

Members Present

American Forest Resource Council: Tom Partin; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascadia CD:** ABSENT; **Chelan County:** Keith Goehner, Mike Kaputa; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust:** ABSENT; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** Jen Watkins; **Colville Tribal Sort Yard (CTSY):** Bob Anderson; **Conservation Northwest:** Dave Wernitz & George Wooten; **National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR):** ABSENT; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Lorah Super; **The Nature Conservancy:** Lloyd McGee; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot-Perez; **US Forest Service – OWNF:** Teri Tucker, Albert Watson, Susan Thomas, Paul Nash; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Matt Scott; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Carmen Andonaequi; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Trevor McConchie, Ken Bevis; **Okanogan County:** Comm. Chris Branch, Char Schumacher; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society:** ABSENT; **Yakama Nation:** Hans Smith; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (Facilitators):** Melody Kreimes, and Pete Teigen

Other Meeting Participants

Other: Jessica McCarthy, Office of Representative Newhouse; Ann Diamond, Public; Sandra Strieby, Public;

Regular Business

June 7, 2017 Quarterly Meeting summary was approved with one comment regarding Susan Pritchard presenting on the benefits of thinning. The final summary will be posted online at: <http://www.ucsr.org/meetings/regular-meetings/>.

The following people were up for two-year renewal on the Steering Committee:

- Mike Anderson, The Wilderness Society
- Chuck Hersey, WA Department of Natural Resources
- Matt Scott, Vaagen Bros. Lumber
- Keith Goehner, Chelan County Commission
- Paul Ward, Yakama Nation Fisheries Dept.

NCWFHC members voted to approve all the willing SC members for two-year terms.

Okanogan County membership in NCWFHC. One county commissioner abstained from the county vote to join the collaborative while the other two voted in favor. NCWFHC was assured that Okanogan County is committed to being an active and engaged collaborative partner.

NCWFHC approved Okanogan County's membership in the Collaborative and as a member of the Steering Committee.

Paul Ward's tenure as NCWFHC Co-Chair had expired and due to other commitments, he chose not to renew his co-chair position. A call was put forth for voluntary Co-Chair to serve for two years. Chris Branch, Okanogan County, and Tom Partin, AFRC, both volunteered to serve. After discussion, including having three co-chairs, Commissioner Branch withdrew his name and asked to serve on the SC but will consider Co-Chair service in the future.

NCWFHC approved Tom Partin, AFRC, to serve as Co-Chair from September 2017 - September 2019.

OWNF Strategic Prioritization

OWNF created their 5-year Strategic Prioritization during 2016 which was to guide their landscape restoration activities. During the past year, forest leadership has come to believe that they were over ambitious with what they could accomplish. The forest is putting that version on hold and will focus on the following three project/areas for FY2018:

1. Upper Wenatchee Pilot
2. Manashtash-Taneum Project
3. "Foundational Work Plan"- these are internal projects/items that need to be addressed. This will help move projects from planning through NEPA and into implementation.

Teri reiterated the importance of the Upper Wenatchee Pilot and ensuring that NCWFHC are focusing efforts there in part because of the 20% match requirement with is over \$200,000 of in-kind or other support. OWNF is drafting a 5-year plan that they will present to the Region 6 office in October. NCWFHC has asked that they share that plan at either the October or November Steering Committee meeting.

NCWFHC members asked the OWNF if there are specific issues or items on the Foundational Work Plan that members could help address, either locally, regionally or nationally.

Action Items:

1. OWNF will share their 5-year plan that they are submitting to the Region 6 office with the Collaborative at an upcoming meeting (October or November).
2. OWNF and the SC will discuss some of the items on the foundational workplan and decide on where NCWFHC can be most useful (November).

Project Workgroup Update

Jen Watkins updated the group that much of the current workload is being handled by individual partners (ie. Crystal Elliot on Mission and Matt Scott on Tonasket) with the PWG focusing on a higher level of involvement. The work plan will begin on October 1 and aligns with the federal fiscal year. A full list of documents and projects are listed on the PWG Google Drive

Action Items:

3. Jen Watkins will coordinate with Pete Teigen to in for the group of the fall field trip to see the MT. Hull Project in Tonasket.
4. Jen Watkins will coordinate with the OWNF and James Simino and Kari Grover about securing Joints Chief funding for projects in Chelan and Entiat Districts.
5. Steering Committee will review and approve the PWG work plan for 2018.

GNA in Washington State

Trevor McConchie from Washington State DNR gave an update on the Good Neighbor Authority. Washington State DNR signed a statewide agreement with USFS Region 6 Office, the first of its kind between a region and entire state. Projects on local forests (OWNF) will use Supplemental Project Agreements.

Two projects in Washington that are underway are:

1. Bear Creek Restoration Thinning on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest
2. Block of Nine Thinning on the Colville National Forest.

Stewardship Contracting can go to hire DNR foresters to work on OWNF land and/or do stewardship work, money from the work would generally stay in that forest. There are many possibilities for the types of work that could be funded.

There are four sources of funding for the work:

1. State
2. Federal
3. Program income
4. Third party income (i.e. for NEPA work, etc.)

OWNF Mission Project Implementation

Based on additional analysis by OWNF, the forest is analyzing a 4th alternative with potentially 680 acres of additional thinning treatment. They are reviewing the 35% slope rule for short distances of less than 150 feet, the concern for work on steeper slopes is sedimentation and erosion. Approximately half of the 680 acres would be treated in the 35-40% slope areas, which is based in part to comments by NCWFHC and AFRC. There are no new acres for treatment in riparian management zones. The MRRD is working on finishing the analysis with Derek Churchill's assistance. They are targeting November-December to have it out for public comment.

OWNF Late Successional Reserve Assessment

There are multiple efforts underway to support implementation of the Forest Restoration Strategy, including within late-successional reserves on the OWNF.

1. The targeted Late Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA), which Bill Gaines was contracted to complete and applies to the Wenatchee National Forest,
2. A proposal requesting a change in policy interpretation by the Regional Ecosystem Office to better support treatment in stands over 80 years old to increase resiliency and meet the objectives defined in the Forest Plan as well as the OKA-WEN Forest Restoration Strategy.
3. Project-specific concurrence for proposed treatments in the Swauk Pine and Little Crow planning areas.

The Forest has been discussing:

1. Whether to incorporate the proposed change in policy interpretation regarding treatment in stands over 80-years into the targeted LSRA-update for the Wenatchee Forest, and
2. Whether to move forward with LSRA-update in advance of, or concurrent with the project-specific efforts for the Swauk Pine and Little Crow projects.

The following decisions have been made:

1. OKA-WEN will pursue a change in the 80-year policy interpretation separate from the targeted LSRA-update.
2. The LSRA-update will move forward concurrent with efforts for the Swauk Pine and Little Crow projects.
3. These efforts will be coordinated by the newly chartered Forest Restoration Team in coordination with District staff.

Teri reported that she and others had communicated with Doug Young, the USFS lead for the Interagency Late-Successional Reserve Work Group, regarding next steps for seeking concurrence on revisions to the Wenatchee National Forest Late Successional Reserve Update that was completed by Bill Gaines under contract. Doug Young had also been working with staff from the Naches Ranger District regarding a path forward for the Little Crow Project. Doug provided information to the Forest regarding the overall process for seeking concurrence and in requesting amendment to the standards and guidelines in the northwest forest plan amendments. [update: Teri recently learned that the USFS has

designated Max Wahlberg as the new agency representative to the LSR Work Group. Max is replacing Doug Young.

Action Items:

6. When the LSR Workgroup goes out in the field in FY2018, NCWFHC members will be invited to participate (possibly in the Upper Wenatchee Pilot area).

Upper Wenatchee Pilot

The Upper Wenatchee Pilot has a project team comprised many interested stakeholders with a Core Team that is helping consolidate and guide the project. The Core Team consists of representatives from OWNF, NCWFHC Steering Committee representatives (Chuck Hersey and Lloyd McGee) and members of the three subgroups terrestrial, aquatic, and outreach (the subgroups focus on their specific areas). Chuck Hersey passed out draft goals for the UWRP.

The Pilot core team had agreed to fund \$40,000 to secure LiDAR for the Upper Wenatchee area. Folks inquired if it would be possible to fly the Twisp River area simultaneously since it will be needed for Twisp and that is a project likely to be initiated in the near future. Teri announced that OWNF received an additional \$560,000 in supplemental fuels funding “committed” to the Pilot, though additional those need to be “obligated” by September 2017 and match is required. Chelan County indicated they could use some of their funding for match.

Action Items:

7. NCWFHC members will send any comments on the draft goals to Chuck Hersey.

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Updates

- Kevin Arneson mentioned that there may be an emerging market for small diameter logs.
- NCWFHC 5-year anniversary is June 2018 and Outreach Workgroup will work to plan a celebration.
- Next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is December 6, 2017 at the TBD; 10 am to 4 pm. Possible topics suggested: