

Participants

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard:** ABSENT; **Chelan County:** Commissioner Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Conservation Northwest:** Jen Watkins [Phone]; **Okanogan Wenatchee NF:** ABSENT **Okanogan Conservation District:** ABSENT; **Okanogan County:** Commissioner Branch; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **The Wilderness Society:** Mike Anderson [Phone]; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot [Phone]; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (Facilitators):** Melody Kreimes, Sarah Walker; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Mike Scott [Phone]; **Washington Department of Natural Resources:** Chuck Hersey [Phone]; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers

Approval of Meeting Summary

The November 15, 2018 NCWFHC SC Draft summary was approved without revision. The final summary will be put on the website at: <http://www.ucsr.org/meetings/regular-meetings/>

Discussion of OWNF Support Needs

OWNF staff were unable to participate due to the partial government shutdown. Lloyd provided background on the request to have OWNF staff (Mike Williams and Teri Tucker) I.D. their resource needs, and a similar yet different request for information that Senator Hawkins sent to Mike Williams. It was noted that the letter from Senator Hawkins arose from a meeting among County, Port, legislative staff and others, and was not a product of the NCWFHC.

Members discussed questions they would like to raise about the OWNF 5-year plan and coordination to address longer-term resource needs. For example, some projects have dropped off the last 5-year plan, like the Upper Peshastin. The checkerboard ownership in that area could be helpful; are there resource needs for that effort? The group discussed interest in hearing how the OWNF plans to leverage the new aquatics CE and how will it affect their workload. Members were also interested in hearing about what the OWNF approach look like for projects where DNR also involved (i.e., what are the resource needs for projects like Twisp that are already in the queue)? With respect to the Twisp, a member noted that Mike Liu (before his departure) mentioned there was spotted owl work that needed to be done now. One member expressed the desire for OWNF to articulate how past turn-back sales will be addressed in the 5-year plan and speak to how stable the plan is overall. A planned Jan 28 mtg. between AFRC and USFS staff may help with this discussion. Another member noted that if the UWPP can be completed and the Twisp starts, the rest of the 5-year plan is nice balance of complex and more “simple” projects covered by the CE. Future efforts hinge on how well projects move this year.

Lloyd shared that the TNC is independently exploring how to leverage external funds to support OWNF efforts, especially to fill resource gaps like the need for another ID Team. A TNC goal is also to bring sawmill to central Washington; there’s a need for both a “top down” and “bottom up” approach to collaboration. A member raised the point that “resources” doesn’t just mean money for planning, but on the ground implementation as well. Lloyd asked whether members would support TNC trying to bring an IDT from Malheur NF to help the OWNF. Members agreed that OWNF staff needed to be present to speak to their resource needs, including whether there is a need for another IDT. Members were generally supportive of the idea but again stressed need to hear from OWNF staff first. Commissioner Branch raised concern about the potential for OWNF staff frustration if what the NCWFHC is proposing is not a priority of forest, but OWNF staff capacity is required to respond to offers of help, etc.

Project Workgroup

Mount Hull

OWNF staff were unable to share information about the Mount Hull EA. A status update will be requested when OWNF staff are able to work again.

Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project

Lacking an update from OWNF staff, SC leads for the terrestrial and aquatics subgroups provided an update about their work to date and next steps.

- Aquatics: OWNF surveys are currently behind schedule. The subgroup was set to meet later this month; however, OWNF staff may not be ready. Therefore, there may not be a need to meet in January.
- Terrestrial: Like the aquatics subgroup, the terrestrial subgroup is struggling a bit with the partial government shutdown. An important spotted owl meeting planned for 1/16 may get pushed back. Information from December indicates OWNF scoping is still on track for the end of January (January 28), so the subgroup is working to identify all terrestrial habitats and species that need to be brought up early in the scoping process. The wildlife committee is still heavily dependent on OWNF personnel and consultant.

Members moved on to discussion of the UWPP draft Purpose and Need statement, for which Paul Kelley, Environmental Compliance specialist for the OWNF-Wenatchee Range District, had requested early, high-level feedback from Core Team members and others. While some SC members may provide early comments individually, Paul and Susan specifically asked for collective SC feedback re: whether the draft P&N statement meets SC members' understanding of the project, and if anything is missing.

The group identified several areas for feedback, including:

- Economics: Mention of this is weak or missing. If it is mentioned, it needs to be framed as a by-product of restoration, and the economic product shouldn't only be timber. A member asked about mentioning returned receipts. The group discussed how to avoid the issue of being too specific about economics, which arose with the Upper Peshastin. Options for socio-economic language might also be found in the NCWFHC October 2018 Letter of Support to the OWNF for a long-term stewardship contract.
- Landscape evaluation: Needs to be stated that this will guide our planning efforts for restoration treatments but be balanced with other Plan and regulation requirements for the planning area.
- Properly Functioning Condition: Language should reflect this concept, goal.
- Purpose bullet and topic clarity: Bullets could be teased apart in places to make specific issues discrete. For example, access should become a separate item. The importance of being able to message about public benefits, such as recreation/use access, was pointed out.
- Spotted Owl habitat: Members discussed the need for additional clarification, better wording of "need" bullet four. For example, what does "Conserve existing spotted owl habitat..." mean, how are they defining the different types of spotted owl habitat in the planning area?
- Wildfire vs. "severe" fire: The group discussed the need to insert the word "severe" in front of fire and eliminate the word "natural" when it was used in front of fire to emphasize the

importance of minimizing the risk of large-scale, catastrophic fire without overshadowing the key role that fire (lower intensity, prescribed burn, etc.) plays on the landscape.

Action Items

1. Economics: Melody will locate and distribute Upper Peshastin Purpose & Need language and Sarah will also review the October 2018 letter of support for example text
2. Guidance for treatments: Chuck will suggest framing language to highlight consistency with landscape evaluation results.
3. PFC: Brandon will send suggested wording
4. Access: Chuck will provide suggested language for a stand-alone access bullet
5. Spotted Owl habitat: Jen will help re: need for clarifying language
6. Wildfire vs. "severe" fire: Sarah will add the word "severe" in front of fire in places and make other recommended edits to help differentiate between severe fire and fire generally.
7. Sarah will draft and distribute high-level feedback to SC (voting members) for review and comment by Thursday, 1/10.
8. Voting SC members will provide feedback to Sarah by Monday, 1/14
9. Sarah will incorporate feedback, email revised language for review, and set up a call or web-ex if there are large discrepancies in comments that need further discussion by 1/15.
10. Pending SC approval via email on Tuesday, 1/15, Sarah will email final feedback on early draft UWPP P&N to Paul Kelley on Wednesday, 1/16.

Jen Watkins mentioned she will be replacing Dave Werntz as CNW's SC representative; however, Dave will still participate on the NCWFHC. It was noted that new commitment letters should be requested from entities whose current representatives were not listed in the entity's original commitment letter, to formally document membership changes.

Action Items

11. Sarah will request new commitment letters to reflect updated representation from Chelan County and the Yakama Nation

2019 Legislative Session

Sarah noted the SC had talked loosely about outreach to both state legislators and congressional leadership in September and again in October, but without resolution around need, approach. Given that the current state session is a month longer, members discussed getting an updated 1-page "fact sheet" or "leave sheet" put together about the NCWFHC's current efforts and priorities for common messaging by members, and in support of DNR's legislative request. A question was raised whether TNC was hosting a family-forest event this year as it had done in the past. Lloyd offered to check with staff (Brittney). Commissioner Branch offered to message while in Olympia. Other members offered to participate in a strategy discussion about a trip to Olympia.

Action Items:

12. Lloyd will check in with TNC legislative outreach staff (Brittney)
13. Sarah will set up a call with Lloyd, Dale, Bob B., Chris B., Jen W., Mike K., Tom P., Brittney, and Mike Anderson to discuss legislative messaging and visit strategy.

Review of UCSRB Facilitation Funds

Sarah noted that the SC had requested to see the Scope of Work for the current DNR contract with the UCSRB. Melody highlighted the task involving UCSRB staff support for discussions about the Toroda-Tonata. The County is very interested in tracking any dialogue about Chumstick-Eagle-Mission areas since it has lots of existing investment and relationships there. The County shared that it and the Chumstick/Eagle groups are applying FEMA funds to execute significant treatments, including fuels reduction in County road right-of-way.

Melody updated the committee that the UCSRB reapplied to the NFF grant program to sustain funds for NCWFHC facilitation. The UCSRB also provides significant cost-share in the form of staff support for facilitating collaborative activities.

Discuss and Confirm February 6 Quarterly Meeting Agenda Topics

The group discussed the partial government shutdown and whether to hold the planned February 6 Quarterly meeting. The suggestion was made to meet without OWNF if necessary and generate two draft agendas – one agenda with topics requiring OWNF participation, and one without these topics.

Members discussed which of the possible agenda topics involving OWNF staff were priorities for the 2/6 meeting, if OWNF staff can participate. A member noted if the choice for OWNF staff is participation on 2/6, or keeping UWPP activities moving along, OWNF priorities-resources should remain focused on UWPP. Priority topics for OWNF updates, if possible, include:

- UWPP timeline and update
- OWNF 5-year report
- Annual (metrics) report for 2018

Topics that could occur without OWNF staff include:

- Project workgroup 2019 workplan
- Operating Protocols (membership, other?) updates
- Report out on recent meeting with new Methow District Ranger
- DNR legislative request
- Report out on Oct 1 discussion with OWNF, R6 staff

Updates

Mike Anderson provided an update on his discussion with Jim Hubbard last month in Washington D.C. The exchange was verbal only as there wasn't an updated fact sheet from OWNF staff about the UWPP that could be taken to D.C. and distributed. Jim Hubbard seemed supportive still. Mike also mentioned he met the new state forester, George Geissler, last month and asked if other members have met with him, or is some outreach needed?

Lloyd mentioned the PUD was hosting a community resilience discussion session at the end of month and requested that event information be shared with NCWFHC members.

Lloyd suggested inviting George Geissler to speak to the collaborative at the February 6 Quarterly meeting if filler topics are needed; the option for a shorter Quarterly meeting was also raised. Planning a field trip in the spring could also work well.

Action Items

14. Sarah will forward PUD event information to the NCWFHC
15. Sarah will follow-up with Chuck Hersey re: the timing and schedule for a meeting planned between George Geissler and Mike Williams in Wenatchee in early February.

The next Quarterly meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2019 from 10am to 4pm at the Douglas County PUD Auditorium.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2019 from 1pm to 4pm at the OWNF SO, Wenatchee Room