Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Agenda

October 14, 2020, 6:45 pm Location: Microsoft Teams

Attended: Bob Arkes, Jane Arkes, Robert Caldwell, Thomas Calvery, Bill Canavan, Dana Hendricks, Peter Hoffman, Leif Hovin, Graham Hulbert, Frank Jahn, Renee Janssen, Todd Janssen, Diane Kelso, Kim Kovacs, Tim Lagasse, Stacy Lee, Roberta May, Susan McDonnell, Sue Melone, Kim Owen, Pam Owen, Rosemary Prescott, Steve Queen, Hilary Renshaw, Susan Tracy, Tammy Turner, Ruth Weston, Becky Wolf, Nathan

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

Chapter Chair Report (Leif)

- Leif just found out that the Forest Service realized the rains moistened things enough to allow the USFS to reduce fire bans as of Friday 10/16.
- He was impressed with all the late-season work the group is doing, removing all the logs; it's huge. He doesn't remember having such a late-season surprise in the past. Steve concurred; when he was entering all the hours, he had to go back in and change many "done" reports back to "partial," which he's never had to do before. Everyone got slammed after having a clean bill of health on many sections. Leif said his got cleared just a couple of days before the winds hit. He doesn't know what it looks like now, although it's probably not good because it's just around the corner from where others have been working. He wanted to remind the group that there are still a lot of hazards out there.
- He's continued working with Dana and the staff in Sacramento to work on their plan for better interfacing with the Mount Hood Chapter. Another session is planned.
- The fiscal year just ended, so the work getting done now will be for next year's hours. The reports for last year will be getting finalized by the end of the month and we'll get them to our agency partners.
- He needs to get an email out to the sawyers distribution list for a youth crew, coming out for two weeks, doing some work in the Gorge, and working on developing future leaders. It's a joint effort between PCTA, TKO, WTA and the Forest Service. We've got an opportunity to work beside these groups on 10/29 -10/30 on the 400 Trail. We're trying to get that trail finished about the time that the bridge at the Eagle Creek Trailhead is put in.

Regional Rep Report (Dana)

- Update on fires and forest closures the area that's south of Frog Lake is still closed due to the Lion's Head fire
 and other fires there. Everywhere else, the PCT is open. There is a LOT of blowdown, especially on Mount Hood.
 We've got other organizations reaching out to us, offering to help (TKO, WTA), concerned about the blowdown.
 It's difficult incorporating them into our crews, so Dana wondered how we felt about letting the groups work on
 some of our sections. She's not sure what that would look like, but we could potentially take advantage of it.
- Another potential area for collaboration is online training. Dana asked how many people had seen the Intro to Trails video; there will be another one coming out on October 21. She's been talking to TKO and Cascade Volunteers in Central Oregon, and we're in discussions with both.
- There are two more trail-wide Q&A's for COVID re-engagement questions on 10/16 and 10/30, 1:15-2:00. Those are good times to catch Jennifer Tripp and possibly Beth Boyst live.
- Sue Melone asked her about COVID protocols when collaborating with other organizations. Dana said that we
 collaborated with the other organizations when developing the protocols, and theirs are almost identical to ours.
 She didn't think it would be an obstacle. She added that there are two options for collaborating: 1) either having
 individuals join as PCTA volunteers, or 2) having the other group run a parallel party with their own paperwork.
 Leif felt keeping the assignments separate would be better and would avoid confusion.
- She thanked the group for getting out in the soggy weather and getting so much work done.

Trail Tip

Stacey Lee presented a great presentation about how to scout the trail while running the trail.

Round the Room

- Dana Hendricks
 - Her son, Gus, is playing soccer, with Skamania County in Phase III. Her husband Paul is running for Skamania County Commissioner. Steve asked if he'd run for Commissioner before, and she said no, that he's been on the City Council. He's in a race against the Republican incumbent and is the underdog.

Roberta chimed in that she's in Skamania County but a different district; Dana clarified that she could actually vote for that district too.

Roberta May

- Didn't do any logouts. She injured her back digging out a rhododendron.
- Nathaniel said he'd send in his fire crew to clear her trail but that didn't happen. They worked on Dry Creek Road – which has been closed for quite some time.
- She's going to try to get a project scheduled, so if you're a chainsaw sawyer, let her know if you're interested.
- She was also a speaker at the Oregon Trails Conference, and it went well. She was talking about working
 on trails after fire Eagle Creek especially.
- Also, last year she won a belt buckle and wanted to know if anyone wants it, since she won't use it.
- Her puppy, Benno, is now four months old and 55 pounds.

Ruth Weston

- She said that everything's the same, neither good nor bad.
- Roberta reminded her that she did do some trail work. Ruth said she had one crew with three people and got four big trees. They limbed more than anything. It was cool working so close to the lodge. They got a lot done although it doesn't look like it on paper. They hiked just a mile and a quarter all day.

Graham Hulbert

- He missed the past meetings because he didn't get an invitation. (He is now on the caretaker list.)
- He was ACL for his first project, with Susan McDonnell on Eagle Creek.
- This month he assisted on some logouts with Pace and team.
- He's hoping to get a job soon which may impact his availability.

Susan McDonnell

- Since the last meeting she scouted the Twin Lakes section with Graham and they found 52 trees down in the first two miles south of Barlow and nothing at all from Frog Lake going north.
- She also scouted Upper Eagle with Albert, and they found fifty-ish trees. They cleared a few, but there are some big ones near Wahtum, and then nothing until the burn, then another 45 or so trees.
- She scouted Lower Eagle, also with Albert, but there wasn't much down; that was mostly in prep for this
 weekend's project.
- She participated in a number of logouts: one on Sedum, and five on Pace's section.
- She took a week of vacation day hiking near Mount Rainier with her husband.

Nate Zaremskiy

- It's been a busy month. It's crunch time at work, rushing to get the lifts up and running.
- He's been on a couple of logouts with Pace. They cut 102 logs on Friday and Sunday combined in the first two-ish miles. He's heading out to Eagle Creek this weekend. He said he'd let Pace talk about conditions at Ramona Falls.

• Jane and Bob Arkes

- They plan to scout Gateway to Mount Adams to see if there's blowdown and will talk to Dean. There are a
 lot of horse people in that area that are doing freelance work without telling or asking anyone. Part of that
 section will be covered in snow soon.
- Jane asked about closing down their cache. Bob said he'd check with Terry about it; they always bring back anything gas-powered as well as the first aid kit, and give the tools a good cleaning. He wasn't sure what needed to happen with the COVID stuff – leave it to winter over, or pull it? Susan McDonnell suggested taking it to the Stevenson cache, and Leif agreed that would be best.
- Leif said he hiked the section with Dana, and hasn't heard of any blowdown. Steve said Leif, Bill and Dana all scouted that section as part of a bigger scout, and they haven't heard of any blowdown in the Gateway to Adams section.
- Jane mentioned that Bob's getting a hip replacement which will limit his activity for a while. Kim Owen said that he and Pam were up on Road 23 recently and didn't notice any blowdown at all; their stretch was still completely clean. He said to let him know if they need any help.

Frank Jahn

He said that at this very moment he should be rafting the Grand Canyon, but had to cancel due to medical issues. He had a weird heart arrhythmia which occurred three times while he was in Utah. One kept him up the entire night. He went to the doctor who did an EKG, but they didn't find anything. The doctor felt it was likely a benign arrhythmia but ordered a portable heart monitor for him, to be on the safe side. He's also developed pretty bad tennis elbow in both arms as a result of trail work, yard work, and 33 days on the Washington PCT using trekking poles. It became pretty debilitating. They're slowly getting better, but he's pretty well sidelined right now. He may do some traveling before the weather starts to turn really bad. Steve asked about whether he'd had an angiogram, and Frank said no, that the doctor didn't think his symptoms warranted it.

Becky Wolf

She's doing fine, although she had to evacuate for the fires. She fortunately had a home to come back to.

She's been attending the Summit meetings (next Monday is the final meeting). They've been very good, especially film night on Thursday nights. She encourages anyone who's interested to go to the Oregon Trails Coalition site and sign up. It's free; most of the meetings are during the day but the movies are at night.

Todd and Renee Janssen

- They're eating Thai take-out since they still have construction going on in their kitchen.
- They have nothing to report since their section is still closed. Renee said she has free time, if anybody need some extra hands.

Stacy Lee

- She hasn't been out doing any trail work. Her mid-Oregon section is in the Lion's Head fire area. She heard from Arden Corey; his house in Mill City is completely unscathed, as are the first aid and tool caches.
- She's going out with Susan this weekend. She's looking for more time on the saw, as she'd like to get her B certification (she's currently an A, crosscut only).
- She's also adopted a dog, a 2-year-old red heeler named Evie.
- Stacey asked if Herman Creek was open. Roberta said it's closed, but we can get in, just talk to Nathaniel.

Bill Canavan

- He, Dana, Leif, Bex, and folks from the USFS hiked from 5603 down to Panther Creek. They had perfect weather the whole time, learned a lot, saw a lot. His section had 48 logs down, from Crest Camp to Panther Creek – more than he's ever seen on his section.
- He's also working on the database project with the PCTA. They're moving their database to Salesforce, and they're in Phase 3 testing now. The idea is that when you submit a project plan everything from there on is automated. You won't be able to submit a project report until you submit a project plan, and when you do it automatically recruits for the number of people you asked for. Then, when you do the plan, it automatically populates it with the volunteers. It should be very helpful once it's done. The database designers haven't done trail work, so at times the data entry isn't ideal, but they're working on improving it. It should reduce paperwork dramatically.
- PCTA is trying to develop a "foundation document." They want people to fill out a survey on what they think is important about the PCT, where the resources are, and then they'll take that information and build a plan for moving forward. The foundation document isn't a policy, doesn't say how things should be done; it just says "these things are important to us," so when a plan is formed they know what's important to the people using the trail.

Peter Hoffman and Diane Kelso

- They're doing fine. They were on vacation when Dana put out the request to scout post-blowdown. They
 bought a camper to put on their pickup, which they hope to use for trailhead camping. They went to
 Colorado to pick it up, and then went to South Dakota and Yellowstone for a visit. It was nice and not at
 all crowded.
- Once they got back they went out on 10/6 to do a logout from Lolo Pass. It wasn't too bad; every 10th of a
 mile or so there was a log. On the first day they got seven removed, and then on 10/8 they got another 10
 done, all of them big. Everything has been removed from the lower section with the exception of three
 logs.
- On 10/12 they did a logout coming from Top Spur. It's pretty bad up there. They had 30 large trees down
 in 3/10 of a mile. They got about half removed, the rest de-limbed. Most were very large with lots of limbs;
 people really have to climb through or climb around that area. They plan to go back out tomorrow to
 hopefully get more done. It looks about the same all the way across the top.

Sue Melone

- She hopes everyone is getting healthy and well. It's been very busy at work; it's the time of year when their clients are renewed, and all her clients are setting their goals for the coming year. She's using about one vacation day a week (and has been for the past three or four months) to do trail work. Her company gives her a week of volunteer days as well. So she's been able to get out and get a ton of sawing practice in (mostly with Pace but also with Graham and Susan). She's really been enjoying the camaraderie.
- She scouted Timberline Trail South, which had over 40 trees down.
- She hasn't been on her section, since she doesn't think there's been much in the way of blowdown.
- Looking at the foster trails, the ones in the blowdown area seem to have been scouted. She thanked everyone for working on them.

Kim and Pam Owen

They worked on 9/29-9/30 at Grand Meadows. The online report shows them going out for one day instead of two; Steve said that that's the one thing he screws up all the time, so if you ever see that let him know. They didn't see any blow down, but they did see reports that there were a lot of trees down near Sawtooth Ridge in Indian Heaven – but not on the PCT itself.

- Dave Roe contacted him re radios; he still has the radios from the southern cache. Leif has the trailer cache, but Dave still needs to turn over the radios. Someone said she'd pick them up.
- Kim and Pam are available and eager to do logouts, but they don't feel like they can do a lot of hiking distance – a few miles in and out would be OK.
- This summer they had five fires come to within a mile and a half of their house. They're hoping the understory fuel is now burned out and are thankful they've been safe.

Robert Caldwell

- O He just finished logging out his entire section in August and thought he was done. He scouted 12 miles of his trail, which had 539 logs down. He still has 2.5 miles to scout. He's had five crews out, and they cleared 147 logs. They're making progress. They have five more scheduled in the next 1.5 weeks, and is hoping the weather will hold long enough to get a bunch done. The worst area is around the Ramona Falls area. There are a lot of trees overturned in the Old Man Flats area, and the Ramona Falls Loop has about 400 logs down; it's impassible in some areas. But there are a lot of nice, new views. He still needs to scout the north side of Yokum Ridge he can see it from the Bald Mountain area, and looking across at the area you can see a huge patch of the side hill about 2 miles all you see is the top half of trees that have blown over. He saw some photos on Facebook and it looks pretty bad. There are probably a couple hundred more trees in that area, but it'll likely have to wait until spring.
- His goal for the rest of the year is to clear from the Ramona Falls trailhead up to the falls and they're
 making good progress on that and today they worked from Top Spur down to the upper river crossing
 and have it cleared out except for a 31" log they didn't have a big enough saw for.

Bill Canavan

- Wanted to address Kim's report on Sawtooth Ridge. He said the worst place was that area; there's a pile of jackstraws just about a mile south from the Sawtooth/Berry Field trailhead. He said if Kim wants to take that one, it would probably take a good day. Dana said that Dean may have already taken care of that, so check with him first. Kim confirmed it was PCT and not a side trail. Dana has pictures she'll send to him.
- Kim said they'd like to get to Mount Hood too maybe Barlow Pass North.
- Peter Hoffman said Lolo Pass south from the Top Spur trailhead is only a half-mile hike, and in that first 3/10 of a mile they left 15 very large logs, all limbed and ready to go, no more than 2 miles of hiking. Kim will contact Peter for more info.
- Leif asked him how big a saw he needed; he replied that he does most of them with a Katanaboy 26", and he leaves anything larger than 20". The largest might be 36", but most are in the 24" range. Kim said he's got tools to handle that. Leif said they also just got a new 6.5-foot saw that would be available. Peter said he may check out a saw from Leif.
- Susan Tracy said there's another jackstraw pile from the 420 road similar to the one up by Sawtooth which might work for Kim as well.

Leif Hovin

- Joined Bill, Dana, Bex, and the Forest Service crew. It was good to see the work they did from a couple of vears back.
- He had a trip to Boston for a friend's wedding. Flying was interesting; lots of space on the airplane and the airport was pretty sparse, but it's a pain to wear a mask for a long flight.
- He picked up the trailer when Dave had to evacuate because of the fire. It's only temporary, and they're
 looking for another place to store it.
- They've received a grant that they're hoping to use to purchase two new chain saws, since they haven't been able to buy one in years. "Grumpy" and the other 250 are getting ready to die. They'll be used for parts; the bars are interchangeable, too.
- He's also slowly getting chain grinders in place so we'll be able to sharpen our chainsaws. He'll be able to sharpen anyone's chain, so if you want yours sharpened, let him know.

Hilary Renshaw

• No trail news. She's happy to help with weekend crews.

Kim Kovacs

- o Scouted her section from Panther Creek as far as Bunker Hill. She had no blowdown whatsoever.
- She and her husband did some brushing of some overgrown sections. She related a story about an experience at Oxbow, where she led a TKO crew last January. A Metro staff member from Oxbow overheard a racist comment made by one of the volunteers. She herself didn't hear about it but was getting pushback from Oxbow and didn't know why. She wanted to mention it because it was a real wake-up call at how easily something like that can happen.
- Steve asked if she'd made it to the other half of her section of the PCT, and she said no, but hoped to get to it later in the week. Leif said that beyond Warren Gap is often an area with blowdown, although he didn't know if it would have been impacted by this last event. It took five crews with chainsaws to clear it last time. Kim said she also wants to see what it looks like after the rains, since she suspects there are water issues there too that just aren't apparent right now.

Rosemary Prescott

- Nothing to report. She's been helping with the tech testing but that's about it.
- She's going to Leavenworth this weekend, maybe see some larches and play around in the snow.

Tim Lagasse

- No information on the PCT since his section is still closed.
- The Unger fire started about a quarter-mile north of his house, burning up to the side of the common driveway he shares with others. They were evacuated and had to move the horses several times. Their trailer only accommodates three horses so they had to make multiple trips. He stopped by to see how his home was looking and found an active fire with no firefighters present. One of his neighbors had a working well, and he had some large tanks, so he and his neighbors (8-10 people) formed a bucket brigade to put the fires out. He finally got a generator big enough to get his well running, and at that point he started staying on the property to protect it from looters.
- Regarding the new database PCTA is converting to, he wanted to make sure that they can add people to their rosters; Bill said they talked about that today, that they need to be able to add walk-ons, and they're trying to build that feature in. They'll know in about two months if it works.

Thomas Calvery

- No PCTA stuff. He was on a couple of WTA crews.
- They were north of Roslyn where they ripped out and replaced a puncheon. They were soaked the whole time, and since they got the puncheon done a day early they came out early.
- He was also on a WTA crew in the North Bend area. They delayed going in by a day because the weather was supposed to be thunderstorms and 3" of rain. The first day someone got very wet and didn't mention it until around 7:30, at which point it became a safety issue and everyone started scrambling to help the person get warm. At 10:30 everyone woke back up because trees started coming down around camp, and because the forecast was still looking bad they came back out the next morning (early).
- Regarding PCTA, Indian Heaven will be under snow soon. He'll try to scout Table Mountain and will plan
 a logout up there if needed.
- Tammy Turner
 - She's picked a lot of tomatoes but that's about it.
- Susan Tracy
 - She's heading out this weekend with Susan at Eagle Creek.
 - She's also canning a lot of tomatoes and making salsa.
- Steve Queen
 - His back's been killing him. He's trying to get some physical therapy lined up, and has a new desk coming. He's planning to visit his daughter in El Paso with his ex-wife and son.
 - He's also working on the PCTA Foundation Document. It gives vision, but doesn't have any teeth; it's outlining what we value, but not how you get there but that'll come next.
 - The TCP document for Pace has been updated.
 - We don't have a tools coordinator right now, since Terry's exited.
 - This is Steve's second to the last caretaker meeting, and he's already missing the group.

Other Reports

Foster Trails (Sue Melone)

No report.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary Prescott)

No report.

Outreach and Events (Jennifer Calvery)

• No report.

Trail Skills College (Thomas Calvery)

They met today and went over the TSC coordinator job description but that was it.

Training and Safety (Dana Hendricks)

Waiting for new direction on expiring certifications and will let us know as soon as she does.

Tools (vacant), Radios (Kim Owen)

No report.

Saw Program (Leif Hovin)

• There are meetings coming next month. Rumor has it the USFS is extending certifications through the end of the Fiscal Year (September 2021).

Technology (Steve Queen)

No report.

Social Media (Stacey Lee)

No report.

Budget (Bill Canavan)

• We've spent a little more than \$6,000 of the \$7,000 Meyer Grant on tools for us and mid-Oregon. When Leif buys the new chainsaws, part may come from the grant and some from the chapter budget, but we still have over \$4,000 in our budget because we haven't done any overnights or bought that many tools.

Crew Leader Development (Susan McDonnell)

• No report.

Stats (Robert Caldwell)

• September was slow due to the FS shutdowns in addition to the COVID restrictions with only 5 crews. 2020 YTD is about 1/4 of last year and the fiscal year is about 1/3 of last year's total.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - Sept 2	020											
					YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	prelim			
	Sept	Sept	Sept	Sept	Sept	Sept	Sept	Sept	FY	FY	FY	FY
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020	2019	2018	2017	2,020	2019	2018	2017
Total Volunteer Hours	645	1,523	1,794	845	3,910	15,946	24,036	15,375	6,034	18,948	26,882	17,069
Specialized hours	151	221	539	45	807	3,137	4,746	2,245	1,076	3,442	5,062	2,477
Number of Trail Crews	5	9	10	3	38	96	150	88	54	118	165	94
Miles Logged out	19	0	1		75	227	186	159	75	244	184	166
Logs cleared, crosscut	50	4			215	275			217	275		
Logs cleared, chainsaw					161	403			161	403		
Miles Maintained	2	8	6	7	21	64	104	74	29	80	113	86
Feet of Rehab/Recon	45	3,135	2,630	686	6,395	11,740	60,374	14,280	11,780	33,313	63,333	17,375
Volunteer hours by Category												
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	331	1,108	1,026	301	2,532	9,714	14,993	8,730	3,747	11,564	16,057	9,374
Trail Maint - support	314	369	697	476	1,160	2,238	3,306	2,917	1,798	3,260	4,290	3,480
Trail Skills Training			15		144	3,568	5,262	3,381	367	3,585	6,024	3,828
Outreach Events		46	56	69	74	426	476	347	123	540	512	388
	645	1,523	1,794	845	3,910	15,946	24,036	15,375	6,034	18,948	26,882	17,069

Final Comments and Discussion Items

Steve said to make sure to check the reports to make sure they're accurate; he's fallible, and a double-check is always appreciated. We don't have a December meeting, so there's just one in November and that's is. There won't be a big meeting, just a regular Caretaker meeting, and that'll be it for him. He's starting to get sad about it, and he wanted to let the group know how much we mean to him.

Past Events

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

Trail Work and Scouting

- 1. August 1: North Mount Adams Scouting: Stacey E Lee
- 2. September 24: Sedum Ridge South: Sue Melone
- 3. **September 26**: Timberline South post-storm scout: Sue Melone
- 4. **September 26**: Upper Muddy Fork Scouting: Robert Caldwell
- 5. September 26: Twin Lakes Scouting: Susan McDonnell
- 6. **September 28**: Upper Eagle Creek Scouting: Susan McDonnell
- 7. September 28: Muddy Fork Scouting: Robert Caldwell
- 8. **September 28**: Grand Meadows Drainage and Tread: Kim Owen
- 9. September 30: Upper Muddy Fork Logout, post storm #1: Robert Caldwell
- 10. October 2: Sandy River Trail logout: Robert Caldwell
- 11. October 2-4: Mount Adams Scouting: Dana Hendricks
- 12. October 2-6: Scouting Mount Adams and Big Huckleberry: William Canavan
- 13. October 3: Timberline lodge log out/limb out: Ruth Weston
- 14. October 4: Muddy Fork Logout: Robert Caldwell
- 15. October 6: Lolo Pass South Logout After Labor Day wind storm: Peter Hoffman
- 16. October 6: Upper Muddy Fork Logout: Robert Caldwell
- 17. October 8: Lolo Pass South Logout After Labor Day wind storm: Peter Hoffman
- 18. October 8: Muddy Fork Scouting: Robert Caldwell
- 19. October 9: Wind River section brushing: Kim Caldwell

Future Events

- 1. October 24, 3:00 4:00 pm: Annual Membership Meeting.
- 2. **November 11**: Caretaker meeting (Location TBD)

Notes

PCT Vacancies

- 1. Lava Spring
- 2. Adams Glacier
- 3. Steamboat Lake (fostered by Roberta Caldwell)
- 4. Twin Buttes (fostered by Roberta Caldwell)
- 5. Panther Creek (fostered by Bill Canavan)
- 6. Wind River (fostered by and reserved for Kim Kovacs)
- 7. Trout Creek (fostered by Sue Melone)
- 8. Sedum Ridge South (fostered by Sue Melone)
- 9. Birkenfeld Mountain (fostered by Thomas Calvery)
- 10. Table Mountain (fostered by Thomas Calvery)
- 11. Teakettle Springs
- 12. Benson Plateau (unfostered; reserved for Susan Tracy)
- 13. Timberline South (fostered by Hilary Renshaw)
- 14. Twin Lakes (reserved for Graham Hulbert)
- 15. Little Crater Lake (fostered by Renee and Todd Janssen)

Non-PCT Vacancies

- 1. Gorge Trail 400 (fostered by Roberta May with Nathaniel Brody's team)
- 2. Lower Eagle Creek Trail 440 (fostered by Susan McDonnell)
- 3. Upper Eagle Creek Trail 440 (fostered by Susan McDonnell and reserved for Albert Iggi)
- 4. Indian Springs Trail 435

Columbia Dispatch

7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, wacco@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140.

Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.