

## Members Present

**Conservation Northwest:** Jen Watkins; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Tim Vugteveen; **Chelan County:** Mike Kaputa; **Washington Department Fish & Wildlife:** Matt Ruggiello; **Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group:** Jason Lundgren; **Cascadia CD:** Patrick Haggerty; **Yakama Nation:** Hans Smith; **TNC:** Lloyd McGee; **TWS:** Mike Anderson; **Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF):** Chris Furr, Luke Cerise, Susan Thomas; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB, Facilitators):** Pete Teigen;

*The November 30, 2018 PWG Meeting Summary was approved without edits and will be uploaded to NCWFHC.org and the shared site.*

## NCWFHC Project Selection Process

Based on conversations and previous meetings there had been a lack of clarity about which projects the NCWFHC chose to engage. The group was presented with the PWG Charter Version 2.3 (March 2014) which includes three criteria which are the basis for selecting projects. Additionally, the group discussed the six elements in which they may engage on projects also identified in the Charter. The question was raised about how project selection align with OWNF's Unified Program of Work (UPOW) and it was articulated that since NCWFHC primarily focused efforts on federal lands that its efforts aligned quite closely. The group did not think any changes or amendments in project criteria were needed.

The current and previous two work plans are laid out in a narrative format compared to early formats that were in table form. The group discussed the value and utility of both options to track efforts. The group likes the idea of tracking projects both forms, if possible. A question was posed as to whether the OWNF had any proposed salvage treatment projects on the docket this year, which the Forest indicated it did not.

*The PWG approved the 2019-20 workplan with the goal to revisit the workplan during the Fall 2019 meeting to ensure 2020 work elements still aligned.*

## Action Items:

1. Pete will work on updating the previous table version of the workplan to reflect recent work in which NCWFHC has engage.

## Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project

Public scoping period closes on March 27 and the Collaborative is working on submitting a scoping letter by the deadline. There recently was an open-house at the Lake Wenatchee Recreation Center which served to answer public questions about the project. Mick Lamar gave an introduction, followed by presentations and discussions from OWNF staff. The meeting was well attended, and several Collaborative members attended, with an online streaming option which was well received by interested people who couldn't attend in person. There was not a terrestrial update. The aquatics group has been waiting for the aquatic assessment report from the Forest, which the contractors had submitted previously. When they have that document, they'll reconvene a meeting to review.

### **Action Items:**

2. Susan Thomas will follow up with Paul Kelly to check the status on the aquatic's report/assessment.

### **Mt. Hull**

The comment period has closed, and the District is in the process of reviewing and addressing comments. At this point they did not think there was enough opposition or concern to warrant developing another alternative, though they may have to modify the current alternative to address some of the concerns. Members of the PWG met a couple of times to review the Draft Environmental Analysis, ask questions and discuss submitting a letter. The group drafted a letter, had it approved by the Collaborative, and submitted it for consideration. The OWNF hopes to have a Final EA in late April or early May then open the 45-day comment period. If there are no objections, then the Decision could be out in mid-June or mid-August if there are objections.

### **Twisp**

Methow Valley Ranger District plans to go visit the landscape within the next couple of weeks, though the snow means they'll have to use snow machines. They had received the Landscape Evaluation work from Tim Downing and will need to ground truth it when they can access parts of the landscape. Portions of the upper Twisp area were impacted by fires in 2018 and the total extent is unknown. The District Ranger invited PWG member to a field trip after District staff wrap their heads around the landscape and could possibly do so in June or early fall depending on fire season and accessibility. As part of the yearly celebration the SC and OWG is working with the District and staff to potentially visit parts of the Twisp planning area.

Yakama Nation completed the stream surveys using level 2 protocols and did reach assessments in portions of the watershed, and they may contribute to portions of Wolf Creek as well. The rough timeline is for Scoping to occur during the first part of FY2020 with Decision possible in FY2021.

### **Action Items:**

3. Pete will follow up with Chris Furr and MVRD staff to discuss options for a PWG field trip in either June or in the fall.

### **Mad Roaring Mills**

Yakama Nation did a reach assessment in the lower portions of the Mad Roaring, and the Entiat Ranger District is currently reviewing that work, though much of the upper Mad was not included in that work. It was unclear if the District would be willing to expand the efforts of their planning in those areas. Along with this landscape, there is interest in Muddy Fox planning area because of the high aquatic value, so at the next meeting have District staff available to discuss both Mad Roaring and Muddy Fox would be beneficial to PWG members.

### **Action Items:**

4. Pete will connect with James Simino and invite him to the next PWG meeting to discuss both Mad Roaring project and Muddy Fox efforts to discuss potential collaboration.

### **Monitoring**

The group discussed two types of monitoring: (1) Implementation monitoring- which the OWNF updates annually to ensure projects are being implemented. The Collaborative can use this to work to identify

gaps or areas that members could help implement. (2) Effective monitoring- often referred to as third party monitoring which seeks to see if treatments are having the intended effect on the landscape. Areas of interest would be various vegetation treatments, basal area targets (is the actual cut what it is projected to be), and road closure measures (are roads really being closed or do individuals still access them). PWG members agreed that perhaps a subgroup could work out the details and report back to the larger group. The group agreed that it didn't want to create redundancy with the work that OWNF currently monitors but is interested in working together with OWNF.

#### **Action Items:**

5. Pete will convene a group of Collaborative members interested in monitoring (interested participants thus far include Lloyd McGee, Kevin Arneson, Jen Watkins, George Wooten, and Tom Partin) to formulate a plan for proceeding.

#### **Updates**

Toroda-Tonata All Lands Discussion is Friday, April 5 at the Okanogan PUD in Okanogan, WA. The two forests agreed doing independent projects was the best approach and will adhere to their own timelines and planning efforts, but there is still value in holding a joint meeting for partners to learn more. Members are encouraged to participate.

PNW Forest Collaborative Workshop will be April 11-12 in Hood River, OR. Some NCWFHC members are planning to go and others are encouraged to attend as well. For more information contact Sustainable NW.

A member mentioned that Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program could be a viable option for OWNF and NCWFHC and would include a monitoring component as well.