

Oregon-Washington Chapter Partners In Flight meeting Oct 5, 2001

<http://www.gorge.net/natres/pif.html>

Attendees:

Barb Kott - USFS – bkott@fs.fed.us

Bob Altman – American Bird Conservancy - alt8bird@aol.com

Kelly Bettinger – Northwest Habitat Institute - phoebe@peak.org

Laurie Ness – Northwest Wildlife Consulting - laurieness_@hotmail.com (here for Karen Kronner)

Steve Shunk – Community Solutions – sshunk@paradisebirding.com

Cathy Flick – Gifford Pinchot National Forest – stewart@gorge.net

Rex Sallabanks – Sustainable Ecosystems Institute – rsallaba@sei.org

Jeff Dillon – USFWS – Jeffrey_Dillon@fws.gov

Joe Buchanan – WDFW – buchajbb@dfw.wa.gov

Carey Smith – USFWS/Pacific Coast Joint Venture – carey_smith@fws.gov

Rich Larsen – Columbia River Gorge Natural Scenic Area – rlarson@gorge.net

Terry Frederick – TNC – tfrederick@tnc.org

Sybil Ackerman – Audubon Society of Portland – sackerma@audubonportland.org

Bruce Taylor – Oregon Wetlands Joint Venture – btaylorwet@aol.com

Chris Carey – ODFW – chris.g.carey@state.or.us

Keith Robillard - Portland State University – keithr89@hotmail.com

Roger Shnoes – BLM – osowildlifemail@or.blm.gov (filling in temporarily in Eric Campbell's position)

Gary Ivey – consultant – ivey@oregonvos.net

Carla Alford – BLM – Carla_alford@or.blm.gov (new to Eugene BLM from New Mexico, formerly a PIF coordinator there)

Announcements:

Integrated bird conservation plan workshops (all birds, all habitats) – got \$300,000 for the workshops, PIF won't be involved? They plan to work through state agencies. Closest planned workshop to us is Seattle.

Surveyors certification process – Region 8 USFS biologist planning a conference call. Since OR/WA PIF discussed this at length in the past, Barb will participate in phone call.

Oregon Field Ornithologists – may be a potential partner to add to PIF. Barb recently spoke at their annual meeting in Burns. Gave them ideas of things they could do to help PIF/be involved such as implementing the high elevation special species monitoring surveys, helping with Bettinger's purple martin study, Altman's black swift study.

George Buckner (now with ODFW) is filling Eric Campbell's position beginning October 15.

Meetings:

Third National PIF meeting March 20-24, 2002 in Asilomar, CA. Call for papers now – see PRBO web page at <http://www.prbo.org/index.html>. Abstracts due November 1. Altman is co-chairing a session on the Pacific Coast...still working out details.

Barb, Bob, Mike, Jeff, Rex all attending the Western Working Group meeting in Nevada next week (October 11–12, 2001). Coordinating monitoring needs in the western region is the focus of meeting.

Oregon Birding Trail – Steve Shunk & Sybil Ackerman

His background is Sisters Chamber of Commerce, Rural Economic Development, marketing for REI in Bay area, currently leading bird tours. Florida and Texas have large birding trail projects, Kentucky & Central California have smaller projects. So far proving that birders spend money, and linking that to preserving habitat in order to keep birds and birders coming. State and Federal agencies in those states are the main funding sources for the trails. Shunk is working with OFO on an Oregon Birding Trail. He recently submitted the project to the State Economic Development Council. Portland Audubon is also working on an Oregon Birding Trail, and Shunk will be meeting with Dave Eshbaugh at Portland Audubon soon. Envisions PIF's role as a coalition of support from diverse agencies, organizations. The one group not yet involved who needs to be is ODOT – they provided signs for a number of Birding Trail Projects in other states. Portland Audubon has applied for CARA funds for a trail– no news yet on that. State is gearing up to spend a lot of money on Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, so hope to partner up on that too. They (Portland Audubon) plan on bringing in a contractor (Fermata) to help out; they worked on the big trails elsewhere in U.S. Shunk's vision is a series of four-season birding trails. Comment from Altman - Ancillary benefits of having folks visit areas that are preserved and/or restored, and even areas that need to be (Important Bird Areas) and learn who is doing the work and how – are immeasurably valuable. Use PIF mailing list, newsletter to get news of this out. Portland Audubon and Steve will be working together on this.

Shunk **ACTION ITEM:** send copy of proposal via e-mail to Barb for dissemination.

Important Bird Areas – Bob Altman & Sybil Ackerman

As a chapter, PIF in past let Audubon take control of IBA program. We did some delineation of important areas in the bird conservation plans, need to build on that. Washington has their first phase of IBA's out (published book) and they have gained wide recognition for birds and habitat; most western states have something on paper regarding IBA's but not Oregon. Time for Oregon to get its program off the ground – PIF & Audubon working together.

[Out June 2001 – Free(?) booklet “Important Bird Areas of Washington” compiled by Tim Cullinan. Contact Audubon Washington at P.O. box 462, Olympia, WA 98507 1-360-786-8020 <http://wa.audubon.org>]

Sybil Ackerman is eager to move forward on this and is seeking some seed money; Bob will help. Sybil provided a handout on the topic.

American Bird Conservancy's IBA program is international – about 500 large ones around the world. Audubon's program sees itself as a local component to that, picking up smaller locally important areas.

Where are we at now? Fundraising.

Oregon Chapter Wildlife Society Meeting February 2001 – Barb Kott

They've asked us to do a workshop on landbirds and need to outline what we want to do, what speakers to invite. Due date is November 30. Brainstorm session:

Current restoration projects

IBA's

Bird Trails

Overview of monitoring techniques

Overview of bird conservation plans

Fire white paper

Project directory compilation

Special Species monitoring strategy

How PIF fits with other conservation initiatives – integration & coordination

Conservation programs – opportunities (new Farm Bill)

Paired talks of what information agencies need in certain habitats, and an example of studies that are beginning to get at that info. Even cover basic issues of how to get info to managers. Management-research linkage needs. Wind River Canopy crane project held a similar session – asking USFS folks what sort of info they hoped to see come from the research.

ACTION ITEM: task force to help Barb will be Terry Frederick, Bob Altman, Rex Sallabanks.

Project Directory update – Barb Kott

Dan Battaglia has been working on this for Jon Bart; Rich Larsen has now put it on the web page for review. Add projects, update project statuses, etc. Find under Monitoring Reports/Protocols on the OR/WA PIF page.

Drafting Bird Conservation Plan Summaries – Barb Kott for Mike Green

Mike would like to boil them down to nuts and bolts as a small brochure. We'll let him brief us when he next joins us.

Pacific Coast Joint Venture Web Site Collaboration – Carey Smith

They've met once with Northwest Habitat Institute; idea still in embryonic stage. They have over 500 projects completed to date, have 250 in progress. Link map to database that would give acres, contacts, how much the project cost, etc. Could have all NABSCI initiatives represented as layers. Two parts: GIS and web page. Will speak more with Mike Green on adding PIF projects too.

OR/WA PIF Web site/Newsletter – Barb Kott & Rich Larsen

Newsletter blurbs due October 15, 2001 to Jenny Valdivia at jenny_valdivia@r1.fws.gov

Barb, Rich, Jenny, Mike recently had a conference call to clean things up on web page. Took out dead links. We've talked for years about putting the Andelman and Stock reports for Oregon and Washington on the site. **ACTION ITEM:** Roger Schnoes will see if he can find the original somewhere in the vicinity of Eric Campbell's desk!

We need to use web page for up-to-date communications. **ACTION ITEM:** Barb Kott will make sure meeting dates are posted on site.

Still need to convert all conservation plans to pdf format.- **ACTION ITEM:** Mike Green will be doing this.

Suggestion to make project directory more obvious from first page. Rich will do.

Links to Birding Information – Mike Green just added about 20 more, but Rich cautioned against making list too long or will need categories for the links.

Add list of PIF representatives and how to contact them. **ACTION ITEM:** send Rich Larsen your contact info for web page.

ACTION ITEM: Go back to your agency/organization and make sure your web page has a link to OR/WA PIF!

ACTION ITEM: Rich will check out registering a domain name since our web page address is not easy to remember off the top of one's head.

TNC update of the Wings of the Americas, Oak Woodlands Project – Terry Frederick & Bob Altman

Update on last meeting's action item. TNC is undergoing some changes – new CEO/Director wants to place more emphasis on international, big scale projects. A first example of a conservation project that spans multiple ecoregions is the Prairie Wings Initiative. Terry has spoken with coordinators of that project about doing a similar project in PNW. At last meeting we suggested oak woodlands as a focus, and the idea will be presented to Oregon TNC board soon. If support is there, they will next contact Washington Conservancy, California Conservancy, British Columbia, and others for support. **ACTION ITEM:** Bob McCready who does Prairie Wings and lives on Bainbridge Island in WA, could come down and give us a talk on program.

Other oak news: TNC Heritage program has been working with Forest Legacy Program (a state program) to come up with oak and riparian priority sites. A book will be out in a couple weeks explaining how they were chosen and what objectives are.

Willamette Valley/Puget Trough Ecoregional Plan – **ACTION ITEM:** anyone want to comment on species list? They used both TNC scores and PIF scores to decide which

species to include. Take a copy and get back to Terry within a couple weeks. Terry send Kelly a copy of the map. Terry also needs locational info of target species within the ecoregion. She may later ask people to verify that target species occur in selected sites within the ecoregional portfolio.

Oregon Oak Working Group met yesterday – Bob, Carla, Bruce attended. Currently there are serious disincentives for having oaks on your private property, and no help for conservation. If you want to do oak conservation and not be penalized, you actually have to cut every last stem down first. The new Forest Legacy Program will help tremendously. Bob and Terry have talked about making this international and extending into Mexico/Canada.

From Buchanan - Lewis County, WA is about to negotiate a conservation plan with USFWS...covers just conifer forests now, but there has been discussion on extending it throughout county, which would include oaks. Probably will incorporate a Safe Harbors incentive program.

North American Waterbird Plan – Gary Ivey

Meeting a year ago pointed out species (about 40, including cranes, bitterns, loons etc.) that were falling through the cracks, and agreed to include them in plan. Draft should be on web page www.nacwcp.org soon. Gary will be working on Intermountain Waterbird Plan – **ACTION ITEM:** know of any good contacts for the area (covers 10 different states, plus BC), let Gary know. Need to do a coastal one too, but need funding - Bob is working on that. Target for completing these (or at least showing progress) is March 2002.

2002 Combined Partner Funding for PIF Projects – Barb Kott

Barb had Grant set money aside (USFS) just for OR/WA PIF chapter; hope other agencies will follow suit. Always have requests for hardcopies of conservation plans, etc. with no money to cover it. Could be used for some of the smaller OR/WA chapter projects too, like developing habitat score cards. **ACTION ITEM:** take message back to agencies/organizations to see if they can set aside a couple thousand for a combined partner pool.

New Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Bird Initiative – Jeff Dillon for Mike Green

USFWS has recently started this program – a partnership between USFWS and cities. Focus on several areas: habitat protection and restoration, habitat creation, education and outreach, reduction of hazards, and management of invasive, exotic or nuisance species. There is an application for requesting funds. In the first year \$150,000 for grants was available for whole of U.S., but has growth potential. Can be used for migratory bird day programs, educating public on Cats Indoors! campaign or shade-grown coffee, planting native vegetation, etc. etc. For more info see <http://birds.fws.gov>

ACTION ITEM: I-5 south of Wilsonville is a death trap in fall for birds attracted to highway multi-flora rose plantings. OR/WA PIF should take this on as a project!

Special Species Monitoring Strategy – Barb Kott

USFS/NPS will be responsible for high elevation species. No update since last meeting. Hope to have a meeting this fall between USFS/NPS. Could have Oregon Field Ornithologists help – develop protocol and let them do surveys. Bob Altman will have the Special Species Strategy document finalized in a couple weeks and will **ACTION ITEM:** give to Rich to put on web page. Hope to implement at least a pilot high elevation project next spring. Common strategy will be developed for all the habitats, and it'll be up to agencies to implement them however they can.

Blue Mountain Avian Issues – Rex Sallabanks

No data on affects on nest success from spring burns. Relates to restoration of dry forest ecosystems. SEI is in the planning strategies of a study to determine the differences in birds, insects, and fuel loads between spring and fall burns – working with USFS. Seeking funds from National Fire Science Program administered by BLM at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise.

Rex is also involved in aspen restoration and protection in the Blues. Fence building to keep cows, deer, and elk out is the most employed tool right now, will use fire and conifer removal too.

There are always questions on grazing in the forest and even with regard to logging – most of the logging and bird studies have been Westside.

Next meeting

January 2002 – Barb will send out notice in December to determine date.