

January 4, 2023

DRAFT Steering Committee Meeting Summary

Webinar/Teleconference

1:00-4:00 PM



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Proposed January 4, 2023, Agenda	Approved. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/
Proposed December 7, 2022, SC Meeting Summary	Approved with additions discussed. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/
Proposed Aquatic Recommendations for FRS	Approved
Proposed NCWFHC Letter of Support for UWPP	Approved

Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
Meeting Summary clarification	Sarah will attribute comments-questions in future meeting summaries
CWI Dashboard	Sarah to confirm launch date of CWI Dashboard with Kari Grover-Wier (possibly the beginning of February)
Mission Project Monitoring Report for OWNF	Sarah to follow up with Colleen for final report 1/13/2023
Monitoring & Adaptive Management Work Group objectives and charter development	Sarah to provide charter templates to Matt Danielson to support initial discussions.
Monitoring & Adaptive Management Workgroup volunteer committee to draft up protocols and charter	Matt Danielson to coordinate a meeting with Brandon Roger, Crystal Elliot, and Lloyd McGee and provide progress update at NCWHFC Quarterly on 2/1/23
Monitoring & Adaptive Management Workgroup	After Charter development, Mike Anderson to reach out to Resilient Forestry re: monitoring protocol development
Twisp Complaint	Tom Partin to talk to Hampton Lumber to determine AFRC path forward and coordinate with Brandon Rogers and Mike Kaputa by 1/6/2023. Sarah will help coordinate follow-up call.
Approval of Aquatic Recommendations for FRS	Mike Anderson to work on draft language for a letter of transmittal to OWNF with aquatic recommendations.
	Mike Anderson to draft letter of support to consider the SC FRS review recommendations by Bill Gaines
10-Year Anniversary Celebration preparation	Lloyd McGee to coordinate an OWG brainstorming meeting prior to the 2/1/2023 Quarterly meeting and include Anjolene
Quarterly Agenda Topic – 2022 Partner Accomplishments	ASAP, Sarah to see if Nicole Jordan has capacity to compile for 2/1/2023 Quarterly meeting
Location for February Quarterly meeting	ASAP, Sarah to confirm in-person venue in Chelan County for 2/1/2023 Quarterly meeting.
Invite list for 10 Year Anniversary Celebration	Mike Anderson to confirm Chief's schedule by 2/1/2023 Quarterly

Welcome and Regular Business

The facilitator and Co-Chair Anderson welcomed participants. Co-Chair Anderson opened the meeting and walked through the agenda and preparatory materials.

Members approved both the January 4, 2023 SC meeting agenda and the December 7, 2022, SC meeting summary with corrections. The final agenda and summary with corrections will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

OWNF Updates

CFLRP Annual Report to R6

Kerry Kemp reported the OWNF submitted the CFLRP Annual Report to the Region 6 Office on December 16. Highlights from the report include:

- CFLRP funding of \$1.4 million
- CWI match of \$1.5 million
- USFS match of \$1.2 million
- Partner in-kind contributions of \$397,500
- Partner match of \$5.85 million

A total of \$619,300 of the \$1.4 million was spent due to receiving the funding the end of April and having only 5 months before the end of the 2022 Fiscal Year which ended in September. The remaining funds can be rolled over and utilized in FY23.

The partner match of \$5.85 million was in aquatics work, GNA for Tillicum and DNR work on hazard fuels reduction. The contracts that go out with CFLR, partner match, and FS match dollars are labor and material intensive work. An economic model on local impact showed a \$1.9 million impact to direct labor and \$3.7 impact on labor income. The report highlighted acres of accomplishment for FY2022 which includes all contracts that are out and may not be completed. Some accomplishments do not fit under the acre matrix but where highlighted are:

- 21.8 miles of stream habitat restored
- 4602 CCF of timber harvest
- 4000 acres of thinning piling pruning in Tillicum
- 1 AOP installed

Q: Matt Danielson/ Lake Wenatchee fires as possible work done for this project. Fire risk reduced in area; how are these added up with the effectiveness of fire treatments (as we are still working on what that is)?

A: Kemp/ Accomplishments in FY22 reporting took a liberal approach; the whole area includes activities that helped. Signed or proposed work was included (past projects outlined work that met restoration objectives of CFLRP proposal). CFLRP is focused primarily on effectiveness; would need to decide if we want to monitor outcomes more specifically.

Central Washington Initiative

Kari Grover-Weir gave a brief update on the CWI. They are working on FY2023 contracts and agreements with the carryover of FY2022 funds. Work is being started to coordinate with County Fire Chiefs to identify and start to prioritize work in community wildfire prevention plans for FY2024 and beyond, implementing shelf stock for FY2022 and FY2023 and a 5-Year plan for the OWNF by fireshed in which DNR is helping to incorporate private lands. The CWI dashboard map showing what is being planned will

be shared in about a month. The CWI has completed filling the fish bio positions in Methow and Cle Elum and a data and tracking position but is still working on filling the soils position.

Q: Brandon/ Next steps for engagement meetings?

A: Kari/ reached out to Phil Rigdon re: CWI. Start with fire chiefs county by county. Reach out if you need more information.

Twisp Project Complaint

Colleen Malaney shared the OWNF is waiting on awarding the Twisp Project contract to Hampton Lumber. A briefing paper was developed and was shared with the Regional Forester. It will then go to the WO for approval. The OWNF has requested to move forward on awarding the contract.

Primary OWNF Point of Contact and Collaboration Products

Colleen briefed the Steering Committee on a primary OWNF point of contact. Good communication across any organization of size, complexity, and diversity is always going to be challenging but also of strategic importance. Identifying a single POC for both parties was acknowledged during the 2022 Collaborative Leadership Training facilitated by Sustainable NW as a step to improve the efficiency and accuracy of communication between the OWNF and NCWFHC. Currently the OWNF is drafting a document designed to establish a clear process and expectations for communication between the Forest and Collaborative.

Establishing a communication plan is intended to improve efficiency and accuracy of communication as well as avoid creating expectations that cannot be met and identify shared vision on where collaborating is the best alternative to accomplish desired outcomes. Being strategic in choosing when and where to be collaborative focuses everyone's effort where it will yield substantial progress, while minimizing the effort required of everyone involved. The OWNF is working on drafting this document that will be shared with the Collaborative when ready.

Presentation of FRS Review Final Report

Bill Gaines presented the findings from the review team's (Bill Gaines, Kerry Kemp, Derek Churchill, Paul Hessburg, Aja Woodrow, Pete Wier, James Dickinson, Cameron Thomas, and Susan Prichard) initial ideas on implementing considerations of the FRS that apply new science, key components in an aquatic landscape, socioeconomic components, and to better align FRS around the Spotted owl and consultation. The review teams key findings and management considerations are:

1. Reaffirm the use of landscape evaluations and landscape prescriptions as the preferred way to summarize the primary findings of the landscape evaluation.
2. OWNF and collaborators should continue to partner with WDNR to acquire and develop landscape evaluation analyses and data products that meet the needs of both agencies.
3. The OWNF, WDNR, and collaborative partners should convene a team to develop an aquatic landscape evaluation.
4. The WDNR science team develop a set of structure classes that are useful for communicating forest conditions and that can be derived from the PI attribute data.
5. As the OWNF revises and updates the Wenatchee and Okanogan LSR Assessments
6. Reference conditions to inform desired conditions – incorporate these considerations into a template for landscape evaluations.
7. OWNF develop a consistent set of Resource Indicators that better focus on Environmental Assessments – help streamline NEPA planning.
8. Develop a set of Resource Indicators that are thoroughly assessed under the No Action alternative and account for the effects of a wildfire.

9. Consider the recent DNR report as a summary of the “best available science” concerning the application of shaded fuel breaks and use it in project planning.
10. When managing in LSR’s consider all projects as “risk reduction” or complete a forest wide amendment to the 80 year old rule in dry forests to be consistent with current ecological understanding of this forest type.
11. Projects’ Purpose and Needs statements should continue to emphasize the restoration of large and very large trees.
12. The OWNF undertake a collaborative process to update the Forest Wide Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forest LSR and Managed Late Successional Area Assessments.
13. The OWNF collaborate with the USFWS to accomplish NSO recovery actions and the LSR Assessment update.
14. The OWNF and collaboratives consider formally adopting the Restoration Principles, forming a science team of 4-5 members of recognized experts in landscape restoration from a variety of disciplines, and holding a series of training workshops.

Brandon/ appreciate the comments of aquatic and on the way to having a watershed process and bring it all together. Flesh out landscape evaluation and this was completed. Take this forward and use to integrate terrestrial and aquatic.

Q: Mike K/ is there a way to integrate the two efforts? Helpful to bring them together and recommendations to do that. Is the collaborative taking any actions on this now?

A: Bail/ Need to get the right team together, to talk through indicators. Actions will come.

Q: Tom Partin/ Do you see these considerations and strategies of getting us out of this recurring fire issue we are in?

A: Bail/ It will take us a step, but it will only go so far. Some steps require added planning due to self-imposed issues that the FS can change. Put owl recovery in the context of landscape recovery. Lots of regulatory components and education and resetting the baseline.

Review Recommendations and Discuss Next Steps

- Would be good to explore benefit of a science team. Kerry would be an ideal person to lead. Could meet on an as needed basis or set meetings.
- Workshops would allow bringing a level of understanding around landscape evaluations (science and social understanding of what is working) and promote adaptive learning. Include FS, partners, collaborative; would benefit all these groups.

Presentation on Mission Project Monitoring

Kristen Bail gave an update on the Mission Project monitoring. The OWNF has reviewed the report completed by Methow Valley Citizens Council and is in the final review stages of completing a report that outlines learning opportunities and how we can better work together in the future with citizens and partners on projects that have a monitoring component. Implementation of Mission Project started over the summer with hauling out timber. No work to be done January through March.

Comment: Tom Partin/ Appreciate the OWNF allowing operations in the summer and drier months as it is usually limited to winter months.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management Work Group Formation

ID Interim Lead, Discuss Steps to Develop Charter, Objectives, etc.

The Steering Committee led by Co-Chair Anderson continued the meeting and discussed initiating the formation of a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workgroup. The group discussed setting up protocols, having a balance of representation, and determining the type of monitoring (implementation or effectiveness). The following Steering Committee members volunteered to convene the work on the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workgroup protocols and charter:

- Matt Danielson
- Brandon Rogers
- Crystal Elliot
- Lloyd McGee

Questions to answer in preparing protocols and charter:

- What niche will this monitoring fill?
- What type of monitoring does the FS do?
- Will this supplement the FS monitoring?
- Will this monitoring increase pace and scale?
- Look at CFLRP, UWPP, Resilient Forestry Olympic Charter ([Forest Health Monitoring – Olympic Forest Collaborative](#))

CNW noted a recurring theme of reacting to a conflict is present. Need for all hands to solve the problem (timber, vegetation, aquatic, wildlife, and soils).

TWS has \$10,000 for funding monitoring work in the area for FY23. The funding could go to a contractor to help with putting together a monitoring protocol. Mike A will explore this after charter development.

OWNF Staff Role, Participation Request

The Steering Committee agreed to request OWNF staff participation on Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workgroup, once defined. It may be beneficial to submit a list of project objectives to the OWNF and they can appoint a staff member for that project as a long-term liaison or possibly one staff from each district to be a liaison.

Immediate need: input to CFLRP monitoring subcommittee

- OWNF proposal due to R6 in April
- Members will continue engaging with CFLRP monitoring subgroups of interest

Twisp Complaint

Flesh-Out Next Steps

Collaborative members met today with AFRC and YN legal counsels on options for engagement in the lawsuit filed by North Cascades Conservation Council. The lawsuit was filed on the sale of the Twisp Project to Hampton Lumber. Options for engagement would be to intervene or file an *amicus* brief. YN would be interested in coauthoring a brief-content focus on the FACA concerns. Chelan County may or may not sign onto an *amicus* brief. Co-Chair Anderson reminded the Steering Committee that consensus is not needed to participate; Individual members can sign on to it.

SC Decision Requests

Approval of Aquatic Recommendations for FRS

Brandon Roger is seeking approval to adopt the document on the aquatic recommendations for the FRS and then present to the OWNF. Discussion on how would additional information be incorporated, would there be additional external partner review with these aquatic recommendations, would adding the aquatic recommendations add time and cost to the NEPA process? The document talks about feasibility

and cost to allow flexibility to tailor the protocols and criteria to a particular project. Members approved the aquatic recommendations for the FRS.

Approval of NCWFHC Letter of Support for UWPP

Tom Partin would like to add language requesting that all of the objectors appear at the same time. Members approved the NCWFHC letter of support for UWPP.

Approval of NCWFHC Quarterly Meeting Topics

Sarah asked the Steering Committee if there were any additions to the provided list of Quarterly meeting topics. The following additions were noted:

- Add update on monitoring work group formation – Matt Danielson
- CWI Engagement Planning-Updates
- 2022 Wildfire/ BAER/ Disaster Recovery implementation summary
- Add OWNF Mission Monitoring Report out
- Add Comprehensive project Update (MRM, Chumstick- to-LP next steps, when Upper Methow, etc.) Full update on other projects Collaborative has not been involved in.
- 10 year anniversary celebration added “update”

Possible topics to add:

- 2022 Accomplishments (example Ben Canyon Fish passage)?
- CWI dashboard readiness by 2/1

Other

NW Forest Plan Advisory Committee

Mike Anderson and Anjolene Ngari have submitted their names for the NW Forest Plan Advisory Committee. Mike Anderson received a letter of support from Okanogan County and recommended Anjolene reach out to Okanogan County Commissioner Branch for a letter of support too.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Co-Chair Anderson adjourned the Steering Committee meeting at 4:14pm.

The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is planned for 10:00am to 4:00pm on 02/01/2023

The next remote Steering Committee Meeting is planned for 1:00pm to 3:30pm on 03/01/2023

Meeting Attendance:

SC Members-Alternates Present

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC): Tom Partin; **Chelan County:** Mike Kaputa; **Conservation Northwest (CNW):** Matt Danielson; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Ngari; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee, Tonya Morrey; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** Lisa Foster, Crystal Elliot; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers.

NCWFHC Members-Entity Participants

Cascade Fisheries: ABSENT; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Joe Hill, Patrick Haggerty; **C6 Forest to Farm:** Tom McCoy; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** ABSENT; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** Jasmine Minbashian; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Josh Anderson; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Amanda Barg.

Ex-Officio Participants

OWNF: Kristen Bail, Andy Hart, Julie Bain, Kerry Kemp, Kari Grover-Weir, Colleen Malvaney, Keith Kistler, Victoria Wilkins;

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB): Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

Other Attendees

Blue Forest Resiliency: Tessa Maurer, **CAFÉ:** Laura Rivera, **Colville Confederated Tribes:** Rebecca Hunt;

Conservation Science Institute: Bill Gaines; **Congresswoman Schrier staff:** Ruby Gaston; **JF Marshall LLC:** John Marshall; **Latino Community Fund:** Cristina Ortega; **Libby Creek Resident:** Julie Hentricto;

Methow Valley Resident: Susan Crampton; **NRCS:** Jeff Paulson, **Okanogan County Watch:** Isabelle Spohn; **Sustainable NW:** Pete Teigen.