

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascadia CD:** Patrick Haggerty; **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust:** Mickey Flemming; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** Andrew Holm, Corrine Hoffman; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard (CTSY):** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest:** George Wooten, Jen Watkins; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage, Mick Lamar; **National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR):** Jim Bartleme; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee, Darcy Batura; Aaron Paul; **Trout Unlimited:** ABSENT; **US Forest Service – OWNF:** Susan Thomas, Mike Williams, Teri Tucker, Chris Furr, Holly Krake; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Carmen Andonaegui; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Kevan Roberts, Chuck Hersey, Tom Frantz; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch, Char Schumacher; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society:** ABSENT; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board:** Barb Carrillo; **(Facilitators):** Pete Teigen, Sarah Walker; **Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group:** ABSENT

Other Meeting Participants

Other: Tyler Mackay, Congresswoman Schrier's Office; Paul K. Gray, White River Valley

Regular Business (Co-Chair Tom Partin, AFRC)

The group went through introductions and approved the September 5, 2018 Quarterly Meeting summary with no amendments. Final copy will be put on the NCWFHC.org website.

Operating Protocols Housekeeping

The group discussed and reviewed proposed updates to the Operating Protocols dealing with membership information. Members agreed there were other elements that might need to be updated. Mike Kaputa (CCNRD), Brandon Rogers (YN) and Lloyd McGee (TNC) offered to review and bring any proposed updates back to the full group for consideration. Facilitators will follow up with NCWFHC Members to solicit any additional input. Facilitators will also continue to document any changes for continuity in the record through time.

The group agreed by consensus to accept membership information revision in the Operating Protocols.

Action Items:

1. Mike Kaputa, Brandon Rogers, Lloyd McGee and others interested will review the Operating Protocols and bring suggested updates back to the group, with any changes to be discussed at the May 1, 2019 Full Collaborative meeting.

OWNF Supervisor's Briefing

Mike Williams gave an overview of the impacts of the shutdown. It did slow planning and implementation of projects across the Forest and did seem to impact some staff morale. Sales administrators, contracting officers and a few others came back to work without pay, along with a few others with outside agreements continued to work. Most OWNF staff just recently came back to work.

OWNF is resetting the objectives for the FY2019. Staff remain hopeful that Congress and the President can come to funding agreement to avoid future shutdowns.

The Tonasket District has a new Ranger, Cathy Johnson, from a Ranger position at Fish Lake Forest in Utah. She is scheduled to start right after President's Day holiday.

Toroda Tonata – Forest Supervisors from OWNF and Colville National Forest had scheduled a meeting for mid-January but that was postponed until February 7 (due to shutdown). The Forests are going to look at a possible cross boundary/cross forest project with DNR's interest. They want to discuss using Good Neighbor Authority and/or other tools to collectively advance forest restoration in this area. The Regional Forester is very interested in seeing this project advance, hopefully in the order of several hundred thousand acres. The forests will determine how many acres, on the Tonasket Ranger District there are approximately 100,000-130,000 acres on OWNF with some limitations (inventoried roadless areas and fisheries). This area is a high priority for DNR and they are very interested in helping advance a holistic planning approach in this area (regardless if there are two projects on their respective forests or one joint planning effort). A question was raised about the option to utilize the Farm Bill CE. The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board received some funding to coordinate and facilitate conversations with CNF, OWNF, NCWFHC and Northeast Washington Forest Coalition to learn more about the planning efforts. That meeting will be scheduled after the two forest Supervisors meet, probably in March or April. DNR is really interested in the following questions: What projects are done? IN progress? And additional need? How can DNR help fill the need? Facilitators will coordinate with the Co-Chairs, OWNF staff, DNR to develop a Steering Committee agenda item.

Projects become more complex as they grow in scale. Once the project has started down a path, it's challenging to deviate, but if you can look at the large landscape holistically, issues and barriers can be addressed early on.

OWNF 5-year Plan

The 5-Year Plan- have not updated the since the shutdown. The spread sheet is a moving target as priorities shift and things arise (like shutdown). Teri Tucker provided updates on specific projects.

UWPP - Public scoping soon. Hoped for early FY2020 decision may be moved later in the spring.

Mission - Turned in emergency consultation on Buttermilk because of high impact of fires. Waiting to hear back from the Services. Conditions on the grounds impacted (fire line).

Upper Peshastin - CE project. Jeff Rivera can provide an update at a future meeting.

Mt. Hull Two sales, one in 2019 and another later sale. A draft EA should be out week of February 11-15.

The Plan was built on the assumption that OWNF would use their NEPA team and that projects can get through consultation more quickly; consultation can hinder projects and alter timelines. The FLT is meeting in the coming weeks and will review and revise the plan. .

Members asked what the best avenue to engage with small-scale fuels and maintenance projects (Chumstick and Beaver) is? OWNF recommended a combination of both district and S.O. staff. With respect to Nason/Chumstick/Eagle, OWNF-WRRD is currently developing the UPOW for 2020, so start communicating with the OWNF about potential gaps in the workplan now.

Are we using the LSR assessments or redoing them? Mixed bag.

Rundown. Landscape Evaluations (LEs)

UWPP done in 2018

Mad Roaring Mills 2018 (Cougar fire impacted that LE)

Lower North Shore LE Down

Twisp LE and Data analysis finished. Tim Downing will be working with District soon.

Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project

Scoping has slipped a bit because of the shutdown, scoping should run 2/25-3/27. Scoping is an OWNF project component, not something the contractor is doing. Holly Krake and Paul Kelly will provide notification of the start of scoping and work to get the message out. They'll also have a public meeting, probably in Plain. If there are specific groups wanting engagement, have them reach out.

The group discussed the plan for community engagement. Holly described the C&E plan. There have been some good, innovative efforts relating to communication and outreach previously, such as using Facebook live for remote attendance and recording the meeting then posting it online to community forums. There is one-page leaflet and a digital story map. The one-pager needs to be updated; Patrick Haggerty (CCCD) will distribute. It was pointed out that with CWPP, DNR Plan, WUI Code Plan- many efforts can be confusing. The Outreach Group is working to solicit the best possible date for the meeting and will get a save the date out within the next couple of weeks. Patrick is drafting a document all the outreach engagement in UWPP thus far and things that will take place in the coming year will also be included.

Patrick Haggerty/CCD and Teri reported that UWPP contractors have completed some field work. The aquatic work, NSO and Stand Exam work were all completed this past field season and OWNF staff are currently doing their analysis. NCWFHC members can help provide additional data, feedback to contractors now so it can be considered early as part of alternatives i.d. Brandon Rogers/YN noted the aquatic group met in mid-December and developed some questions, sent those to Paul Kelly. The group reviewed the LiDAR and are awaiting the aquatics report. Terrestrial group met to discuss other issues than fire & owls, like restoring meadows and other unique habitats. The Joint Terrestrial-Aquatics meeting that was set for January was rescheduled due to the partial government Shutdown; tentatively scheduled for early March. WDFW is starting to become more engaged in the Terrestrial Subcommittee. Having a fire ecologist engaged in the various work groups would be useful. Dale Swedberg is a great resource to have involved. The group discussed who from the Fire Ecology side is providing input beyond Dale (Mike B from the WRRD, Derek Churchill, WDNR).

A question arose about the \$80,000 that were earmarked previously for WUI assessments to help implementation. OWNF staff noted there was lots of existing information that could be used to get the assessment done, so funds will likely be reallocated to support remaining NEPA-surveys, since the Core Team agreed getting all the survey work done is most important to keep project on schedule. The LWFAC and Chelan County thought the money should be reallocated to get more boots on the ground for remaining parcel assessments, to help tell the story and promote the idea of a WUI County Code. This is valid discussion that can be continued at the next CORE Team meeting.

Co-Chair McGee asked what data if any are needed for economic analysis and by when? Information to describe existing socio-economic conditions and what change looks like is the goal. Predicted changes ties to landscape evaluation results (e.g., what is feasible to do?). Input is needed now.

The group reiterated the need for additional information about key milestones, upcoming touch-points.

OWNF received NCWFHC early input on draft scoping language and is cognizant of the need to include socio-economic language; it will be in there. It will be important for the NCWFHC to put together another letter to comment during formal scoping.

Action Items:

1. Holly Krake and Patrick Haggerty will send out the more detailed plan for the scoping process.
2. The Steering Committee will discuss a scoping comment letter at their March 6 meeting.

2019 Legislative Session

Chuck Hersey, WDNR, updated the group on the Capital \$17.7 million request (current \$13 million) and broke down the budget request. Some of the reduced line items are because of the revolving door account that has been established. Renamed Collaborative Grant Programs- All Lands Forest Restoration Program/Building Forest Partnership Grants. Almost \$7 million dedicated for federal lands component. Also requesting \$1 million for monitoring; this is an important piece that could be cut so it would be worthy to share with policy makers. A structural change, they are a Forest Health Division a change from a Forest Health Program. Chuck also reviewed WDNR's 2018-2020 planning areas. Some specific projects have already been selected, other decisions yet to be made.

Co-Chair Partin asked about the 3-million-dollar allocation for insect and disease areas. It was all funding for the east-side; however, there would have to be additional designations made by WDNR; could be linked to filling 5-year plan holes. For example, in area from Toroda-Tonata down to Republic, what's the need? I.D. CE options. The project area that is identified needs to link back to the landscape evaluation.

WDNR doesn't currently have the capacity to coordinate across all areas/steps but is hiring to alleviate this need. Being able to use NCWFHC in an additive way would be helpful, like local outreach about GNA. WDNR will share some of its talking points.

A member asked about whether there was a "shelf life" for completed landscape evaluations. Yes, but LiDAR, other data can be used efficiently to update.

The group discussed Revolving Account funds; currently, no revenue is being generated on the OWNF. Funds in the account (returned receipts) stay tied to the forest on which they were generated.

Darcy Batura (TNC) provided an update on activities since the October 1 discussion with R6 staff. On December 20, TNC met with Glen Casamasa (Regional Forester) to get to know one another and discuss opportunities to continue working together. TNC discussed the science, strong interest of the Collaboratives, the unique Pilots (Taneum and UWPP), and the increased social license of restoration and thinning. Regional staff is hoping to schedule another meeting similar to the October 1 meeting. Participants included Cathy Baker, James Schroeder, Darcy Batura from The Nature Conservancy and Sherre Copeland and other USFS Region 6 staff.

Sarah provided some background on the concept of legislative outreach, development of a 1-pager to support DNR's request, developing common language for reaching out to the legislators during member visits to Olympia this session. The topic and sub group discussion grew out of multiple fall SC discussions about Congressional-Legislative outreach, and January SC meeting. Members discussed a "straw-dog" concept and high-level talking points. TNC, Counties, Conservation Districts will be engaging in Olympia, would find a one-pager useful; however, Chelan and Okanogan County noted there would need to be alignment with WA Assn. of Counties to support. There was interest in beefing up language about the aquatic component of DNR budget.

Sarah called the question of whether the group felt a 1-page was a good idea to pursue. A show of cards was all green with one yellow – project information on the back shouldn't be limited to one year/current work only.

Although the Collaborative might be able to agree on a few high-level items, language would need to be approved by the full Collaborative. A suggestion was made for AFRC-TNC-Counties, who regularly message-visit Olympia to finalize content. There was interest in tying messaging in to WDFW, WA Conservation Commission bills related to wildfire, forest health. Some members mentioned there was inadequate time to get up to speed on other proposals beyond WDNR budget to agree to this approach. Given the abbreviated time frame and the fact that the legislative session is already underway, some members proposed that a one-pager wait until next year; start earlier on this.

In lieu of a 1-pager, the group discussed the idea of talking points that members could use this session for general information sharing (less formal; allows members to share ideas with legislators using their own words). The group agreed this would be helpful.

Sarah called the question and the group approved the concept of talking points built from existing (pre-approved) content with a show of cards; however, there were yellow cards because some members preferred the idea of proceeding with a one-pager.

The group discussed who would work on a one-pager for next session. Facilitators noted it could be Outreach work group but in past there had also been an informal/ad hoc Policy-Legislative group. Members discussed whether this should be a task of the Barriers work group.

Action Items:

3. Tom Frantz from DNR will share some GNA outreach materials with the NCWFHC (Sarah Walker will follow up)
4. Patrick will send to NCWFHC a one-pager that discusses the coordinated budget request from DNR, WDFW, and the Conservation Commission.
5. The SC, at their March meeting, will review-discuss forest health state legislative issues, discuss talking points for this session, and what approach-work group(s) should be engaged to work on a one-pager for next session.

Project Workgroup Update

Members discussed the draft PWG and did not feel it was ready for approval at this time. Pete Teigen, UCSRB, will coordinate a meeting in March to review the draft PWG workplan and discuss so it can be approved in a future meeting. Members discussed assigning categories or criteria (TBD) to different projects to help identify what activities the NCWFHC has capacity to work on at any given time, what things will require high level of collaboration (known projects) vs. emergent needs. For example, i.d. of insect-disease areas to “fill in blanks”, ways to pilot post-fire restoration principles in UWPP. Workplan is a communication plan that the OWNF can use to know where the NCWFHC is working in a given year. OWNF will help frame up and determine where the important areas to collaborate on are, based on the UPOW. Better communication about upcoming needs-gaps to set expectations would be useful. It was noted that discretionary funding for OWNF seasonal-temporary staff varies widely, so that makes i.d. of resource needs ahead of time challenging.

OWNF Methow Ranger District staff provided a report out on FY19 projects:

Mission - Completed the supplemental information report. They have gone back out with the Stewardship Sale extended date until March.

Buttermilk - they moved their baseline because of suppression efforts, based on conversations with the services (1-3 years out). Monitoring could be used in the Mission project area.

Twisp - The schedule has changed; the OWNF is going to meet on February 25 to kick off the project internally. The 5-year plan schedule will likely shift one or two quarters. Approximately 80,000 acres. The LSR conversation will likely impact this planning area so lessons learned there will be useful. The project area/landscape evaluation needs to be finished before can discuss resource needs-shortfalls.

DNR is working on the LE between now and fall 2020. DNR would like to know when it would be most useful once the OWNF settles on it. DNR is getting LiDAR as well. NSO survey work could

Toroda project would be the same IDT. Paul Nash has not been replaced. Twisp is a high priority for the Collaborative, how are needs are communicated between OWNF and the NCWFHC. A solid understanding about the resource needs and expectations. Not going to scope until first quarter of FY2020.

Mt. Hull - DNR had met with Matt Reidy and a letter was generated. A request for roads being left open so DNR could access land. Land owner assistance had done a lot of work on private land. EA letter will be out next week.

Action Items:

6. PWG will meet to discuss the Mt. Hull Draft Environmental Analysis and draft a comment letter for approval by the NCWFHC.
7. Pete Teigen will coordinate with PWG and MVRD to discuss meeting to discuss Twisp.
8. Pete Teigen will work with PWG chairs to schedule a meeting in March to finalize draft workplan.

Updates

Pete Teigen announced that the PNW Forest Collaborative Summit will be April 11-12 in Hood River, OR. This is a great opportunity for collaborative members to meet with other collaboratives and forests from Region 6 and learn about new and innovative ideas for working across the forest landscapes.

George Wooten mentioned that he is attending and will share a presentation about successful collaboration on the Mission Restoration project. He said he would give the presentation to the NCWFHC at a future meeting.

Next NCWFHC Quarterly Meeting: Wednesday, May 1 in the Methow Valley; location TBD.