

Spring

7/31/09

Hinkle Creek Tour follow-up: Thoughts for the Board of Forestry

With the planning and execution of yesterday's tour to the Hinkle Creek research and demonstration project I got an up close and personal look at how much work is involved in a Board of Forestry tour. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some key people who helped to make this one a success.

The core planning team included Mike Cloughesy, from OFRI, and Paul Adams, Amy Simmons and Arne Skaugset, from the OSU College of Forestry. They helped me pick the tour stops, topics and speakers and did a couple of dry runs with me to get the timing down. Amy and Mike put together the great tour packets that were used yesterday.

I lined up most of the long list of speakers at the five stops and not a single person I asked turned me down. Our planning team certainly appreciated speaker response to our requests.

ODF folks involved were most helpful with logistics for the tour. A thank you for that work goes to John Seward, Scott Swearingen, Chris Cottrell and Mary Schmelz.

Last but not least, I want to thank the landowner at Hinkle Creek. The Roseburg Resource crew came through like champs for us. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of Dick Beeby and Phil Adams. Dick accompanied us on our dry runs and wherever we needed toilets, seating and paths cleared for a crowd of 70 he made sure they were provided.

If you didn't realize it before yesterday, I hope you now know how important the research being conducted at Hinkle Creek and the other western Oregon paired watershed sites is to supporting the foundation of the Forest Practices Act. These three forest management effects projects are truly a once in a lifetime assessment of our forest protection laws. Unfortunately, money needed to complete these long term projects is getting increasingly hard to come by.

I would like you to consider writing a letter in support of the Watersheds Research Cooperative projects. A letter from the Board making it clear that completion of the paired watershed research projects at Hinkle Creek, Alsea and Trask will be important to help you judge the effectiveness of the Forest Practices Act could be very helpful as an attachment to funding proposals that WRC members will be submitting in the future. I'm not sure of the proper procedure, but maybe the letter could be addressed to Jim Paul, as director of the Private Forests Program, and he could be the "gatekeeper" of it, distributing it where appropriate.

Gary Springer  
Starker Forests, Inc.  
(541) 929-2477