

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2019, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Attended: Bob Arkes, Jane Arkes, Robert Caldwell, Thomas Calvery, Roberta Cobb, Ron Goodwin, Terry Hill, Peter Hoffman, John Hoffnagle, Chris Keil, Diane Kelso, Kim Kovacs, Tim Lagasse, Susan McDonnell, Sue Melone, Rosemary Prescott, Steve Queen, Hilary Renshaw, David Roe, Rick Schmidt, Tamra Sheets, Brooke Stevinson, Michele Wier, Becky Wolf, Susan Tracy, Tom Wiemann

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

- **Absent:** Leif (traveling), Bill (Houston), Kelley (conflict)
- **Welcome:** Susan Tracy, aspiring crew leader; would like to be caretaker for Table Mountain.
- **Announcements:**
 - The web site password has changed. Steve passed around cards with the new password on them, and advised people to take one if they needed one.
 - Steve said that online reporting feature supporting the number of logs removed via chainsaw and via crosscut is now live. Please start entering data in these fields as you remove logs from the trail.
 - Terry presented three very large display panels about the Eagle Creek Fire that had been used by the Forest Service. They had them remade into just one panel, and were going to put the old ones in storage. Terry asked to have them for tabling events. They're really well done and durable, but if they're damaged they likely won't be replaced. He would like them used only for tabling events that are held indoors since wind could be a problem. He's not 100% sure yet where they'll be stored, but it's likely he'll just hang on to them himself; there's no room at the Multnomah Falls Lodge per Ron.
 - Steve read an email from Michael Hanley reporting that Bill and Karla Hawley resigned because the North 350 Blades decided to hold an axe training class for women only and they felt strongly that it was discriminatory to offer "single-identity training". See Michael's report later in the minutes for more detail.
 - Tammy is back in town with a hurt foot but will go back out to the Appalachian Trail when it's healed.

Round the Room

- Kelley Davis via email
 - I scouted my trail (about 2/3 of it) and found only one tangle of trees that can be taken out with a Katanaboy, a few other small logs down, and (as expected) lots of rocks to be removed. I'll plan to schedule a couple of crews in early June to work on those items, along with some tread work.
- Chris Keil
 - Scouted Herman Creek on April 14. He got about 5 miles in. He found seven down logs (with the largest being the farthest out), but felt the trail was in pretty good shape. He was surprised there weren't more rock slides and there was no snow in the section he saw.
 - Roberta added there was snow at Gorton Creek before the cutoff, and that she didn't know when Wahtum Lake would be open.
 - Chris continued that he scouted his own trail, the lower section of Paradise Park, on Sunday, May 5. He said it was the cleanest he's ever seen it. He cleared seven logs and there are just a few left. There are usually about 40 trees down this time of year, this year it's just five. The tread is very dry, more like what he'd expect to see in August. There's very little snow up to 4500'.
 - The bridge into the campground has been damaged and is closed. It has holes in it, one of the stringers is broken, and the rail is damaged.
 - He ran into backpackers who said the upper sections of the Paradise Park trail look good. He thinks he can get it ready to go in one trip (it usually takes three).
 - There's a red flag warning, starting tomorrow (May 9).
- Tim Lagasse
 - Two weeks ago there was still snow on the north side of Timothy Lake, and there's still snow south to the power lines.
 - Trail runner Dan Dahlke is planning to scout
 - The trail has very few logs and the snow is melting quickly. He expects it to be a easy year, but a dry one.

- Robert Caldwell
 - 4/16, 4/18, and 4/22 – Worked with Susan three times at Eagle Creek
 - 4/20 – Helped Roberta
 - 4/17, 4/26, and 5/1 – Scouted Ramona Falls. The lower section of the trail is snow free. He hiked the ridge up to Bald Mountain. There's 35" of snow across the road going up to Top Spur. Lolo Pass is open but there's still snow on the trail.
 - 4/29 – Crew on the Sandy River Trail, tread and drain work.
 - 5/7 – Crew on Muddy Fork, brushing and tread work. Cleared one log.
 - The previous weekend he attended the West Cascades Trail Skill College near McKenzie Bridge.
- Sue Malone
 - Scouted with Thomas (Table Mountain) one day and with Susan (Eagle Creek) one day.
 - She'll scout her section on Saturday, 5/11
 - She'll also work on the "foster children" trails, but most are still under snow.
- Tom Weiman
 - Worked on 4/16 with Susan and Robert (his first crew this year)
 - He's planning to get into Wahtum Lake and scouting that trailhead; expects he'll be able to get in earlier than normal due to light snow pack.
- Terry Hill
 - He was on a crew with Susan and two crews with Thomas.
- Becky Wolf
 - They were able to get into Breitenbush earlier than normal.
- Ron Goodwin
 - Reported that the trail beyond Benson Bridge is still closed, but someone is planning to get in there on Monday (5/13). He's not sure who's doing the work or what they'll be doing, but the whole plaza will be closed off (although people are invited to watch the event). Ron was asked to video it for the group if possible. Tim commented that the Forest Service is planning to discontinue their blasting program; blasting will be contracted out.
- Brooke Stevinson
 - She went on a crew with Thomas
 - She's been part of the Potato Patch crew before, and may be able to help. Sway may be willing to be the camp tender for the project. Steve said she should get in touch with Michael, and she said she would.
- Peter Hoffman and Diane Kelso
 - Went to Kim and Pam Owen's open house in Mosier, and found a tick when they got back.
 - Tammy Turner is back in town.
- Tom Wiemann
 - Was on Susan's crew at Eagle Creek. He hopes to be in their section in the next two weeks or so.
- Bob and Jane Arkes
 - They plan to take a look at their section on May 29th, so see how far up they can go before running into snow. They'll start with Jane's section, since it's lower – but this year they'll take shovels.
- Thomas Calvary
 - On April 20th his crew did some brushing on the first half mile below Table Mountain (there was no lock on the Blue Lake Road gate). That half-mile section looks good; they took out a rock waterbar that wasn't doing any good.
 - Susan got nicked with a saw, but he didn't file an incident report because he wasn't sure which forms he was supposed to fill out.
 - Dana said the proper procedure is to fill out a CA-1 form and then let people know he'd removed a form from the kit.
 - The loppers are in need of repair or replacement.
 - He had questions on the radios and wasn't sure how to change a channel group. Roberta said that the instructions probably need to be updated.
 - Thomas will scout Birkenfeld Saddle on Saturday and it needs a TCP. Steve asked that he talk to him about it after the meeting, because there should be one available. Thomas said the trail had been rerouted to a road that had the gate open but a No Trespassing sign on it. There's snow at the top and it's not passable.
 - On May 4-5 he finished scouting the northern half of Table Mountain. It's really brushy and narrow, but has good access. He stopped at the Blue Lake Road gate on the way back and found the landowner putting a new lock on it. The landowner said the Forest Service is supposed to tell him when people will be going through. Thomas went to log the area that Sunday, but found the gate locked. His crew of five

consequently had to hike in five miles. They cleared 27 logs off the trail. There's snow right at the top where the trail levels off, but it's soft and not deep (2"-3") so it'll probably be gone after this weekend.

- David Roe
 - He attended the Regional Saw Conference. There was an exceptionally large turnout from the PCTA – five individuals – as instructors or instructors in training. Ian Nelson, the Big Bend regional representative, was also present
 - He went from there to White River for the three-day saw certification. It went without a hitch.
 - He got called to the West Cascades Trail Skill College (as did Robert Caldwell and Dana Hendricks) to help as instructors. The High Cascade Volunteers run it very professionally and did an exceptionally good job with the event.
 - Coming back from McKenzie the gate at Detroit was open. He went to Olallie Lake and got to the top where there was a turnout but hit about a foot of snow. He thinks it should be open now, however, and it's a better way to get up to Timothy Lake from the South.
 - He scouted Twin Lakes today (May 8). It must be open by Memorial Day, plus there's a Campsite Sustainability Workshop planned there the first week of June. There's about a foot of snow at the lot, 16" at the junction with the Twin Lakes trail, with 60% coverage. Above that there's three feet of snow, 95% coverage. At the trail's highest point – around 4800' – there is four feet of snow, 100% coverage.
 - He plans to schedule a logout but very few logs are down. They should be able to do both crosscut and chainsaw teams with a minimal number of people.
 - He warned that any chainsawing should be completed early, as he expects fire restrictions earlier this year, likely by the end of June.
- Rick Schmidt
 - He's leading an Indian Heaven trip the third weekend in July. It'll coincide with the 50th anniversary of the moon landing so they may go with a NASA theme (suggestions from the peanut gallery: space blankets, space ice cream, Tang...). He's move the trip up if the snow leaves sooner.
- Tami Sheets
 - Worked with Bill Canavan but was foiled by the snow. FS43 to FS41 is covered.
 - Sedum Ridge North is logged out and ready to go.
 - She scouted Sedum Ridge South. Seven spots are in need of chainsaw work. They're all a 4.5 mile walk in and out – but they can only be reached from three different trailheads. She'll need a B chain sawyer's help. They're on a steep slope, they're rotten, and she suspects they'll torpedo. She offered them to Leif for training but hasn't heard back. She'll be on the East Coast for work the end of May/beginning of June, so she's looking at June 12th or 19th if she can find a B sawyer.
 - This is the first year she's been able to get into her section before Memorial Day. The waterfalls are gorgeous and Sedum Ridge looks great.
- Susan McDonnell
 - On the 16th they went up with rigging and cleared the massive rockslide everyone saw on Facebook. Pace worked on the rigging and Nathaniel Brodie with the Forest Service assisted with getting the logs cleared.
 - On the 18th they got the smaller logs cleared out up to High Bridge
 - They also went on the 22nd but didn't have a saw to do larger logs
 - There's a lot of treadwork to do. It was passable by 4/22 but not pretty. She'll work on making it pretty this week.
 - The third set of cable/cliff area has been scraped down to the original tread.
 - Another project came up next Wednesday to get in to clean the slides
 - A group of four Forest Service personnel were out last Monday. Bids are in process, and contractors will come in to finish the work.
- Roberta Cobb
 - Omar, Pace and she went to the Pacific Crest Falls. The trail no longer goes up to the creek crossing. They planted some rocks and it looks good.
 - She's prepping for Timothy Lake.
 - She's moving to Washougal soon. The tool cache has to move. She'll get her tools from the Walking Man cache in the future. The house comes with a goat. It's off Washougal River Road, about three minutes from the Merc (a local landmark).
- Steve Queen
 - The TCPs have been changed so the EAP has FECA info on it. If you have any copies offline they need to be updated. Let Steve know if any changes need to be made to the static language on the forms. Dana mentioned that people should encourage anyone who's injured to go to a FECA hospital, just in case. An

injury may look minor but it can turn into a bigger deal down the road, and they'll may be glad to have the FECA option.

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)

- She was an instructor at the West Cascades Trail Skills College this last weekend and it was great.
- August 21-22, she'll be leading a group from Urban Youth (the same as last year). They've a group of teens from Vancouver. They'll be working on Steve Plant's section at Timothy Lake
- If you have minors on a trip be sure to let Dana know. They need to have special release forms filled out for them, on any crew. The forms are also available online. Overnight trips with minors under 18 without their guardian present may require a background check.
- There will be three trips into Jefferson Park this summer. She hopes to finish it this year. The trip running August 8 – 15 is new, but there are others (they'll run the first three weeks of August).
- She and Bill Canavan met with Friends of the Gorge regarding their Trailhead Ambassador program. It seems like it will be very helpful in reducing issues. There's one open now at Bridge of the Gods and one will open at Timberline Lodge. They'll be stocking it with PCTA information. There's info on the Friends' web site if you'd like to get involved.
- The Sustainable Camping Workshop is scheduled 6/4-6/5 at Twin Lakes. She has info if you're interested.
- Since there isn't a lot of blowdown this year, consider drainage projects. She's very interested in helping to scout these and discuss problem area.
- Sway would like to do some camp tending in August.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael)

- via email: Greeting everyone, first off, thank you Steve for delivering this message to everyone. I tried to clear my schedule today so I could drive down and be with you all, but I was unable to move enough things off my plate. I'm sorry.
My update this week is a sad one. As you have likely already seen from previous emails, Bill and Karla Hawley resigned from the PCTA last month in response to a decision by the North 350 Blades chapter to offer a women's axe training at some point in the future. The Blades had also decided that they would hold an identical training open anyone. I support the North 350 Blades decision, but I am genuinely saddened by the Hawleys' departure. For many years both of them have contributed tremendous amounts of time and energy to the stewardship of the PCT. I respect the strength of their convictions. I am sure that they felt that they needed to express their disapproval for this single-identity training strongly, but I wish they had reached out to me or anyone at PCTA before making their decision to end their relationship with us.
I share this update in part to clarify what happened for anyone who, like me, felt whiplashed by these events and also to remind everyone that PCTA has an open door policy. You can always reach out to me or anyone on staff if you would like to talk.
Moving forward, the White Pass Chapter is going to have a planning call this month to discuss whether some of the projects Karla and Bill had planned can move forward without the their leadership. Karla's July 25-28th Potato Patch crew for instance is already fully registered, and it would be a shame to have to cancel it. If anyone would like to participate in the White Pass Chapter call or has the time to potentially help lead a project on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District. Please let me know. Any help the White Pass Chapter can get during this sudden transition would be greatly appreciated. The White Pass Chapter will be having their conference call on Monday, May 13th from 7 PM to 8 PM.

Chair (Leif)

- Saw Training – Great Weekend at Wind River. Picking up more TKO volunteers.
- TSC – Very successful. More good saw training.
- On the fence for the May 18 Saw Practice for Wind River – awaiting more scouting reports, since they cleaned up most of the logs on the trail during WRST.

Partnership Crews (Leif)

- No report..

Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta)

- They've been very busy – 30 days on the trails so far, the majority of it on Eagle Creek.
- First Bridge was to be done in early June. Edan says not it might be mid-July due to salmon habitat issues. Bids are out for the materials.
- They had two work parties with Friends of the Gorge, with 12 from us and 12 from them. We will do treadwork right at the start. Friends of the Gorge will pull stinky bob (*Geranium robertianum*) and whatever else they think should be removed. For upcoming FOG/PCTA Eagle Creek crews, she only wants people who haven't worked Eagle Creek before, with Omar and Chris as co-crew leaders.
- Kelley scouted Teakettle Springs. There's a very low log count. Everything not still snow-covered has been scouted – Nick Eaton cutoff and lower, Gorton Creek down.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Thanked the group for getting their stuff in earlier. She's working 60-hour weeks at the moment, so please continue to call her if she hasn't responded to your email.
- She's had a couple of volunteers ask when crews will be working on the weekend. She's letting them know Columbia Dispatch isn't working seven days a week yet, and won't until Memorial Day weekend. We can't hold weekend parties until then.
- Pace said that some people are complaining that it's difficult to cancel their parties in Eventbrite; it's not an intuitive process. We're limited by Eventbrite. Rosemary will see if she can clarify the language to help that. She can also cancel a person if she knows about it.

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- Since Tammy is gone, Steve asked the group how it went and the group said it went well.

Outreach and Events (Michele Wier, Tammy)

- Just got back from Cabo – lots of sunshine. She'll take the tabling stuff from Roberta's cache.
- There's a webinar for tabling training on 5/22. Let her know if you're interested.
- On 6/8 is National Get Outdoors Day, and she'll need tabling and saw help. She'd be happy to add Terry's new display to the event.

Tools (Terry)

- Leif had some tools that needed new handles (four Pulaskis, three Reinhart hoes – one ended up with a handle on backwards... don't know how that happened).
- The loppers with gears have too much leverage for the materials they're made out of, and they're breaking. They should be replaced. They're all plastic except for the blades. Should we buy more of these (they're short Fiskars), or get something else? The general agreement was that we need something that size. It was also suggested that we look at hand pruners – rose clippers. Terry will start shopping around; feel free to make suggestions if there's a brand you like. Tim asked how much we're willing to spend on them. There are good loppers out there, but they're not cheap.
- A tool day will be held at the tool cache at Trout Lake, date TBD. It's the coolest tool cache around – ancient – it's one of his favorite places.
- Steve mentioned that Dolly Chapman will hold two workshops for sharpening this September in Calpine, CA: 9/10-9/12 and 9/13-9/15. It's not nearby, but she is the master.
From Dolly Chapman: My next saw sharpening workshops are scheduled for September 10-12 and 13-15, 2019. Here are links to sign up:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-91019-91219-tickets-60766155206>
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-91319-91519-tickets-60766694820>
These workshops are a great opportunity to learn and practice sharpening skills, and also try out all kinds of saws and tools, look over historic saw catalogs and literature, and build your tool and file kit, all with a group of like minded folks. September is a great time to be in Calpine, CA. Please contact me with any questions.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- If you do send out a TCP and you need to cancel a trip, withdraw the TCP from Columbia Dispatch and your agency contact so they know not to look for your crew. There was an instance last year on Benson Plateau. We'd cancelled, but a fire broke out and they didn't know if we were in there and needed rescue.

Saw Program (Leif)

- See Chair report.

Budget (Little Brown)

- Via email: The budget remaining stands at \$2900 and there are no issues except funding if we move the cache to a storage unit.
- This led to a discussion about potential locations for Roberta's cache:
 - Volunteer fire department or other outdoor groups, like SAR.
 - Has anyone reached out to the Mazamas? Terry is reluctant to do that. He suggested that a current Mazama ask them.
 - Oregon State Parks?
 - Dana said it needs to be a Portland location.
 - How many square feet? It needs to be about the size of a garage – 8'x10' at the smallest, 10'x12' would be better. There has to be room for the shelving, too.
 - The kitchen stuff can be separated out. Someone wanted to know if the kitchen gear could go in the tool trailer. No, not enough room.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- No report.

Stats (Pace)

- Included are three month end crews, but we are still missing some admin hours. TSC hours are not included, to show a better comparison to prior year totals, since not all 2019 TSC hours have been processed.

	April 2019	April 2018	April 2017	YTD April 2019	YTD April 2018	YTD April 2017
Total Volunteer Hours	1,156	2641	1,389	2,803	7,870	3,229
Specialized hours	200	504	245	463	1,311	478
Number of Trail Crews	10	16	5	16	45	16
Miles Logged out	7	5	7	15	13	21
Miles Maintained	5	9	3	16	30	19
Feet of Rehab/Recon	2,975	7635	150	4,698	21,667	1,000
Volunteer hours by Category						
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	1,008	1769	534	1,477	4,482	1,413
Trail Maint - support	148	400	416	886	1,325	1,244
Trail Skills Training (*)	0	456	439	397	1,938	475
Outreach Events	0	16	0	44	126	97
	<u>1,156</u>	<u>2,641</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>2,803</u>	<u>7,870</u>	<u>3,229</u>

(*) TSC not included

Discussion Items

- Steve would like to start a chapter photo storage site. It needs to be available to everyone so they can upload their photos. Our website doesn't support this kind of filing system/easy retrieval/album storage. People need to be able to annotate photos as well as just upload them. Dana has some ideas but will talk about it later. It'll need someone to

organize it – and who'd want that job? The idea would be to receive quality photos suitable for display. It was suggested that we look for a volunteer archivist.

- Ron mentioned a higher salmon count seemed to correlate to a raise in turbidity of the Columbia River. Wondered if there were more stats to back that than his observation this week.
- Sue Malone asked if she should add the Potato Hill section to the foster list with the Hawley's departure. She may be interested in it.
- There was a discussion about the hiking trails at Memaloose. Some individuals are parking on private land, and they're getting ticketed, even though the land isn't signed as private.
- Tom mentioned the poison oak is really popping out all of a sudden.
- Chris mentioned the bugs are really bad already.

Meeting adjourned 8:24

Past Events

This is a brief accounting of projects that occurred since the previous caretaker meeting. For a full(er) accounting of projects, visit <http://mthood.longtrails.com/projectreports/project-reports-2019.pdf>.

Trail Work and Scouting

1. **April 14:** Herman Creek Scouting: Chris Keil
Herman Creek Trailhead to Slide Creek (5.1 miles from TH)
2. **April 16: Lower Eagle Creek brushing & treadwork: Susan McDonnell & Robert Caldwell**
Fern Creek to .3 mile beyond Fern Creek (toward High Bridge)
3. **April 18:** Lower Eagle Creek logout, brushing & treadwork: Susan McDonnell & Robert Caldwell
Fern Creek to High Bridge
4. **April 20:** Table Mountain - General Maintenance: Thomas Calvery
South end of the Table Mountain section, Greenleaf Creek Road to 1/2 mile north of Greenleaf Creek Road
5. **April 20:** Pacific Crest Falls water crossing improvement: Roberta Cobb, Robert Caldwell
PCT about one-half mile north of junction with Herman Bridge Trail #406E at water crossing immediately below Pacific Crest Falls
6. **April 21:** Sedum Ridge North 2019 Scouting: Tamara Sheets
Trout Creek (FS 43) Southbound to Sedum Ridge (FS 21 - Decommissioned)
7. **April 22:** Lower Eagle Creek treadwork: Susan McDonnell & Robert Caldwell
Fern Creek to High Bridge
8. **April 27:** Scouting Big Huckleberry: William Canavan
Road 68 to Road 60
9. **April 28:** Sedum Ridge North 2019 Log-Out: Tamara Sheets
Trout Creek Bridge - PCT/FS 43 Junction Southbound to 3.5-mile mark south of FS 43
10. **April 29:** Sandy River Trail treadwork: Robert Caldwell
Ramona Falls trailhead to Junction of Sandy River Trail and PCT
11. **May 4-5:** Table Mountain - Scouting and Logout: Thomas Calvery
Greenleaf Road, 4.9 miles north of the Bridge of the Gods, N 45° 40' 5.82" W 121° 57' 24.09" to Road 2020, 10.6 miles north of the Bridge of the Gods, N 45° 42' 5.53" W 121° 59' 57.29"
12. **May 4:** Sedum Ridge South 2019 Scouting: Tamara Sheets
CG 2000 northbound : CG 2070 southbound : CG 2070 north bound to Sedum Creek south bank : Sedum Creek north bank : 3-mile north of 2070
13. **May 5:** Lower Paradise Park Scout: Chris Keil
Paradise Park Trail (#778) trailhead to 4.25 miles from trailhead (1 mile from PCT junction)
14. **May 6:** Lower Eagle Creek treadwork: Susan McDonnell & Kathrin Dragich
Approx. 1/4 mile past Fern Creek to Approx. 1/2 mile past Fern Creek
15. **May 7:** Muddy Fork brushing & drainage: Robert Caldwell
PCT at Muddy Fork River crossing to PCT 0.6 miles north of river crossing
16. **May 8:** Twin Lakes Trail Survey: David Roe
Frog Lake TH to Barlow Pass TH Including Twin Lakes Trail alternate route

Other Events

1. **April 12-14:** Trail Skills College
2. **April 26-28:** Wind River Saw Certification

Future Events

1. **June 12:** Caretaker Meeting at REI
2. **July 5-11:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Summit Butte
3. **July 19-25:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Mt Washington
4. **August 2-8:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Jeff Park 1
5. **August 16-26:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Jeff Park 2
6. **August 30-September 4:** Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation – Hidden Spring in Goat Rocks Wilderness
7. **September 13-19:** Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation – Goat Rocks Fire Restoration

Notes

- **9 Vacancies:** 1) Potato Hill; 2) Grand Meadows; 3) Steamboat Lake; 4) Twin Buttes; 5) Birkenfeld Mountain; 6) Table Mountain; 7) Lower Eagle Creek; 8) Upper Eagle Creek; 9) Indian Springs Trail 435
- **2 Reservations:** 1) Three Corner Rock North (Sue Malone); 2) Middle Eagle Creek (Susan McDonnell)
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, seven days a week, beginning May 25, 2019, waccc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.