

Andrews Forest LTER M4onthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 6, 2012, 9 – 11 AM

NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 4, 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)

Linking snowpack dynamics and geology to explain past and forecast future streamflows. Mohammed Safeeq, Sarah Lewis, College of earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU. Gordon E. Grant, USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station, C. Naomi Tague, Bren School University of California Santa Barbara

ATTENDEES

Sherri Johnson (lead), Lina DiGregorio (notes), Mark Schulze, Gordon Grant, Mohammed Safeeq, Dana Warren, Rebecca Hutchinson, Dan Sheldon, Cheryl Friesen, Mark Crowley, Randy Wildman, John Moreau, Linda Ashkenas, Julia Jones, Jay Sexton, Fred Swanson, Rob Pabst, Lisa Helming, Philip Bayles, Kathleen Miles, Andy Moldenke, Alba Argerich, Ivan Arismendi

BUSINESS MEETING (10 – 11 AM)

NEW FACES

None this meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Michael Nelson has been selected as the new Ruth Spaniol Chair in Natural Resources in the COF and will serve as the next Andrews Forest LTER Lead PI. He will start in mid-August.
- Safety Day June 21. All field groups, please plan to attend. Graduate students with field research strongly encouraged to attend. Contact Jay Sexton to register.
- HJA Day June 28. Register by June 22, <http://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/hjaday>
- Snowmobile training had record high attendance of 16. Many thanks to Jay Sexton.

- LTER Network Science Council Meeting will be hosted at the Andrews May 14-18. Lead PI and one rep from each LTER site will attend. On Wednesday, May 16, 1-5 PM, we will host a field trip and then poster session 5-6 PM. We will be calling on PIs and students to be present for the field trip and poster session. Please keep May 16 as a tentative hold.
- Please send pdfs of your new Andrews publications to: HJApubs@fsl.orst.edu
- The road to the Andrews Forest (Blue River Reservoir Road, USFS Rd 15) will be open to public use on April 6, 2012. A one-lane temporary road repair now enables safe transit across the site of the January 19 landslide. Please be careful when approaching and crossing the landslide on this narrow gravel track. Anticipate oncoming traffic and lines at the repair site. Permanent repairs to restore two-lane access may begin in August 2012.

RAPTORVIEWS – guest, Philip Bayles

- Takes photos using a small remote-controlled plane. . His gear is set up for low-altitude oblique views but not vertical in succession.
- He's working with ecological and habitat restoration groups to provide images. He can provide images of the Andrews Forest.
- Contact him by email (psb@efn.org) if you are interested in photos
- He's collected 5,000 images and would like to get together with someone who can create a searchable archive.

GAP STUDY – John Bailey and Joan Hagar, working with Cheryl Friesen

- WNF has been interested in gaps. They are planning to put gaps in thinning units to create early seral habitat. Currently, gap size is limited to five acres in thinning by FS practice. Three treatments: 1) stand with multiple small (1-2.5 acre) gaps, 2) stand with medium sized gaps (2.5-3.5 acre), and 3) stand with a few large gaps (4-5 acres) with total area of gaps kept the same. 4) control with standard thinning. Developing their proposal right now. Will be looking at plant associations, song birds. Hoping for two years of pre-treatment data. 12 units, 3 sets of 4 reps. There may be more available.
- This is off the Andrews, but there may be one rep on the site. It will be very close to the Andrews. This discussion is intended to make the community aware of the study.
- Might be useful to compare to a large early seral patch, that might be larger than the 5-acres. Might also look at the gap study data from the Andrews. Those gaps were 50 meters in diameter. Can they nest in natural vs artificial regeneration? Contact Joan or John with ideas or questions.

EDUCATION UPDATE – Susan Sahnou

- NASA climate change project teachers had a workshop this week. They are starting the second year of the project. There are 6 returning teachers, 4 slots for new teachers, and 30 applicants. Lots of interest in the program.
- We have four RETs coming on board for this summer: 3 funded by the LTER and 1 funded by a grant by Chris Thomas
- Kari will be part of Anne Nolin's grant, doing similar work with teachers, and will be part of the broader impacts section of that macros grant.
- There will be a workshop with teachers at the Andrews May 3-4.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS – Kathleen Miles

- No updates at this time. Some students will be asked to participate in the science council meeting field trip and poster session, see above.

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 and complaints.
- Spotted Owl workshop, May 17
- Hiring for blue river management stand remeasurements project. Applications accepted through mid-April. Start date for crew is June 11. Contact Cheryl Friesen.
- Cheryl is working with Mark Schulze and Joan Hagar and others to design a study around a prescribed fire in three sisters wilderness to see if they can reintroduce fire for ecological benefits. She is also talking with Bruce Schindler about the social component of bringing back fire.

IM UPDATE – Theresa Valentine

- Met station data has been updated to end of 2011 except for precip and snow-related.
- We have received upper Blue River LiDAR. Theresa has maps or viewing foutside of her office.
- Don and Suzanne are at a LTER Network workshop.
- Working on updating the EML (Ecological Metadata Language) to make our data as accessible as possible through the LNO system
- Soils: NRCS is working on an update to map soils on the Andrews Forest. Karen Bennett and Jay Noller are working on a landform project in OR and WA, which is more general across both states, a modeled project.

- 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.

SITE UPDATE – Mark Schulze

- Road is open again to the public. Drive carefully.
- Conference hall HVAC repairs started this week may continue through June. Facilities will be kept as warm as they can.
- Last month we talked about a site use proposal for macrosystems looking at drivers of biodiversity patterns across US. The group had expressed concern about bringing in pathogens on leaf litter. Mark Harmon has been talking to them about sterilization techniques but they don't have access to those. So they are proposing to use cellulose as simulated litter or heat the leaf litter to 50 degrees until it meets a constant weight. Group says no to 50C technique.
- Fred Bierlmaier is retiring at the end of the month after 35 years of service. Mark Schulze is organizing a collection for a gift card towards Fred's hobbies of skiing or photography. There may also be a dinner at the Andrews or at a restaurant in Eugene.
- GREENHouse building may be starting at the start of June.