

Participants

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin, Matt Komisky (phone); **Cascadia Conservation District:** Mike Cushman (phone); **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest:** Kathleen Gobush (phone); **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price (phone); **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super (phone); **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Okanogan Wenatchee NF:** Kristin Bail, Paul Kelly; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **The Wilderness Society:** Mike Anderson (phone); **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliott (phone); **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board:** Melody Kreimes, Ryan Niemeyer, Sarah Walker (facilitator); **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources:** ABSENT; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers (phone); **Congressman Newhouse's Office:** Nicole Kuchenbuch.

Regular Business

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Branch welcomed everyone and went through introductions. Sarah walked participants through the meeting objectives, the draft January 8, 2020 meeting summary and tasking memo. Any incomplete Tasking Memo items will be carried over for tracking purposes.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Members approved the January 8, 2020 NCWFHC SC meeting summary. The final will be posted on the NCWFHC website: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/>

OWNF Project/ Process/ Proposal Updates

UWPP

Paul reviewed key dates for the UWPP schedule, based on the contractor's overall NEPA timeline. The proposed timeline for an EA by late May and final decision by mid-November remains aggressive. Objections could delay the decision timeline. Members discussed the importance of paying attention to volumes, acres treated in the proposed alternatives. Generally, draft Alternative 1 is more aggressive, draft Alternative 2 is more conservative.

The opportunity for UWPP Workgroup engagement with the contractors is now (March). The OWNF is targeting mid-May for identification of a preferred alternative (*see Table of Key Dates*).

Anjolene provided an update on Economics subgroup work on the UWPP, including a look at how to make sales economically viable. The group's work includes thinking about road construction-restoration costs to bidders and market estimates vs. mill appraisal sheet values as part of the appraisal process. The goal is socio-economic input to UWPP process to generate Alternatives that are ecologically robust and economically viable.

Alternatives development	Through January 2020
Contractor onboarding	December 2019 – January 2020
Prepare draft EA	February 2020 – May 2020
USFS Briefing to collaborators	March 3, 2020
Contractor available to meet with work groups	March 2020
USFS identifies preferred alternative, if known	Mid-May 2020
Publish EA	Late May 2020
Public opportunity to review and comment	June 2020
Contractor/USFS Comment content review	July 2020
Contractor available to meet with work groups	July 2020
Prepare Final EA	July 2020 – mid-August 2020
USFS Identified Selected Alternative	Early August 2020
Publish Final EA and draft Decision Notice	Mid-August 2020
Objection Period	August 2020 – September 2020
Decision (no objections received)	Late September 2020
Decision (objections received)	Mid-November 2020

Anjolene walked participants through the economics subgroup’s draft Matrix ‘rules of thumb’ document. There was agreement that this type of early dialogue is most likely to produce win-wins. Participants made the following suggestions:

- 1) The economics subgroup should create a list of contractors within the region and their capabilities, to go along with the mills-potential bidders.
- 2) Opportunities to integrate emerging markets such as BioChar should be further explored.
- 3) The Matrix could be expanded to mention all possible tools available (i.e., any tethered logging system opportunities).

OWNF 5-year Plan, FY21 Program of Work

Kristin provided an update on changes Congress may make to the way it allocates discretionary funding to the region in FY21. The region is anticipating a shift to funding all salaries-staff fully off the top, with remaining funding available for operational work. How might work or what this could like for changes to projects-staffing is currently unknown. The OWNF is continuing to identify the who-what-how of the Tonasket RD shift to the CNF and associated shifts in resources. The same applies to discussions about consolidation and full integration of the Entiat and Chelan RDs. OWNF-CNF staff are meeting at the end of the month to discuss the Tonasket RD shift. Reengaging the public on the travel plan as part of outreach about the Tonasket RD change was suggested.

CFLRP Tier 2 Update

Kristin shared that there has been no movement at the national level because there is not currently a RAC quorum.

Joint Task Force

Lloyd shared the presentation TNC made to R6 on 2/7, and more recently at the 2/20 JTF meeting, about estimates (acres, volumes) of treatment needed on the ONWF. Some JTF members are exploring use of new administrative instruments that are available TFPAs (e.g., Yakama Nation in the Taneum-Tieton landscape). SC participants were asked to consider what the best bundle of planning areas north of Blewett Pass could look like.

The initial set of proposed planning areas presented on 2/7 and 2/20 at the JTF (UWPP, Twisp, Eagle-to-LP) was shared-displayed for discussion and input. The objective of the JTF agenda topic is to provide Steering Committee members with an update on JTF efforts and to promote engagement and further discussion; the JTF has no decision-making authority.

Steering Committee members raised the following questions:

- 1) What are the differences in revenue between a conventional sale and a Stewardship Contract sale?
- 2) Would 'bundling' the UWPP area as part of a Stewardship Contract hurt project viability?

Participants agreed these and other questions required further discussion. Members identified the need for additional AFRC input on the JTF at this juncture. Participants identified other unknowns including what effect the transfer of the Tonasket RD to CNF will have, as the Tonasket has traditionally contributed a large % to OOWNF timber targets. Other areas need to be discussed for addition to meet OOWNF flagship metric targets and other interests.

JTF participants on 2/20 agreed to cancel the 3/12 meeting and do 'homework' to reengage on **Thursday, 4/2 in Wenatchee** with more information, key added participants. A goal of the 4/2 JTF meeting is to expand discussion about what the best blend of project areas (linked to 5-year plan but also cross-lands/partner opportunities) *could* look like and dig into additional considerations for 'bundling' planning areas under a Stewardship Contract.

Forest Resiliency Bonding

Chelan County is working with Blue Forest Conservation to explore Forest Resiliency Bonding opportunities like the successful Yuba watershed partnership in CA. Steering Committee meeting participants watched a Blue Forest video on Forest Resiliency Bonding <https://youtu.be/cSfB0-J0qyk>.

Next steps in dialogue between the county and Blue Forest are partially dependent on whether Blue Forest receives an IFNF grant. Regardless of that proposal outcome, the county will be continuing to explore innovative finance solutions with Blue Forest Conservation. General next steps include the identification of potential private investors, funding mechanisms and who the beneficiaries will be (e.g., the county water resources program, DNR, OOWNF, Fire Districts, PUDs for Utility protection, etc.). Framed more generally, a beneficiary is anyone that could be impacted by wildfire.

Chelan County is continuing to meet with its Economic Development council, Port, Chamber funding partners about opportunities to bring some sort of milling infrastructure to the region and will provide an update on this topic in the next 2-3 months.

Mission Project Litigation

Participants received a high-level recap of SC and Quarterly meeting discussions over the past 3-4 months regarding the different options, mechanisms for engagement when a project is litigated. Members provided status updates:

- TWS and CNW were collaborating on development of an amicus brief, their preferred method for engagement if/as needed.
- TU expressed potential interest in joining an amicus brief
- Okanogan County, YN had not had time to check with their legal counsel or needed additional time for follow-up dialogue after the SC meeting.
- Chelan County reiterated disinclination to engage as an intervenor or at all
- Other Members needed more information about process and timelines moving forward and distinctions between preparing to act as an intervenor vs. amicus.

Members identified a need for additional legal counsel clarification about the following:

1. Can a Member engage as an *amici* as well as an intervenor or are they mutually exclusive?
2. Could AFRC act as legal counsel/ intervenor when a collaborative is a “group” of which AFRC is a member vs. on behalf of a NCWFHC Member who is a member of AFRC and involved with an active project bid-sale process?
3. What timelines do NCWFHC Members need to hit moving forward for engagement as amici or as an intervenor, including any interaction with AFRC legal counsel, moving forward to the April 1 Steering Committee and May 5 Quarterly meetings?

Members identified development of a press release as an option for a formal NCWFHC consensus response.

Congressional-Legislative Messaging & Outreach

April Event Opportunity with Congressman Newhouse

Nicole Kuchenbuch from Congressman Newhouse’s office invited the NCWFC to participate with a booth at a community/forest health/outreach event the Congressman is convening on the evening of April 7 in East Wenatchee. The Congressman and a special guest from Washington D.C. will be keynotes at the event. Nicole asked Members for suggestions about areas of interest related to different facets of wildfire close to Wenatchee that could be seen from the air. Members provided the following Ideas: strategic fuel breaks, Chiwawa tree plantation (densities), Deadhorse Canyon (PUD transmission lines/infrastructure protection nexus), Cougar fire area. Melody noted the Society of American Foresters was meeting in Leavenworth on April 6-8 and would follow-up directly with Nicole re: any added coordination support needs.

NCWFHC Letter re: Legislative Funding

Matt provided an update on the status of the various state wildfire funding bills. None were expected to pass by the end of the regular legislative session next week. Members agreed to proceed with completing edits to the high-level messaging letter to have a base of consensus language to build on or

revise for the next session. Sarah walked Members through the remaining areas of the redrafted letter that needed clarification or confirmation. Sarah confirmed the final draft letter content to be distributed for approval via email by the Steering Committee.

May Quarterly and Annual Field Trip Planning

Participants discussed where the NCWFHC annual field trip-tour should be held in May 2020. There was agreement that because last year’s event was up north in Twisp and the timing of where the UWPP is in the implementation process that this year’s tour could be around the UWPP project area.

Participants discussed opportunities for alignment with other potential events. Congresswoman Schrier’s staff is working on a visit for her to the UWPP area in spring/summer. The UCSRB agreed to follow-up and begin to support NCWFC annual event planning in May.

April Steering Committee Agenda Items:

Members identified the Mission Litigation discussion and OWNF SO consolidation/resource shift process updates as requisite follow-up topics for the April 1 SC meeting.



*The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting will be held
 May 6 from 10am to 4pm
 Location Wenatchee-Leavenworth Area TBD*

TASKING MEMO

DUE DATE	TASK	ASSIGNED TO
ASAP	Distribute Final Draft NCWFC Legislative Messaging Letter for SC Approval	Sarah Walker/UCSRB
Friday, March 6	Send Approved Final Letter to State Legislators	Sarah
Week of March 9	Reconnect with Tom Partin, AFRC and legal counsel re: Member info request for April 2, 2020 SC meeting	Sarah
By March 26	Distribute Additional Mission Project Information to Members	Sarah
By March 26	Distribute Draft April 2 SC Agenda and Include Mission, SO Process Update Topics	Sarah
By April 1	Initiate and Coordinate on May Meeting and Field Trip Options in UWPP Area and Report Back	Melody Kreimes, Nicole Jordan/UCSRB, Sarah
By April 1	Prepare for Follow-up Mission Project Discussion	SC Members