

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascadia CD:** Patrick Haggerty; **Chelan County:** Keith Goehner, Mike Kaputa; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust:** ABSENT; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** ABSENT; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard (CTSY):** Bob Anderson; **Conservation Northwest:** Jen Watkins & George Wooten; **National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR):** Jim Bartelme; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee, Cathy Baker, Theo Volt, Caitlin Doughty; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot-Perez; **US Forest Service – OWNF:** Teri Tucker, Susan Thomas, Holly Krake, Bob McGregor, James Simino, Jeff Rivera; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Matt Scott; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Carmen Andonaequi; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Cindy Tonasket; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society:** ABSENT; **Yakama Nation:** ABSENT; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (Facilitators):** Melody Kreimes, and Pete Teigen

Other Meeting Participants

Other: Cary Condotta, Washington State Representative; Scot Ebel, National Park Service; Bob Bugert Public; Jim Passage, Public; Deb Wadkins, Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community

Regular Business

September 6, 2017 Quarterly Meeting summary was approved without edit or revision. Final copy will be put on the NCWFHC.org website.

OWNF Restoration Program

Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) provided an overview of the Restoration Team, which is a multidisciplinary team providing leadership to implement the OWNF Restoration Strategy. The Restoration Team is responsible for 1. forest-wide coordination, 2. standard guidelines and procedures, 3. technical expertise and guidance, 4. data needs and consistency, 5. periodic evaluations, updates, & revisions to Forest Restoration, 6. promoting the vision and guiding principles for the Restoration Strategy. The Restoration Team is comprised of primarily of OWNF staff, though Collaborative members or staff from PNW Research Station may serve in ad hoc capacities.

Within USFS Region 6 forests were asked to develop and submit a 5-year integrated restoration plan. The plans should include a broad array of restoration activities, discussion of increasing pace and scale of restoration, could be used as a tool to work with the public, and can help inform investment decisions and future capability requests. Plans consist of four parts: a narrative, timeline of projects, a table of projected outputs, and a map. Some projects on the 5-year plan of interest to NCWFHC are: 2018 Foundation Work, Mission, Mt Hull; 2019 Upper Wenatchee; 2020 Twisp and Lower Toroda. There are also scheduled fish habitat projects across multiple districts each year.

The Foundation Work is a priority for FY2018 including the creation of an LSR “road map”, LSRA Update, a white paper to support a change to the policy interpretation involving treatments in stands over 80 years old. Other components include addressing OWNF’s ESA backlog and process improvements to create efficiencies and clarity in ESA and NEPA processes. OWNF will probably not have a written LSR deliverable by end of FY2018 rather have it ready to apply it to UWRP and Manastash-Taneum.

Collaborative members expressed a desire to help OWNF work with the Regional Ecosystem Office or write letters urging REO's prompt attention to this matter.

OWNF Metrics

An ongoing conversation for the NCWFHC, and other collaboratives, is the need to track how well they are doing in increasing pace and scale of restoration, which is the genesis of this topic. Over the past year NCWFHC members have participated in a number of conversations to identify metrics that could serve as a baseline for tracking OWNF's restoration progress, which the forest agreed to share. OWNF is also responsible tracking a suite of 6 performance measures that are reported to USFS Region 6 and Washington Offices. The six metrics are 1. Acres Treated, 2. Number of Watersheds moved to an improved condition class, 3. Timber volume sold, 4. Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced, 5. Miles of roads decommissioned, 6. Number of stream crossings constructed, reconstructed or removed to provide for aquatic organism passage. The eight metrics NCWFHC submitted to OWNF for reporting on are (with actual 2017 metric in parenthesis): 1. Miles of high clearance system roads rated as moderate or highly to aquatics that were improved (1.22 miles), 2. Volume of timber sold (67,000 CCF/35 MBF), 3. Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced (16 miles), 4. Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class (no data), 5. Number of watersheds restored (1,542,110 acres), 6. NFS acres of fuels mitigated in the WUI (2,556 acres), 7. FS and adjacent WUI high-priority acres treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire (17,294 acres), 8. Acres of harvest-related woody fuels treated (2,453 acres). NCWFHC has a desire to better understand the methodology OWNF and FS use to gather and develop these metrics.

Collaborative members asked several questions relating to how the data and metrics were collected specifically how the OWNF identified 1,542,110 acres of watersheds (HUC 6 level) restored and is fire wood sales were included in the timber volume numbers (yes). It was also suggested that it would be extremely valuable to ensure that FS leadership and staff have a solid understanding of the metrics and how they are tracked to ensure they are accurately captured. The Project Workgroup is also going to begin discussing monitoring and having a metric to evaluate monitoring would be helpful.

Washington State DNR 20-Year Strategic Plan

Chuck Hersey provide an overview of Washington State Department of Natural Resources 20-Year Strategic Plan and where they are in their process for identifying priority landscapes for treatment. DNR has completed HUC 5 watershed analysis for the creation of the strategic plan and is currently working on HUC 6 analysis. DNR is leading the process but would like support and guidance from eastside collaboratives as well as US Forest Service lands to try to align the work. Their goal is to analyze approximately 200,000 acres this year with the potential for an appropriations request from the legislature in the 2019 budget request due out fall of 2018. DNR is on a tight timeline because the Forest Health Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for the first week of February.

Action Items:

1. After DNR meets with OWNF on January 10, Pete will coordinate a meeting with DNR, OWNF and NCWFHC members interested in learning more about this process and the prioritized list.

Project Workgroup Update

Project Workgroup remains supportive and open to engage in OWNF Foundational Work, though to date engagement has been limited.

MT Hull- Scoping letter was sent out January 2, 2018 and there is a 30-day comment period.

Mission- NCWFHC has been informed that there is a goal of January 30 to have the Environmental Analysis out. There were several questions that could not be answered by OWNF staff in attendance including: Will it be a timber sale or stewardship contract? Why weren't more acres included for treatment on slopes with greater than 30% slopes? What specifically with the did the soil scientist analysis say?

Action Items:

2. Jen and Pete will set the agenda for the February 5 Project Workgroup meeting and work with MVRD and Tonasket RD to have representation there to discuss Mission and Mt. Hulls projects.
3. Pete and Jen will continue working on a project schedule for NCWFHC to identify where projects are in their cycle and if there are gaps or needs NCWFHC can address.
4. PWG will begin discussing monitoring and how to create an effective monitoring program.

Outreach Workgroup Update

With NCWFHC's 5-year anniversary in June, the Outreach Workgroup has begun looking at options for a celebration. Two thoughts were to (1) have members contribute financially and have a catered event or (2) a similar celebration to 2017 when a no-host event was planned at a winery in Chelan and attendees paid for their own food and drinks. No decisions were made, but no members volunteered to contribute any money toward an event. The OWG is working with OWNF staff on putting together a field trip of the Upper Wenatchee area for June 7 for members. It would likely be a half day event that would allow folks to gain a better understanding and perspective on the Upper Wenatchee landscape. There will be more details about both at the March quarterly meeting.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board rebuilt the Collaborative's website and established its own domain, so it's no longer attached to www.ucsr.org. The new domain is www.ncwfhc.org, the content was taken directly from the previous version and could be updated.

The Outreach Workgroup continues to be the de facto home for the Communication and Engagement Committee of the Upper Wenatchee Restoration Pilot team. Things are moving along and a draft of the Communication and Engagement Plan is currently out to the sub-committees soliciting feedback, with input due close of business 1/26/2018.

Action Items:

5. OWG will continue to work on the 5-year celebration/field trip and present a more detailed option at the March 7 NCWFHC meeting.

Upper Wenatchee Pilot

The UWRP Core Team is working on developing the Request for Proposal for the contracting NEPA work and will use parts of the Manastash-Taneum RFPs. OWNF and RC&D will work within the pilot structure to solicit specific feedback from the aquatic and terrestrial subgroups, with the goal to have the RFP completed by the end of February. There was a meeting in December where the results of the landscape evaluation was shared, project timeline was reviewed and the plan for first quarter 2018 were discussed. The subgroups all have meetings during January and/or February with a significant focus being on NEPA contracting RFP, data and survey needs, and critical steps moving into the 2018 field season.

The UWRP Team asked that the Collaborative review and approve the Pilot Goals, which were left purposely generic to be able to reach the broadest audience as possible. After discussion in-terms of some of the language, the Collaborative was reminded that District Ranger Jeff Rivera would be responsible for the final say, though he would give consideration to the suggested language.

Project documentation can be found on the Google Shared Drive:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BwOiNy7K742Ic3JWdjdXQndsYXM>

NCWFHC approved to allow OWNF to modify the goals with suggested language (relating to goal 2 with the inclusion of 'neighbors,' 'landowners,' 'neighbor-landowner,' under consideration). With the feedback provided NCWFHC agreed to approve the goals.

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Updates

- Project Workgroup Quarterly meeting February 5, 2018
- Steering Committee February 7, April 4, May 2, 2018
- NCWFHC Quarterly March 7, 2018
- NCWFHC Quarterly June 6, 2018 with UWRP Field Trip June 7, 2018