

# NCWFHC Projects Committee Agenda:

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-11:30am, Phone and Web

*In attendance:* Tim Downing, Jen Watkins, Patrick Haggerty, Matt Scott, Tom Partin, Pete Teigen, Crystal Elliott, Greer Maier, Mike Anderson, Brandon Rogers, Teri Tucker, and Darren Gooding. James Simino joined towards the end of the meeting.

**Update:** Fire perimeters have touched Upper Wenatchee, Mission, Twisp River, and Mad Roaring. USFS is looking at what impact is happening and a fire map is attached with these notes. 3 different BAER teams will be set up shortly.

## Discussion of current FY 2018 workplan

- Review each project from our – share information, confirm status, our engagement as collaborators, key issues/questions/next steps that require our attention
  - Project Level Planning:
    - **Mount Hull** (collaborating to provide input and information on a proposed action and purpose and need that accomplishes integrated restoration. Learning from and providing input to “gaming” that would drive alternatives)
      - Our timeline has us getting a Draft EA out for public comment by September 30<sup>th</sup>, and we are still trying to hit that mark, but I think a more realistic time would be mid-October given our current fire situation and upcoming BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) work that will take up some of our team members time....including me! Hope all is well over your way.
      - **Action:** We will share the draft EA when it available, hold a joint review session to share our thinking, and seek to develop joint comments from the collaborative on common ground that emerges.
    - **Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project** (highest level of collaborative capacity – defer to that Project Team’s workplan)
      - Scoping to come out this by end of year – unless fire impacts at all.
      - A lot of funding has gone through to complete stand exams.
      - Aquatic team – still waiting for some of the key surveys to come in, looking like later this fall. Plan is to digest those and make some recommendations to the Forest.
      - NEPA contractor is drafting a detailed timeline that we’ll see soon.
      - Project kick-off meeting with the NEPA contract and FS staff to develop some draft documents that will get presented to the full project team.
      - DNR Cross Boundary Competitive Grant is due tomorrow, and will put in for a significant investment in some needs for NEPA funding to support the last surveys for the project (cultural, botany, owl).

- **Action:** We will share the scoping notice when it is released, hold a committee meeting during the comment period to discuss and develop joint collaborative comments.
- **Mad-Roaring** (Yakama Nation is doing reach assessment, we'll track with the district progress and opportunities for collaboration, opportunity to enhance aquatic assessment)
  - FLT will discuss in September (5 year plan)
  - Fire covered all of Mad HUC 6
- **Twisp River** – strategic discussions with new 2019 timeline in mind
  - New ranger in place – FLT will discuss in September (5 year plan)
  - USFS was doing a landscape evaluation for this – data was collected pretty heavily pre-fire. The fire is now all of upper Twisp and some of mid-Twisp.

**October** – check in on Mad-Roaring and Twisp River following FLT discussions about the Forest's workplan, and decide our pathway forward on these projects.

**BAER reports (as released this fall):** Digest these, have presentations on these, increase our understanding of impacts to priority project areas, 5-year workplan, and newly emerging funding needs.

**Salvage topic:** For the 9/5 full NCWFHC meeting, can the salvage considerations that are occurring this year post-fire be linked to the new guidelines discussion?

- Project Implementation:
  - Projects we have submitted comments or engaged on that are now in implementation:
    - Annie
    - Light
    - South Summit II
    - *Mission*
      - *Nothing effecting sale units as of now, but Dennis Valdez is tracking. Bids are currently due in mid-September.*
      - *Introduce ourselves to the new project ranger: Talk about the Twisp: Brandon, Crystal, myself, Pete.*
      - *Aquatics restoration is already moving in Mission with diverse funding in hand.*
      - *Field trips: Look at putting in Beaver analogs – this fall*
      - *Communications: Let's tell this story of implementation and huge leveraged resources USFWS, CCT, etc*
      - *Next step: Set up a meeting to get creative about funding, implementation, strategically use stewardship – how can we use retained receipts?*
  - Twentyfive Mile
  - *Tillicum*
    - *Yakama Nation successfully implemented a project at the mouth of Tillicum this summer*
    - *Acres included in the DNR Competitive Grant*

- *Note: OWNF staff is talking with the FLT about how we use retained receipts on the OWNF. Dennis could present on this to NCWFHC. Pete will follow up with Teri on this.*
  - Track how the other components of the Chelan Pilot are implemented as they are integrated with the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project, and build integrated support.
    - Movement on the Stemilt portion to work with contractors on Landscape Evaluations – reach out to the county for an update
    - TREN training was a real success
    - Mission maintenance is moving forward with multiple funding sources, including using GNA's
    - Lake Wenatchee FAC is meeting regularly and several members are engaging in the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project
    - **Action: Next steps:**
      - Facilitate a webinar to walk through all these components to get up to speed on what's happened, what's coming, and what we've learned
      - Get in front of Jim Hubbard and follow up on where we are. UCSRB and others to coordinate on this.
- Monitoring: Decide what monitoring means to our collaborative and prioritize projects that we need to address, and schedule a monitoring field trip prior to snowfall.
  - Implementation monitoring
    - We should do this for all projects we comment on
  - Effectiveness monitoring
    - Tillicum – floodplain monitoring and fish/in water aquatic monitoring
    - South Summit II – forestry monitoring
      - See attached a memo from Derek Churchill on monitoring done on Annie and Light projects in coordination with district staff to see what was learned, and decide what we'd like to do similar or different in monitoring of South Summit II.
    - Mission – integrated monitoring approach
- Foundational work:
  - Forest Restoration Team/Strategy (includes LSRA update) – LSR team did come up onto the forest this year that really helped to move things forward, and a timeline to move on LSRA in FY19.
  - Environmental Baseline – lots of progress here, came in the form of a lot of backlog from past fire years and actions that had impacted the baseline that had not been fully documented.
  - Consultation Process – lots of progress here, but some work will carry on to next fiscal year.
  - Next step: LSR briefing at 9/5 meeting, and we should meet with Region 6 new Supervisor.

## Look ahead

- What changes do we propose (additions, edits, subtractions) from our process, structure, and workload looking ahead to next year?

- James Simino joined and let us know there may be additional acreages in Tillicum that we could look at in this project area;
- How the fires continue to act on the forest will influence our 2019 workplan, so we will delay finalizing a workplan until our committee November/December meeting.
- At our next meeting we will also decide on new leadership for our committee for 2019, please let Jen or Pete know if you are interested.
- Lock in a field trip or two before end of year: post-fires, work in BDA work in the Methow. More details to follow

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