

SC Members-Alternates Present

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC): Tom Partin; **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Colville Tribal Federal Corporation - Timber:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest (CNW):** Dave Wertz; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super, Mindy Untalan; **Okanogan County:** ABSENT; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers

Other Meeting Participants

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition: Corrine Hoffman; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue:** David Walker; **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding; **Congressman Newhouses' staff:** Rachel McClure; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Melody Kreimes, Nicole Jordan, Ryan Niemeyer, Alicia Meier, Pete Teigen, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

Welcome and Regular Business

Co- chair Mike Anderson opened the meeting. Sarah introduced participants and reviewed the proposed agenda and meeting objectives.

Members approved the September 2, 2020 Steering Committee meeting summary. The final meeting summary will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

OWNF Updates

New NEPA Regulations

- New national NEPA regulations from the Council on Environmental Quality went into effect mandating new time and page limits for EA's and EIS's for projects starting after 9/16/20.
 - EAs: 75 pp limit not including appendices. 1 yr to complete from start to draft decision process.
 - EISs: 150 pp limit not including appendices. 2 yrs to complete from start to draft decision process.
- Clock starts for NEPA when official letter for 30-day Scoping period is submitted.
- Key to success to meet new time frames will be focused pre-NEPA work:
 - How we work together more efficiently?
 - How will FS work with contractors? Contracts-products will need to meet these new timeframes.
 - Key pre-NEPA tasks? proposed action, alternative, analysis, affected environment
 - How will FS smoothly navigate consultation with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS?
- First projects to be affected by new NEPA: Entiat Mad-Roaring-Mills and Chumstick to LP (Lower Peshastin)

- OWNF must implement new NEPA regulations amid uncertainty about litigation, future overturn

FY21 Budget Allocations from R6

- Kristin shared a Gantt chart to depict what the OWNF is aspiring to do in FY21 pending capacity analysis and final forest allocations; uncertain until appropriated by Congress on 12/11/2020.
- Limiting factors for FY21 projects are funding and staffing. Resources cannot be moved among the three buckets of funding:
 1. Permanent employees at regional level
 2. Temporary/seasonal salaries
 3. Contract supplies for the Forest
- Opens conversations for partners re: how to get work done in other ways

Staffing update

- Acting Natural Resource Staff Officer Lydia Allen's last day is 10/16/20. New permanent hire will start early or mid-December 2020.
- Erick Walker has been detailed for an indeterminate amount of time to assist with national work to help R5 and R6 deal with catastrophic impacts of recent wildfires.
- Advertising for a GS12 Silverculturist, North zone TMA
- FLT evaluated staffing priorities given new head count caps, will be filling following positions:
 1. WRRD Fish Biologist
 2. Archeologist
 3. Soils Scientist (transferred to Colville RD)
- Zone concept will be used to share resources among North Zone (Chelan-Entiat, Wenatchee, Methow RDs) and South Zone (Cle Elum and Naches RDs)

UWPP

- Preferred alternative workshop with IDT over the last 3 weeks to exclude areas where treatments would not be feasible. Contractor is making updates.
- Comment period start delayed until November
- SO intent is still to provide early look at EA before official start of 30-day comment period.
- OWNF is working with Chelan County, CCD to collect and coordinate footage for virtual public engagement video to be produced by North 40 productions focusing on:
 - different forest types
 - diverse group for interviewing
 - collecting lots of footage; link this in to support OWG activities
- The NCWFHC might want to brainstorm priorities, post-production needs, use of footage for outreach for CFLRP, NCWFHC outreach efforts

Members agreed the process for UWPP letter development would involve member-representatives to the Core group and terrestrial, aquatics, economics subgroups preparing specific feedback for compilation into a draft letter for review and finalization within the 30-day comment period.

Members agreed to request PWG support to develop the aquatics component of the UWPP letter.

Members agreed to add a virtual/video update-needs topic as part of the November quarterly.

Twisp Project A

- Participants reviewed the MVRD Twisp Project summary
- Draft summary is due out week of 10/12/20
- Pete is coordinating a PWG-District staff mtg. later in October depending on when draft summary is received.

Continue Discussion of JTF Recommendations

Recap

- JTF work ended in June and recommendations were handed off to the Tapash Executive Committee and NCWFHC SC for near-term and long-term task discussion.
- OWNF FY21 budget now available to support discussion of current resources, FY21 UPOW and 5-year Plan timeline
- SC needs to finalize scope-areas(s) for inclusion in potential long-term stewardship contract
- Gap/resource evaluation still needed; planning area(s), scope informs this work.
- Defined “ask” of OWNF SO-WRRD staff (e.g., for RFI support) is needed

Economic Subgroup++ RFI Call Update

Anjolene provided an update on recent-ongoing work of the Economics subgroup.

- Collaboration with OWNF on UWPP RFI development is advancing.
- For a potential long-term Stewardship Contract proposal, Economics subgroup recommends an RFI focus on the Chumstick-to-LP (includes Eagle) areas due to:
 1. Alignment with three 20-year strategic planning areas
 2. Large treatment plan (54,689 acres of Federal land which would be in the RFI)
 3. Combination of these areas seems economically viable
- Suggestion to exclude Nason from a long-term Stewardship Contract proposal based on:
 1. OWNF economic and capacity constraints
 2. Would increase the complexity of the landscape
 3. Could slow down existing project timeline

The SO emphasized an RFI effort needs to consider FS compliance with laws and regulations (economics and feasibility). If things end up not being viable, learn from this.

Participants discussed how to advance Nason concurrent with a Chumstick to LP long-term stewardship contract proposal. Members explored the idea of developing a workplan-subprojects plan for Nason.

The SO recommended the NCWFHC view Nason as an opportunity for a truly collaborative partner-supported project. With new budget-admin changes there is not currently a placeholder for Nason in the OWNF integrated 5-year restoration plan (through FY25).

Participants discussed unique partner Tools (e.g., County Forest Resiliency Bonding initiative, Tribal 638 Authority, potential use of County and Tribal GNA, other partner investments) that could be leveraged to advance Nason/sub-project objectives, particularly around aquatics.

Participants revisited previous SC and JTF discussion of an OWNF resource “Gap Analysis”. Given resolution around the scope of a long-term stewardship contract proposal, Nason can be evaluated for shared and/or distinct resource needs to advance implementation.

The SO recommended partners review what the FS must produce for environmental compliance --- consider aquatics layout, project to-do items, describing the work that is required---and develop a compliance and products matrix to help align potential partner support with project/resource needs.

Members agreed the Economics Subgroup should explore development of an RFI for Chumstick to LP

Members agreed to form a Nason subgroup to brainstorm compliance products-resource needs matrix

Brainstorm, Prioritize November NCWFHC Quarterly Topics

Participants reviewed and prioritized potential November 4 meeting topics and added a Twisp and UWPP EA update request. The following potential topics were confirmed:

- TNC survey results: Collaborative Pilot Projects and Lessons Learned
- Joint Tapash Exec. Committee and SC semi-annual sharing re: JTF recommendations
- Chelan County Climate Resiliency Strategy update
- Approve SC Representatives for 2020-2022 (August carry-over)

Other topics (recommended or to be confirmed; dependent on timing, availability of others)

- BioChar initiative
- CNW Data Visualization Tool
- OWNF Letter of Commitment reissue
- Twisp and UWPP EA updates

Participants suggested the Quarterly agenda should be structured with a separate-distinct time, perhaps in afternoon/at end of day, to focus and maximize shared learning with the Tapash Exec. Committee.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:19pm.

The next NCWFHC Quarterly remote meeting is scheduled for ***Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Please hold 10am –2:30pm; duration to be confirmed a week prior.***

The next SC meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2020. Please hold 1pm-2:30pm.

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
Week of Oct 19	Email UWPP Core team, workgroup member-reps re: process for drafting EA letter (coordination with PWG members for Aquatics component)	Sarah
Week of Oct 19	Email poll for Nason subgroup mtg. date	Sarah
Week of Oct 19	Email 2020-2022 term (re)election reminder to select members	Sarah
Week of Oct 19	Add Twisp and UWPP Projects-EAs to November 4 draft quarterly agenda	Sarah
Week of Oct 19	Add brainstorm priorities, video/post-production needs, OWG coordination update to November 4 draft agenda	Sarah
By Week of Oct 26	Set PWG mtg. to develop Twisp EA comment letter	Pete Teigen/UCSRB
Early-to-mid November	Provide UWPP EA sneak peak	Darren Gooding/OWNF
By December 2 SC	Explore County, Tribal GNA authority as a tool for Nason Project	Mike, Brandon Rogers/YN
By December 2 SC	Draft update to Supervisor's Letter of Commitment to NCWFHC; Distribute for NCWFHC review	Mike Anderson/TWS & Kristin Bail/OWNF; Sarah