

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin; **Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group:** Jason Lundgren; **Cascadia CD:** Patrick Haggerty; **Colville Confederate Tribes:** Matt Young; **Conservation NW:** Mike Liu, Kathleen Gobush; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **TU:** Crystal Elliot; **Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF):** Meg Trebon, Darren Gooding; **TNC:** Lloyd McGee; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Everitt Merritt, Tom Franz; **Washington Department Fish & Wildlife:** Gary Bell, Lynda Hoffman; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB, Facilitators):** Pete Teigen, Ryan Niemeyer;

The September 2019 PWG Meeting Summary was approved without edits and will be uploaded to NCWFHC.org and the shared site.

Project Workgroup Planning

The PWG walked through the 2019 Workplan and discussed what elements should remain and which should come off. One piece the group discussed in detail was some of the “foundational work” that OWNF had engaged in during FY2018 and 2019. PWG decided to keep those elements on the workplan and ask for a follow up on the status of those pieces from the OWNF Supervisors Office. The group did make some additions to the workplan and generally agreed that they approved it but wanted to review a “cleaned-up” version at the Quarterly. The PWG also discussed how to address Mt. Hull and other projects on the Tonasket Ranger District because that district sets in Okanogan County and many members of the NCWFHC represent the entire county. It was unclear if NCWFHC would continue to engage in Tonasket Ranger District projects even when that transitions to Colville NF. The PWG thought it a worthy topic for discussion with full Collaborative. The group also discussed chairing the PWG. Mike Liu volunteered and requested the Crystal stay on as well. Tom Partin said he did not have time to serve as a chair but did volunteer to help the chairs plan meetings and stay informed of developments on projects. The group thought this was a good idea. After calling for additional volunteers the group waited until the end of the meeting to call for volunteers again then officially approved Mike and Crystals as co-chairs.

PWG members approved Mike Liu and Crystal Elliot serving as co-chairs.

PWG members approved sending the PWG 2020 Workplan to the full Collaborative for approval at the May 2020 meeting, though they reserved the right to make edits or comments prior to final approval.

Action Items:

1. Pete will update and amend the PWG 2020 Workplan and send it to the PWG email list and to the Collaborative co-chairs for approval at the May 2020 quarterly meeting.
2. Pete will send to Darren and Teri Tucker the list of “foundational work” elements the PWG had been tracking and ask for an update at the May or August 2020 quarterly meeting.
3. PWG members want to have a call with Colville National Forest and OWNF to discuss implementation of Mt. Hull.
4. NCWFHC discuss at upcoming meeting if/how to engage on projects on the Tonasket Ranger District (it's the NCWFHC not the OWNF Forest Health Collaborative- does the group want to continue engaging with Tonasket RD when it's a part of the Colville NF?).

5. Tom Franz said he could brief the group (either at a full Collaborative or PWG meeting) on the positive contributions from DNR to the Mission Maintenance (WRRD) and Tillicum projects as a result of NCWFHC engagement.

Economic Matrix

Anjolene Price walked the group through the *Economic Matrix* that she and others developed as part of the UWPP but has applicability across the OWNF. The group has been meeting regularly to work through some of the issues that have arisen on certain OWNGF projects related to commercial sales that have received no bids. It sets out to be a useful tool that the Forest and others can pick up to understand if a commercial timber project is likely to be commercially viable or not based on various criteria. Criteria include harvest method, tree species composition, number of acres in potential unit, board feet per acre within potential unit, and haul distance and cost. The hope for the document is to aid OWNF staff and others in understanding all the variability that goes into commercial timber harvests and hopefully to aid Forest Service personnel when laying out units for sale.

Action Items:

6. Pete will send out the *Economic Matrix* to the PWG email list when he sends out the meeting summary and workplan.

OWNF Projects of Interest

Twisp

MVRD staff is still working on various reports though they are working remotely. There is some concern for how to accomplish the field work with the coronavirus and they are currently analyzing risk and trying to put measures in place to keep the field season on schedule. The timeline is to have a draft Environmental Analysis out in mid-August 2020 with a signed decision in June 2021. YN and CCT are actively working on developing options to do aquatic restoration work. OWNF is using condition based NEPA (often referred to as condition-based management) on this project as well.

UWPP

The new contractor is still working on drafting the Environmental Analysis and has sent chapter 1 and 2 to the WRRD office for review. They are still working on chapter 3, which is typically longer and they hope to have it complete in the coming weeks/month. The goal is to have a draft EA out in early June and the overall timeline for the project is still on schedule. OWNF had a call with two representatives from the LSR Workgroup and they are receiving good feedback about the project and how to proceed.

Mission Restoration

Certain aspects of the project are or have been implemented, though it has been legally challenged. OWNF reported that there has not been an injunction meaning the Forest can continue working and implementing the project. The Steering Committee has been discussing if/how to intervene or support OWNF with the legal challenge. OWNF mentioned they hoped to have resolution by the end of the calendar year.

Meg Trebon mentioned that MVRD has been working to amend the standards and guidelines on the Okanogan Forest Plan related to 1. Old growth and 2. Deer winter range cover since they have been seeking amendments for most of the projects they have analyzed. The Forest will likely use the

categorical exclusion though there will be a scoping period likely in the spring of 2020 with a public comment period in roughly July/August of 2020.

Action Items:

7. Pete will work with MVRD staff to try to schedule a meeting in mid-June 2020 to discuss the Twisp project and project elements.
8. PWG members would like to have a field trip of Twisp project possibly in the fall and AFRC suggested they could help put a joint field trip (like they did with the UWPP in 2019).
9. Pete will forward the Okanogan Forest Plan amendment to Sarah Walker, Chris Branch, and Lloyd to discuss the possibility of adding the discussion on a full Collaborative agenda for discussion and possible action.

Monitoring

The group agrees that monitoring the implementation of projects is extremely important and that there are multiple monitoring efforts occurring across the state. Pete said it is challenging without one or two people who could serve as a lead on this aspect. Everitt Merritt from DNR volunteered to act as a lead with regards to monitoring and report back to the group on updates and new developments (contingent on approval from his supervisor).

Action Items:

10. Everitt, Mike Liu and others will discuss and refine options for a monitoring program.

Updates

Lloyd updated the group that the Joint Task force has been meeting to discuss various options for a long-term stewardship contact.