

## Participants

**American Forest Resource Council:** Tom Partin, Lawson Fite; **Cascadia Conservation District:** Patrick Haggerty; **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Colville Tribal Federal Corporation – Forest Products (formerly CTSY):** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest:** Kathleen Gobush; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super, Amy Martin; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Okanogan Wenatchee NF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding, Deb Kelly, Paul Kelley; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **The Wilderness Society:** Mike Anderson; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board:** Melody Kreimes, Ryan Niemeyer, Pete Teigen, Nicole Jordan, Sarah Walker (facilitator); **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources:** Chuck Hersey; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** ABSENT; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers; Tiffany Gering, candidate, Chelan Co. Commission (District 3).

## Regular Business

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Branch opened the meeting and welcomed participants; Sarah reviewed the meeting objectives. CCNRD requested time to provide an update on its Forest Resiliency bonding efforts if the agenda allowed.

### Approval of Meeting Summary

***The SC approved the April 1, 2020 NCWFHC SC meeting summary***

- The final will be posted on the NCWFHC website: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/>

## OWNF Process/ Proposal/ Projects

### Administration and Staffing

Due to the chances for a more active summer fire season and the impacts of COVID-19, the SO has received 1-time approval for a deputy District Ranger position to assist Kari, who will be supporting fire work and providing admin support to Districts. Marge Hutchison, a long-term USFS employee, will start as the acting deputy District Ranger at the end of June. In addition:

- Caesar Ramirez from the CNF will start a detail as the Ranger for the Naches Ranger District on June 8.
- Darren has been filling in as the acting SO Planning Staff officer in Teri's absence until Lydia Allen arrives for her 4-month detail.
- The SO is working with HR to fill both positions permanently, asap, and working on background preparation to advertise remaining OWNF positions that need to be filled.

Supervisors for the CNF and OWNF are working to set up a meeting with R6 leadership re: the administrative transfer of the Tonasket RD from the OWNF to the CNF effective Oct. 1. Discussion will be focused on how to best allocate implementation Targets, operational costs and discretionary dollars,

and transfer process. Internal SO discussions with Chelan and Entiat RD employees re: District consolidation are ongoing.

The SO wants to build capacity and invest in its timber program. Positions being explored to help timber management staff meet field goals-targets include a vegetation program manager and silviculture lead. Participants asked the SO to share any position funding shortfalls with the SC, as appropriate.

### **CFLRP Tier 2 Proposal**

Please refer to the attachment for the most recent CFLRP Tier 2 update.

The SO is tracking and will share any new information.

### **5-year Plan Update**

Last year's OWNF integrated resource (5-year) plan submission provides the basis for this year's updates that will reflect: 1) Tonasket RD transfer to the CNF; 2) follow-through on existing work; and 3) impacts due to COVID 19 (e.g., fewer resources may be available for field work). The update will consider if any activities need to move further out on the 5-year plan timeline. Concurrent adjustments to the FY21 POW are occurring.

Participants noted the current R6 format for the 5-year Plan is more difficult to navigate than previous versions. The SO is considering a more meaningful and clear way to communicate the "what and when".

SO lead Darren Goodding ([Darren.godding@usda.gov](mailto:Darren.godding@usda.gov)) will reach out for SC input before the OWNF July 3 due date to R6.

### **UWPP**

The NEPA contractor, TetraTech, is advancing the draft EA. The draft analysis through Chapter 3 is complete and IDT staff are working in individual sections. Although the UWPP EA target date has shifted to fall 2020 the project is still on track for FY21 implementation. Considering COVID-19, current WRRD-NEPA contractor discussions are focused on:

- 1) what the NEPA comment period and process will look like;
- 2) which virtual, web-based communication tools might be used in lieu of public meetings;
- 3) how to best get the word out to all public (e.g., if no cell phone/ wifi /computer is available)

NCWFHC-OWNF coordination on an informal education-outreach tour, meeting, other form of public engagement prior to the formal NEPA 30-day comment period may be possible. The SO Public Affairs Specialist ([Deborah.kelly@usda.gov](mailto:Deborah.kelly@usda.gov)) and WRRD UWPP IDT lead ([paul.kelley@usda.gov](mailto:paul.kelley@usda.gov)) are coordinating and exploring possible virtual tour options. The UCSRB ([Nicole.jordan@ucsr.org](mailto:Nicole.jordan@ucsr.org)) can assist with potential UWPP virtual tours.

Participants discussed what the focus of near-term UWPP public outreach should be. A condition-based approach requires project workload be presented across the landscape because not all activities (e.g., cultural resource surveys) will be complete in Year 1. Staff can share specifics re: the 'chunks' and Phase 1 projects scheduled for implementation in the next 1-2 years. The revised FY21 POW will inform messaging.

The target for the draft EA for the UWPP is now end of July, August 2020. Coordination among the OWNF, Core and subgroup participants/NCWFHC members is ongoing.

## OWG Input-Feedback

### Draft Annual Workplan

The OWG presented the draft annual workplan for SC feedback. The workplan is intended to align activities with SC priorities for messaging, support.

***The SC approved sending the final OWG workplan as proposed to the NCWFHC for approval.***

### SC-NCWFHC Support Needs

#### *August Field Tour*

The OWNF SO and WRRD are coordinating with the UWPP NEPA contractor on potential timelines, opportunities for a virtual tour-webex, potentially in August. The UCSRB is available to assist with OWG-OWNF coordination on potential UWPP virtual events.

#### *Educational Videos*

The CCD is exploring educational videos with North40 Productions. Participants discussed development of a video about the NCWFHC. OWG support for a potential August UWPP virtual tour is the priority.

Suggested next steps:

- 1) review examples of other Collaboratives' videos (Tapash? Skykomish tribe?)
- 2) outline draft goals, objectives of a video to support more OWG discussion in winter

#### *Potential Press Release re: Mission*

Members provided feedback on idea of a NCWFHC Press Release or newspaper feature to show support for the Mission Project. The task aligns well with the late August *amicus* briefs filing timeline and current SC efforts. Due to certain government policies it may be easier to develop a NCWFHC article instead of an official Press Release.

***The SC supported OWG development of a Mission Project media release or news piece***

### TNC-OWNF-DNR News Release

TNC partnered with the OWNF and WDNR to develop a joint News Release highlighting all the work to support forest health restoration that is still occurring and, ongoing. Members commended the effort; a typo in the first paragraph requires correction.

## Joint Chiefs, Joint Task Force, Other

### Potential Joint Chiefs Application for Aquatics

The OCD has approached NRCS regarding their interest in pursuing a Joint Chiefs application to continue working with private landowners to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk. Local USFS staff identified unfunded aquatics work in Mission project area as a high priority. The application is developing around forest health improvements that reduce the risk of severe fires to protect ESA species. NRCS is awaiting what this year's program guidance will be and what their anticipated capacity

issues look like. Similarly, the MVRD is coordinating with the SO on the FY21 POW and OWNF priorities. USFS and NRCS coordination on messaging is needed; requesting guidance from the regional level may be helpful.

If the CFLRP Tier 2 application is unsuccessful some of those landscapes could be included in a potential Joint Chiefs application. The OCD is also exploring collaboration with the Whatcom and Skagit CDs, who are also interested in N. Cascades work.

- No notice of any USFS Joint Chiefs funding has been provided
- Partners should continue to collaborate and communicate with District/ MVRD staff to identify strategic aquatics restoration and all-lands opportunities
- It would be beneficial to conduct a review of aquatics actions from the CFLRP Tier 2 proposal for potential inclusion in a Joint Chiefs application

### **Federal Stimulus, Other Strategic Opportunities**

- A “data call” or request for stimulus projects has not come to the SO
- The call for fuels-vegetation treatments is ongoing; however, current lack of direction from congress equates to lack of need to ‘yard-up’ specific actions
- For any aquatics restoration package prep., partners should focus on project shovel-readiness and what the economic and job producing benefits will be.

### **JTF Update, Next Steps**

The last JTF meeting is scheduled for June 11. A draft set of recommendations will come back to the SC for discussion on July 1. Chelan County will provide its Forest Resiliency Bonding effort update as part of JTF follow-up discussion at the July mtg. Any long-term stewardship contract recommendations approved by the SC would be presented to the OWNF Supervisor, who would present any final recommendations to the Regional Forester.

### **Mission Project**

#### **Status Recap**

Participants received a high-level summary of information from the recent NCWFHC member call and follow-up discussions to date.

#### **New Information Sharing and Discussion**

- An entity can be mentioned in a list of the NCWFHC members if an ‘umbrella’ brief is filed.
- Neither being named directly nor being a signatory is required to join the umbrella brief.
- All members with whom discussions have been held to date are supportive; a few need more information and require leadership approval (WDFW, WDNR, NRCS).
- The CCT Natural Resources Director may be a good contact in lieu of Colville Tribal Federal Corporation – Forest Products; however, the CCT is not itself a NCWFHC member.
- AFRC General Counsel maintains working relationships with CCT legal counsel and state AG staff and can assist with coordination if requested.

## Next Steps

Steering committee members identified the process and leads for additional coordination and draft brief framing by the July SC mtg. and draft brief language dissemination by August Quarterly mtg.

***The next REMOTE SC meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2020 from 1pm-3pm.***

***Please retain August 5, 2020 from 10am-3pm as a placeholder for the August Quarterly meeting.***

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### TASKING MEMO

DUE DATE	TASK	ASSIGNED TO
	Carry-over Items (April, June)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Follow-up re: current version of Partnership Plan, distribute</li> </ul>	Patrick Haggerty/CCD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reach out to federal and state delegate staff re: potential August tour of UWPP</li> </ul>	Bob Bugert/Chelan County and Cathy Baker/TNC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordinate re: potential invitation to Vicki Christiansen to attend in August event</li> </ul>	Bob, Cathy, Kristin Bail/OWNF
ASAP	<b>Correct typo</b> in “final” TNC-OWNF-DNR News Release	Lloyd McGee/TNC
ASAP	<b>Create online link to corrected News Release</b> and distribute it to Nicole and Sarah.	Deb Kelly/OWNF-SO
By Friday, June 12	<b>Conduct additional follow-up and generate a summary of member interests and contacts</b> for Lawson	Sarah Walker/UCSRB; Lawson Fite/AFRC follow-up support
By Friday, June 12	<b>Develop summary/ set of bullets re: brief framework, members, basis of approach, etc.</b> and provide to WDNR, WDFW, NRCS members to support dialogue with agency leadership.	Lawson and Sarah (Chuck Hersey/DNR, Lynda Hoffman/WDFW, Stan Janowicz/NRCS)
By Wednesday, July 1 SC Meeting	<b>Set up additional conversations with members</b> to coordinate with them, any legal staff	Lawson; Sarah support if needed
By 7/1 SC mtg.	<b>Prepare draft brief outline for SC review</b>	Lawson
By Wednesday, July 29	Coordinate on and <b>prepare a draft newspaper piece or media release re: Mission Project</b> and email to Sarah for distribution to NCWFHC.	OWG, interested SC Members
By Wednesday, August 5 Quarterly	<b>Draft umbrella brief for NCWFHC review</b> and discussion on 8/5 and distribute	Lawson and Sarah
By Winter OWG mtg.	<b>Review other Collaboratives’ educational videos and brainstorm</b> video goals, objectives for further OWG discussion	Patrick Haggerty and Amanda Newell/CCD, Nicole Jordan/UCSRB

