

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:** Mike Liu; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Okanogan Wenatchee NF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding, Deb Kelly; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **The Wilderness Society:** Mike Anderson; **Trout Unlimited:** ABSENT; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board:** Melody Kreimes, Ryan Niemeyer, 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.

Regular Business

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Branch opened the meeting, welcomed participants and confirmed the agenda. Sarah summarized meeting objectives.

Summary Approval

The SC approved the June 3, 2020 NCWFHC SC meeting summary with proposed edits.

- The final will be posted on the NCWFHC website: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/about/steering-committee/>
- Explore the new website layout and content!

OWNF Process/ Projects / Proposals

Administration and Staffing

- Victoria Wilkins has officially replaced Holly Crake as the OWNF Public Affairs Officer (PAO).
- Lydia Allen is on a 4-month detail from R1 to fill the Planning Staff Officer position. Twenty-two candidates are being evaluated for permanent hire.
- Caesar Ramirez started on June 7 as the acting Naches Ranger.
- Marge Hutchison began her detail as Deputy District Ranger (1-time position granted) to help Kari Grover Weir on Entiat-Chelan RDs.
- There were no applicants for the Contracting Officer position.

The OWNF is slowly receiving more information on changes to the budgeting process that are upcoming in September and will keep the SC informed. This ties to expectations about the number of staff that the OWNF will be able to support and FY21 POW. There will be a cap on full time FTE staffing. In September-October the OWNF will be developing “target” organization that meets expectations for FTEs.

The OWNF is awaiting direction from the Washington Office re: NEPA page and time limit expectations for EAs, categorical exclusions that have already been implemented in the DOI.

CNF Supervisor Rodney Smolden and Kristin will be meeting to discuss the transition of the Tonasket RD from the OWNF to the CNF.

UWPP

- NEPA contractor has shared sections of the draft EA with Wenatchee RD staff for review and is incorporating edits.
- Draft EA comment period is planned for August 2020; Final EA is targeted for October-November with a decision by end of December 2020.
- Cultural-Heritage work is advancing; concurrence-106 compliance is on target for December.
- Phase 1 Environmental Compliance surveys are complete. The LSR Workgroup met with the SO and has assigned representatives to better link LSR and Level 1 ESA consultation dialogue. \
- LSR, Level 1 team members and other SO staff will be having a call on 7/14 to discuss the proposed action; DNR inquired whether it would be possible to participate (listen-learn).
- Chelan County signed the contract for the boundary survey work.
- The new OWNF PAO is working on the communications plan including i.d. of any remote-virtual opportunities for engagement and OWNF staff, support needs.

Participants wondered if it was possible to be more site-specific within LSR areas even though conditional NEPA approach.

CFLRP Tier 2 Proposal

Unofficially, the CFLRP Tier II Project is still in the running at the national level. It should be included in a list of projects to be considered by Secretary. The OWNF will continue to track this and provide updates.

Engagement on Tonasket RD Projects After Transfer to CNF

In June the PWG discussed sustaining engagement on the Mt. Hull project due to substantial NCWFHC investment in and support for the project to date, although the Tonasket RD is being transferred to the CNF. While NCWFHC Operating Procedures may reference OWNF (not CNF) the Tonasket RD transfer is administrative; the OWNF boundary will not change. The PWG supports maintaining involvement in the Mt. Hull project and is requesting SC input.

- Okanogan County has interest in staying engaged on Mt. Hull and potential future concepts (e.g., Toroda-Tonata).
- NEWFC is currently working on many other projects so there is no concern about the NCWFHC sustaining engagement or duplicating effort.
- AFRC has interest in any retained receipts from Mt. Hull staying with the OWNF.
- NCWFHC members could sustain effort on the Mt. Hull project and self-select on future projects.

The CNF is adjusting its well-established 20-year plan and approach as a result of the Tonasket RD transfer. The OWNF takes a 5-year approach to its forest plan. It may be useful to look across plans as part of future engagement on Mt. Hull.

Members agreed the NCWFHC-PWG should continue to engage with the District to help support implementation of the Mt. Hull project.

Members agreed to engage individually or via NEWFC on future Tonasket RD projects.

JTF

A summary of JTF work to date was provided as context for the draft recommendations document and associated discussion items.

Although the Option 4 landscape (Chumstick-to-LP and Nason planning areas) has much restoration need vs. timber value, the JTF is recommending the SC continue to discuss and explore these areas for inclusion in a proposal to the OWNF for a long-term stewardship contract. Generally, the Chumstick-LP and Nason areas represent a viable balance of members' interests because of where they sit on the 5-year Plan timeline, their fairly central location with respect to mill infrastructure, and the potential to apply an "A-Z" (contract NEPA) approach and other innovative funding tools such as FRB to affect forest health and aquatics restoration.

Members identified the following during discussion:

- DNR logging systems tool could be applied to help assess feasibility and economic viability
- A successful CFLRP Tier 2 proposal will necessitate 5-year plan updates
- The Gap Analysis should consider that OWNF will likely be shrinking its overall staff in response to impending USFS funding changes and FTE caps (no new permanent on-board employees; however, term employees may be possible).
- Chelan County is interested in assisting with the Gap Analysis
- Yakama Nation is interested but needs more discussion around aquatics and the NEPA process. OWNF and YN will be discussing how 638 Authority will be used in UC to support aquatics restoration efforts.
- Chelan County is awaiting a contract with Blue Forest to develop a bonding mechanism that can be used to fund implementation of forest health restoration, other 'ecosystem services'.
- The SC should revisit the most recent draft restoration planning IDT cost-estimate and summary, prepared by SO staff.
- SC members involved with the CFLRP proposal should re-evaluate Tier 2 costs with/without these planning areas.
- More information is needed re: whether FRB funds can be used for new vs. existing target areas.
- More information is needed re: whether aquatics restoration activities would fall under or outside of a potential 15-year stewardship contract, NEPA implications.

R6 is expected to provide OWNF its budget and FTE in late August after which the SO will discuss and hone the FY21 budget. The SO will share FY21 information to further discussion about what the OWNF staff-resource needs are and how they could be filled. The 638 contracting process needs more clarity re: how it will work.

DNR 2022 Planning Area Selection

The DNR may add 4-6 new planning areas across eastern WA. Most areas on the OWNF are within either the 2018 or 2020 priority planning areas. DNR is considering adding the lower North Shore Chelan and Falls-Chewuch-Boulder planning areas based on PWG/OWNF Ranger input (MVRD and Entiat-Chelan). To the south the Little Naches and Little Crow likely will be added, and possibly CNF/ NE Washington areas. DNR will be coordinating with the OWNF re: their thoughts about timing and potential

efficiencies. The new 2022 areas will be finalized in fall 2020. SC and NCWFHC member feedback is being requested on the proposal to include the planning areas above and any others.

Mission Litigation

AFRC General Counsel walked participants through the summary document, timeline for filings and examples of briefs relevant to how a NCWFHC ‘umbrella’ brief could be structured-worded. A footnote can be used to show member support without officially authorizing support via the AGs office (i.e., IDFG example footnote). The simple umbrella brief member sign-on list would include name, organization, type of organization (e.g., environmental). Part of the framing and basis for the brief will involve discussion of the public’s interest in supporting a collaborative process (Payette case). A declarant will be needed in order to file the brief. Commissioner Branch and members discussed how having Okanogan County as the declarant would be beneficial and strengthen the overall set of briefs. Members identified the process and leads for additional coordination and draft brief language dissemination by the August 5 Quarterly mtg.

August Quarterly Topic ID

- Discuss-Approve Mission briefs framework
- Discuss-Approve OWG re: on Mission press release or new article
- Discuss-Approve OWG and PWG workplans
- Elect new NCWFHC Co-Chair (Lloyd stepping down and not seeking reelection after August)
- (re) Elect representatives (select Members’ 2-year terms)
- 5-year plan/ process update re: target expectations without Tonasket RD
- UWPP – report back on LSR workgroup mtg.
- JTF recommendations
- TNC Pilot Survey
- DNR 2022 planning area selection

***The next REMOTE SC meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2020 from 10am-2pm.
The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2020 from 1pm-4pm.***

TASKING MEMO

DUE DATE	TASK	ASSIGNED TO
Carry-over (April SC)	Follow-up re: current version of Partnership Plan (for est. of UWPP hours), distribute	Patrick Haggerty/CCD
Carry-over (June SC)	Create online link to corrected TNC-OWNF-DNR News Release and distribute it to Nicole and Sarah.	Deb Kelly/OWNF-SO
By July 7	Coordinate Mission <i>amicus briefs</i> _call among members’ legal counsels	Lawson Fite/AFRC
By July 14	Coordinate re: SO-LSR workgroup UWPP call	Darren Goodding/OWNF and Chuck Hersey/DNR

By July 29	Coordinate on and prepare a draft newspaper piece or media release re: Mission Project and email to Sarah for distribution to NCWFHC	OWG, interested SC Members
By August 5 Quarterly	Confirm-Coordinate on Declaration-Declarant for the Umbrella brief	Chris Branch/Okanogan County, Lawson Fite/AFRC
By August 5 Quarterly	Follow-up with Stan/NRCS re: amicus briefs	Sarah Walker/UCSRB
By August 5 Quarterly	Connect re: boundary survey work-contract	Mike Kaputa/CCNRD, Patrick
By August 5 Quarterly	Coordinate with new OWNF PAO re: UWPP outreach opportunities	Patrick
By August 5 Quarterly	Draft umbrella brief for NCWFHC review and discussion on 8/5 and distribute	Lawson and Sarah
By August 5 Quarterly	Add Mt. Hull to the PWG work plan	PWG
By September 2 SC	Communicate with NEWFC re: continued PWG engagement on Mt. Hull and report back to SC	Lloyd
By September 2 SC	Include any FY21 SO budget update on draft September SC agenda; include topic on October SC agenda.	Sarah
By September 2 SC	Provide feedback on DNR proposed 2022 planning areas	SC Members
By Winter OWG mtg.	Review other Collaboratives' educational videos and brainstorm video goals, objectives for further OWG discussion	Patrick and Amanda Newell/CCD, Nicole Jordan/UCSRB