

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC): Tom Partin, **Boise-Cascade:** ABSENT; **Cascade Fisheries:** ABSENT; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Patrick Haggerty; **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT):** ABSENT; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** ABSENT; **Colville Tribal Federal Corporation - Timber:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest (CNW):** Dave Werntz; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** ABSENT; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** ABSENT; **Trout Unlimited:** ABSENT; **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding, Victoria Wilkins, Lydia Allen; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Jennifer Watkins; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rodgers; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Melody Kreimes, Ryan Niemeyer, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

Other Meeting Participants

Congressman Newhouse Staff: Rachel McClure; **Trust for Public Lands:** Ann Welz; **Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue:** David Walker.

Regular Business

Co- chair Mike Anderson opened the meeting. Melody Kreimes introduced all participants on the webinar and reviewed the meeting objectives.

Members approved the July 1, 2020 Steering Committee meeting summary with recommended edits.

The final meeting summary will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

OWNF Process & Proposal Updates

Staffing-Admin-District Changes

Supervisor Bail reported the following:

- Personnel staffing hire for the Forest Contractor is Nate Standish
- Aaron Stockton will be the new Naches District Ranger and will be starting on October 25.
- Natural Resources Staff Officer position following Terri Tucker is still in conversation with HR. Lydia Allen will be filling in through next month. Still working to fill this important position
- Working on FY21 POW. The OWNF submitted aspirational 5-year plan to R6 but the Forest has been issued head count caps so more changes to consider. Clarity needed on organizational adjustments with upcoming Tonasket RD transfer to CNF in October and zone staff changes.
- Expecting a funding Continuing Resolution (CR); OWNF anticipating its budget by September 14.
- Lydia Allen is working on how to have conversations with NCWFHC members about current status and priorities.

- Great American Outdoors Act: Deferred maintenance projects where the FS will receive \$200 million per year (5-year program). OWNF submitted proposal to R6. Regional submitted its proposal to Washington Office on September 1; however, Congress must appropriate funds. Still figuring out Aquatic Restoration piece and road decommissioning/repairs. Soon, FS will talk about FY22 and how the program will look in the following year.
- No new info on status of restoration proposal.

Re-issue of Supervisor's Letter of Support

- Chair Anderson inquired about refreshing and renewing the previous Letter of Support from the OWNF Supervisor to the NCWFHC.
- Supervisor Bail is completely supportive of NCWFHC efforts and a meaningful, clear, and collective relationship.
- While MOUs, other administrative instruments exist a Letter of Support is the most streamlined way of articulating OWNF commitment and interest in continuing the work we have been doing.

Participants agreed to continue dialogue with Supervisor Bail over the next few months about the letter. A suggestion was made to review the OWNF-NCWFHC partnership back to the time of Strategic Plan development in order to avoid past issues and address how to have clearer communication.

UWPP

- WWRD staff is expecting the draft EA by the end of today.
 - 2 weeks for staff review; 2 weeks to respond to comments.
 - Paul Kelley is updating the UWPP Story Map to roll out with the comment period and developing opportunities for virtual public meetings.
- Working on LSR consistency review and first draft of process, language. Have had 3 meetings:
 - August 24th terrestrial meeting on spotted owl issues.
 - August 27th had LSR workgroup, fuel treatment conversations.
 - OWG met after NCWFHC Aug Quarterly meeting
- Patrick and Victoria discussed outreach and opportunities for OWNF-NCWFHC partnership
 - Members can Identify virtual HOA meeting opportunities or meetings for outreach
 - In October Mike Kaputa, Patrick Haggerty, Aaron McKay and Hannah are hosting a virtual tour focused on the Nason Ridge area. Small group of people to be filmed, making a virtual walking tour.
 - Chelan County has funds to acquire Nason drone footage but could leverage these resources to also support UWPP area imagery collection for virtual tour, outreach.
 - Patrick/Anjolene/ OWG members will explore Darrington approach –members acquire field photos-video for a virtual tour and assemble a story board to engage community.
- How were meetings with LSR in terms or treated acres, hazard reduction? Not getting any push back on what we are proposing and having good conversations.

Twisp Project

- Slight EA timeline shift; RD staff resolving. Project overall still on target.

Discuss Potential Alpine Lakes-Wilderness Outreach Support

- Alpine Lakes-Wilderness experiencing high volume of recreational use.
- Resource damage, overuse and on the ground impacts are pre-existing issues exacerbated this year due to COVID.
- OWNF desires to work partners on immediate solutions without NEPA –use data collection, preliminary surveys from users to immediately i.d. issues, solutions without NEPA.
- SO at preliminary level, talking to WWRD to develop strategy about how to approach.
- Goal is long-term planning, better understanding of opportunities to work with interested NCWFHC members and recreation groups to address these issues.

Process for Feedback on JTF Recommendations

Recap

- July SC Mtg Summary – Comments on JTF Recommendations need follow-up
- August SC Mtg summary – Additional Comments
- Upcoming
 - Oct. SC - OWNF update on FY21 Resources
 - Nov. Quarterly - discussion with Tapash members
 - TNC Pilot Projects Survey Results

Discuss Next Steps

- Economics subgroup members suggested initiating work with the OWNF to develop an RFI.
 - Language could be built from the CNF RFI for A to Z.
 - Colville A-Z RFI will require some effort to adjust due to differences with NW Forest Plan
 - Lydia Allen and Nate Standish’s time would be required for RFI development work
- Members agreed on the need to define what the “landscape” is after UWPP and what timeline
 - Is Nason next, separately, then Chumstick-to-LP in a potential Stewardship Contract?
 - What are member interests in Nason - Aquatics, Timber value?
 - What is the geographic-landscape scope that a draft RFI would target?
- Members agreed additional SC and/or subgroup discussion over the next 2-3 months is needed to review July SC questions, continue discussions with OWNF, incorporate Oct-Nov information.

Mission Briefs Wrap-up

- The 4 briefs and supporting materials that were submitted by 9/28 have been provided via email
- By 9/28 the judge will formally decide if the briefs will be accepted
- The hope is the collaborative response will discourage the plaintiff from future litigation.
- Press releases went out. Methow Valley news will do an article next week. The Wenatchee World will do an article/news story on press release

Partner Roundtable

Chelan County Climate Resiliency Initiative

- Chelan County is collaborating with UW climate impacts group, WSU scientists and others. Effort includes organizational infrastructure, county-wide round table supported by scientific advisory board (current climate science) and steering committee.
- NCWFHC member interests in Aquatic and fire resiliency align with Climate Resiliency Strategy.
- Draft strategy target is end of October; will bring to the collaborative to discuss when available.

<https://co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/county-wide-climate-resilience-planning>

State Forest Health and Resiliency Priorities Being Considered for the Upcoming Legislative Session

- DNR is proposing a package for \$25 million in capital funding for forest health and economic stimulus, focused on implementation.
 - \$4 million on state public lands; 13,000 ac in eastern Washington non-commercial lands.
 - \$7.8 million on federal lands via GNA; 10,000 ac in eastern WA to generate revenue via GNA. GNA building staff to look at fuels and backlog in fish passage and roads.
 - Critical \$7.3 million stand up fire wise USA for private lands
 - All lands \$5.6 million for state-led prescribed fire cross-boundary implementation. Capacity to track and monitor work.
- Need a sense of where the project acres are that we want to invest in for summer 2021.
- Recommendations to Forest Health Advisory Committee due in December.
- Now is time to communicate priorities to state Legislature.
 - Linkage to JTF efforts

Tasking Memo

DUE DATE	TASK	ASSIGNED TO
Ongoing	Follow-up with Victoria on OWNF Alpine Lakes wilderness outreach strategy progress/development	Mike Kaputa/CCNRD, Sarah Walker/UCSRB
By October 7 SC	Follow-up re: hybrid tour approach and potential application for UWPP virtual outreach/story board	Patrick Haggerty/CCD, Anjolene Price/Hampton
As Possible	Email any upcoming community HOA, “coffee shop” mtgs., other opportunities for UWPP outreach to OWNF (Victoria and Deb)	SC Members
By October 7	Coordinate with Deb Kelley and Victoria Wilkins/OWNF on UWPP outreach support needs, potential for CCNRD drone imagery acquisition and support, upcoming outreach opportunities	Patrick, Mike Kaputa/CCNRD
By October 7	Prepare to revisit July 1, 2020 SC follow-up questions re: JTF recommendations	SC Members
By October 7	Provide update on Mission Project litigation	Sarah Walker/UCSRB
By Economics Subgroup Mtg (TBD)	Acquire RFI from Chewelah (A-Z), other project examples?	Lloyd McGee/TNC; Anjolene
ASAP	Send Doodle Poll for Economics Subgroup – SC Member RFI discussion	Anjolene
ASAP	Respond if interested in RFI call participation	All

