

SSWC Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2015

In attendance: Eric Andersen, Joe Thompson, Katie Kohl, Diane Kaldahl, Norm Kaldahl, Scott Marlega, Nancy Gilmore, Nancy MacHugh, Laura LaRoque, Rob Emmons, Eben Babb, Doug Bateman

The meeting began at 6:30 pm with welcome and introductions.

Doug Bateman, Senior Faculty Researcher at OSU, presented the results of the intensive watershed monitoring studies in the Trask, Hinkle and Alsea watersheds. The 3 basins have been the focus of research studies for many decades and are part of a collaboration of OSU, ODF, Weyerhaeuser and other private timber land owners. The studies have examined the effect of timber harvest on the whole fish community, as well as instream habitat, in these basins. Assessing the biological response is very complicated. Fish are distributed in a “clumpy” fashion; they aren’t evenly distributed throughout the river. Also, fish move around and don’t stay put in one location for their entire lives. The studies have produced different answers at different scales. At the tributary scale biomass and abundance increased for age 1 trout, while for age 0 trout there was no change. At the basin scale there was no change. For the second harvest, fish biomass increased for age 0 and age 1 trout. Abundance and size also increased for age 0 trout. There was no change in fines, pool depth, pool length or pool area at tributary or catchment scale. It was surprising to some people that fish biomass increased. Not all streams respond to forest harvest the same, which is due to the differences in habitat amongst different streams. This may suggest suggests that local habitat is important.

There was a short break after Doug’s presentation.

September meeting minutes were approved.

Joe Thompson was introduced as the new shared project manager for the South Santiam and the North Santiam Watershed Councils. He was hired in October 2015 and will be housed in the North Santiam office. Joe will be focusing on re-vegetation and outreach efforts in both basins. He has experience working in multiple western states on wildlife biology and wetland delineation projects. Joe will be immediately taking on projects in Crabtree basin, Studhorse creek and Hamilton creek.

Eric Andersen gave an update on 2015 projects. The Upper Crabtree Creek fish passage project and the Rock creek fish passage project were completed. Morgan Johnson log project is complete and he is working with Lance Wyss to complete the final report. Plant orders are being finalized for winter planting.

Eric Andersen gave a general Council update. The volunteer policy is being finalized and should be approved over the winter. Board elections will occur in January.

Angela Clegg updated the group on the environmental education program, also known as STEWARDS. The group has been busy with fall activities and field trips. During the Sweet Home winter festival, the group will have a float in the annual Christmas parade.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.