

Present: Patrick Haggerty (Cascadia Conservation District, Co-Chair), Amanda Newell (Cascadia Conservation District, Co-Chair), Nicole Jordan (UCSRB staff - Facilitator), Sarah Walker (UCSRB staff), Mike Kaputa (Chelan County Natural Resources Dept.), Kevin Arneson (Boise Cascade), Jim Passage (Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Communities), Lloyd McGee (The Nature Conservancy), Deb Kelly (Okanagan Wenatchee National Forest), Victoria Wilkins (Okanagan Wenatchee National Forest), Sam Israel (Methow Valley Citizens Council)

Approval of November Outreach Workgroup Draft Meeting Summary

Patrick Haggerty, Outreach Workgroup (OWG) Co-Chair, asked participants for any revisions to the November 2020 meeting notes. Workgroup members approved the draft meeting summary with no revisions.

Quarterly meeting update

The group reviewed outreach follow up from the North Central WA Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC) meeting in February. The Mission and Twisp Projects may both have upcoming associated outreach needs and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) staff said they are in favor of outreach support in the form of messaging and coordination on general outreach. Prospective volunteers for a fieldtrip planning subgroup were identified as Sam Israel, Mike Lui, Victoria Wilkins, Chrystal Elliot (as a connector with the Projects Workgroup).

Patrick referenced the Topash Collaborative as having different structure in that there is a Project Subgroup for each Forest Service (FS) project which consists of both project and outreach elements. This approach could keep outreach around projects more productive. Given the current efforts to formalize the level of collaborative engagement NCWFHC will have on each project and plan for collaborative touchpoints, the OWG also recommends this process include identifying the FS appetite for outreach support, and the members of the Collaborative which would be the leads for supporting project specific outreach.

- Action: The OWG requested a standing agenda slot on the NCWFHC to review any new projects coming on board for the OWNF and identify members of our OWG or other members of the Collaborative interested in being an outreach point of contact for that project.
- Action: Nicole and Patrick will work with the Project Workgroup (PWG) to clarify field trip needs and potentially form a subgroup to coordinate outreach for the Mission and Twisp projects in unison with the OWNF.

Thinning Conversation

The Outreach Workgroup discussed messaging the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) is working on regarding the role of commercial harvest in forest restoration. Victoria requested support in messaging around the role of commercial harvest through looking at the forest restoration strategy and why the forest engages with the commercial sector. Patrick suggested the group keep the topic of reviewing outreach projects related to commercial thinning in the restoration strategy on future OWG agendas.

- Action: Victoria will work on putting together a questionnaire on messaging for role of commercial harvest in the region to send out before the discussion at the next OWG meeting. Nicole Jordan, Sam Israel and Jim Passage offered to support this effort.

Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project (UWPP)

The comment period for the UWPP ended February 12. The OWG discussed utilizing the comments submitted in the forest service's comment periods (such as the UWPP) as a source of potential stakeholder contacts for inviting to future NCWFHC meetings. These contacts could serve to build better partnerships with stakeholders more interested in being more part of the collaborative process.

- Action: Sarah will add the topic of "utilizing comment periods as a way to build community interest in the NCWFHC process" to the upcoming Steering Committee meeting.

Other

The group also discussed ways to support the OWNF in their press release needs. The OWG workplan is ready for the full NCWFHC approval. The OWG Co-Chairs and Nicole prepared a general outreach video strategy and collected proposals from several organizations (on file now) in case any Collaborative members are interested in sponsoring the endeavor.

- Action: Nicole will connect Sarah with North40 for a live link to the NCWFHC section of the Chelan outreach video to share at the next quarterly meeting.
- Action: Nicole will forward the workplan to the full NCWFHC for their approval.

Topics for next meeting:

- Condition based strategy workshops/trainings
- Thinning discussion follow up
- Field trip check ins for Mission/Twisp Projects.