

## Rogue Native Plant Partnership (RNPP)

Meeting Notes

March 19, 2020 - 1-3pm

Video conference

### In Attendance:

**Alexis Larsen** - Institute for Applied Ecology -  
Willamette Native Plant Partnership

**Alison Manwaring** - FWS

**Brian Geier** - Vesper Meadow

**Dave Bowden** - US Forest Service

**Erica Szontag** - OSU Extension & Master  
Gardener Program

**Julie Spelletich** - Siskiyou Biosurvey

**Gary Kliewer** - Long Shadow Fields & TUI

**Greg Carey** - Siskiyou Biosurvey & TUI

**Henry Whitridge** - The Understory Initiative

**Holly Mills** (phone) - Silver Springs Nursery

**Jeanine Moy** - Vesper Meadow Education  
Program

**Joshua Chenowith** - Yurok Tribe

**Kathryn Prive** - RNPP & TUI

**Kathy Pendegrass** - NRCS

**Kent Knock** - Southern Oregon Seed Growers  
Association

**Kristi Mergenthaler** - Southern Oregon Land  
Conservancy & Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant  
Society & TUI

**Kristina Lefever** - Pollinator Project Rogue  
Valley

**Lilia Letsch** - RNPP & The Understory Initiative

**Maggie Graham** - OSU pollinator researcher

**Maia Black** - Selberg Institute

**Alisa Sawich** - Retired WSDOT ecologist

**Molly Morrison** - The Nature Conservancy

**Rachel Werling** - OSU Extension Land Steward  
& Master Naturalist Programs

**Sam Friedman** - FWS botanist

**Sean Prive** - The Understory Initiative

**Tuula** - Friends of Wagner Creek

### 1:00-1:30pm Introductions

#### 1:30-2:00pm Joshua Chenowith - Update on the Klamath Dam Removal Project

- Hired in Sept by the Yurok Tribe as a restoration ecologist for the Klamath Dam removal
- Previously worked on the Elwha dam removal project for the past ten years
- All restoration work is being managed by Resource Environmental Services, who have hired a lot of other companies to do a variety of different aspects of the work, including the Yurok Tribe that has been hired to do a lot of the implementation.
- There's a lot of players, and a lot of layers. Eg. Pacific Corp are not wanting anyone to do invasive species control before dam removal.
- March 5, 60% design has been submitted. In the next few weeks it is hoped that there will be a transfer of license from Pacific Corp to Klamath River Renewal Corporation.
- Using the Elwha Project as an example / comparison:
  - Two dams were removed simultaneously - Elwha and Glines Canyon
  - Not necessarily a pristine environment, but lots of species.
  - In comparison, the three dams on the Klamath are much further apart from each other, and there is 2.5 times the acreage compared to Elwha.
  - Klamath Dams are dealing with a lot more clay around them, where as Elwha had a lot more silt
  - Fine sediments were part of what made plant restoration really successful in the Elwha project
  - Seeding was very important - early and later. Native seeding had a statistically significant impact on the number of invasives present. Had a really robust monitoring process.

- Timing matters, and Josh is pushing for a slower water drawdown rate during dam removal so there's more water around during summer months and plants can establish more easily over a longer period.
- Wetland species seed banks persist underwater, so as long as there is adequate moisture there is likely to be a flush of those species as water drops.
- Three stages for the Klamath Dam removal restoration project:
  - Preliminary services - collecting seed, propagating seed, invasive species removal and containment
  - Restoration implementation - two year phase. Seeding and planting, invasive species removal
  - 5 year monitoring and maintenance period
- The bulk of Josh's work is making sure there is enough plant materials for the restoration projects. Need a lot of seeds and plants. 50,000lb of seed to start with. 50% of planting in 2022, 50% in 2023. All seeding in 2022.
- Pacific Coast Seeds have already collected seed and have seed increase crops growing
- The Yurok Tribe has also been collecting seed and several farms are growing them out. More seed collection needs to happen still, particularly herbaceous plants.
- Really need more lupines, which is a longer term crop. Great nitrogen fixers and pollinators love them. Please get in touch if you have access to any seed.
- Looking at using the J Herbert Stone Nursery to enter into growing contracts with the Yurok Tribe.
- Most important lesson from the Elwha was to get seeds and plants in the ground as soon as possible to make the most of the residual moisture. Some irrigation will be utilized for the Klamath Dam removal.

#### **2:00-2:30pm Kathryn Prive -RNPP Updates**

- Native Plant Sale is going to continue this spring. There was discussion about cancelling it, but because it's online and we have plans for mitigating risk on pick-up day, we have decided to move ahead. Pick-up day might have to shift dates, but we'll see how it goes.
  - Partnering with Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Vesper Meadow on the plant sale.
  - Online orders start this coming Monday March 23rd. Only accepting online payments this year. No cash or checks.
  - Pick ups at the NW Nature Shop and IVSWCD in Cave Junction- drive through plant pick up.
- The seed cleaning Office Clipper, other seed cleaning equipment and RNPP seed library freezer are all now stored at the Selberg Institute, instead of at Kathryn's house.
  - Stone Nursery donated a lot of the screens that are used with the Clipper.
  - RNPP had been planning a seed cleaning training event before this meeting today, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19.
  - Lilia has produced a manual on how to use the Office Clipper and other equipment available
  - Once people are trained up to use the clipper they can get key code access to the Selberg Institute to clean seed independently.
- RNPP Seed Library - Kathryn and Lilia have cleaned up the inventory and organized and labelled all the seed in the library. Have been sorting out the seed lots that we can hopefully put into seed

increase crops, or selling through the RNPP Fall Seed Sale. Hopefully able to utilize some of the BLM's excess seed that we can have available for the seed sale too.

- The RNPP Seed Library freezer is very full! We are looking for another freezer - if anyone has a freezer to sell or donate please get in touch.
- Seed purchases will require a basic restoration plan, to show that the seed will be used for restoration purposes. A blog post will be up on the RNPP website soon that outlines how to write a restoration plan.
- Woody species seed collection: there have been some discussions amongst different RNPP partners about how to consolidate our efforts on seed collection and propagation of woody species.
  - Siskiyou Biosurvey is going to be contracted to collect seed of 10-15 species that RNPP prioritizes. Hoping to collect enough seed to last a few years, after which we can look at contracting more seed collection.
  - Helps to ensure that woody species are propagated from local seed and takes some pressure off the growers.
- Kathryn shared a collection of photos that show RNPP seed collection in the Ashland watershed in 2017, the transition to local farmers growing out the seed, and then the seed grown being returned back to the heavily burned areas of the watershed. Full cycle!
- Overview of seed grow out operations that TUI is working on with the OSU Extension & Master Gardeners team at the Central Point site. Shared photos of site preparation with silage tarps, and the seeding process. There are 6 herb and grass species being grown out there this year.
  - Most of the seed will be used by the Forest Service in the first year, but we're hoping most of the plants can remain and continue growing seed out for other projects.
- Slide shared of all the native plant crops that RNPP / TUI is involved with growing with local farmers and some updates on successes and failures.

### **2:30-2:50pm Draft Strategic Plan Outline**

- Kathryn sent everyone a draft of RNPP's 5-year goals and objectives table and timeline (see attachments) and is looking for thoughts and ideas - which is a bit hard at the moment without in person discussion, but please get in touch if you have any thoughts to share.
- Strategic Plan should include:
  - Key goals and objectives for RNPP activities
  - A list of the highest priority of species to go into production
  - A timeline of when things need to happen
  - Cost estimates for each objective and where funding comes from
- Goal 1: Facilitate Cross-Partner - Collaboration
  - Twice annual large group meetings
  - Quarterly steering committee meetings
  - Yearly progress reports
  - Increased stakeholder involvement through
  - educational talks and presentations
- Goal 2: Increase diversity of locally
  - Availability of native plant materials
  - Basin wide species priorities

- Coordinated seed collection & tracking
- Develop and maintain RNPP's seed library
- Regular seed and plant sales
- Facilitate connections between local growers, agencies, and restoration practitioners
- Goal 3: Provide support to growers
  - Minimize the need for grower speculation
  - Bridge funding for plant production timing issues
  - Develop and share propagation protocols
  - Share production risks with hybrid contracting model
  - Provide shared seed cleaning equipment, storage, and training
  - Cultivate more commercial outlets for native plant materials
- Goal 4: Provide educational resources and opportunities
  - Continue to add to RNPP blog and resources library
  - Hold regular educational talks and events
  - Use plant sale to educate about native plants
  - Develop educational materials and media campaigns to promote native plants in landscaping etc.
- Goal 5: Organizational sustainability
  - Maintain funding for part-time coordination
  - Secure ongoing funding for web hosting
  - Track in-kind hours for future grant proposals
  - Develop stable funding structure for native seed & plant production that supports RNPP

## **2:50-Species Priorities Process**

- This has been a really challenging process. There's so many species in this region, and it's extremely difficult to narrow it down.
- Some of the strategies we've employed to try and create a narrow list:
  - Having face to face meetings with botanists
  - Gathering representative species lists from the Oregon Flora Project for habitat types in each ecoregion, and then asking botanists to help rank species. This was an overwhelming amount of work, and we didn't get many ranking responses.
  - We've developed lists based on feedback received and expert opinions.
  - Next steps over the next couple of months are to rank each species based on various criteria, including ease of collection, grow-out, demand, ecological importance etc. Also working out how we get money to pay for production, particularly with providing funding up front for growers.
  - Mainly focusing on oak prairie and riparian species, and species that will bloom and seed at a variety of times of year, and a mix of species best for seeing or plug planting.

## **Goals for next meeting in the fall:**

- Finalize strategic plan
- Finalize species priorities