

Participants

Chelan County: Keith Goehner; **Conservation Northwest:** Jen Watkins, Dave Wertz (phone); **Okanogan Wenatchee NF:** Mike Williams, Ryan Nehl, Teri Tucker; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (Facilitators):** Pete Teigen; **Washington Department of Natural Resources:** Chuck Hersey (phone); **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **The Wilderness Society:** Mike Anderson (phone); **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot (phone); **Okanogan CD:** Lorah Super (phone); **Cascadia CD:** Patrick Haggerty (phone); **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot (phone);

Approval of Meeting Summary

The April 4, 2018 NCWFHC Draft summary was approved. The finalized summary will be put on the website at: <http://www.ucsrb.org/meetings/regular-meetings/>

NCWFHC Project Workgroup Update

Mission- The Project Workgroup met to discuss the various components of the Mission Restoration Project and to see if consensus from the group could be reached to submit a letter of support. Members on that call agreed that supporting the project as a Collaborative is important and they appreciated the collaborative effort demonstrated by the Methow Valley Ranger District and OWNF, though individual members may submit their own letters regarding specific interests in the project. Some members were curious about the justification/rationale for why certain components of the projects were either included or omitted from the final decision.

Mt Hull- There is a district meeting in May and more information about the status of the project. There has been discussion about going up for a project tour, though a date has not been confirmed for either a meeting or field trip.

Barriers- Members of the group and the Forest have a meeting scheduled to review the list of barriers Forest Service staff identified to members of the Collaborative in 2015.

The Steering Committee approves the Mission Restoration Project letter of support as submitted by the Project Workgroup.

Action Items

1. Pete will finalize letter of support for Mission from the NCWFHC and submit that to the OWNF.
2. Members of Barriers Workgroup and OWNF will meet to review the barriers identified in 2015 to see how NCWFHC might engage in any persisting barriers.

Follow-up Discussion to A-Z and Wood Supply Presentations

One of the goals for some partners in the Collaborative is to improve the local economies in the region, and one way to help do that is to bring back/improve local infrastructure, particularly as it relates to the forest product industry. The Nature Conservancy has spent a tremendous amount of capital and effort analyzing the needs in order to secure sufficient security to offset risk associated with the large-scale investment necessary to attract investment in new milling infrastructure. Their analysis suggests that at a minimum a ten-year guaranteed supply of forest products (wood) could meet that requirement. With that as the assumption, TNC has begun engaging with OWNF leadership on exploring the possibility of a

10-year stewardship contract that would be additive to what would fall within OWNF's annual Unified Program of Work. The basic premise is that the Stewardship Contract would be an open process, though TNC would be interested in submitting a bid. The winning bidder would fund the NEPA work across the landscape but would retain the right to the commercial product as a result of this work. The A-Z project on Colville NF is a similar model, though the contract and work would be amended to fit the unique characteristic and dynamic of the OWNF, especially considering the federally list fish and owl habitats.

TNC provided some context and background to this discussion in order to gather feedback and hear questions that members of the Collaborative might have. OWNF leadership made it clear that the discussion and conversations are in their infancy and a lot of details still need to be worked through. Support from NCWFHC would be instrumental in creating and implementing a 10-year stewardship contract.

Upper Wenatchee/Core Team Update

Washington RC&D and OWNF hosted a webinar during March to provide context and answer and compile questions potential contractors had about the project and/or process. A script of the questions and answers are available on Washington RC&D website and the RC&D YouTube page. The deadline for proposals is April 12, with selection occurring on April 19 (by RC&D and OWNF), and start date May 1.

Member of the LSR Workgroup are coming the week of May 21-25 to work with OWNF. The schedule is going to be very tight as there is a lot to do, but the OWNF is committed to trying to accommodate NCWFHC's desire to meet and discuss the issues with the Workgroup. James Dickinson and Susan Thomas are part of the planning/scheduling team.

Action Items

3. Pete and Jen will follow-up with OWNF about the LSR Workgroup visit in May to better understand how and who should participate from the Collaborative.

Updates

Mike Anderson provided a brief overview of the Omnibus spending package that was passed and highlighted some important components that relate to forest health. One important change is the fire borrowing fix, which will allow for federal agencies to seek reimbursement for the costs of fighting fires. There is also language about the allowance of 20-year stewardship contracts, changes Good Neighbor Authority, the allowance for 3,000-acre categorical exclusions for hazardous fuels and other provisions. A more in-depth overview of this legislation and the impacts on the management of federal lands would be valuable.

Action Items

4. Pete will contact Senator Cantwell staff inviting them to come discuss this legislation at the June 6 Full Collaborative.