Water Resources Supervisor
Shane Kamrath, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Natural Resources Staff
David Bishop, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Forester
Eli Tome, Director of Conservation – McKenzie River Trust
Kitty Weisman, Coordinator, McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Welcome & Approve Meeting Notes from February

- No one had any changes to the meeting notes
- Reminder that we can always revise the notes as needed at any time
- Notes and agendas are on our Google Drive at:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kW0lnQZtZNT2plzzzNQay00cRYr0xhrF>

Partner Updates

Susan:

- Working with contractor (David Donahue) on scheduling bird surveys in Leaburg Forest (EWEB site) and Willamette NF sites; trying to figure out what roads are open and how to get access; should be completed by next month.
- EWEB hired wildlife biologist – Theresa; she can be a great resource for us in the future

Shane:

- He's also been emailing with David Donahue to determine best routes for bird surveys
- Road 19 closure will go through June 4; look for alternate routes to South Fork

Darren:

- Road 19 – removing rocks and trees on cliff above – no way to open road sooner
- Delta Campground decommissioning – had public meeting about a month ago; working towards a categorical exclusion to remove asphalt, bathrooms and other infrastructure; and updating environmental assessment to determine restoration approach. Public not excited about losing this recreational opportunity, but also don't support cutting down a lot of trees to have a campground there. By end of meeting had public support
- Public meeting about danger trees; navigating this process
- Starting work with aquatics folks about Deer Creek crossing of the McKenzie Trail; lost bridge and part of trail in Knoll Fire. Trying to get this access back.
- USFS staff will be returning to the office – at least twice a week; hybrid work environment hopefully by Memorial Day; internet issues since 2020 will be resolved with fiber optic line.

Justin:

- His new role is Unit Forester for coordinating FFR and GNA work in McKenzie Ranger District; still trying to hire some for some other positions including his old one (early summer to end of the year)
- Will also be working on a small road decommissioning (near Foley Ridge) and three timber (not GNA) sales that are completed and are now an opportunity for downed wood creation. Downed wood projects and road decommissioning are being funded with OFS's service agreement or state general fund.
- Working with Shadie and others in the District on future sales
- Justin will still be involved with MWSG from FFR and GNA side of things and his replacement will also be involved in MWSG

David:

- Pointed out that there are some left-over retained receipts that can be used for Justin's projects if needed. This brought up the issue of *how we can be positioned to efficiently use retained receipts for projects that: are a priority, need additional funding, or don't neatly fit into funding eligibility.*

Jared

- PWP-related GNA funded projects – researcher hired for 2020 project gave presentation on geomorphic impacts from two-year study on Deer Creek; another researcher will present on macroinvertebrate impacts on Deer Creek. Both projects funded in part with GNA funding.
- Trying to track down where 2021 GNA funding went – he will provide an update on these projects at our next meeting
- PWP – lot of project development for Finn Rock and Quartz Creek, but also starting up FFR work for this spring and summer; focusing on BMP's with help from ODF and OSU – will connect with Justin on this work.
- Riparian projects from last year – annual report has been submitted to USFS; Finn Rock project has been spent out for Phase 1 of that project. Stewardship funding lesson learned from these projects = don't want to spend stewardship dollars on long-term maintenance projects due to USFS administrative and finance requirements. Better to use stewardship funds on private land for implementation projects like plantings and use other funds for long-term maintenance.

Kirk

- Might be doing fiscal administration for McKenzie Locals Helping Locals

Kitty:

- Worked on most of the follow-up actions from last meeting – still learning background
- Looked into additional funding cycle for DWPP – they have a new website at: <https://geoinstitute.org/initiatives/dwpp/> - No news yet on second funding cycle - will continue to watch and let you know as soon as anything is announced.
- Attended two Pure Water Partners meetings in March and April
- Attended USFS Partnerships webinar and learned about Great America Outdoors funding; Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion partnerships, and Willamette National Forest and Oregon coast partnerships. Notes from this webinar are on our Google Drive at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oz1osainzgk9960fAsnndx2V1D4wyB5R?usp=sharing>
- Had some additional conversations with partners including Kailey Kornhauser, Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (Siuslaw) and Sarah Altemus-Pope, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
- Collaborative Coordinators in Oregon hold an annual meeting to share and brainstorm – Kitty will attend the next one

Discussion of Possible Directions (Stewardship, Firewise, Recreation, JEDI)

Stewardship Project Identification & Prioritization:

- Can we have a more developed process for weighing in on project selection for PWP priority project list (not timber sales/harvest but retained receipts/GNA/FFR and PWP projects)?
- ***We want to identify priority projects that we support that we can provide to PWP to include in their strategy, and that can be used as a project pipeline to use on short notice to fill funding gaps***
- Kirk - we have had this discussion historically about what to spend retained receipts on. Perhaps use Siuslaw process and maybe streamline it. Focused on how retained receipts are spent on projects. Siuslaw takes a geographic focus for prioritizing sales and stewardship projects – discussing which geographies are priorities
- Darren – Flat Country is having stewardship sale coming up after October 1 of 2022 (for FY23), so it's a perfect time to have this conversation about what this group would like to see for restoration projects associated with this sale or for retained receipts projects anywhere in the watershed. Also an opportunity with Calloway stewardship sale (younger stands in Blue River watershed) – very early in this project and working on NEPA. Great timing for discussion on how this group would like to be involved.
- David – West Quartz, Ridge, HL sales are coming up in the future. District wants to stagger these sales and associated retained receipts and projects
- Kitty – since PWP is developing a plan and developing a list of priority projects, do we want to connect the work we support to the projects PWP is pulling together
- Jared – this is the right question at the right time; we have a different portfolio of projects we are working on and want to support than we did in 2019 (because of the Holiday Farm Fire). Appropriate for this group to help decide what funding percentage is best for programs developed and implemented through PWP. Some project ideas include: forest fuels reduction work on private lands, trying to understand our work through JEDI lens (Holiday Farm Fire really highlighted equity issues); floodplain restoration projects on private and non-federal public lands.
- Nancy – How can we use retained receipts to fill in gaps or fund last-minute or smaller project ideas. Part of what we are struggling with is PWP is still prioritizing and developing their project strategy
- Kitty – most funding programs want a discrete project, but there may be project ideas for the watershed that don't neatly fit into a funding framework (because they are too small, or the schedule doesn't work, or some other reason) that we can identify and help support with retained receipts. Let's develop a list of projects we know about and get these to PWP for prioritization and inclusion in their strategy.
- Darren – this is the perfect time to have this conversation; we need to put these project ideas out there. Great to get clarity on the restoration portfolio and then connecting the dots with funding.
- Kirk – Can't use retained receipts for fuels reduction on private lands; any other retained receipts use on private lands has to benefit the national forest
- Justin – We can prioritize federal lands fuels treatment with retained receipts, and then we will know how much other funding we would need for fuels treatment on private and non-federal public lands
- Kitty – position ourselves with project ideas so that we can make the most of existing and future retained receipts and other available funding sources; want to be able to be strategic in how these projects are carried out and which funding sources are used.
- ACTION – get project ideas to Kitty, who will create a draft project list to cross-check with PWP and to have in our back pocket to fill gaps with retained receipts. Kitty will be sure to connect back to folks not in this meeting.

Firewise Discussion & Updates

- Public meeting a year and a half ago
- Justin – moved process along – did some community-wide assessment and draft risk assessment for lower part of the watershed, but not a lot of involvement from the local community and this is essential for Firewise
- Nancy – when we kicked off Firewise, there was initial interest from the Upper McKenzie watershed but after the first meeting or two, people up there stopped responding. Initial contact list came from PWP. Firewise isn't supposed to be an agency-led initiative, there really needs to be local support and leadership. Only requires a one hour commitment each year.
- Kitty – would a survey be helpful to gauge interest?
- Lily – thinks it would be helpful if someone tried to re-engage folks who initially were interested, and then do another recruitment effort in the upper watershed; it might be good timing now to re-engage because we are heading into the dry season
- Darren – we want to focus on the parts of the watershed that didn't burn
- Justin – try to re-engage people, important to consider that we are almost two years from Holiday Farm Fire, and the watershed is sort of a ticking time bomb. Certainly in the next three to five years we will have possibility of large fires. Find community meetings that are already happening and go to those meetings. His replacement can take this on when they hire that person.
- Lily – Justin's comment about messaging is really important; PWP was writing articles for McKenzie River Reflections, so some Firewise messaging could go a long way to re-engage folks.
- Nancy – There is some confusion over Firewise because there are other Firewise groups in the region. Lane County as Firewise program that most people are familiar with (provides funding for home improvements). Firewise is mainly an educational and technical assistance program, so we need to communicate what the benefits are so people understand. We also need to get clear on what our "ask" is (be on board, do one hour of work on their properties, etc.) Have to have eight landowners in an area taking preventative measures in order to be Firewise certified. One place we can do messaging is Naturescaping Workshop Monday May 2 at 5pm in Leaburg.
- ACTION – Soil & Water Conservation Service has an outreach specialist named Nayt and Lily can connect him with Kitty. Kitty can write short piece and work with Nayt to get it published.
- ACTION – Nancy will get Naturescaping Workshop flyer to Kitty to share with the group.
- ACTION – Nancy and Susan will present some information about Firewise at the Naturescaping Workshop

Zones of Agreement – Discussion

- Kitty – is there interest in having an efficient process for developing Zones of Agreement? They are good tools but can be time consuming to develop. Zones of Agreement are shared priorities that we agree to as a group for specific categories of work (like riparian restoration, recreation, upland restoration, etc.)
- Darren – Zones of Agreement can be polarizing (riparian protection, age of trees, etc).
- Nancy – tried to go through Zones of Agreement exercise with Paul and then with Trisha. We should use existing documents so we don't reinvent the wheel. Not sure if agreement was reached but we were close. They might be useful to orient new group members.
- Kirk – do Zones of Agreement leave out contentious stuff so that we can reach agreement? Share some examples of Zones of Agreement that are established here and elsewhere and use them as a starting point for our own discussion.
- Nancy – 80 year old tree harvesting issue was left out of previous Zones of Agreement drafts. The group spend a lot of time discussing this issue and was not able to reach agreement.

- ACTION – Kitty will look for existing Zones of Agreement document on Google drive, and will look at examples here and elsewhere, and we will discuss at future meeting.

Potential Field Trip – Discussion

- Post-Covid trip to get group together, foster connection, see project sites, discuss lessons learned.
- Trip can focus on stewardship sale in Flat Country, understand stewardship sales and thought process of USFS in selecting sales locations; also work that was completed at Ridge if we can get access
- Benefits of field trip – being outside, having fun, learning about how USFS makes decisions about sales, better understanding of forestry, restoration, voluntary cooperative projects), lessons learned from past projects, how to inform future projects
- Determine best schedule – 19 Road not open until after June (consideration for Ridge visit)
- Meet more frequently to plan field trip – decided to have monthly meetings that are shorter
- ***Group agreed that we should plan a field trip - schedule trip pre-fire season and then bump to next year if we have to***
- ACTION – Kitty will follow-up with Darren about field trip sites and we will discuss at next meeting

SUMMARY OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- ACTION – Justin will share job announcements with Kitty to share with the group
- ACTION – Justin will send Firewise Risk Assessment draft to Kitty
- Zones of Agreement, JEDI, and Firewise discussions are pushed to the next meeting
- ACTION – Group will get project ideas to Kitty, who will create a draft project list to cross-check with PWP and to have in our back pocket to fill gaps with retained receipts. Kitty will be sure to connect back to folks not in this meeting.
- ACTION – Kitty will find original Firewise interested folks and reach out to them (via phone) and will find original contact list for Firewise
- ACTION – Lily will connect Kitty with SWCS's outreach specialist Nayt – Kitty will look for original Firewise messaging and then use it to write up a new piece, and work with Nayt to get it published.
- ACTION – Nancy will get Naturescaping Workshop flyer to Kitty to share with the group.
- ACTION – Nancy and Susan will present some information about Firewise at the Naturescaping Workshop
- ACTION – Kitty will look for existing Zones of Agreement document on Google drive, and will look at examples here and elsewhere, and we will discuss at future meeting
- ACTION – Kitty will follow-up with Darren about field trip sites
- ACTION – Kitty will send out meeting notes and reminder with Zoom info for next meeting

NEXT MEETING

- We decided to keep our meeting schedule the same date/time – and have monthly meetings that are shorter
- Next meeting is May 9 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda – May 9, 2022

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Attending

Justin Patten, Oregon Dept. of Forestry – Fire Planner & Good Neighbor Authority Forester
Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development – Executive Director
Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council – Director
Nancy Toth, Eugene Water and Electric Board – Environmental Specialist in Drinking Water Protection
Susan Fricke, Eugene Water and Electric Board – Water Resources Supervisor
Shane Kamrath, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Natural Resources Staff
David Bishop, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Forester
Eli Tome, Director of Conservation – McKenzie River Trust
Kitty Weisman, Coordinator, McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group
James Johnson, Oregon State University
Malcolm Wilson, Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District

Announcements & Updates

- Ramona Arechiga from OR Dept. of Forestry is moving into a new role and won't be participating in the group
- Funding Update from Jennifer Sorenson, Willamette National Forest – Title 2 (Secure Rural Schools Funding) RFP will be coming out later this year. It is \$1 million a year for three years. Funds have to benefit federal lands. Application deadline = end of January 2023.

Field Trip Planning

- Friday June 17th is preferred date – issue is snow levels and access for Willamette NF sites
- Shadie – wants to know what the group would like to look at; from a timber point of view he doesn't know what we would go look at? Finn Rock aquatics? We've already looked at Flat Country, Ridge, RL, etc. In the midst of doing some road work; we may want to look at sites post-harvest later; Road 19 should be open after first week in June; there are definitely snow level and access concerns. Ridge has not been harvested yet, because road work still needs to get done (was delayed because Road 19 was not accessible).
- Darren suggested at last meeting that we could look at stewardship sale in Flat Country, understand stewardship sales and thought process of USFS in selecting sales locations; work that was completed at Ridge
- Discussion – Would floodplain restoration work be a good field trip focus? Shadie thinks the aquatics work and Deer Creek are pretty impressive. It is also useful to keep looking at potential stewardship sales periodically to help educate new folks in the group and reinforce what we need to know. Floodplain work is also great to teach folks who don't already know about it – it's great work with unique collaborations
- DECISION – to wait to tour stewardship sales until 2023 and focus the field trip on floodplain restoration projects

Firewise

- Kitty emailed original 35-40 people who were interested in Firewise a year and a half ago and heard back from 5-6 people that they are still interested. Most said they do not want to lead the effort though.
- Cascade Volunteers can help provide volunteer labor for Firewise – Jen Sorenson
- Dana Burwell is a firefighter with McKenzie Fire District with 40 years of experience, and he has helped Oregon Dept. of Forestry develop the Lower McKenzie Firewise Assessment/Plan; he is already conducting property assessments in the lower watershed and offered to do so for anyone who contacts us. He is working with fire department to do work on properties as needed. He may be a good choice for a Firewise leader.
- Both Dana and Kitty wondered if landowner interest fell off a year and a half ago because people may have been turned off by the regular meeting requirement and developing by-laws
- Nancy – thinks it's great to have Dana involved; also, if we want a formally-recognized Firewise community they do have to do a risk assessment, create an action plan, and have a board who meets a couple of times a year.
- Justin – it's totally fine if property owners want to start with getting property assessments and getting work done on their property and they don't have to be an official Firewise community right away. Formal recognition needs a community commitment drafted – what property owners have done on their property and what they plan to do in the future. Maybe we just ask for at least eight people to track the hours they are spending on their property. It can take as little as one meeting to create an action plan with basic follow-up actions.
- Jared – Expressed concern about the process because of dual contacts and dual processes that might confuse people (eg: Community Wildfire effort, PWP Firewise effort, Oregon Dept. of Forestry Firewise assessments). At very least we need to communicate with each other and keep track of who is talking with each other. Invariably there will be overlap and we need to have information so we don't confuse people. If MWSG serves in a facilitating role, it has potential to cause confusion and overlapping messaging if we are not careful.
- We reviewed the draft Firewise messaging and strategy that Nayt Boyt (Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District) put together. Don't make it sound like we will do the work for them; and be more clear about how work will get done; at the very least we can have someone
- ACTION – Kitty will get interested property owner names to Dana Burwell for property assessment follow-up and cc Justin and Nancy
- ACTION – Kitty will follow-up with Cascade Volunteers to see if and when they can start helping landowners on Firewise actions
- ACTION – Kitty will connect with Nayt about updating Firewise messaging and implementing the messaging strategy; She will show MWSG the final draft messaging to get their input again before it goes to press.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI)

- There is an opportunity to weave in JEDI with our project pipeline and outreach to get new MWSG participation
- A number of MWSG members also sit on PWP where JEDI is a focus; there are a couple of PWP sub-committees that are working on this – Lily is contact.
- What kind of efficiencies can we have between PWP and MWSG to maximize our efforts on this?
- We are taking public resources and monetizing them, and making decisions about how to allocate these resources, which is a great opportunity to look at systemic systems.
- IDEA – add JEDI lens to project pipeline approach somehow

- DECISION – we will spend ten minutes each meeting discussing and brainstorming JEDI and how to apply it in our group and our work.
- ACTION – Kitty will follow up with Lily about PWP JEDI sub-committees

Project Pipeline Discussion (SEE DRAFT LIST)

- The group agreed that this project list is a great start
- The project pipeline is prefaced with themes and gaps for consideration in project selection
- This project list is not just for Stewardship Sales retained receipts, it is a project pipeline list that can be used for retained receipts but also for other funding that may become available, for leftover funding, or last-minute funding opportunities. It can also be used for filling project gaps in the watershed as needed.
- Can stewardship sales retained receipts fuels reduction funding be used on private lands? Yes, as long as it benefits the national forest.
- This list is a starting point and we can add to it over time; we can discuss it over the next several meetings.

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Meeting Agenda – September 12, 2022

2:30 – 4 pm

Attending

Shane Kamrath, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Natural Resources Staff

Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development – Executive Director

Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council – Director

Nancy Toth, Eugene Water and Electric Board – Environmental Specialist in Drinking Water Protection

David Bishop, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District – Forester

Lily Leitermann, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District – Conservation Program Manager

Kitty Weisman, Coordinator, McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

James Johnson, Oregon State University

Andrew Merschel, Oregon State University

Micah Schmidt, Oregon State University

Announcements & Updates

- Quartz Creek Bridge grant proposal – Jared explained that McKenzie Watershed Council submitted a grant proposal to NOAA's Coastal Resiliency Program (which includes inland waterways), includes bridge replacement as well as entirety of valley bottom, stage zero floodplain restoration on Quartz Creek (\$2.1 million for bridge, \$5 million for floodplain restoration) over three years. Bridge would be replaced in 2023, and floodplain work would take place in 2024. EWEB, OWEB, and USFS will match the grant funding. This proposal takes the place of FEMA funding which was less certain. This is the largest stage zero valley-bottom restoration project attempted to date, and supports endangered Spring Chinook, so project may be competitive nationally.
- Oregon Dept. of Forestry participation in MWSG – we have now lost both ODF representatives on MWSG; Kitty called Kyle Sullivan, who reported that he is working to backfill Justin Patten's position, and Jennifer Erdman is now filling Ramona Arechiga's position. Jennifer is backfilling three positions at ODF so likely can't participate in MWSG yet, but Kitty will reach out to her to give her an orientation. We should have two ODF representatives on MWSG in the next month or two.
- Kitty is working on pulling together new MWSG member orientation materials

Review and discuss Siuslaw project selection process and metrics and brainstorm MWSG project selection process

- This is good timing to have initial discussion about how to create a robust project selection process for stewardship sales receipts as well as Good Neighbor Authority funding and other funding that may come our way so we are ready for funding in 2023
- We have a great beginning project pipeline list and stewardship timber sales status document (both are on our Google drive at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njQEgs6lhsY8fy9a7EnzK8Fv-J7QzcEn?usp=sharing>)
- Discussion is based on review of Siuslaw project selection process for their off-forest projects near the Siuslaw National Forest: https://cascadepacific.org/?page_id=1355,Stewardship-Fund-Eligibility-Guidelines, and https://cascadepacific.org/?page_id=1361
- Siuslaw process is a good example – they are using some pretty fine-tuned project selection criteria – their guidelines, application, and metrics together paint a solid picture of how they go about soliciting and evaluation proposals and tracking metrics once proposals are funded

- This is the first conversation about this which will set us up to develop our process over the next few months – everyone will have about five minutes to share what they want our project selection to include. Some questions Kitty asked everyone to keep in mind as they speak are: do we want a deadline or rolling application? Do we want preapplication? Do we want to have proposals by invitation only? How do we want to market this? What are the most important selection criteria for our process (JEDI, drinking water, endangered species, fire restoration/prevention)? How do we weigh the difference between restoration and protection? How does our process factor in “on-forest” projects (on the Willamette NF) and “off-forest” projects (near the Willamette NF)?
- Stewardship funding eligibility is in the Stewardship Handbook; Kitty will get copy from Kirk. Kitty will research Stewardship and GNA eligibility.
- Shane – would like to see an open process (not restrictive, constraining or exclusionary), rolling application deadline to be more flexible; would rather have large list of proposals that we can then narrow down using our selection criteria; wants our process to prioritize drivers like conservation needs, water quality, endangered species, habitat features; consider projects that may not have all their funding lined up yet
- Nancy – likes that Siuslaw process is on the Cascade Pacific RC&D website. Likes the idea of an open selection process. We haven’t done a lot of publicity so curious if we would need to do some active marketing and outreach to let people know about our process. The Siuslaw process is pretty complex, and she advocates for something more simple. She likes recommends using Siuslaw’s process (criteria, application, etc.) and modifying it for our needs, simplifying it a bit.
- Jared – agrees with everything Shane and Nancy mentioned; in addition to the application process, we need to integrate our process with larger McKenzie funding puzzle and project needs; need to figure out how to best apply Stewardship and GNA funding in the watershed; wants a much more simplified and streamlined application than Siuslaw’s process; no need for pre-application; rolling deadline is a good idea; be as flexible as we possibly can; be clear about what can and can’t be funded (eligibility criteria) – for example, Stewardship funds can’t be used for conservation (purchasing land or conservation easements). Kitty asked Jared to think about how to integrate our process with PWP – he said the watershed is starting to move in direction of being less driven by emergencies and more focused on being intentional with evaluation and selection, prioritizing projects, and aligning needs with available funding. General idea is to do this analysis annually to create an integrated, strategic approach. This can have benefit of filling in funding gaps and being strategic with match, etc.
- David – he agrees with what Shane said; need to coordinate with Darren on priorities and selection criteria; he recommends simplified application process and some built-in flexibility to account for and absorb project changes and uncertainty; also be sure to keep good documentation of our entire process.
- Kirk – pre-application is one way to help people understand their eligibility and not spend a lot of time preparing an application if they are not eligible; pre-application for Siuslaw is pretty complex though. We could consider a pre-application to help people understand whether their projects are eligible. Siuslaw decided on fixed application deadline to be clear about how much funding is available and how much is being used to fund projects each year. We want to find out how much funding is available from Stewardship sales and GNA. Maybe start out with rolling deadline and adjust later. Technical review is a big part of Siuslaw’s process to ensure projects are technically sound – have specialists review projects to determine whether they are technically sound.
- Lily – appreciates what others have said; also transparency is very important for our process – be clear about eligibility criteria and selection criteria; be able to share with public how these funds are being spent and why (both off and on public lands); equity piece goes hand-in-hand with transparency, especially on private lands – need to be able to explain how and why public funding is being used on public lands.

- Kitty – suggested creating an eligibility checklist for applicant to determine whether their project is eligible and remove a lot of uncertainty for the applicant. The eligibility checklist might take the place of a pre-application. Kitty can send the group some examples of this. Kitty also asked the group to think about which technical experts we will want to recruit for our project selection process. Kitty will create some preliminary project selection documents for us to review and refine over the next few meetings. Kitty will also keep good records on how we are developing our project selection process; we also want to develop some good metrics for how the funding is being used.

Guest Presentation – Fire History of the McKenzie Watershed: 500 Years of Fire in the McKenzie River Valley by Andrew Merschel, OSU - (541) 908-5192 and Andrew.merschel@oregonstate.edu

- MWSG members can reach out to Andrew to schedule similar presentations to their individual organizations and future public meetings to share this information widely
- OSU dendroecologists – using tree rings to learn about how forests develop over time, and particularly how fire impacts forests, want to understand how different forest ecosystems develop and persist over time
- Westside Douglas fir forests = enormously productive, provide habitat for a lot of species including several endangered species, critical for ecosystem services like water quality and carbon storage, enormous local and global importance
- Don't know a lot about how these forests have developed over time
- Hypothesis is that:
 - Infrequent, stand-replacing forest fires over centuries resulted in big patches of fire damage with very few surviving trees
 - This leads to stand initiation = As young trees grow, competition for resources results in tree mortality and development of gaps, where secondary shade-tolerant species (like western red cedar and hemlock) can grow and increase stand diversity
 - Which then leads to the old growth phase – stand diversity, vertical and horizontal structure, and species composition associated with old growth forests
- The above theory assumes high-severity fire events lead to forest diversity and forest structure and composition that develops over time in the absence of lower-intensity forest re-burns
- The theory also implies forest-scale disturbance dynamics in a watershed like McKenzie River watershed – in other words, if you have a large patch of high-severity fire, you will also see large patches of young, middle-aged, and old growth forest (each patch of which will stretch for miles)
- The purpose of the OSU dendroecology study of Western Cascades (including McKenzie River watershed) is to use tree ring data to test the above hypothesis/theory of forest development
- Approach is to revisit old clear-cuts and cut cross sections of trees that were logged
- Interested in two pieces of information in the tree rings: the pith date (establishment year of the tree) and wounds that correspond to past fires
- Take samples back to shop in Corvallis to polish them to clearly see fire scars, and then cross-date them (assign each ring to precise calendar year it was formed – can verify this with climate data because narrow rings form in warm, dry year; wide rings form in cool, wet years).
- Can then assign fire years to each historical fire scar/wound on each tree sample
- This is the first time fire history has been done this way in the North Cascades. Tree establishment alone doesn't tell the whole story – fire scars give you a lot more historical information
- Results:
 - Three types of data: tree establishment (pith) dates; fire years; innermost and outermost rings of trees (timeline for each tree)

- Data shows a lot of low-moderate severity (non-stand replacing) fires happening frequently in Willamette National Forest, and the trees sampled survived these fires, indicating that low-moderate fires are a really important factor in establishing old growth stands
- Don't see a lot of high-severity stand-replacing fires (like Holiday Farm Fire) in the McKenzie River watershed samples. The data shows there are some high-severity fires initiating stands in some sites, but the fires have different dates indicating the patches of forest affected weren't very large
- Some stands originated after stand-replacing fires, but in other areas it's not as clear that the stand originated from a large fire. Could be that some areas are re-burned or chronically burned
- Not seeing strong evidence of large, stand-replacing fires in McKenzie River watershed (but age-structure data could be broken up because of lots of low-moderate fires over time); are seeing lots of fine-scale diversity and different stand ages (as opposed to same-age stands)
- Stands seem strongly influenced by low-moderate severity fires as they developed into old growth stands
- Implications of study results:
 - We should probably stop thinking about our temperate old growth douglas fir forests as fog-drenched rainforests that never burn. Today they may look like that, and many haven't been burned in 120 years, but over time that wasn't the case – fire created these old growth forests
 - Young forests in the Willamette River watershed are the result of past clearcutting, but older forests when they were younger were re-burned after they were initiated, which created gaps and open structure that led to old growth forests developing over time
- This will be a long-term study over many more years – just beginning to understand fire in Western Cascades

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Update and Discussion

- Lily gave an update of JEDI work being done by Pure Water Partners JEDI Committee
- Working on intake questionnaire for landowners to complete when they sign up for property assessment to identify natural resource concerns and how the property and landowners have been impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire
- Questionnaire has been re-tooled to get more in-depth information about social vulnerability indicators (housing situation, economic situation, transportation, age, race, etc.) – these indicators can point to the landowner's ability to absorb and handle a disaster
- Want to take this information and create a scoring matrix that will help determine those people who may have higher needs (beyond ecological considerations)
- Outcome of this data is to elevate (move to a higher priority) those who have been historically marginalized and disenfranchised to make sure those who need the most help are actually receive services
- First step of this is considered a pilot – getting input into the questionnaire from other organizations and agencies and learning as they go – will be publishing the questionnaire on EWEB's website – Lily will share the link with us when it's ready
- Want to figure out how to integrate this information into entire watershed program, and how to balance ecological considerations with JEDI considerations
- It would be great for MWSG to have future conversations about how to incorporate these learnings into our own work

Follow-Up

- Nancy and Kirk will send Kitty any past MWSG discussions about project selection if they can find that information
- Kitty will create a draft project selection process for us to fine tune over time (guidelines, application, eligibility checklist, etc.)
- Kitty will share audio file of Andrew's presentation
- We will add JEDI to our next meeting agenda