

# **Andrews Forest LTER Monthly Meeting Minutes Friday, March 2, 2012, 9 – 11 AM**

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, April 6, 2012. 9 – 11 AM. RH313

Minutes from previous Andrews Forest LTER Monthly Meetings can be found at <http://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/pubs/mtgnotes/monthmtg.cfm?topnav=42>

## **SCIENCE HOUR (9 – 10 AM)**

“Telling Wetter Water Stories in LTERs and Beyond: previews from an ongoing film projects” by Jeremy Monroe, Director of Freshwaters Illustrated (<http://www.freshwatersillustrated.org/>).

## **ATTENDEES**

Mark Schulze (lead), Lina DiGregorio (notes), Barbara Bond, Jeremy Monroe, Lisa Helming, Christoph Thomas, Adam Kennedy, Evan Jackson, Mark Harmon, Fred Swanson, Jay Sexton, Tom Dietterich, Mark Crowley, Chris Daly, Alba Argerich, Julia Burton, Kathleen Miles, Julia Jones, Suzanne Remillard, Kari O’Connell, Greg Downing

## **BUSINESS MEETING (10 – 11 AM)**

## **NEW FACES**

Mark Crowley, a postdoc for the next two years working with Tom Dietterich. Did his PhD at University of BC. Computer scientist, spatial management of forests. Collaborating with Claire Montgomery on a project on fire in the Deschutes National Forest.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ruth Spaniol Chair in Natural Resources in the COF an offer has been made and negotiations are underway. The search committee met with the COF Dean, the COF Executive Associate Dean, and the FES Dept Chair.
- Safety Day June 25th
- HJA Day June 28th

## **GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS – Kathleen Moore**

No updates at this time

## **WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST UPDATES** – Cheryl Friesen

- The Goose Timber Sale is a planned thinning in plantations and a few younger stands around the town of McKenzie Bridge. Not all adjacent landowners were notified in advance and that caused public concern. The district ranger has been meeting with local citizens one-on-one. Public meeting is scheduled. NEPA done, sale is done. Purpose was for fire protection in the wildland-urban interface.
- CCAMP received their budget and it looks like they'll be able to put on workshops and fund some field projects, for example Halpern's bunchgrass project.
- There will be a workshop on "Climate Change, Wildlife and Human Dimensions: Interesting Commonalities" April 5, 2012, at the Springfield Interagency Office. RSVP to Cheryl Friesen by April 2.
- May 18, Riparian Management Workshop, La Sells, OSU
- Five field trips this summer on riparian management issue. Public meetings in each of the four sub-basins on the WNF.

## **IM UPDATE** – Suzanne Remillard

- Theresa Valentine currently attending the GEO-NIS workshop to get spatial data into the LTER Network information system.
- Working on updating the EML to make our data as accessible as possible through the LNO system
- Publications: we are creating a new protocol for people to submit their publications, in the wake of Tami Lowry's retirement (she used to handle and track publications for our program). Citations and PDFs of LTER-related publications should be sent to [HJApubs@fsl.orst.edu](mailto:HJApubs@fsl.orst.edu).

## **EDUCATION UPDATE** – Kari O'Connell and others

- NASA climate change project teachers had a workshop this week. The goal was to update each other on their projects and progress. Good feedback on the program.
- Jill Semlick, a previous RET at the Andrews, has worked with teachers in Israel and gave a talk about her international RET experience on Feb 29.
- Summer REU. Had 60 applicants for 15 slots. 4 CS students, 4 math, 2 engineering, 2 ecology students and others.
- Canopy Connections will ramp up in May. The program is for middle school students. The University of Oregon ELP team created the theme, plants and people. They're setting up a quest, like a scavenger hunt, which is finding clues to answer questions and moving around and learning the site in the process.

## **SITE UPDATE – Mark Schulze**

Make your reservations for the summer field season soon since there is, every year, an increased demand for the apartments. The first three weeks of May this year are very busy with a lot of different large groups.

Thanks to Lane Electric and WNF the power is restored to the site. There is a public road closure in effect. Andrews researchers can access the road by permit only. The repair will be a two-stage process. First, they will expand the temporary patch and cut into slope, which will take 2-3 weeks. Then the road will be safe enough to be open to public use. The second stage is a final fix with a rock retaining embankment. That will require 3,000 dump truck loads of rock. It will involve a lot of short-term shutdowns of the road. It will be August timeframe before that second phase begins. This is an obvious example of how significant the partnership contribution is from WNF.

The site had a big snowfall this week. It looks like around 2' and more at higher elevations. In terms of access, WS10 and lower watersheds are accessible. Higher sites are not accessible unless by snow travel. There are a lot of possibilities for things to go wrong with snow travel. If you are supervising students that want to do snow travel, please make sure that there are plans for worst-case scenarios, especially on weekends when staff are not available.

Reservoirs are being filled.

## **SITE USE PROPOSALS**

Strawberry gardens: Aaron Liston is working with colleagues to put in proposal to NSF Dimensions of Biodiversity to look at different species of native strawberries in US and China and cross-planting in common garden experiments. It's in the pre-proposal stage at this point.

NRCS Soil Pits: as a community we have wanted a better soil map for the Andrews and surrounding areas. The Blue River watershed has been selected as a test site for new protocols for soil mapping in National Forests, using LiDAR and other information sources to structure field sampling. Field sampling may begin as soon as April. Combination of small pits (10" deep) and in some places much larger, more formal pits. NEPA and research concerns. The best way to handle it is to provide GIS layer of locations of research and go over pit sites ahead of time. There are locations where we might want soil pits, like reference stands. There are some existing pits that were not filled in and covered so they may be reused with less effort. Ask Mark Harmon, Julie Pett-Ridge.