



February 4, 2015

Mike Liu, District Ranger  
Methow Valley Ranger District  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
24 West Chewuch Road  
Winthrop, WA 98862

Dear District Ranger Liu,

The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Methow Valley Ranger District's proposed action for the South Summit II Forest and Fuels project. The NCWFHC Projects Workgroup conducted a field trip to view the post-fire South Summit project area on November 21, 2014.

The NCWFHC is interested in increasing the pace and scale of restoration on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF), and strongly supports projects that achieve this goal. The NCWFHC supports the purpose and need identified by the district, and, in order to ensure the South Summit II project is implemented in a cost-effective and socially-beneficial way, the NCWFHC can support the project in the following ways:

- Help analyze potential costs and revenues, and identify strategies to increase the economic viability of the project. Depending on the appraisal, it may be more efficient to use stewardship contracting to achieve necessary restoration tasks.
- Leverage resources for project planning (e.g. survey crew, timber marking contractor) and implementation (need specific resource needs and for which actions).
- Publicize NCWFHC support for project implementation.
- Develop zones of agreement among NCWFHC members, through project discussions and field trips, which can be used by OWNF in planning future projects that will also have broad community support.

In order to provide this support to the District, and to provide more detailed comments on the project, the NCWFHC requests the following information about specific aspects of the proposed project:

- How will burn severity and the relationship to green tree marking be determined?
- What specific design elements will be used to protect aquatic resources within the project area?
- Will snag retention be accomplished on a 100-acre basis, per OWNF Forest Plan, or a per-acre basis?
- Will this be a stewardship contract and, if so, what additional activities will be included?
- What is the scope of hazard tree removal along roads and trails in the project analysis area?

The NCWFHC looks forward to continued collaboration on large-scale restoration projects in the Methow Valley Ranger District. The NCWFHC is committed to finding efficient and productive ways to engage with the District to increase the pace of restoration, a goal shared by the NCWFHC and the Forest Service.

Please contact Melody Kreimes, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and NCWFHC facilitator, (509) 888-0321 or [melody.kreimes@ucsrb.org](mailto:melody.kreimes@ucsrb.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Paul Ward, Yakama Nation  
NCWFHC Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd McGee". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the last name being more prominent.

Lloyd McGee, The Nature Conservancy  
NCWFHC Co-Chair