

Participants

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

Approval of Meeting Summary

The January 9, 2019 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/>

OWNF FY18 Restoration Target Accomplishments

Teri walked the group through the OWNF 2018 Annual Report, available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/home/?cid=FSEPRD535345>. The group discussed summary statistics for the OWNF and for individual Ranger Districts. Metrics include Stream Miles Improved, Stream Crossings Improved, Timber Volume (ccf) Sold, Fuels Acres Treated. A metric for managed wildfire was not reported separately as a treatment.

OWNF staff discussed the challenges with the Mission Project timber sale, which has been offered twice but received no bids. The current surplus in timber supply combined with the long-haul distance, resulted in a low appraisal. OWNF is talking with timber industry and exploring other options like packaging the sale differently. Members discussed the fact that prescribed burning, restoration treatments and road work are contingent on resources anticipated from the sale. One suggestion was to put it out to bid as a non-commercial, service project, e.g. an Integrated Resource Service Contract. There has been good dialogue and feedback about the two timber sales which have helped OWNF learn, so that will be carried over into next round of next step discussions with Dennis Valdez.

Action Items

1. By March 7th Sarah will send to the SC the OWNF 2018 metrics summary and the URL link to the 2018 Annual Report.
2. By March 13th Teri will send Chuck Hersey the last few years of annual data. Chuck Hersey will follow-up with Teri to coordinate on metrics and definitions of types of treatments/work being reported.
3. At the May 2019 NCWFHC quarterly meeting OWNF staff will present the 2018 Annual Report and metrics.
4. Sarah will follow-up with OWNF re: other carry-over topics from 2018 for the May quarterly.

UWPP

Teri showcased the interactive online [UWPP Story Map](#). As you scroll down through each section, the map interface updates to display different attributes of forest health and wildfire risk for the UWPP area

and surrounding landscape. Users can zoom out on the maps to view the bigger picture and other areas of the OWNF. This is particularly interesting for Fire History.

The 30-day scoping comment period began February 25th. There will be a public meeting on March 12 at the Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club. OWNF reviewed the overall approach keeping purpose and need language deliberately broad for flexibility during initial discussions. As the process moves into alternatives development and draft EA, discussion and attention will turn to site-specific information and details. Members discussed the timeline for a draft EA and whether there could be the opportunity for “preliminary” or high-level information sharing as alternatives start to come into focus. It was suggested the OWNF might want to review with the public some more specifics before the draft EA is released, perhaps a range of alternatives presented this summer. Members discussed next steps to provide formal input on UWPP Scoping

Action Items

5. Teri will send Sarah the draft EA timeline for distribution to the group.
6. By March 7 Sarah will email the UWPP scoping materials to the SC.
7. By March 13 members will provide Sarah with bullets-concepts they'd like to include in formal comment letter.
8. On March 14 Sarah will compile and distribute draft built from SC input for member discussion and will set up a call to revise and finalize.

Project Workgroup Updates

The PWG co-chairs are growing into their new roles with support from Jen.

Mt. Hull

Crystal and Lloyd reported out on a coordination meeting they attended last Friday re: support for P&N. A follow up call was scheduled a week from Friday. Pete will work up a draft comment letter using specific guidance from the PWG. The PWG is supportive and satisfied where the project has gone. A member reported challenges using the interactive map. All-lands management is an emphasis, including roads and DNR access for harvest.

Toroda-Tonata

April 5 – Save the date. Mike Williams, OWNF updated group on his discussion with Rodney Smolden, CNF. The two forests are in different places, and CNF is undertaking a big second A-Z project and needs its resources for those efforts. Neither Forest sees an opportunity for a joint Toroda-Tonata project currently. Members discussed the value in having a meeting anyway, to i.d. planning area boundaries for DNRs landscape evaluation. The goal is to id what work is already underway, what are the near-term plans, where are the gaps where the two forests aren't planning on going? The meeting will be held on April 5th.

Monitoring

Members engaged in discussion about different types of monitoring NCWFHC could engage in, options to complement OWNF activities, evaluate ecological outcomes, and help bolster community support for projects (e.g., Implementation, Effectiveness, NCWFHC monitoring). As examples:

- Implementation - How much has been done, what remains to be done based on decision notice? Is project happening as intended, according to schedule? Are uplands and aquatic work being completed as planned?
- Effectiveness – Did actions have intended ecological effects? NCWFHC could help cover gaps in OWNF work.
- Collaborative – How effective was our collaboration on any given project? Lessons learned, are we having impact on increasing pace and scale of restoration. Good for grants, growth, development.

Members talked about whether any monitoring that NCWFHC undertakes should link to how the monitoring effort is helping to increase pace and scale. Does OWNF monitoring increase pace and scale? The group discussed the benefit of being able to show landowners that projects have produced intended results, and how critical this is to working with communities, building trust, doing more projects. Members talked about whether ecological effectiveness monitoring is really something holding OWNF back or is it something the NCWFHC should do for itself. In terms of coordination, members suggested contacting OWNF staff re: what they already do, are there real gaps? The group discussed opportunities to include community members, students to get things done and agreed to keep refining how NCWFHC monitoring efforts could be additive.

Lloyd added a closing PWG update item: George Wooten will be giving a clinic on post-fire restoration principles in Wilbur.

Action Items

9. On March 15th the PWG will meet to draft a Mt. Hull comment letter.

Other Workplans and Work Groups

Members discussed Outreach Work Group efforts to develop NCWFHC information for the Washington Forest Collaboratives Network website “Accomplishments” page. Some members said they needed more time to review the draft materials and requested a 1-week extension. The OWG is in process of annual work plan development.

Members discussed the role of the Barriers Work Group, what it used to work on, previous members, status of the different “barriers” that were identified. A member reminded the group of a February 2018 Summary of Implementation Barriers, options for parsing work out to different groups is available on the PWG share-point site; Sarah will also send it out:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TJq3x4niAF2pKamew6LIBwYGhQJVNGk0/view?usp=sharing>

Revisiting Work Groups’ annual workplans and charters will let NCWFHC continue practice of developing an annual, programmatic plan of work, improve linkages between Work Groups in support of SC and NCWFHC.

Action Item:

10. By Wednesday, March 13 SC members will review draft OWG text for WFCN website and email any comments to Barb (barb.carrillo@ucsr.org) who will collate them for the Co-Chairs/PWG mtg. on March 14.

11. Sarah will distribute Charters for OWG, BWG, PWG for review to better frame roles and how WGs support NCWFHC efforts.
12. Sarah will distribute to SC members the February 2018 Barriers summary.
13. Sarah will include follow-up topic re: Barriers Work Group on April SC agenda.

Legislative Outreach Discussion

As a follow-up to Quarterly discussion about a legislative “1-pager” for high-level messaging, SC members discussed how they wanted to proceed and improve process for next time, given NCWFHC support for this concept. Members discussed the need to start legislative session discussions much earlier to ensure adequate time for members to align around messages. The group discussed having a facilitated discussion to reclarify the focus of NCWFHC and remind participants of previous areas of alignment. Revisiting “zones of agreement” will help NCWFHC with future efforts requiring common messaging.

Members discussed the pros and cons of establishing a legislative Task Force, as was done previously, to act opportunistically and morph into a Work Group if needed; establishing a more formal policy-legislative Work Group; or using up to an hour of time as part of regularly scheduled SC meetings.

Action Items

14. Sarah will allocate 1 hour at each future SC meeting to discuss legislative, policy topics.

Updates

Mike Williams will be retiring on May 3. An Acting Supervisor will come on board for a while before a permanent Supervisor is hired. The Acting Supervisor will start May 4. Members heard about the resources that are needed both inside the OWNF and for staff at NOAA, USFWS to support ESA consultation. The fundamental need at OWNF is for another Core IDT to work across the Forest. Even with the UWPP and Manastash-Taneum projects, which are using NEPA contractors, a great deal of OWNF staff oversight and time has been needed. A Large landscape scale project, stewardship contract approach could entice additional infrastructure; however, there is a fundamental staffing issue.

Lloyd asked if a letter from NCWFHC describing qualities it would like to see in new OWNF Supervisor would be helpful, supported. OWNF and members agreed yes; the question was raised if Toppash or NCWFHC member could participate on R6 search panel-process? OWNF noted that isn't typically done; however, it doesn't hurt to ask, either. The regional forester would decide.

TNC asked members for their thoughts on a forum at end of June with NEWFHC, Toppash, NCWFHC, facilitated by Sustainable Northwest, to discuss lessons learned. Members noted that more information would be helpful, including whether session could be moved to the fall—is there urgency?

Members briefly discussed CFLRA; the Solicitation is not out yet.

Action Items

15. Lloyd will draft concepts re: OWNF Supervisor traits for discussion at April SC
16. Lloyd will bring more information about TNC's proposed 3-collaborative session to the April SC meeting.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2019 from 1pm to 4pm at the OWNF SO, Wenatchee Room

The next Quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2019 from 10am to 4pm at the Twisp Grange.