

Participants

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin (phone); **Cascadia Conservation District:** Patrick Haggerty (phone); **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest:** Kathleen Gobush (phone); **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super (phone); **Okanogan County:** Char Schumacher; **Okanogan Wenatchee NF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Teri Tucker; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **The Wilderness Society:** ABSENT; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliott (phone); **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board:** Melody Kreimes, Sarah Walker (facilitator); **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources:** Chuck Hersey (phone); **Yakama Nation:** ABSENT; **Representative Schrier's Office:** Kelli Scott.

Regular Business

Welcome and Introductions

Chair McGee welcomed everyone and went through introductions. Sarah walked the group through the high-level meeting objectives for the day and the Tasking Summary from the previous meeting.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Members approved the October 2, 2019 NCWFHC SC draft summary. The final summary will be put on the website at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/>

OWNF/ Proposal Updates

CFLRP

Teri provided an update on the Tier 2 final proposal and thanked NCWFHC members that contributed to the application and sent letters of support. A 1-hr webinar presentation to R6 provide additional or unique information (supplemental to proposal) is scheduled for 1/14 at 9am.

Lloyd and Brandon have confirmed ability to represent NCWFHC during webinar. Other members that expressed interest include Tom Partin, AFRC (will be in PDX); Commissioners Branch and Bugert. Kelli inquired whether a Congressional letter of support would be helpful and the timing for such a letter.

Process highly competitive; three other proposals submitted for consideration:

- Colville National Forest (CFLRP renewal)
- Wallowa-Whitman/Umpqua NF (new joint proposal)
- Deschutes NF

All qualifying proposals will be forwarded to the national level for consideration, which is new in the process this year. Kristin shared talking points she would emphasize:

- OWNF is poised, doing the right work in the right place
- Demonstrated need
- Multiple interests & needs: socio-economic, forest health, restoration and community-risk
- NCWFC-OWNF = strong diversity of committed, long-term partners

- Partners have history of bringing in-kind and financial resources from range of sources to table.
- Have experience and have learned from that experience
- Shelf-stock + past learning + partners = ability and readiness to implement!

Members noted that a mechanism for ongoing tracking of partner cost-share on projects would be valuable for use in future proposals. Participants discussed how to address potential questions about forest product infrastructure, economics (i.e., what is assurance of timber volume, sales?). Strategy for 1/14 will include messaging about:

- NCWFHC development of new, innovative Economics Subgroup and work on a matrix to help assess project/sale economics including species and size-class limitations.
- NCWFHC brings industry expertise including interest from Hampton Lumber, partners in western Washington.
- CFLRP landscape will become OWNF priority.
- OWNF landscape and management needs have changed (i.e., LSR); evolving approaches to meet that need-balance among interests.
- Overall package addresses restoration needs via comprehensive approach (pre-treatments, viable commercial sales, prescribed fire, aquatics projects and other forest health treatments).
- CFLRP funds would provide essential seed money to help push implementation capacity to tipping point; create cycle of returned receipts to fund additional project implementation-restoration actions.
- During/after ramp-down, continued support for DNR 20-year plan implementation.

Action Items:

1. By c.o.b. Friday, 1/10 Teri will distribute Talking Points for 1/14
2. Teri will set up a call for 3pm (or later) on Monday, 1/13 with Lloyd, Brandon Commissioner Bugert, Commissioner Branch and Tom (as available) to confirm 1/14 participants and time slots, and review talking points and flow for presentation.
3. By Friday, 1/10, Sarah will provide to Kelli copies of other NCWFHC CFLRP Tier 2 letter for a potential additional letter of support by 1/14.

IFNF

No update. Related to innovative funding approaches, Chelan County shared it was exploring a forest resiliency bond.

Twisp Project

Crystal, OWNF staff reported the project currently proceeding as planned.

Mad-Roaring

No update.

UWPP

OWNF's new NEPA contractor for UWPP is TetraTech. A 2-day meeting is set for 1/9-1/10. Day 1 will be more general, Day 2 will dive into review of preliminary alternatives. OWNF working on developing

response to requests re: now NCWFHC, UWPP subgroup feedback was used in alternatives analysis. Part of that involves preparing a revised map of conditions; will focus on fatal-flaw feedback. Participants would like information on how OWNF assessed Owl habitat vs. Stand need.

OWNF is in process of developing an implementation schedule. Best contacts are Jeff Rivera and Pete Weir. OWNF will dive into details re: how best to package after the overall NEPA decision.

Action Items:

4. Sarah will add County Forest Resiliency Bond topic to March SC meeting agenda.
5. Teri will check with Darren on any re-review of Mad-Roaring env. documents.

Adaptive Management for 2020

Sarah shared that members had expressed interest in a check-in re: NCWFHC/SC meeting frequency, structure, utility. Participants offered the following:

- Members need a sense of meaningful participation
- For SC meetings, general updates can be provided via email so SC agenda is focused on meaty topics and potentially shorter in duration.
- Agenda should focus on most critical, time-sensitive topics and prioritize them.
- High-level objectives and agenda topics for Quarterlies should be distributed more than 1 week ahead of time to assist with attendance planning.
- The overall SC meeting schedule is okay; however, participation will be agenda-driven at times, particularly for Commissioners who may rely on County staff for attendance and information.
- It is a good idea to change the Quarterly structure to 'internal' NCWFHC discussion in a.m. and joint NCWFHC- OWNF topics in afternoon.

Participants suggested sending out a survey to NCWFHC members to solicit wider input on meetings. Industry still sees opportunities to help OWNF and remains committed to participation. Counties are especially interested in advocacy and policy-legislative work. The 3 (Chelan, Okanogan, Kittitas) County commissioners are meeting more frequently, independently about forest health issues. Any changes to NCWFHC meeting schedule (e.g., quarterly) needs to be discussed and approved by the full collaborative. OWNF expressed interest in meeting with the NCWFHC and Tapash collaboratives together 2 times/year or at some other interval because the Joint Task Force is of limited duration and there are efficiencies to be had with combined OWNF-NCWFHC discussion of some topics.

Action Items:

6. By Friday, 1/17, Sarah will develop and distribute a survey to members about NCWFHC/SC meetings, including questions about capacity for and meaningfulness of participation.
7. Sarah will add a survey results/ overall 2020 adaptive management topic to February 5, 2020 Quarterly meeting agenda.

Mission Project Update

No update since December. R6 provided the Office of General Counsel its response to objection. The process timeline is not expedited so at this point no indication as to whether litigation will be allowed to proceed; no plan for USFS to rescind its decision. Some NCWFHC members had explored options for engagement if the litigation proceeds; others had not. Of those that had investigated the topic, some members/entities could but do not currently have standing-interest-nexus for Intervenor status. R6 expressed to DNR that no support from the state was needed at this time. There may be an option to retain counsel to develop an amicus brief as the process unfolds. There was interest in hearing from AFRC's legal counsel, others with experience re: this type of litigation for shared learning.

Action Items:

8. Kristin will share a copy of the R6 Mission filing.
9. Sarah will follow-up with Tom and AFRC legal counsel to present on project litigation, process as part of February 5, 2020 Quarterly meeting topic or other discussion/venue.

Legislative-Congressional Messaging

The SC had assigned the task of developing a NCWFHC messaging 1-pager highlighting areas of common support for state and federal legislation and topics, and most recent projects-achievements for commissioners', members' visits with elected officials. A 1-pager for 2020 would focus on high-level shared messaging around expansion of DNR Good Neighbor Authority, continued reauthorization of federal SRS-PILT, and support for SSB 5996. Although DNR staff were not able to present on the status of 5596, WASAC legislative steering committee is meeting on 1/9 to discuss draft bill language, status. The bill may or may not pass as written or at all during this session. Among other things, the proposed source of funding many change. SC members agreed to keep tracking 5996 and check back in.

With respect to the 1-pager (leave sheet): the OWG is currently without a coordinator-facilitator although Patrick and Amanda are still acting as co-chairs. The OWG had approved a draft from Barb developed last fall; however, full SC-NCWFHC would still need to approve. That version does not mention SRS-federal. The OWG email list includes about 20 people; however, consistent member participation has been limited primarily to Lloyd, Patrick, Amanda, Mike and (previously) Barb. Content for materials needs to come from SC-NCWFHC-partners. The OWG still has the capacity to hone and format content, support publication development as needed. OWG could start to meet on an ad hoc basis, as necessitated by SC-NCWFHC needs, priorities, and members' ability to develop content.

OWNF shared that SRS was recently reauthorized for 2 more years. Planning will be initiated in September 2022 with obligation in fall 2023. There was no sequestration reduction; however, changes to format of payment to counties was not authorized. The RAC no longer has a quorum and therefore cannot operate. It is currently seeking nominations to fill out its membership.

Action Item(s):

10. Sarah will put draft bill 5996 on February 5, 2020 Quarterly meeting agenda

11. Patrick will send the OWG-approved 2-pager to Sarah for distribution via email to the SC to review ahead of February Quarterly meeting.

Brainstorm February Quarterly Agenda

Members identified potential topics for the February 5 Quarterly meeting, including:

- Members, 2020 NCWFHC/SC/OWG meetings discussion
- NCWFHC Priorities for 2020
- Project Litigation shared learning (AFRC/Mission/other(s))
- Economic Subgroup Update
- 5996 Update
- Federal Budget Process and Timelines
- Project Updates
- Funding Updates
- (carry-over from past brainstorms) OWNF presentation re: process for determining where retained receipts are allocated



***The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting will be held
February 5th from 10am to 4pm at the
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor's Office in Wenatchee, WA***