

Members Present

Boise-Cascade: Kevin Arneson; **Chelan County:** Mike Kaputa; **Conservation Northwest:** Jen Watkins & George Wooten (phone); **National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR):** absent; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot-Perez (phone); **US Forest Service – OWNF:** Teri Tucker, Matt Reidy, Mike Liu; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Matt Scott; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Carmen Andonaegui; **Graham Simon Yakama Nation:** Absent; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** Chris Wright, Stan Janowicz; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard (CTSY):** Bob Anderson; **Cascadia CD:** Amanda Levesque-Newell; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust:** Absent; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** Absent; **The Wilderness Society:** Mike Anderson; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** Hilary Lundgren.

Other Meeting Participants

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (Facilitators): George Schneider, Barb Carrillo, James White, Greer Maier, and Pete Teigen **Other:** John Marshall; **Okanogan County:** Char Shumaker; **Senator Cantwell's Office:** David Replong; **TNC:** Brittany Gallagher; **USFWS:** Jeff Krupka

Regular Business

December 7, 2016 Quarterly Meeting summary was approved without dissent or issue.

Steering Committee

Lloyd mentioned Jim Schroeder resigned from Steering Committee and called for new members.

Project Workgroup Activities Update

Discussion of the Project Workgroup.

Light Stewardship- is a stewardship project and that presents an opportunity to engage through collaboration. Matt Reidy – from the OWNF and Region they have been given authority to use stewardship receipts for future projects. The hope is to use the receipts for future thinning and hazardous fuels reduction. Currently they are in the objection period, which will end in March then they will begin implementation of Phase I.

Phase I: implemented and receipts collected

Phase II: receipts used to do hazard fuels reduction

Tom Partin compliments the Tonasket RD on the size and scale of the treatment area and the use of stewardship contract (not a timber sale timber receipts go to the national treasury). There are many benefits for stewardship contracting in terms of how the Collaborative can engage.

Kevin asked if the Forest is open to doing more Stewardship contracting but mentioned that the issue of long hauls is still an issue for many areas on the forest, though Tonasket is in a good location given its proximity to milling infrastructure. On Stewardship the forest should look at looking at a greater percentage of the analyzed area. Because they can take a bit more time and energy to put together stewardship proposals.

AFRC is looking at cost pools and other options (Knuteson Vandenburg Act) because of the high cost of doing some of these options.

It would be a good idea for a member to come speak with the Project Committee about the continued/expanded use of stewardship contracts.

MT Hull- TNC contracted out with Derek Churchill to do the departure analysis and a meeting was held with the Collaborative. After some review, TRD is at point to engage NCWFHC and other Stakeholders on a larger scale to discuss the potential project opportunities. Then folks can get out on the ground. Four watershed approx. 30,000 acres.

Tonasket would not be where they are without Lloyd (TNC) and Derek's help on this project. They have been able to almost double the size of the landscape that was analyzed in the time period because of this support. Matt is very appreciative.

Luke Sheresse? Team leader for the project will send out information for a stakeholder meeting.

AFRC_ MT Hull will be very important for the TRD because of Strategic Prioritization and the fact that future projects may not go back to TRD for a few years. It's important to get the most bang for the buck. Industry has developed new logging tech. that is light on the ground on steeper slopes, AFRC urge the forest to look at treating steeper ground 50+ degree slopes are possible.

Methow Valley Ranger District

Mission Project- NCWFHC did submit a letter on the draft EA. Discussion about how to engage and strategically invest in the project. AFRC has gotten a lot of heart burn because of the lack of acres and they feel like the Forest failed on the economics on the (50,000 proposed 1,952 acres proposed being treated via mechanical thinning). New comment period was issued and has been delayed for 30 days to include the interests of folks in North Idaho and Western Montana. If funds are available for fuels treatment there are many opportunities to engage. TU- helped convene a meeting with MRC/MSRF to discuss project options and funding sources available to do restoration work. There are groups willing/able to do aquatic work.

South Summit II- currently being implemented and there are opportunities for engagement if folks have money. Someone should be a gatekeeper to make sure roads that will be needed aren't closed or decommissioned before timber industry can get in and do the work. Mike mentioned that past issues have been addressed and future issues should be mitigated. Marking might occur when the snow is gone and the collaborative is invited to help with that. WDFW might be interested so the forest will make that information available via the Project Workgroup that will make it known to the full collaborative.

Twisp River- NCWFHC met with MVRD to discuss the project and hope to speed the project. There is a need for \$35,000 for owl surveying to start this year, have about 8 weeks. Is there any possibility to move over a small amount from Joint Chiefs to start the owl calling? They moved \$50,000 for pre-NEPA on Manashtash-Taneneum in 2016.

Action Items:

1. Projects workgroup meeting March 6th USFWS and NMFS will be on the live to discuss aquatic implementation.
2. Outreach & Project Workgroup can help with outreach and connecting with folks to engage stakeholders. Connect with Luke Sheresse directly

Outreach Workgroup Update

Barb gave an update on the outreach work that has taken place. Barb, Melody Kreimes, Lloyd McGee and the folks at Project Wildfire took the presentation of *Era of Megafires* to present at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in Olympia, which was received really well. The group has also been working on the Mechanical Thinning brochure and have created to a white paper to discuss the benefits and applications of mechanical thinning as a forest restoration tool.

Action Items:

3. The Workgroup will meet to finalize the brochure and white paper the provide them to the Steering Committee for final review.

Forest and Community Resiliency Roundtable Report

Brittany Gallagher, The Nature Conservancy, with government relations team for a few months. The roundtable is diverse group that represents various interests (like a collaborative) with the goal of helping move legislation. They have put together www.forestroundtable.org. They advocate for restoration work and money to increase work. There is a need but also many competing needs.

Lobby day on (February 9) in Olympia with additional showings of the Era of Megafires. State revenue forecast comes out March 16, then things will speed.

The Steering Committee agreed that NCWFHC would participate on the roundtable and the logo was included on the fact sheet. Matt Comisky has helped and participated with the Roundtable, along with Chuck Hersey, Mike Kaputa and others.

Two forest health bill: HB 1711 (Kretz)
Senate bill 5546 (Hawkins)

If our goal is to advance forest health, how can we be more strategic with long-term funding? Versus asking for money every year or legislative cycle. We need to be more strategic to think about long-term funding. The legislature wants forest health issues “licked” in 20 years, which may not be possible, which is why DNR is working on the 20-year strategic plan with an initial focus on priority watersheds. Important to engage with all land owners and services.

Hilary Franz is signing the GNA on March 10 with the Forest Service. Possibly opens more opportunities to engage on USFS lands. Idaho Panhandle National Forest District Ranger and Coeur D’ Alene Department of Lands folks will come to talk to the Collaborative about how they are working together to address restoration activities.

Aquatic Component of Restoration Strategy

Teri Tucker- Restoration Strategy is critical for the forest. Terrestrial fairly sound, aquatic is under development. Bill Gaines was contracted to take an early version of "ALE" and take it to the next phase they are currently working on the key indicators, question questions, and data layers. Justin Yeager (NMFS), USFWS, and Greer with BG decided to look at it from the fish's perspective. Crystal, Jen and Greer having been discussing next steps for moving the process forward with the OWNF.

Three phases of ALEs:

1. Previous work to develop tools for Tillicum and put it out for review.
2. Response to comments and improve the tool to test (wants to test it in Nason Creek and Manastash Taneum) this spring optimistically end of May 2017.
3. Build the tool into EMDS model

Why Nason Creek because it isn't in any strategic watersheds? This is Bill's proposal and not set. If we are moving forward with ALE it needs to be collaborative and transparent in order to succeed. The piloting of ALE will be determined and Bill wants to test some of it.

Anything the SC can do to help connect OWNF to project sponsors, WATs, RTT, IT.
Scott Willey the new fish bio will be the point person.

How do we pair this down to be efficient economically and scientifically? This is the challenge. Depending on the watershed and needs the price tag may be a moving target (critical habitat versus watersheds without list species). ALE will be more catered because of the uniqueness of the watershed and habitat as compared to the terrestrial evaluation.

Lloyd- we don't want to extend the timeline because ALEs is holding up the process. Dave- we do need to understand the restoration needs of aquatics. Don't want to put boundaries around the aquatic restoration component of the same quality as the terrestrial. Uncomfortable with constraining the data and needs of the aquatics.

Are we going to do any evaluation work or post-work analysis? This is important to see if we are moving the needle for restoration.

Tillicum 14,000 acres is a success story, 7,000 acres of veg treatment, road improvements and decommissioning, and other, (there wasn't a commercial component). Money was secured through the Legacy Roads and Trails Funding program to help with the road work on Tillicum.

Consultation can go smooth or slow. Tillicum was smooth because of the development. P&N of projects doesn't meet the ecologically needs of listed species. In some districts with alignment consultation moves slowly. At the outset of planning have a P&N that discusses the ecological needs of listed species.

- Discussion at a future meeting for listed species and consultation.

Action Items

4. Dave will work with George and others to draft a letter or support for Legacy Roads and Trails Funding.

Joint Chiefs and Chelan Pilot Strategy

Chelan Pilot - \$1.6 million to the region for the project. Mike Williams wants to work with the Steering Committee to engage with the whole collaborative. What were the funds for? All components of the project are funded, now the steering committee will meet ASAP to put the components together of how to move forward it will be between March 7-13.

Joints Chief- phase II of implementation of NEPA ready work for fuels reduction on Tonasket. They expect it to be under contract soon with approximately \$1.2 million for implementation. Another \$400,000 +/- was awarded to the Manashtash-Taneum for planning and capacity.

Quite an accomplishment that the NCWFHC has brought \$3.2 million to the region.

Action Items

5. George will confirm the date and time of the special Steering Committee and convene that meeting with OWNF leadership to discuss the project.

ESHB 2928 Update

Pete Teigen gave an update on the status of the ESHB 2928. The program came out of state legislation in 2016 to look at how prescribed resiliency burning could help improve forest health and resiliency. Smoke and air quality monitoring, fuels monitoring, and outreach efforts were the primary focuses of the pilot and final report will include recommendations to the Legislature on improving resiliency burning. Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Cascadia Conservation District and Okanogan Conservation District did considerable outreach work in areas where prescribed burning took place during Fall 2016. Two more spring burns have been added to the project to monitor during the spring 2017 burn seasons, the two burns are Eight Mile Bottom (MVRD) and Twenty-Five Mile (CRD). It is to be seen if there are additional resources for outreach efforts for those burns. Members asked what percentage of acres were pretreated prior to the prescribed burning. Track the objective of the burn in relation to what was accomplished (hazardous tree mortality)

Does the Collaborative need to approve the interim report to RC&D?

Action Items:

6. Pete will send the interim recommendations to the Steering Committee for approval at the April meeting then on the full Collaborative. Final report needs to be submitted by end of June.

Tracking and Metrics for Restoration

Much discussion about how and what we do/should track. Metrics should address barriers and how the Collaborative can resolve/mitigate those barriers. Tracking time/money that members contribute can be

quite valuable to leverage additional resources (for grants) as well as tracking how members are participating (Matt Scott). Ripple effect mapping to determine impacts, Gloria at NEWFC has been working on this and could be a valuable resource (Greer and Hilary). The OWNF tracks many metrics that the collaborative can use so there may not be a need for the group to track these, but rather work with the Forest to get those data when needed. Folks are invited to touch base with George and/or Lloyd with ideas for new metrics. The Task Force will meet to further discuss metrics to use and how to incorporate metrics into the Collaboratives work.

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Updates

- Idaho Panhandle staff to come discuss the work they are doing.
- Consultation (NMFS and Fish and Wildlife Service) to discuss working together on ESA.
- Tracking the 5-year strategic prioritization (see Twisp River Project and keeping it on track)
- Mission Project- Update from MVRD to address.
- Crystal Elliot-Perez volunteered to be on the Steering Committee because there was an issue with the phone line to start the meeting. There was consensus.
- Mike Kaputa announced the fire Chelan County Wildfire Conversation March 8th at 9:00 am at CTC in Wenatchee.
- June 7, 2017 in Chelan Fire Department (Chelan, WA) 10-4