

North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative Projects Workgroup Charter Version 2.3 March 2014

The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC) has formed a Projects Workgroup to actively engage with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) on restoration projects that will assist the NCWFHC in fulfilling its functions and achieving its goals. The Workgroup will look at all stages of project development, from purpose and need through monitoring and adaptive management.

Consistent with the NCWFHC decision-making process, the Projects Workgroup will make decisions by consensus. In the absence of consensus, diverging recommendations will be forwarded to the NCWFHC for decision-making.

The Workgroup will develop a list of actions or projects the Workgroup agrees to undertake each year. This list, and all recommendations of the Workgroup, will be approved by the full Collaborative group before any actions are taken.

Project Criteria

The OWNF Restoration Strategy (FRS) is a tool that will be utilized by the NCWFHC in project prioritization and planning and incorporates criteria related to aquatic ecology, wildlife habitat and road impacts. Where the Workgroup uses the FRS for project development, these criteria will be incorporated de facto into the Workgroup's considerations. The following criteria will be considered for any projects on which the NCWFHC engages, whether or not they are guided by the FRS, to ensure the interests and values of a broad range of stakeholders will be addressed:

- I. Increases resiliency of regional forests to fire and other disturbances.
- II. Contributes to improved water quantity, quality, aquatic and terrestrial resources.
- III. Includes consideration of social and economic issues and, wherever possible, contributes to the well-being of Chelan and Okanogan counties.

Workgroup Roles

- With OWNF, identify landscapes, opportunities and projects on which the NCWFHC could engage to increase restoration and address issues and "pinch points."
- Develop an annual or biennial workplan listing the actions or projects the Workgroup would like the NCWFHC to undertake.
- Work with other stakeholders and agencies to identify and address planning or implementation issues (interagency consultations, listed species, large trees, socio-economic, etc.).
- Coordinate with other NCWFHC workgroups, Steering Committee, and other landowners and agencies to facilitate cross-jurisdictional landscape-scale activities.
- Maintains representative on the Outreach and Education Workgroup to ensure project-level activities of the NCWFHC are communicated with partners and stakeholders.

Workgroup Responsibilities Related to Project Planning and Implementation on OWNF

The Projects Workgroup May Help to:

1. Identify critical issues (including social and economic) associated with landscapes as planning areas are identified.
2. Develop project goals and purpose and need statements.
3. Identify and develop project elements and proposed actions.
4. Provide support for draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.
5. Identify and address any implementation and contracting issues for approved projects.
6. Accomplish monitoring and adaptive management.