

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin; **Boise Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Colville Confederate Tribes:** Matt Young; **Conservation NW:** Mike Liu, Kathleen Gobush; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **TU:** Crystal Elliot; **Methow Valley Citizens Council:** Hannah Dewey; **Okanogan CD:** Amy Martin; **Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF):** Chris Furr, Darren Gooding, Kari Grover-Weir; **TNC:** Lloyd McGee; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Jen Watkins, Andrew Townsend; **Washington Department Fish & Wildlife:** Gary Bell, Lynda Hoffman; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB, Facilitators):** Pete Teigen, Ryan Niemeyer; **US Fish and Wildlife Service:** Cindy Raekes, Danielle Munzing, Randi Riggs

The April 2020 PWG Meeting Summary was approved without edits and will be uploaded to NCWFHC.org and the shared site.

OWNF Update on Foundational Work

Darren Gooding presented on the timber audit because there were projects that had inconsistencies between the supplemental information reports for projects and the actual project implementation. The “services” noticed inconsistencies, and in 2019, OWNF Forest Supervisor signed agreement with the services and sent it to the services. This signed agreement was made available to services, and a more detailed version for internal use that describe specific roles, which can be available to NCWFHC. In letter, the OWNF described the responsibility of individual line officers and other’s roles to ensure that the documents submitted to the services were accurate and correct. The purpose was to ensure a defined process occurred for each project. The Forest also mentioned they have a backlog of emergency consultations about wildfires, and the Wolverine fire specifically. There were questions about what small changes to the plan would warrant sharing changes in the plan, USFS personnel shared that even small changes likely will be shared to be transparent with the services.

OWNF staff also discussed the desire to share information earlier and more often with the services to create a more efficient and effective consultation process. Information could be shared via field trips, project meetings, and/or other pre-Level I meetings. They are creating a document to show the standard operation procedures for Level I processes. OWNF staff are working to get more training to better streamline the consultation process; including improving biological assessments and writing more clearly to improve consultation.

LSRA update was on the FY18 work. There have been some meetings to discuss doing the updates, though one issue continues to be capacity within the OWNF. They have discussed when they should do treatments in LSRs. There has been progress, including having three projects with three LSR reviews. At this point, they decided to not do the LSR updates. The proposals are to conduct some treatments in certain spotted owl habitats. James Dickinson and Darren are coordinating the LSR process with the Region.

On the Final Aquatic Restoration Strategy, there has been some updates to the aquatics restoration document, but because of capacity limitations and other priority projects, it has not been able to be finished, but hoping to finish it this Fall.

Action Items:

1. Darren will share the consultation process guide the OWNF uses as they engage with the services.
2. Darren will keep the PWG updated on the Final Aquatic Restoration Strategy, which will likely be early FY2021.

DNR Landscape Evaluation Overview

Church Hershey shared information about the 20-year DNR forest plan. He overviewed the plan that it is focused on fire-prone forest in Eastern Washington. In the framework, first they identified priority planning areas. They used HUC6 level to identify priority planning areas, which including identifying where local priorities and state priorities overlap. They have divided up the priority planning areas into 2018 and 2020 planning areas. For the landscape evaluations and prescriptions, they do not include aquatics, although they have funded some work. They are using both photo-based interpretation and LiDAR based interpretation for forest structure inputs. DNR generated 2-page descriptions for each planning area, to summarize the geospatial data and results of the landscape evaluation process. DNR finished the 2018 planning areas and is finishing up the 2020 planning areas. For each planning area, they developed customized maps and overview of potential forest health treatments based on forest class maps, risk of fire maps, moisture deficit maps, etc.

DNR also developed a logging system tool. They use road layer and slope to estimate which areas could utilize cable, ground, and helicopter logging. HB 1784 identified that treatments with dual benefits including forest health and wildfire operations considerations. The USFS has completed the landscape evaluation for north shore of Chelan. DNR reiterated that if there are projects established in planning areas, they see themselves are providing additional support and partnership to USFS and/or other land managers. By including it in the priority for the state, additional tools and resources can be brought to bear. For example, the state is making investments already on the Umatilla and Okanogan.

Action Items:

3. Pete and Chuck will work to share the Forest Health Treatment Prioritization tool that Derek Churchill developed and will ask if Derek can provide an overview/demonstration at a future PWG meeting.

Future Engagement on Tonasket RD

Members discussed the need/desire to continue engaging with forest restoration projects on the Tonasket Ranger District, and specifically Mt. Hull project. Mike Liu shared that it makes sense that we continue to provide support on the Mount Hull project, even though it is being transferred to the Tonasket Ranger District. Some folks expressed concerns including NEWFC priorities and how they may vary, OWNF is a large forest and there is plenty for NCWFHC to engage on, and it may be inefficient for two collaboratives to work on the same project. Members discussed the option of possibly hosting NEWFC and Colville Nation Forest come participate and discuss engagement opportunities at a future NCWFHC meeting. NCWFHC has existing background knowledge and understanding that can benefit the project and district as it transfers to Colville National Forest. The point was made that the NCWFHC bylaws described that the area includes Okanogan County, but also specifically refers to Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest being the focus of the NCWFHC. The group thought that the discussion should continue at the Steering Committee and full Collaborative.

Action Items:

4. Pete will connect with Sarah about continuing this discussion at the SC and NCWFHC quarterlies, including inviting NEWFC and CNF to discuss.

Updates

Amy Martin shared that Okanogan CD is considering proposing a Joint Chiefs proposal. They are still figuring out the funding pathway for non-federal partners. They want to continue work of providing financial and technical assistance to private landowners and ways to partner with other stakeholders to implement restoration activities. PWG members expressed support for this proposal. The idea was mentioned that OCD could work with OWNF to use the CFLR proposal as a template and/or model for various Joint Chiefs proposal elements.