

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin, Lawson Fite; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group:** ABSENT; **Cascadia CD:** Patrick Haggerty, Mike Cushman; **Chelan County:** Doug England; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust:** ABSENT; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** ABSENT; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard (CTSY):** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest:** Kathleen Gobush, Mike Liu; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** Jasmine Minbashian, Hannah Dewey; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super, Craig Nelson, Mindy Untalan; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Teri Tucker, Jeff Rivera, Deb Kelley, Chris Furr, Paul Kelley; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Matt Scott; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Lynda Hoffman; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Nolan Brewer, Everitt Merritt, Tom Frantz, Tom Fronds, Jennifer Watkins; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society:** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** ABSENT; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board:** Melody Kreimes, Pete Teigen, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

Other Meeting Participants

WSU: Andrew Perleberg; **Senator Cantwell's Staff:** Rick Evans; **Congresswoman Schrier's Staff:** Kelli Scott; Ann Diamond

Regular Business

Chair Branch conducted introductions. **Members approved the February 5, 2020 Quarterly Meeting summary.** Final copy will be put on the NCWFHC.org website.

OWNF Process & Proposal Updates

Supervisor's Notes

Tonasket RD Transfer to CNF

- October 1, 2020 transfer of Tonasket to CNF is planned.
- OWNF is filling key positions within FTE budget allocation: Forest Contracting Officer (to replace Denis Valdez) Veg Program Manager (in addition to silviculturist position Pete Weir is filling). Also working to fill Pre-Sale timber position, two Archeologist positions, timber management assistants, Natural Resource Planning Officer (to replace Teri Tucker), and a new Ranger for the Naches District.
- Blend of Contract work vs. staffing positions; staffing-positions still under discussion.

Mt. Hull Implementation

- In Sept the sale administrator will shadow CNF staff and handoff contracts to CNF.
- Matt Avery from Tonasket RD and will likely move to CNF. This position would need to be filled on OWNF; the goal is for staff to not have to travel large distances or relocate.

5-year Plan: FY21 UPOW Review, FY 22 Look Ahead

- Waiting for direction from R6 re: adjustments due to the Tonasket transfer.
- In June OWNF will evaluate how FY20 and FY21 work will change with COVID-19
- The updated 5-year plan will have shovel ready projects identified

Other Updates, Information Sharing

- Signing decision for Little Crow, moving forward and onto the next step.

CFLRP Tier 2 Proposal National Review

- The Federal Advisory Committee has been set up. ONWF is not expecting any funding in FY20; FY21 or beyond unknown.

DNR 20-year Forest Health Strategic Plan Update

- DNR analyzed Forest health planning areas in 2018 to set benchmarks for restoration needs; 33 landscapes for 2018 -2020.
- UWPP, Mission maintenance were evaluated in 2018
- Methow Valley is planned late spring early summer, Twisp (late spring/early summer), Mt. Hull, Chumstick to LP (evaluation done this fall) for 2020 year.
- 4-6 new landscapes will be added for 2022. Forest level conversations need to happen, preplanning in 2021. Areas under consideration include Methow area. North shore of Lake Chelan, on the 5-year plan.
- DNR will follow-up on 2022 landscapes at July SC Meeting

Project Work Group

New Representative/Co-Chairs

- Former OWNF staff Mike Liu has joined Conservation Northwest and will assume Co-Chair position with Crystal Elliot.
- Co-chair Mike Liu work in Entiat/Wenatchee, Crystal in the Methow

Twisp Project Update

- MVRD will discuss with LSR at May 18 first meeting re: how to address needs.
- Specialist reports will be finished by the middle of the month. Working on preliminary EA to be out in August. It only considers the proposed action, no action.
- PWG members discussed salvage, Bio-mass potential, potential for GNA authority.
- Buck project is moving forward and an opportunity for DNR GNA.
- Anticipated small group work in the spring with field trips is now on hold with COVID; need to be creative.
- Project work group to get together after draft EA is out in August to review, draft letter.

Draft Work Plan Discussion

- NCWFHC is tracking UWPP project and providing input via subgroups.

- Tracking Mad Roaring; once it moves forward with NEPA will get more involved.
- Yakama Nation is working in Mad Roaring –will follow-up in future meeting. YN tribal forest protection act authority may be applied on some of the landscapes.
- Tracking Nason Eagle to LP Chumstick.
- Toroda-Tonata lower on the list since further down on timeline.

Participants discussed how to facilitate communication and shared knowledge in science and how it is applied on the ground to improve consultation-implementation. A Monitoring Working Group is being formulated to make progress, engage and discuss to make sure projects are implemented and achieve intended outcomes.

Discuss Engagement on Future CNF Projects

The PWG will continue to engage with the Forest to help implement these projects: Mt. Hull, Mission

- Participants discussed NCWFHC resources and project focus now that Tonasket RD is moving to CNF, and whether NCWFHC should remain focused on the Methow and Chelan County
- NEWFC also engages on CNF projects; Lloyd suggested dialogue on where we are and whether to cross project boundaries with NEFHC.
- From a NCWFHC administration standpoint Collaborative focus is on OWNF; could require modification to our goals.

The group agreed to continue dialogue about the Mt. Hull project, other Tonasket RD projects and therefore deferred PWG Workplan Approval until the August Quarterly.

Joint Task Force Update

- JTF has been meeting regularly, approximately every 3 weeks.
- Is in the process of concluding discussions about the potential for a Long-term Stewardship Contract on the OWNF.
- OWNF contracting and collaborative agreement staff, timber contracting officer, and other SO staff are engaged.
- Next meetings will be held at the end of May and in June, after which JTF meetings will conclude. Contact Melody with any questions.

UWPP

- Survey and manage staff are working through LSR assessments; team working to get feedback.
- Contractors are moving forward on the project.
- Draft EA chapter 1-3 review for this Friday, May 8 have a few weeks to review.
- Communication group is exploring opportunities to host online webinars, etc. due to COVID-19.
- Still on track for December 2020 decision.
- SC-NCWFHC participation, coordination via Core and Subgroups is going well, as expected.
- Due to ongoing uncertainties around COVID-19, work to schedule an August field trip and annual celebration is on hold; exploring UWPP virtual tour options.

Mission Project Litigation

- Participants discussed possible amicus briefs, complementary filing framework
- The OWNF will be filing their brief on August 21. Brief(s) from NCWFC should be filed between August 21-28.
- Members shared the status of their entity with respect to potentially joining one of the briefs.
- Various briefs by different members of the NCWFHC is fine; however, a coordinated strategy is needed to eliminate duplication, provide unique perspectives but common ground.
- Amicus briefs will focus what the project looks like, why the group is supportive of the project.
- Motion (4-5 pages maybe less) – Declaration with someone in the group, Brief (10-15 pages, purpose to highlight how this project serves a multitude of groups – a broad support by a broad collaborative vs. one group saying no). If members do not have legal counsel to review or submit an Amicus brief, AFRC can prepare an umbrella amicus brief for remaining members.
- Umbrella brief would focus on broad picture one or two page that doesn't overlap on points of single members.
- AFRC General Counsel will coordinate with other attorneys so no duplication if Collaborative members want to join the umbrella Amicus brief.
- Participants did not oppose pursuing an umbrella Amicus brief from the collaborative; however, it was noted some members would be represented in complementary briefs (e.g., TWS, CNW are pursuing a small group environmental brief with separate counsel).

DUE DATE	TASK	ASSIGNED TO
June 3 SC	Continue Amicus Briefs discussion	Sarah Walker/UCSRB; Lawson Fite/AFRC; members
By July 1 SC	Finalize PWG Workplan for review	Pete Teigen/UCSRB; PWG Co-Chairs
By July 1 SC Mtg.	Provide JTF Recommendations to SC for review and discussion	
Future SC Mtg	Provide update on aquatics EA, restoration work in Mad Roaring	

The next SC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 3 from 1pm to 4pm (plan for either a remote meeting, with a possible decrease in meeting duration, tbd, or an in-person meeting option, also tbd)

The next NCWFHC Quarterly is currently scheduled from Wednesday, August 5 from 10am to 4pm (time to be finalized prior to meeting)