



## Members Present

**American Forest Resource Council (AFRC):** Tom Partin, Lawson Fite; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascade Fisheries:** Jason Lundgren; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Patrick Haggerty, Ryan Williams; **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert (left at 10:51am), Mike Kaputa; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT):** ABSENT; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** Corrine Hoffman; **Colville Tribal Federal Corporation - Timber:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest (CNW):** Dave Werntz, Mike Liu; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage, David Walker; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** Sam Israel, Jasmin Minbashian; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super, Mindy Untalan; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding, Jeff Rivera, Chris Furr, Sendi Kalcic, Deborah, Kelly, Kari Grover-Wier, Ana Cerro-Timpone, Mariah Mayfield, Pete Wier, Robin DeMario; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Lynda Hoffman, Gary Bell; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Jennifer Watkins, Nolan Brewer, Everitt Merritt, Liz Smith, Tom Frantz; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** ABSENT; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Melody Kreimes, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Pete Teigen, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

## Other Meeting Participants

**Congressman Dan Newhouse's Staff:** Rachel McClure; **Congresswoman Kim Schrier's Staff:** Kelli Scott; **Senator Cantwell's Staff:** Rick Evans

## Regular Business

Co-Chair Branch opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves. Sarah reviewed the meeting objectives and discussion-flow guidance for the day.

**Members approved the November 4, 2020 Quarterly meeting summary with corrections.** The final will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

## OWNF Process & Project Updates

### Supervisor's Update

#### *Appropriation Determinations Update*

The region will receive FY21 appropriation on 2/7 and OWNF will learn its final allocation this month. Budget structure with head count caps will undergo regional and office review (March-June). For new hires transfer of station costs are no longer being offered, which limits flexibility filling OWNF positions.

#### *CFRLP Selection*

Some FY21 funding was allocated to more competitive projects. As #4 in our Tier the best-case scenario is partial project support via Congressional appropriation of FY22 funds. OWNF recommendation to take advantage of the large "NEPA shelf stock" that has been preapproved including mechanical treatment. There will be no official call letter; however, it will happen in the next 7 months.

Related--Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership: In 2021 the USFS and NRCS will invest more than \$46 million mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, and restore healthy forest ecosystems on public and private lands. See added notes under *Partner Roundtable*.

### *Admin-Staffing*

Michelle Capp, Cle Elum District Ranger, will be leaving for a new position that begins April 11. All SO staff will be working remotely until Jan. 2022 and no SO Meeting Rooms will be available.

Filling important North Zone positions for timber management, fish biologist, soil scientist remains a challenge.

### *Reorient to Current 5-year Plan*

Under the OWNF 5-year Timber Sale program, no sale will be reported out of Twisp or UWPP. They will shift to next FY. Refer to the Feb 2021 Gantt Chart for current OWNF 5-year Plan Timelines. Moving forward under CEQ implementation, even more focus will be put on pre-Scoping part of NEPA work.

Q: What consideration been given to prioritizing the Falls/Chewuch/Boulder landscape restoration project ahead of the Upper Methow Fuel Break Project on OWNF 5-year Plan to increase pace-scale?

### **Methow Fuels Break Projects**

The North Zone does not have current capacity to take on another large restoration landscape; however, there is overlap between the Upper Methow Fuels Break and the Falls/Chewuch/Boulder project areas and openness, flexibility to incorporate smaller more focused restoration projects.

MVRD presented on the Upper Methow Fuels Break Project (see PowerPoint presentation). The need for proactive work remains a focus as the MVRD had to create fuel breaks and wait for resources in an area with limited access while the Crescent Mtn. fire was active. The Upper Methow Fuels Break area is a high priority and landscape-scale treatments present the best value. Because the fires in 2017 and 2018 occurred after initial DNR 20-year plan and LE work, OWNF and DNR are sharing updated LiDAR and post-fire data/analyses to reassess level of urgency.

Work in the Western portion could facilitate DNR and private landowner partnerships-grants, which were successful in Lost Driveway. The fuel break area created during the Cedar fire could be explored as an area of interest to adjacent private landowners.

### ***Members agreed to proactive Methow community outreach around adaptive management and fire breaks vs. treatments***

### **Nason Creek**

This priority restoration area is not on the 5-year Plan (scheduled for FY25 decision). The OWNF supports NCWFHC member lift to advance the project. A small SC group (Co-Chair/TWS; Chelan County, YN, DNR) met last week with OWNF to look at DNR's Nason LE again and share thoughts. CCNRD will connect their contractor Phil Gains with Derek Churchill/DNR to share new spatial/assessment data and scope out potential updates; aim to complete in March. Follow-up Nason meeting(s)—likely April—will be tied to CCNRD and DNR coordination outcomes; will involve more members and community.

### Chumstick-to-Lower Peshastin (LP)

Planning area started out as Eagle-to-LP but expanded to include Chumstick to develop a landscape scale “package” for a potential A-Z approach. The Joint Task Force identified Chumstick-to-LP for potential long-term Stewardship Contract development. The OWNF-SO and WRRD remain supportive of NCWFHC exploring this type of partnership to advance Chumstick-to-LP.

**Note:** *PWG Chumstick-to-LP meeting on Wednesday, 02/17/21, 12pm-2pm.* See afternoon Chumstick-to-LP notes for additional next steps.

#### *Next Steps:*

1. Interested PWG participants will engage in or track 02/17/21 Chumstick-to-LP LE review
2. Chris Furr and DNR (Chuck, Jen) will meet re: Upper Methow Fuels Break project area and follow-up at next PWG mtg. on 02/25/21, 1pm-3pm
3. Jasmine to lead on helping to convene future NCWFHC conversations/workshops with Methow Community
4. February-March: CCNRD/contractor to connect with DNR to talk about data-analyses updates

### TNC Pilot Projects “Lessons Learned” Survey Results

TNC presented on its survey of 65 respondents from across three Pilot Projects (UWPP, Manastash-Taneum, Mill Ck. A-Z). The survey was conducted with help from Danna Moore, WSU (*see presentation*)

Members discussed the ongoing challenge of contract NEPA vs. need for OWNF internal capacity, which cannot be built under current budget-FTE cap structure.

**Note:** *Follow-up “Deep Dive” UWPP Lessons Learned mtg. on Friday, 02/19/21, 10am-12pm.* Contact Anjolene Price/UWPP Economics subgroup coordinator for details.

### Project and PWG Updates

#### Mad-Roaring-Mills Kick-off

The OWNF-Entiat RD presented on the Mad-Roaring-Mills (MRM) restoration project (*see presentation*). The MRM Project required an EA (vs. CE). The Entiat RD conducted the MRM Landscape Assessment in alignment with Forest Restoration Strategy (vs. DNR LE). No new motorized routes are proposed. Funding forecast: hazards fuels reduction funding, GNA supplemental fuels money for non-commercial projects. DNR and Entiat RD coordinating on cross-boundary work. Proposed timeline and next steps:

- ✓ External Scoping through March 31, 2021
- ✓ Draft EA September 30, 2021
- ✓ Decision December 31, 2021
- ✓ Implement April 1, 2022

**Note:** To talk about cross-boundary MRM partnership opportunities contact Entiat RD staff Mariah Mayfield for Aquatics ([mariah.mayfield@usda.gov](mailto:mariah.mayfield@usda.gov)) or Ana Cerro ([ana.v.cerro-timpone@usda.gov](mailto:ana.v.cerro-timpone@usda.gov)) for other project information and opportunities.

## Mission

### *Litigation Update*

AFRC General Counsel reported the Federal Order issued by the court on 12/1 went through claims. AWR did not appeal by the deadline so litigation is complete. The project can legally move forward. Timber sale repackage work is on the Winter schedule.

Participants discussed potential outreach opportunities near-term (COVID-19) and potential “post-vaccine”/ later 2021 outreach including: 1) Field trip to see some of the marked units (Methow Valley community interest); 2) Getting Congressional delegates in the field (e.g., Senator Cantwell, Dan Newhouse; coordinate--Seattle media).

## UWPP

### *Current Timeline*

Draft EA released in January. Contractors have started to address online comments; 20 received so far.

**Note: Draft EA comment period closes February 12, 2021. Doodle for next PWG mtg. on comments.**

### *Virtual Outreach Update*

Virtual Open House was well attended by about 90 non-OWNF participants. The Story Map has been updated to include videos and map issues have been addressed for community members. OWNF is undertaking follow-up on the road management piece and monitoring plan (to be looked at).

Link to OWNF FB Page-Event Recording:

<https://www.facebook.com/784196435031210/videos/236848004676892>

KPQ broadcast and reported the story online:

<https://www.newsbreak.com/washington/wenatchee/society/2151218494879/public-comment-period-open-for-upper-wenatchee-pilot-project-environmental-assessment-draft>

**Note: OWG mtg. on Tuesday, 02/23/2021 will involve deeper UWPP Outreach discussion**

### *Comment Letter Development*

Neither the Core Team nor Terrestrial/Aquatics/Economics subgroups is submitting comments. There is SC-NCWFHC cross-over membership to UWPP (Core Team: Chuck and Lloyd; Terrestrial: Jen Watkins; Aquatics: Brandon R.; Economics: Anjolene Price). Tied to Jan SC discussion PWG is developing NCWFHC comments using notes-input from UWPP “cross-over” members, other UWPP team participants. Another PWG meeting will be scheduled to complete comment development. Final UWPP draft EA comments need to be approved by consensus of SC and submitted by Friday, February 12, 2021.

Q: Will the UWPP receive the same NCWFHC support as the Mission project if it is litigated?

There has been a high level of member and community involvement; a lot of support for the project. The Level 1 analysis work might present an uncertainty.

## Twisp

### *Comment Review Update*

MVRD received ~900 comment letters. The IDT has met 2x and will hold its first meeting with SO next week to go over comments, approach. Information about next steps coming towards end of February.

The draft EA presents a robust Aquatics package of actions that the OWNF worked with tribes to get project input on. The Terrestrial component received mixed reviews. There is support for a commercial component in the project; however, there is not a consensus on several items. Multiple Twisp landscape analyses are now available (OWNF, DNR, CNW) to set the basis for advancing common perspective.

The community is hungry for feedback and has questions. The MVRD has a meeting scheduled with the SO-PAO next week to work on official messaging and will share that with NCWFHC-OWG. Options for in-person field trips, etc. may arise in the future but currently OWNF is in limited stance until summer-fall due to COVID-19. Near-term recommendation to explore virtual information sharing opportunities.

***Members agreed to use non-consensus items from the NCWFHC Twisp Draft EA comment letter as the basis to advance PWG-MVRD discussions***

***Members agreed to pursue near-term Twisp ‘COVID-compliant’ outreach and virtual information options, with outreach built from next PWG-OWG discussion(s) and consensus on path forward***

### *Next Steps*

1. Sarah will distribute Doodle poll for PWG-UWPP comments mtg. #2
2. On 02/26/21 PWG will talk more about Mission outreach
3. On 02/26/21 PWG-MVRD will continue discussing Twisp path forward
4. Lawson Fite/AFRC will help with white paper on legal collaboration for community outreach
5. Chris Furr/MVRD will share official SO-MVRD messaging on Twisp when available
6. Jasmine Minbashian/MVCC will help coordinate future Methow community outreach

## Collaborative Engagement Agreement – Draft Concept

### **Summary, SC Work to Date**

Recent reissue of OWNF letter of commitment to NCWFHC and Twisp challenges prompted discussion about “how to collaborate better”. In January the SC and OWNF agreed to advance Lloyd’s draft Collaborative Engagement Agreement concept. The goal is to create shared understanding on OWNF-NCWFHC process touchpoints and set common language NCWFHC can use to tell OWNF how members want to align and allocate resources, define potential roles on each project (*see Collaborative Engagement Agreement (CEA) concept draft v2*).

### **Discussion, Feedback**

Overall, next CEA draft should 1) incorporate remaining Jan SC suggestions; 2) strengthen language-content-connection to forest restoration strategy, DNR 20-year strategic plan; 3) include language supporting OWNF concept for EA-EIS ‘template’ development; 4) reflect NFF NEPA Roadmap language and include Darrington Agreement, other relevant example pieces that might be useful.

### Chumstick-to-LP Needs

By March OWNF needs understanding of NCWFHC interests, proposed roles-resources, touchpoints, etc. Existing NFF NEPA Roadmap content (i.e., scale and descriptors for levels of member Involvement— [low-high]: Communicate, Consult, Involve, Collaborate) should be used to guide this work.

**Note:** Mad-Roaring-Mills (MRM) is moving through NEPA. MRM is smaller-scale and involves no commercial, only restoration (refer to Tillicum implementation). For each project, members should consider what level of engagement is desired alongside capacity to support.

**Members agreed a Chumstick-to-LP subgroup (Lloyd McGee, Sam Israel, Corrine Hoffman, Patrick Haggerty, others) would look at NFF NEPA Roadmap, other examples to draft engagement proposal**

#### Next Steps

7. Sarah will email PWG about Chumstick-to-LP subgroup formation, next steps
8. By 02/17/21 Chumstick-to-LP mtg., Subgroup will identify NFF, other language for CEA to discuss
9. By Friday, 02/19/21, NCWFHC members will email Sarah and Lloyd comments on current draft Collaborative Engagement Agreement
10. At 02/21/21 PWG Winter mtg. a MRM engagement proposal will be discussed

### Partner Roundtable

Joint Chiefs' project funding deadline of Friday 2/29/21. DNR met with SO staff last week to put a high level 1-page proposal together--large boundary around Tapash and NCWFHC. Final proposals are due in June 2021. Matt Castle, Andy Hart OWNF-SO contacts. Mike Anderson has a FS contact that may be able to help with questions.

#### Next Steps

11. Patrick will share Joint Chiefs' proposal information
12. Sarah will email NCWFHC-SC-PWG-OWG membership, interaction information

**Co-Chair Anderson Adjourned the Meeting at 3:32pm**

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#### Upcoming Meetings—

- 02/08 or 02/09 (Doodle): UWPP Comment Mtg. #2
- 02/17/21: Chumstick-to-LP LE Review
- 02/19/21: UWPP Lessons Learned “Deep Dive” (Contact Anjolene Price)
- 02/23/21: OWG Mtg. (Contact Patrick Haggerty, Nicole Jordan)
- 02/26/21: PWG Winter Quarterly
- 03/03/21: March SC Meeting

## Tasking Memo

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>TASK</b>
asap	Sarah	Email PWG re: Chumstick-to-LP subgroup formation, 02/17 LE Review mtg. reminder
asap	Interested NCWFHC-PWG-UWPP groups	Respond to Doodle for PWG-UWPP comments mtg. #2 (02/08 or 02/09)
asap	Patrick Haggerty/CCD	Email initial Joint Chiefs' proposal 1-pager to Sarah for sharing
asap	Chris Furr/MVRD, OOWNF-SO PAO	Email Twisp outreach messaging to PWG and OWG Co-Chairs, Sarah
By 02/17/21	Chumstick-to-LP subgroup (Corrine, Patrick, Sam, Lloyd, others)	Use NFF, other example language and draft project-level roles, level of engagement info
By 02/19/21	NCWFHC, PWG participants	Email comments on draft v2 Collaborative Engagement Agreement to Lloyd, Sarah
Asap, by 2/23 OWG mtg	Jasmine Minbashian, OOWNF, OWG, others	Prepare for near- and long-term Community outreach on Mission Restoration, Upper Mission Fuel Breaks projects
By 02/26/21	Chumstick-to-LP subgroup (Lloyd, Sam, Corrine, Patrick, others interested). Revise after 2/26 for 3/3	Use NFF NEPA language and other example elements to develop draft Chumstick-to-LP proposal for discussion at PWG Winter Mtg.
By 02/26/21 PWG Winter Mtg.	Chris Furr/MVRD; Jen Watkins and Chuck Hersey/DNR	Meet about Upper Methow Fuels Break landscape, restoration opportunities, etc. for report-out
02/26/21	Interested members	Participate in PWG Winter mtg: UWPP, Mission, Twisp, Chumstick-to-LP, other
03/03/21		SC Meeting
March	Mike Kaputa/CCNRD; Phil Gaines; Derek Churchill/DNR	CCNRD-DNR collaboration to integrate Nason GIS info-analyses, inform next discussion steps.
As Able	Lawson Fite	Develop white paper on Mission Project success, legal collaboration framework
As Able	Sarah	Email current NCWFHC-Work Groups-Members-Structure documents