

North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative

Steering Committee Charter – Version 2.1

September 2014

Purpose of the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative:

The purpose of the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC) is to work together to obtain the resources and community support to increase implementation of landscape-scale forest restoration. All proposed actions will be scientifically and ecologically sound, as well as socio-culturally responsible. The economics of forest restoration are a critical consideration as we make recommendations, and some actions will be investments that are not necessarily immediately profitable. Members of this collaborative effort are committed to sustaining candid dialogue about how to sustain forests in the region and the varied activities and interests that we commonly share and deeply value.

NCWFHC Steering Committee:

The NCWFHC formed a Steering Committee to assist it in fulfilling its functions and achieving its purpose. The Committee will present to the NCWFHC innovative opportunities and actions to increase restoration. Between quarterly NCWFHC meetings, the Committee will also make decisions and approve, as necessary, consistent with the vision of the Collaborative Group.

Committee Membership:

The Committee will maintain balanced representation of all forest restoration interests, and will include the Co-Chairs of the NCWFHC. The Committee elects one of the Co-Chairs to serve a two-year term as chair, beginning in September 2013, and every two years thereafter.

Meetings and Teleconferences:

The Committee will meet approximately monthly, as needed, to fulfill its responsibilities. Staff will attempt to schedule meetings when all members can attend. If this is not possible, then staff will ensure that at least one from each interest is represented: industry, conservation, and local, state, federal and tribal governments. If time-sensitive decisions must be made and a teleconference or meeting is not possible, consensus can be obtained via email if a majority of Steering Committee members respond to the email query (though the facilitator will strive to obtain responses from all Committee members).

Responsibilities:

The Committee has the authority to make day-to-day decisions and to direct staff and workgroups on behalf of the full NCWFHC, but will not be empowered to:

- Amend the *NCWFHC Operating Protocols*;
- Elect or remove any members from the NCWFHC; or
- Amend the intent of a consensus agreement previously reached by the NCWFHC.

The Committee is authorized to issue letters, communication products and grant proposals, and comment on projects, consistent with the vision and purpose of the NCWFHC. Letters and communication products will first be approved by the 19 collaborative members on novel policy issues, or where there has been no previous discussion. Such approval may occur via a 24-hour email review period if time does not permit approval at a quarterly meeting. Lack of response by a member to an email request will constitute approval. The Committee will also complete follow up action items in order to implement a conceptual agreement of the full Collaborative. The Committee may delegate tasks to staff.

All decisions and actions of the Steering Committee will be documented in meeting summaries, and reported to the NCWFHC at its quarterly meetings.