



## **UNPP Steering Committee Meeting NOTES**

November 16th, 2023 / 10:15 am - 12:15 pm

Hybrid format - Zoom and In-Person at Roseburg Public Library

### **Attendees:**

1. Matt Beach, OR Dept of Forestry, Roseburg / NRCS Coordinator
2. Tami Jo, Douglas Chapter of OR Small Woodlands Association
3. Steve Denney, Umpqua Oaks Partnership
4. Tuula Rebhahn, The Understory Initiative
5. Morgay Fay, The Understory Initiative
6. Cindy Nguyen, Ecostudies Institute
7. Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District
8. Ed Alverson, Botnaist Lane County Parks
9. Ian Silvernail, NRCS Plant Materials Center in Corvallis/TUI Board
10. Bruce G., Master Gardeners Lead
11. Clay B., Ben Moore Ranch
12. Ryan Kay, BLM
13. Briana M., Range technician, BLM
14. Lindsey S., Range technician, BLM
15. Kris W., USFS
16. MA Hansen, NPSO
17. Donna R., NPSO
18. Jennifer Taylor, Partnership Coordinator - USFS
19. Rod Trotter, NPSO
20. Eric S., Elder Oaks Nursery
21. Maggie B., Douglas County SWCD
22. Stephanie B.. Farmer & Organizes Farmer Markets
23. Marnie K. Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
24. NR Specialist from Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
25. Sam F., FWS
26. Allison M., FWS

## 1. Intro's & Partner Roundtable (20 min)

Matt Beach - Working with private landowners through NRCS

Tami Jo - Woodland owners contemplating native plant restoration projects, thinning

Steve Denny - Coordinates Umpqua Oak Partnership, updates

- Completing strategic plan
- Lots of education and outreach to private landowners

Cindy Nguyen - Working in the S. Puget Sound area on plant partnership work, and state seed strategy.

Learning from work happening in the Umpqua

Rhonda Black - no USWCD updates

Ed Alverson

Maggie - NRCS

Eric Stauder - Phoenix School, Elder Oaks Nursery.

Marnie K.-

Allison Manwaring - USFWS

- A variety of oak habitat restoration projects happening right now
- New Kincaid's Lupine recovery project with IAE, working with Douglas Co. private landowners. Restoring Kincaid's lupine and adding native plant community species

Clay Baumgartner - private landowner, history of habitat restoration on the property

Bruce **Gravens** - Master gardener, working with UNPP on native plant grow-outs

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Stephanie B.

- Parents had a native plant nursery, looking to get it going again

MA Hansen - Douglas NPSO

Sam Friedman - Roseburg field office USFWS. Works with endangered plants like Kincaid's lupine.

Partnerships with BLM, ODOT, and TNC to restore rough popcorn flower

Range technician - Roseburg BLM office

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**Ryan Kay** - new hire at BLM, coordinates Title II program, wrapping up treatment plant for weeds, reseeding post-fire

Kris E. - USFS, Umpqua National Forest botany/ecology program manager

Rod Trotter, Douglas Co. NPS. Excited about the partnership development

Jennifer Tanner - new partnership coordinator at the Umpqua National Forest

## 2. Developing UNPP NPM Program (15 min)

Driving question: How do we generate the native plant materials needed for restoration projects in the most efficient way that also supports the local economy?

- It's a multi-year process
- Local producers are already getting going with seed and plug production in fall 2023
- The target is a widely applicable native seed mix available by 2027. Other production goals can be added as needs arise and if funding is available
- Slideshow photos of Year 1 Production partner facilities
  - Elder Oaks Nursery
  - Wildwood Nursery
  - Ben More Mountain Ranch (Clay & Karen's greenhouse)
  - Other partners include Logan Bennet/Douglas County Master Gardeners (greenhouse and bed production/educational space), Veterans Administration (greenhouse), Elkton Community Education Center (existing native plant production program)

### **UNPP Plant Sales**

- Partners are encouraged to reserve plants in advance of projects
- The more lead time, the less cost (usually)

BLM - can UNPP be contracted to wild collect seeds to create a mix?

- Yes, but more cost-effective to grow seeds from wild-collected foundation lots
  - Seeds are collected from the wild, and then provided to farmers to grow and harvest larger quantities of seed
- Not all species are suitable for this process (ie they don't perform well in the agricultural setting)

Need to coordinate collections to avoid overharvesting.

- USFS Could use more background on Seeds of Success protocols
- Collectively reporting to each other during the field season to track which populations have been collected.
  - USFS can create a SharePoint site
- "The most effective form of communication is the most direct path."

## **3. Species Priority Break-Out Groups (45 min)**

Ian Silvernail and Ed Alverson facilitating groups

Goals: Develop two pollinator seed mixes with 7 forbs and 3 grasses. Multiple habitat types

Ed Alverson: Analytical Method of Species Prioritization

- Be systematic, think about the entire flora. There are a lot of species out there that we might not be familiar with
- Douglas County Flora Distribution tables

Ian Silvernail: Practical considerations

Each plant has its pathway to reproduction. Considerations for seed mix prioritization:

- Which wild seeds will grow well in a farm environment?

- We are talking about seed-based restoration here because it is the most cost-efficient way to introduce native plants. But there are other plant materials in the full scope of UNPP goals
- PMC Native Seed Production Manual - recommended resource
- Does the plant establish well from seed at the restoration site? Even with good site prep.

Plant traits that affect farm/nursery production

Is the seed already available?

- Not every species in the mix needs to be sourced exclusively from the Umpqua
  - Several species can flex to different areas. This data is available for a variety of commonly used species. Look at “common garden” studies and seed zones
  - For example, a study on *Bromus (now sitchensis) carinatus* study showed that populations across the PNW are genetically similar
- By using existing sources of species that are available we can prioritize species for diversity using our limited funding.
- Rod: Potential to focus on regionally endemic species, which we have a lot of in the Umpqua

Q&A /comments

- Kris: Farmers can't compete on the level of common native species that are produced at large scale. When they grow specialty natives that are not on the market, they have a better chance of receiving payment in line with the costs of production.
- Ed: “Genetic diversity” is not a very specific term. The goal should be to reflect the diversity that was present at a site before the disturbance.

## Whiteboard Session

- Bruce: What is restoration? Need to look at existing intact native plant communities (reference sites) before selecting species.
- Identifying and targeting early seral species for disturbed sites
- Fire-adapted (or not) - if a plant is fire-adapted, it shouldn't be used in restoration unless fire is part of the maintenance plan
- Hydric regime - don't include plants that need year-round wet soils
- Observing sites post-fire - what comes up? *Phacelia nemoralis*
- Big game forage (potential to draw funding for a wider range of partners)
- Competitive with non-native species
- Bloom time (overlaps for pollinator resources across the season)

How to work with balancing species that are already available commercially and supporting local production?

- Not all endemics are difficult to grow (could be good for new seed farmers)
- For agencies: Be transparent about sourcing, and be aware of what the seed zones are

- The question of whether commercial sources are stable, and if they will continue to be offered in the future

Values Listed By Group

## **Traits / Characteristics**

1. **Easy to produce**
2. **Establishes well**
3. **Historical Communities**
4. **Early seral/post-disturbance**
5. **Maintenance Needs / Resilient**
6. **Wildlife/Big Game**
7. **Competitive**
8. **Range of Bloom Period**
9. **Common/Habitat Overlap**
10. **Endemic**
11. **Diversifying Plant Families**

## **4. Steering Committee (10 min)**

The Steering Committee now meets quarterly  
Updates on MOU and Strategic Plan  
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe will be a signatory group!

## **5. Reports (10 min)**

Grant reports will be available on the UNPP website this winter

## **6. Upcoming Projects (5 min)**

Working with Phoenix School to do planting projects  
Next meeting May 17, 2024