

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC): Tom Partin, Lawson Fite, Sara Ghafouri; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascade Fisheries:** ABSENT; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Patrick Haggerty; **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT):** ABSENT; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** ABSENT; **Colville Tribal Federal Corporation - Timber:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest (CNW):** Mike Liu; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** ABSENT; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** Hannah Dewey; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding, Monte Kuk, Jeff Rivera, Chris Furr, Kathy Johnson; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Lynda Hoffman; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Everitt Merritt, Jennifer Watkins; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** ABSENT; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Melody Kreimes, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

Other Meeting Participants

Senator Cantwell's Staff: Rick Evans; **Congresswoman Schrier's Staff:** Kelli Scott

Regular Business

Chair McGee opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves. Sarah reviewed the meeting objectives and framed member decision requests.

Members approved the May 6, 2020 Quarterly meeting summary. The final will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

OWNF Process & Proposal Updates

Supervisor's Notes

Process-Admin-Staffing

The SO is reviewing applications to fill 2 timber management positions and the contracting officer position. The application period for the permanent Natural Resources Planning Officer and Naches Ranger positions closes soon. Concerns remain about capacity and unfilled positions in engineering and forestry. The Region and OWNF likely limiting permanent employees; moving toward a smaller work force and using term positions, teams and contractors. OWNF-CNF RD adjustments will change key staff positions.

R6 has not shared FY21 budget allocation with OWNF. SO anticipates notification in September. An update is planned for the October 7 SC mtg. Once OWNF knows its staffing capacity, can explore GNA with the state or county to fill the engineering shortfall.

5-year Plan Update

- FY21 POW focus is on understanding and confirming OWNF employee capacity and changes due to Tonasket RD transfer and having to zone and share staff differently.

- OWNF Target expectations will shift without Tonasket RD
- Tieton-Taneum watersheds are of interest to YN for restoration projects. Project work on FY20 YN projects has been pushed out due to COVID. Although short on a fish biologist, project on for FY24.
- Eagles to LP is listed in FY23; conversations should begin now regarding an A-Z approach.
- The Falls-Chewuch-Boulder project moved 1 year out lacking large-scale planning effort. Wanted space to meet target expectations and meet fuel needs on MVRD.
- R6 has not commented on OWNF 5-year plan submittal, which the SO is considering its current working model.
- The SO missed sharing 5-year plan adjustments with NCWFHC due to staff transitions; however, the intent is to align discussions with current capacity. Therefore, more discussion to come with NCWFHC after OWNF receives FY21 FTE cap and budget allocation.

Proposals, Policy

CFLRP

- Any new decision-info would likely be reported around budget allocation time of FY21.
- Additional OWNF resources would be needed in form of term position –either move existing staff into role and backfill or hire a new term position-- for CFLRP support.

Great American Outdoors Act

- 90 days to review initial info, implementation strategies.
- \$285 million allocated annually to address infrastructure and deferred maintenance.
- Will not go to fund forest service positions. Money is for projects on the ground.

Region and National office hold the Regional Supervisor accountable for targets that are based on harvest (board feet) not treated acres. Congress provides funding for forest management with harvest being the key. Until a change is made at that level the target will continue to be harvested volume.

Proposed Okanogan Forest Plan Amendments

The MVRD shared proposed standard and guideline amendments that would apply on a project by project basis to new projects only; not retroactive –does not apply if a project already has a decision. Applies only to very specific definition of old growth. Deer need forage to survive in winter vs. cover so the amendment is allowing treatment burns. The amendments will make NEPA more efficient; work smarter at a programmatic level vs. a plan amendment for each project.

UWPP

Draft EA comment period is planned for mid-September. A draft will be made available early for public and collaborative review.

Communication and Engagement Planning is required; however, due to COVID-19 community and stakeholder engagement planned for July has been pushed back. OWNF is now looking for a less formal structure to engage the public –virtual/webex vs. in-the-room meetings. Chelan County is hosting a

discussion with the Plain community on August 14 where information could be shared about UWPP. Chelan County is also considering a drive-in community meeting at Lake Wenatchee in Sept-October.

Chelan County is administering DNR grant funds to help the OWNF to accomplish UWPP Boundary survey and presale work; some may spill over to FY21. Contracts are in place for 5.5 miles of work and a contract with Peak Engineering is in place for presale work. Both project components are on track.

Terrestrial subgroup focus is on spotted owl data, id of any issues going into the EA and preparing for NEPA. Look at revised alternatives and provided comments to Jen Watkins. Terrestrial subgroup working to schedule discuss with OWNF re: what won't be included in the EA; ROD and monitoring.

The LSR work group and SO met on July 14 to discuss UWPP treatments and generate feedback:

- avoided nesting, roosting and foraging habitat
- clarify how much of the fuel break work has already been done vs. is proposed
- assurances of long-term maintenance
- provide as much specificity as possible within condition-based framework
- emphasize urgency of need for landscape treatment; apply new tools---probability of burn

Chuck and Darren will walk through to see where NCWFHC comments have been incorporated.

Twisp

Preliminary EA due out end of August; would like to have had it out early for folks to view. On target for June 2021 decision. A pre-level 1 meeting with the Services is planned for next week. MVRD has received some comments from LSR WG. Like with UWPP, challenge is how to engage with the public during COVID-19. The UWPP Economics subgroup will connect with IDT – Aaron Rowe, Anjolene, Matt Avery.

Mission

MVRD continues to consult with R6 re: timing of sale and litigation. The fire effects supplemental report is helping with path forward from sale in FY21.

Mission and Buttermilk stands are marked designation by prescription (dbp) vs. paint. DBP gets closer to target trees per acre. Marked timber sale vs. dbp = marked on the high end of trees per acre. dbp lower trees per acre. Result = more volume coming off. Help with goal of EA fuels and timber growth.

Mt. Hull

First sale 2019. Mt. Hull Stewardship portions were well received by the public (e.g., leaving firewood stands). Industry noted good prescriptions. Purchasers are looking forward to future sales.

Second Sale: Mac Stewardship is out for bid; should be sold in 2020 = est. 19,000 acres. Project will stay with OWNF.

Third Sale: Haley Stewardship is lined up on the ground = est. 15,000 acres. Project will move to the CNF.

Purchasers would appreciate all projects to be on the same forest. Matt Avery will be moving to the CNF and would be the common denominator, help ensure continuity.

Participants discussed a field trip to first sale site to look at monitoring opportunities. Kathleen Johnson and Matt Avery could be available. Given COVID-19 group size restrictions (5) a small representative committee could go to the field visit and take photos and notes to share back with PWG/SC members.

Mike Liu will coordinate among OWNF staff, those that expressed interest (Chris Branch, Crystal Elliot, Chuck Hersey, Anjolene Price), others

Project Work Group

The NCWFHC-PWG is sustaining support for Mt. Hull; however, for future projects (e.g., potential Toroda-Tonata), members will engage individually or through NEWFC with CNF. CNW is working with a graduate student at WSU on GIS mapping to enhance PWG planning, implementation efforts.

Members approved the PWG workplan by consensus

Outreach Work Group

Participants discussed UWPP virtual engagement-tour opportunities. A Virtual Tour for UWPP would be challenging in the short-term and require funding. The Darrington Collaborative/Anjolene is using a hybrid approach that involves a limited number of participants going to the field to collect video and photos and then sharing with the public in a web meeting.

Anjolene to provide feedback within the next month on how their hybrid approach worked with Nicole.

Patrick and Nicole will continue examining a hybrid approach (contact Anjolene) as well as the cost of higher-end virtual tour. Update at September SC meeting. Patrick will follow-up with new OWNF PAO week of 8/10; explore September options for live-stream or other informal way to interact with community, stakeholders.

Solicit info re: potential venues (Camp Zaniika) in the Upper Valley

Members approved the OWG workplan by consensus

Joint Tapash-NCWFHC Task Force (JTF) Recommendations

The temporary JTF met approximately every 3 weeks from August 2019 to June 2020 to look more deeply at how to increase pace-scale in highest priority landscapes aligned with OWNF 5-year plan and DNR 20-year strategic plan.

Melody/JTF facilitator walked participants through the JTF recommendations document and noted any long-term stewardship contract would need more resources than the OWNF currently has in terms of staff and budget. TNC will also present the recommendations document to Tapash Collaborative.

The OWNF needs to evaluate the JTF recommendations in relation to its workload. More direction will come from the SO after FY21 resources are known; hopefully by Sept 7. Subsequent internal SO discussion is also needed; plan for an October SC update.

The FS is 100% invested in concept but not sure of the how just yet. CNF does not have to contend with LSRs and the idea (A-Z) is new to the OWNF. Continued dialogue is needed about what we are willing to take on together, Eagle to LP or with the addition of Nason, Chumstick.

DNR completed Nason landscape analysis for pre-NEPA work and feasibility of adding these landscapes. Interest and desire for Nason to be included and pursue cross-boundary work to increase pace and scale; however, it comes down to capacity on the WRRD. Internal schedule has Eagle to LP including Chumstick and interest in adding Nason. That will require external resources, collaboration and partner assistance. These challenges, questions are identified in recommendations document; also in July SC summary.

NCWFHC goal should be to develop a proposal so that R6 would have a good idea of what we are doing. Focus should not be on putting dates on this document as things and capacity shift.

If NCWFHC chooses to support, need to develop an action plan with key messaging developed by SC. Anjolene/Economics subgroup will wait and act on NCWFHC decision.

Participants discussed putting together a national-level messaging package around the CFLRP landscape, push for interior appropriations/FS to do more long-term stewardship contracting.

DNR 20-Year Strategic Plan Update

DNR has 33 Forest Health Priority Watersheds across eastern WA; in 2018 had 21. DNR will be adding 4-5 new planning areas for FY22. Proposed areas include:

1. Little Naches/Crow
2. Lower Northshore of Lake Chelan (NCWFHC area)
3. Chewuch-Boulder (NCWFHC area; in 5-year plan as FY2025 decision so by FY22 better)

DNR will finalize list by November 2020. Email final input to Chuck by Friday, August 21, 2020.

NCWFHC Co-Chair Selection

Co-Chair McGee's 2-year term is ending in September and he is not seeking another term. As Quarterly meetings have shifted to August, members must select a new co-Chair to serve with Co-Chair Branch.

- Chris Branch nominated Mike Liu
- Lloyd McGee nominated Mike Anderson

Members discussed the nominees. Mike A. agreed to serve as Co-Chair for two years; however, he asked to serve an interim period of 3 months after which he will know if he will have the capacity to serve the

full 2-year term. Members agreed to decide at November Quarterly on SC membership for those whose 2-year terms are up in September 2020.

Members selected Mike Anderson as 2020-2022 Co-Chair by consensus

Mission Project Litigation

AFRC General Counsel and staff updated participants on the amicus briefs framework involving Yakama Nation; Chelan County; a small Environmental Group brief (TWS, CNW, MVCC) and an “umbrella” brief that will be filed by AFRC on behalf of remaining interested-able NCWFHC members.

Several members need either board or executive-level review of the draft Umbrella brief before formal commitment. DNR cannot be an official signer to the Amicus Brief but is part of the collaborative.

The Umbrella brief focus is to educate the court and judge on roles of this diverse collaborative working together and the benefits of the project. AFRC counsel is working with other counsel and informing them of plans to file brief. Will want to see what the government brief has in it prior to August 28 filing date.

- Draft of Amicus/Umbrella Brief will be out August 14 for Member review.
- Member comments due to Sara/AFRC by close of business Thursday, August 20.
 - Address any key missing parts of the story asap.
- Continued fatal flaw review and feedback due close of business August 24. Attorneys to have final edit authority.

Participants discussed preparation of a joint press release or news release showing NCWFHC consensus support for the Mission Project.

Members approved work on a draft now so it will be ready by Amicus brief filing on August 28. OWG with UCSRB help will possibly prep reporters so they are primed and ready. Front-end draft basics: who and why, general support of the project, have a couple of quotes.

- Mike Anderson, Mike Liu, Chris Branch, Lorah Super, Lloyd McGee, Crystal Elliot (aquatic view)
- Ask others (YN, Chelan Co)
- Patrick Haggerty to coordinate with UCSRB on outreach and press release assistance needs

Members approved Okanogan County with Commissioner Branch as the Declarant

Members approved AFRC Filing of “Umbrella” Brief with the draft text to come, Footnote for filing separate amicus briefs, all members in agreement.

Tasking Memo

DUE DATE	TASK	ASSIGNED TO
a.s.a.p. by 8/14	Coordinate re: OWNF presentation on UWPP at County meeting with Plain community on Friday, August 14.	Bob Bugert/Chelan County, Jeff Rivera/WRRD
a.s.a.p.	Email Government's Brief, comments to Sarah Walker for distribution to NCWFHC members	Sara Ghafouri or Lawson Fite/AFRC
a.s.a.p.	Share link to Administrative Record with Sarah W. for distribution.	Sara or Lawson
a.s.a.p.	Provide website url for early access-review of UWPP EA to PWG and Sarah Walker/UCSRB.	Darren Goodding/OWNF
As able	Share link to map of Mac and Haley sale areas	Kathy Johnson/MVRD
As able	UWPP Economics Subgroup connect with Twisp IDT members Aaron Rowe and Matt Avery	Anjolene Price/Hampton
As able	Coordinate small group field trip of Mission sale area with representative members and Kathy and Matt Avery/MVRD.	Mike Liu/CNW and PWG
8/14/20	Email Draft Umbrella Brief to Sarah W. for distribution	Sara or Lawson
c.o.b. Thursday, 8/20/20	Submit key suggested edits on Draft Umbrella Brief to Lawson Fite and Sara Ghafouri	NCWFHC Members
c.o.b. Monday, 8/24/20	Submit final 'Fatal Flaw' edits on Umbrella Brief Due to Lawson and Sara	NCWFHC Members and Legal Counsel
8/21/20	Email Input on Proposed New 2022 DNR Strategic Planning Areas to Chuck Hersey	NCWFHC Members
8/28/20	File C. Branch Declaration and Umbrella Amicus Brief	Sara or Lawson
8/28/20	Prepare Press Release or News Article on Amicus Briefs/Umbrella Brief	Lloyd McGee with Mike A, Lorah S, Crystal E, Mike L, Chris B, others?
By 9/2/202 SC Meeting	Coordinate with Anjolene regarding results of hybrid tour results, applicability to UWPP	Nicole Jordan/UCSRB and Patrick Haggerty/CCD
9/2/2020 SC Meeting	Coordinate with new OWNF Public Affairs Officer on UWPP virtual outreach-tour options and share	Patrick
9/2/2020 SC Meeting	Present Lessons Learned evaluation of pilot projects including UWPP	Lloyd McGee/TNC
9/2/2020 SC Meeting	Confirm Steering Committee representatives for 2020-2022, for approval at November Quarterly mtg.	Sarah Walker/UCSRB

