

Participants

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

Approval of Meeting Summary

The March 6, 2019 NCWFHC SC draft summary was approved without revision. The final summary will be put on the website at: <http://www.ucsrb.org/meetings/regular-meetings/>

Progress on Mission Project

Members revisited challenges with the Mission Project as the sale has twice received no bids. Challenges included too few acres proposed for treatment, poor volume per acre, lack of stand exams and field data to support a large-scale analysis package. The high cost of skyline logging, the long-haul distance, and small diameter timber all contributed to lack of economic viability. Lessons learned need to be applied to UWPP; however, we also need to differentiate between scientific lessons learned (e.g., soils, slope challenges) and “process” lessons learned (e.g., how NCWFHC input is integrated/used). OWNF is exploring other options like repackaging Mission with Buttermilk. Members discussed other ideas like TNC bidding on the project and then selling the timber sorts. . All members agreed that the investment of time and funds put into completing an environmental analysis are great, and applying any lessons learned from Mission to help ensure economic viability of UWPP is critical. Melody reminded the group that an after-action review on Mission was completed by NCWFHC and Methow Valley Ranger District.

Action Item:

1. By April 5 Sarah will distribute the Mission After Action Review to the SC

UWPP

Members discussed the joint Terrestrial, Aquatic, Core group meeting tomorrow. The NCWFHC is aligned well to provide input now and moving forward into the analysis process. The AFRC is meeting with Teri and Mike Williams on April 30. It would be valuable to learn when in the process timber sale expertise would be most useful. OWNF staff acknowledged there are some Project areas where there are concerns about economic viability, so they are having these conversations earlier in the UWPP process than occurred with Mission. It won't be possible to determine if a Project is going to be commercially viable until detailed potential treatment alternatives are developed. Tomorrow's joint meeting is about validating baseline assumptions about terrestrial and aquatic components, operable areas, departures, treatment need, appropriate tools. The NEPA process for UWPP is different than typical OWNF projects; the scoping will be general, with details on proposed alternatives to come in the draft EA. The pilot approach may be challenging for some expecting to see discrete treatment units-acres; however, can still get to a prescriptive range of acres.

Follow-up: Preliminary I.D. of Resource Needs

Members reviewed the draft list of positions, other support that Chair McGee shared to stimulate further discussion about how to quantify OWNF resource needs. The OWNF Supervisor confirmed that, near-term, an additional full IDT is what would help accelerate restoration. OWNF discussions with other

federal partners indicate USFWS would benefit from interagency agreement that would allow OWNF to fund biologists to work on OWNF-specific projects; not sure about NOAA Fisheries' needs.

Other draft IDT personnel list comments:

- Editor may not be needed
- Hydrologist-soils could be one position
- Add Fuels specialist
- GIS support staff
- Existing staff could not be used as members of IDT if goal is to increase pace and scale; go with premise that a complete additional team is needed
- Need 3 OWNF consultation staff: (1) fish and (1) wildlife consultation person to work with USFWS; (1) to work with NOAA.
- Additional consultation staff a priority over IDT

The SC discussed other ideas that Supervisor Williams shared in his response letter to Senator Hawkins. In terms of the near-term, for OWNF, hiring a new IDT and consultation staff is the priority; other concepts are also valuable but likely longer-term endeavors. Because a new IDT would work forest-wide, not just in the northern portion, the NCWFHC should connect with Tapash Collaborative re: this concept. Before any NCWFHC efforts to pursue funding for this concept, it was suggested to engage USFWS and NOAA regarding their consultation staffing needs. The SC also asked OWNF to provide cost estimates and a description how much more work could be accomplished with an additional IDT.

Action Items:

2. By April 17th Teri will send to Sarah estimates of costs and expected outcomes
3. Sarah will reach out to Tapash collaborative members re: forest-wide IDT concept
4. Sarah will coordinate with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries staff re: May 1 Quarterly participation

Legislative-Policy

Chuck provided a 2019-2021 update: the DNR Capital budget request was \$14.2 million and remained at that level in the Governor's budget and in the current House and Senate budgets. This includes the cross-boundary forest project and collaborative capacity funds. DNR also had some operating asks; varying levels of support. A bill introduced by Rep. Kretz to consider shaded fuel breaks, other actions as part of analysis of forest treatment needs still has momentum. The outdoor burning bill is also still alive. A new Senate bill (SB 5996) would add \$5 to each \$1000 of insurance premium to generate about \$60 million annually for forest health treatments, and wildfire suppression and preparedness.

Melody provided update on the Board's planned trip to Washington DC; Bob Bugert is tentatively scheduled as the NCWFHC representative. Melody will also reach out the Regional Forester and his staff to let them know our plans to travel to DC and receive any input they have re: talking points or specific DC staff we should meet with. Suggested talking points were:

- update on the UWPP (Melody will attend tomorrow's UWPP meeting to get latest info)
- meet with Jim Hubbard
- level of treatment needed based on Eastern WA Restoration Needs Assessment
- Senator Hawkins letter and Supervisor Williams response
- how the next round of CFLRP projects will be determined
- letter on important qualities of new Supervisor.

The SC discussed a draft letter from NCWFHC outlining desired qualities in new OWNF Supervisor. Because DNR, others won't be able to participate in closed federal hiring process, members agreed submitting a letter to the Regional Forester was a good idea. Participants agreed that Sarah should reach out to the CWSC and Tapash re: submitting a joint letter. The group then discussed timelines and next steps.

A member brought up the Secure Rural Schools Act and Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program that support fiscal certainty for resource-dependent communities with tax-exempt federal lands. An ongoing challenge for counties is that some members of congress feel that revenues from timber sales should be sufficient to fund rural counties' needs. The Wilderness Society has messaged about this during past visits to D.C. A few SC members volunteered to draft a letter of support for consideration by NCWFHC at its May 1st meeting.

Action Items:

5. By Thursday, 4/4, Erick Walker will check on advertisement-hiring timelines and follow-up with Sarah
6. By Thursday, 4/4, Sarah will request SC send feedback on the draft qualities letter and connect will connect with Tapash and CWSC representatives
7. By Thursday, 4/4, Sarah will share PILT-SRS information with SC and connect with Commissioners Bugert and Branch and Mike Anderson re: draft language development
8. By Thursday, 4/11, SC members/others will email input on qualities to Sarah
9. By Monday, 4/12, Sarah will compile feedback and distribute a draft Supervisor's qualities letter for SC consideration, next steps if-as needed.

Workgroups: Guidance & Feedback

Barb shared a request from the Outreach Work Group for SC feedback on the draft annual workplan so that it could be approved by the full Collaborative at the May 1 Quarterly meeting. SC members suggested including messaging about Shared Stewardship and its importance. The "Shared Stewardship" term is current and a rebranding of ongoing collaborative efforts. For example, UWPP is practical application of shared stewardship to maximize results. Linkages to other projects (e.g., Tillicum), DNR capacity grant information could be added. A suggestion was also made to develop lists of target audiences.

Action Item:

10. By 4/23, the Outreach Work Group will finalize its workplan and email it to Sarah, who will distribute to NCWFHC.

May 1 Quarterly, May 2 Annual Celebration

Sarah provided some background on a concept of coupling the May 1 NCWFHC meeting with a May 2 Annual Tour-Celebration, particularly given that State Forester George Geissler can attend on May 1. SC members discussed options for tour stops such as on Yakama Nation property and part of the Twisp Project area.

May 1 meeting topics that the group discussed include:

- OWNF 2018 Annual Plan
- Possible OWNF update on 2018 post-fire severity, effects; tie to Twisp Tour and stop on May 2.
- OWNF high-level overview of Mt. Hull EA
- UWPP

- Toroda-Tonata
- G. Geissler (DNR) commentss on: shared stewardship, wildfire plan, prescribed burns for this year, 20-year plan, legislative session update, air quality standards and progress – outdoor burning bill, smoke management

Action Items:

11. By Thursday, 4/4, Sarah will email Teri potential OWNF presentation items for May 1

Updates

Lloyd provided an update that NEWFC and Tapash would like to try and get together with the NCWFHC for a shared learning session in the fall (October).

The next Quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2019 from 10am to 4pm at Sun Mountain Lodge

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2019 from 1pm to 4pm at the OWNF SO, Wenatchee Room