

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascadia CD:** ABSENT; **Chelan County:** ABSENT; **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):** ABSENT; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** Stan Janowicz; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee, Aaron Paul; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot-Perez; **US Forest Service – OWNF:** Teri Tucker, Susan Thomas, James Simino, Ryan Nehl, Matt Reidy, Dennis Valdez; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Matt Scott, Josh Anderson; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Carmen Andonaequi; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Cindy Tonasket; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch, Andy Hover, Char Schumacher; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** Dale Swedberg; **The Wilderness Society:** ABSENT; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (Facilitators):** Melody Kreimes and Pete Teigen

Other Meeting Participants

Other: Ann Diamond, Candidate for Washington State Representative; Cody Desautel, Colville Tribe; Jessica McCarthy, Congressman Newhouse's Office; Richard Evans, Senator Cantwell's Office; Mike North, Colville National Forest

Regular Business

January 3, 2018 Quarterly Meeting summary was approved with slight revision. Final copy will be put on the NCWFHC.org website.

NCWFHC Members Approved Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Communities membership request in the Collaborative.

Welcoming New Participants

Given the upcoming 5-year celebration, the addition of a few new Collaborative members, and a change in representation from some of the members, members thought it would be beneficial to spend some time re-acquainting themselves with one another and better understanding each's interest in participating in the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative. Members and meeting participants went around the room and described their organizations' interest in participating in NCWFHC.

Colville National Forest A to Z Project Presentation

Mike North, Contracting Officer from Colville National Forest, discussed the A to Z Project on the Colville National Forest. This is a ten-year stewardship contract in which Vaagen Bros. agreed to pay for the NEPA contracting work in exchange for the wood supply at the advertised market rate. It was extremely important to Vaagen Bros. that this project did not take resources or energy away or disrupt from the CNF's normal program of work. The total planning area was approximately 55,000 acres of which NEPA cleared approximately 23,000 acres for treatment producing an estimated 150 million board feet, which was more than the Forest had initially thought (50+/- mbf). An estimated 20% of the volume went to non-Vaagen Bros. mills in the area benefitting other businesses. Part of the reason for this increase is attributed to the approach of looking at the whole watershed and including all treatment options

(helicopter, ground, and cable). The contractor also acted as quality control with the FS conducting quality assurance through monitoring of reported work.

The project has been successful in part because of three components:

1. Industries willingness to take on the risk associated with paying for such a large NEPA project.
2. The Forests ability/desire to take on a risk on their end.
3. Support from Congress because it needed a change to stewardship authority and approval from USFS Chief.

Stewardship money from the project paid for 31-32 aquatic organisms passage projects, decommissioning and movement of a road, ¼ mile of stream reconstruction to historical condition, some road armament, and prescribed burning on all the treated acres. Researchers from the Rocky Mountain Research Station to track the project and synthesis lessons learned.

Action Items:

1. Pete will follow-up with Mike North and the Rocky Mountain Research Station about learning more about the lessons learned.

The Nature Conservancy's Restoration Needs and Wood Supply Assessment Phase II

Aaron Paul and Lloyd McGee from the Nature Conservancy presented phase II of the wood supply assessment that they have been working on for the past year. It is based on Ryan Haugo's (TNC) work in the restoration needs assessment. The study looked at four questions in determining the wood supply (volume) across the region.

1. Business as usual model- if current conditions remain the same
2. If management was based solely on restoration work
3. The cost for conducting work based solely restoration
4. How land owners and managers could benefit if new forest product infrastructure was introduced in the region.

TNC worked with land managers and owners to define land allocation across the region to determine what types of treatments are appropriate based on those allocations. For example, on USFS land they looked at two categories: low intensity treatments and higher intensity treatments (for matrix land).

Based on question 1 there would be approximately 2.7 billion board feet treating approximately 270,000 acres. By focusing on restoration treatments there would be as much as 5.9 billion board feet treating approximately 950,000 acres. A new small diameter saw mill in the region could potentially add \$370 million to land managers over the next 20 years.

Project Workgroup Update

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

MT Hull- Approximately 20,000-acre planning area with 4700 acres of possible treatments with some possible meadow restoration, big horn sheep work, plus more.

Mission- Decision is expected around March 15 with a 45-day objection period plus an objection resolution period. The forest expects to have the appraisal finished this spring and they expect roughly 6 million board feet in Libby Creek which would be through a Stewardship Contract and 3 million board feet in Buttermilk through a traditional sale.

Twisp- The forest wants to do photo interpretation and ground truthing so they can run EMDS this fall (FY2019). To help with the project timeline it would be good to start doing owl calling because to the 2-year requirement. DNR may be able to help with LiDAR acquisition, Yakama Nation with aquatic work. Tillicum- There are some existing needs including some road improvement and decommissioning work, focused thinning to create fuel breaks along some ridgetops, and 20,000 acres of potential treatments for small trees (non-commercial).

Action Items:

2. Jen and Luke Cerise (OWNF) will work together to provide information about the Travel Analysis Plan and possible field tours of Mt Hull planning area.
3. PWG will meet to discuss next steps on Mission Restoration project and potentially drafting a letter of support for approval through the Steering Committee.

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.

Action Items:

4. OWG will continue to work on the 5-year celebration/field trip to work out logistics and more details and more information will be shared as needed.

Upper Wenatchee Pilot

The Landscape Evaluation is complete and uploaded to the Google Shared Drive (link below). The LiDAR was recently sub award was recently sent out. The NEPA contractor request for proposal is nearly complete and will be out within a week. Once that is out WA RC&D will hold some information sessions and work to resolve any questions that potential bidders have. The UWPP is still on track to have a NEPA decision by the end of 2019.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Updates

- Steering Committee April 4 & May 2, 2018
- Mike Liu Retirement Part June 2
- LSR Workgroup Discussion/Meeting week of May 21
- NCWFHC Quarterly June 6, 2018 with UWRP Field Trip June 7, 2018