Presentation with Samantha Krops, Center for Responsible Forestry 5/4/21

Kathleen, Nancy, Sarah, Barb, Laurie, Lorena, and Micky joined a virtual call to hear about the importance of field checking as well as using the apps Avenza and ONYX.

Why do field checking? Field Checking is using site specific information to advocate for wild places and to participate in public review process. It . us with better information to send specific substantive comments to land agencies. It also engages the public and offers an avenue to build community and love of place. We can tell a story about a place we want to save if we have visited the area. We can also build grassroots campaigns to prevent destructive logging practices in places. We need to connect with other Broads who are also doing field checking such as the Willamette Valley Broads.

The DNR have their own timber sale proposals which are listed on their website. In Oregon we may work with BARK or Oregon Wild. In Washington we can contact Stephen or Sam and ask for the timber sales. On the maps the red stripes denote the timber sales. Note the items in the key to better understand the maps.

VRH Variable Retention Harvest

VDT Variable Density Thinning

ROW Right of Way

WMZ Wetland Management Zone

RMZ Riparian Management Zone

We are looking for what areas are slated for clearcut. Where are the oldest trees in the unit? Are there nearby recreation areas or waterways? Are there any very large areas? Also, how can you get there on a road? Use Lidar maps we can see the tree height.

ONYX costs $30 per year. Avenza is free. We need to upload the timber sale map on to Avenza and then drop the KLM files onto ONYX. Sam can give us the timber sale maps.

Here are the items we need to bring for field checking:

Printed maps

Compass

Measuring tape

Field guides

Camera

Cork boots (What are there?)

Clipboard

Paper

Binoculars

Diameter tape

Diameter tape runs about $50 and we would need to purchase one of these. It does the math for you if you measure the tree at 4.5 feet above the ground.

Before you get there, decide on what roles everyone will play: Navigator, photographer, notetaker. Create a plan and stick to the plan. Agree on a general route of entry. Take a picture of where you are on the map. Take a picture of the unit.

OWLS: Note any complex, old forest stands, wildlife habitat, steep slopes, special features. Gaps in the canopy are natural. Document any endangered plant species or endangered plant communities.

OWLS: Old Trees, Woody Trees, Layered Canopy, Snags and Downed wood.

Such things as holes in wood or the ground or large moss-covered branches illustrate habitate for wildlife and take photos.

Recreation areas such as nearby trails and/or campsites need to be protection. Also waterways such as streams or waterfalls that are not on the map need to be documented. Skunk cabbage is an indicator species of water. Waterways need to have a buffer. Photograph tree markings and tagging, indicating which trees they are leaving. Also take notes on flagged trees and burned trees. Photograph them. Write down questions you have about your data. Sam also has a sheet for recording the data but you can just use paper.

What do we do with the data? We write comments to agencies either by email or during the open comment period. Ask questions of the land managers. This requires them to answer them in writing. This also gives you standing in a lawsuit.

Connect with locals about your data. Use social media.

Cascadia Wildlands in Oregon uses a google drive with photos and notes from proposed timber sales. We can also try to be media coverage after writing our comments to the land agency. The data and photos can be used in litigation. The more data the better. The Smuggler Sale in Capital Forest was dropped due to public opposition.

Field Checking is also called GroundTruthing. We plan to go out in June. Laurie to check with BARK to see if they are having any Field Days.

Group consensus was to go out with Sam June 10 or 11. Laurie to send out a link to the recording as well as the AVENZA Mapping instructions.

We will need to purchase the following:

Diameter Tape $50

Subscriptions to ONYX @ $30 apiece X 4 = $120. Total $170 plus snacks? Gas?

Here are the directions for using AVENZA:

-Download Avena maps on your smartphone

-To download maps onto Avenza, the map must be geo-referenced and saved as a PDF file

To Download a map:

Step 1: Email the map to yourself and open the email on your phone

Step 2: At the bottom of the screen, press the download arrow up, and choose the option “MORE”

Step 3: Choose “Avenza maps” or save the map in your dropbox . Open Avenza and choose “Open the map from Dropbox”