



March 22, 2019

Forest Supervisor Mike Williams
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters
215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Supervisor Williams,

The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative would like express our support for the Purpose and Needs of the Mount Hull Restoration Project and the actions listed within the Draft Environmental Analysis.

Launched in 2013 with facilitation by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative is a diverse group of local and regional stakeholders working together to advance forest health through transparent and inclusive actions which improve forest resiliency, provide healthy habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, protect natural resources, provide for recreational opportunities and utilization of natural resources, and support our local economy on forested land in Chelan and Okanogan Counties. We have been engaged with you on the Mt. Hull Restoration Project since 2016, including investment in the landscape analysis and field reconnaissance. It is meaningful to see this project nearing a final Environmental Analysis and decision, moving one step closer to implementation.

We support the project purpose and need to improve hydrologic function, particularly on Tonasket Creek; maintain and restore vegetation patterns; enhance wildlife habitat; reduce wildfire hazard; and modify the transportation network. In general, we support plans to treat Mt. Hull with 7,600 acres of commercial thinning, to treat 9,600 acres with non-commercial thinning, and to treat 19,000 acres with prescribed fire.

While our collaborative supports the actions within the draft Environmental Analysis, through our review of the restoration needs and information analyzed to date it is clear that this project is only part of a long-term strategy for management to foster restoration and resiliency in this landscape. Individual members of our collaborative will continue to discuss and may provide additional written comments with your agency concerning priority restoration needs that were not included within this decision. Our collaborative is committed to all future discussions on possible actions to build upon this decision in the years to come.

NCWFHC strongly supports the ability to implement parts of the project that are adjacent to DNR land through the use of GNA in this case, in addition to productive communication between DNR and OWNF.

Consider using all available tools, to assist in the full and timely implementation of restoration activities proposed by Mt. Hull EA.

Looking forward, North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative is keenly interested in the implementation and monitoring of the final decision. Members of our Projects Workgroup would like to engage with your district about strategic implementation planning and possibly leveraging financial resources to facilitate timely implementation of the full decision. Additionally we discussed developing a monitoring component of our work and believe Mt. Hull could provide a baseline monitoring before implementation begins, and look forward to discussions with your district to help guide our implementation and effectiveness monitoring priorities.

We would like to emphasize our appreciation for the Tonasket Ranger District's collaborative approach to this project, and we hope that same dedication and commitment to collaboration continues following a final decision. In the event of an objection, we would like to participate as an interested party.

Please contact Pete Teigen, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and NCWFHC facilitator, (509) 662-4710 or pete.teigen@ucsrb.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Partin, American Forest Resource Council
NCWFHC Co-Chair



Lloyd McGee, The Nature Conservancy
NCWFHC Co-Chair

Copied: Kathy Johnson, District Ranger
Luke Cerise, Project Lead