

March 3, 2022

DRAFT Steering Committee Meeting Summary

Webinar/Teleconference

1:00-3:30 PM



### Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Meeting Summary from January 5, 2022	Approved with corrections. The final will be posted online at: <a href="https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/">https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/</a>

### Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
C6 membership request	ASAP, Sarah will distribute via email to NCWFHC for approval
April SC Meeting date change	ASAP, Sarah will revise Outlook invite to reflect 4/13
Transition to SmartSheets and Training	At April SC mtg. Andy/ OWNF staff will provide update
Consideration of letter from CNW to Chief Randy Moore	Immediately after SC meeting, Sarah will distribute and put follow-up placeholder on April SC agenda
Development of a follow-up letter to Congressional delegates that supported additional resources for USFS	Mike Anderson will draft and share with the Steering Committee for review, approval at April SC Mtg.
Development of a NCWFHC Press Release re: CFLRP funding, other activities	At March 9 mtg. Nicole will introduce task to OWG who will coordinate with OWNF moving forward to April.
Midnight Project Briefing	ASAP, Mike A. will check with Sean Geronimo re: availability in late March and Sarah will Doodle NCWFHC, PWG
Development of NCWFHC comment letter on MRM draft EA and submittal to OWNF/ Chelan-Entiat RD by March deadline.	By March 9, Tiana L. and Mike A./ TWS will draft letter and send to Sarah to PWG for review, edits. On March 20, PWG will get final draft to Sarah/ SC for review, edits, approval. On March 25 Sarah will send final comment letter to OWNF. WDFW will share their comment letter with PWG-SC so complementary.
Mission Implementation Outreach plan review	ASAP, Sarah will share Hampton's working draft with SC who will provide any comments-feedback to Anjolene.
SC Retreat Format, Logistics, Next Steps	Sarah will continue to coordinate with SNW/ Pete on interview process/ questions so there is consistency and no overlap, and agenda. Nicole will email hotel contact information and details on logistics, dietary needs, etc. (reach out to her at <a href="mailto:Nicole.jordan@ucsr.org">Nicole.jordan@ucsr.org</a> ). Sarah will distribute final SC retreat agenda next week. Sarah will include retreat outcomes as item to share with full NCWFHC at May Quarterly mtg.
May 4 Quarterly mtg./ 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration/ Field Trip Planning	ASAP, Sarah or Nicole will reach out to Representative Schrier's staff for more information Jen Syrowitz will share any information she learns of after related planning mtg. is held on 3/7 or 3/10.

	At March 9 mtg., OWG will brainstorm tour locations, outreach-event options, and initiate strategy for event planning support.
NCWFHC website redesign and update	By Friday, March 18, SC members review NCWFHC website and email Nicole suggestions for improvements.

## Welcome and Regular Business

The facilitator welcomed participants. Co-Chair Branch opened the meeting and walked through the meeting agenda and preparatory materials. Corrections to the January Steering Committee (SC) meeting summary were shared for consideration.

**Members approved the corrected January 5, 2022, SC meeting summary.** The final summary will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

**Members approved moving the C6 request for NCWFHC membership forward for approval by full collaborative via email.**

**Members approved moving the April SC Meeting to April 13<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-3:30pm.**

## OWNF People, Proposal, Project Updates

### Staffing Changes

The infrastructure bill has enabled OWNF to shift/ hire new staff for extra capacity. Kari Wier will begin detail as Chief of Staff this month. Kate Day will detail as Forest Restoration Coordinator (position previously held by Susan Thomas). Awaiting Deputy Supervisor but current detail secure until April. A Fire Staff Officer announcement is being developed to fill this position. OWNF is still working to fill Program Manager/ Fisheries Biologist position. Staff will be brought on in April to detail for Darren Gooding’s Environmental Compliance position.

### Post-Fire Recovery

This is a new national priority/ direction from WO and accordingly OWNF will be focusing on this in upcoming year.

### CFLRP, Joint Chiefs

Can be funded through infrastructure or appropriations; forest service is still waiting on its appropriation. OWNF still supports actions identified in Joint Chiefs proposal and will continue to look for funding even if it doesn’t have Joint Chiefs approval/stamp.

### Infrastructure Funding

Awaiting final Infrastructure Bill; expecting to have more news in the next few weeks. Overall news and support is good for our region. Have not received final Congressional appropriation for FY2022.

Q: Can Infrastructure Bill be used to fund planning? Yes, Infrastructure Bill can be used for planning and 12 additional positions.

### Transition to SmartSheets

SmartSheets is project management tool that OWNF is transitioning to for 5-year Plan, NEPA timeline and resource management. Provides “dashboard” so folks can look real-time as things move. Victoria Wilkins got a demo last week; however, consultant will not be available to provide training-support

regarding how to organize OWNF data to meet needs for about 3 more weeks. More to come after OWNF-Consultant meeting. A training for NCWFHC partners and license will hopefully follow in April. Video Tutorial for SmartSheets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNUNxE5iwbg>

Discussion, Q&A: A member moved back to Infrastructure Funding topic and commented on need to coordinate with the Tapash Collaborative to help sort through overall priorities across whole forest (how, when and who) and suggested adding this to the April SC agenda. Because timing for Tapash-NCWFHC coordination is linked to OWNF transition to SmartSheets tool that will provide a new picture of integrated 5-year plan needs and current resources, coordination with Tapash will need to be sequenced to occur after OWNF gets database structure and training established, after April SC meeting.

### *Forest-wide LSRA Update*

The Regional Office set up a meeting with the OWNF and oversight committee (still working on all of the who) to get direction up front. Update will occur in 3 phases: 1) oversight committee NMFS, USFWS, DNR, Fish and Wildlife Service to set the parameters 2) agree on data sets to be utilized 3) complete revisions. The goal is to accomplish this within 1 year. A clearer picture of timeline will happen after oversight committee is finalized.

Discussion, Q&A: Q: At what point in LSR update can collaborative members be of help? NCWFHC currently helping via resources funding Bill Gaines. Forest Service has internal process but wants to have collaborative input; still determining when this fits into the schedule.

FYI: CNW wrote a memo to Chief Randy Moore on 10-year wildfire strategy and sent on 2/28 via email. Chief Moore responded immediately that points were heard and valid and a central theme he has been hearing. The general message/ CNW concern is that the fire dollars are not exclusive to WUIs and infrastructure risk reduction but whole landscape scale restoration. Here is a blog on it: <https://www.conservationnw.org/money-alone-cannot-meet-our-fire-and-resilience-challenge/>

Co-Chair Anderson noted that a year ago NCWFHC sent letter to congress to act to better fund the FS and asked for thoughts about following-up with a thank you letter if appropriation bill passes and offered to draft letter outlining what is happening with the OWNF with examples. Members supported this idea. Co-Chair Anderson asked for OWG support to develop a press release when CFLRP is selected/announced, share other newsworthy items with community, include quotes from variety of NCWFHC members. OWNF noted Washington Office must determine which CFLRP projects get which color of money; hoping April will be the latest to know funding.

### Next Steps:

- Sarah will distribute CNW letter after SC mtg. for member review and put a placeholder on April SC agenda for any follow-up that may be needed.
- Mike Anderson to draft a thank you letter to Washington delegates for last falls field trip.
- OWG is meeting 3/9 and will discuss who, strategy for Press Release, coordination with OWNF on messaging.

## **UWPP**

### *Phased Implementation Approach*

Overall, no changes to timeline. The SO and WRRD have been working through consultation schedule with the Services. A signed decision is still on track for August/September 2022 depending on

objections. The switch from Alternative 1 to Alternative 2 and LSRA update triggered thinking about phasing and how to be strategic with time and resources (see packet handout for details).

Discussion, Q&A:

Q: How big is the Brushy/ Phase 3 area? 600-1000 acres. Not have major impacts on EA's or BA

Q: Rest of the phases will continue? Yes, post LSR revision, just put off current Phase 2 for a year, tackle Phase 3 area first then go back after LSRA update.

Q: Do you foresee phases 4,5,6 shifting? No, not currently.

## Midnight Restoration Project

### *Analysis Update*

The original Twisp Restoration Project area was downsized after 2021 fires. A few members of the collaborative agreed to provide support to MVRD to complete preplanning and analysis in remaining areas that did not burn (now called Midnight Project area) as the NCWFHC was not in consensus. Sean Jeronimo is working on a short-term contract to take a second look at the project area with Derrick Churchill; working on landscape prescriptions with Bill Gaines and new Forest Service Ecologist. Sean will have a briefing for MVRD staff, is willing to do an additional briefing in a week or 2 for interested NCWFHC members, PWG participants.

Discussion, Q&A: A NCWFHC member noted presentation sounds like a good agenda item for an upcoming PWG meeting, open it up to others. Next Quarterly PWG meeting would be April at earliest; Sean's contract ends in March and offer of sooner is on the table. Jen, Dave, Tom Partin, Lloyd McGee, Anjolene, Kerry Kemp, Tom McCoy, Susan Crampton would like to be attend.

Q: Will NEPA contractor be the same as for UWPP? Remains to be seen; however, Tetra Tech (UWPP contractor) is who TWS/ Mike met with on 3/1/22)

Next Steps:

- Co-Chair Anderson will check with Sean on his availability for a briefing in a few weeks.
- Sarah will distribute Doodle Poll to NCWFHC, PWG lists.
- The possibility to record it will be examined

## Mad Roaring Mills Landscape Restoration Project

### *Draft EA Comment Letter Development/Process/Timeline*

The PWG received a full briefing; NCWFHC received update at the Quarterly. MRM landscape restoration project includes Yakama Nation aquatic restoration work. Draft EA released for comment; comment letters due March 27-28. Mike Liu/ PWG is on vacation so Co-Chair Anderson offered to lead comment letter development with new TWS staff/ Tiana Luke, who walked participants through proposed timeline. SC Members agreed to this approach.

Chelan-Entiat District Ranger noted this is OWNF's first try using short EA format; would like feedback on format. WDFW is reviewing draft EA, how it addresses Lynx habitat; this was mentioned in NCWFHC scoping letter. WDFW hoping to finish their comments on March 20 or 21.

Next Steps:

- Mike and Tiana will develop comment letter on Draft EA and get to Sarah/ PWG on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- PWG will get final draft to SC on March 20

- TWS/ Sarah will get final comment letter to SC for review, edits, approval.
- Sarah will send final comment letter to OWNF on March 25.
- WDFW will share their comment letter with PWG-SC so complementary.

## Mission Implementation

### *Outreach*

Anjolene will send out a save the date for Hampton Outreach Meeting planned for April 5 to share what community should expect to see during implementation. Hampton has developed outreach strategies chart that will be shared with OWG next week and intends to have annual public update meetings. April 5 meeting will provide good opportunity for community to hear logistics since this work will be so close to the public eye. Summary of Implementation:

1. 1522.0 acres of commercial harvest (Acres treated) Of this, 1373.0 acres of ground based and 149.0 acres of skyline cable.
2. 19.13 miles specified road reconstruction and maintenance
3. 9.0 acres of Wildlife Enhancement Thinning
4. 49.0 acres of Whipfelling Regen to reduce conifer density and prepare for planting trees.
5. 195.0 acres of Whipfelling to reduce conifer density and no replanting
6. 1520.0 acres of Non-saw utilization to reduce landing pile sizes and utilizing sub-merchantable material
7. 19.06 miles of road decommissioning to restore drainage to original hydrologic function
8. \*26 locations of Rock Armoring in stream crossings to prevent scour
9. \*2 Hardened Rock Fords installed at low water crossings
10. \*1333.0 acres of pre-commercial thinning of young forest stands to a desired Trees Per Acre
11. \*7 "Road Closed" gates installed at specified locations.

### *Aquatics*

TU reported on the installation of beaver dam analogs, which the Forest Service identified as strategy for climate resilience. Locations include Black Pine Creek, Black Pine Meadow. Other aquatics work in the Mission Project area includes replacing fish passage barriers in Ben Canyon. TU is working through contracting issues with plan to implement this summer. Preparing for bids that are much higher than what they have been in the past.

Discussion, Q&A: Will Outreach include updates on the non-commercial pieces? Meeting will be focused on stewardship, acres laid out, talk about aquatics and broader discussion.

Next Steps: Sarah will share Hampton's working draft Mission outreach plan with SC.

## Steering Committee Retreat

### *Planning Update*

Sarah met with Pete Teigen at Sustainable NW (contracted by DNR) last week and reminded group the question about number of "in the room participants" needed resolution. Based on their experience, Sustainable NW suggested only SC members, no Alternates, no call-in option as this complicates open, free-flowing conversation and group wouldn't know who else might be listening in on the other end of the phone. Interest in ensuring full NCWFHC can provide feedback via pre-retreat interview so all members can weigh in to help frame up the agenda. Sarah can support SNW pre-survey work by interviewing non-SC members, provide that info to SNW.

### Discussion, Q&A:

SC agreed only designate participation on Day 1 (no Alternates in room) if pre-retreat interviews used to get input from all to support agenda. Members discussed option to have alternates, NCWFHC members join on Day 2. SC Members determine only SC on day 2 but Alternate may attend to get up to speed, listen. Alternates and SC designees will also be invited to dinner-happy hour at end of Day 1.

Q: Did a block of hotel rooms get reserved? No - but hotel has been identified, Hilton Garden Inn in Wenatchee, social/ dinner at Pybus Market. Nicole will work with members on food restrictions and contact info for hotel. Daytime/ SC Retreat sessions will be held at Confluence Technology Center.

DNR would like to find time to talk about what SC wants to achieve together. Are folks aligned? Is the vision or mission statement still relevant and resonate with everyone in the collaborative? -- Have unstructured time to reaffirm commitment. Co-Chair Branch noted he already had his interview; questions asked by SNW were less pointed but allowed for, unearthed questions like those requested by DNR.

Q: How will interviews take place? SNW in process of contacting SC members. Sarah will coordinate with SNW to get general questions to use to reach out to larger NCWFHC. Sarah will ask SNW if they can-intend to provide questions to SC Members ahead of interviews.

A few SC Members advocated for no discussion of updates to operating procedures, etc. during retreat and recommended future SC meetings to address such topics. Sarah noted SNW pre-interviews will be used to identify priorities, themes for what SC wants to discuss during the retreat. A member noted their organization needs frank discussion of what will keep players at the table or drive them to leave the NCWFHC, and outcomes need to be focused on what is needed to advance project implementation.

***Members agreed to the following SC Retreat format: No phone-in option, only in-person attendance; Day 1 will be primary SC representatives, Day 2 will be SC Members and an Alternate in "listening mode", and the Day 1 evening social/ dinner will also be open to both SC members and an Alternate.***

### Next Steps:

- Sarah will continue to coordinate with SNW/ Pete on interview process/ questions so there is consistency and no overlap, and agenda.
- Nicole will email hotel contact information and details on logistics, dietary needs, etc. (reach out to her at [Nicole.jordan@ucsrb.org](mailto:Nicole.jordan@ucsrb.org)).
- Sarah will distribute final SC retreat agenda next week.
- Sarah will include retreat outcomes as item to share with full NCWFHC at May Quarterly mtg.

## **Outreach Work Group: Feedback Request**

### *Spring Field Trip*

UCSRB has funds in its DNR grant to coordinate-support a field trip of a planned implementation area. Funding must be used by June 30, 2022. Participants discussed possible options including Mission implementation area, a loop from Mission to Buttermilk to Twisp area that could include YN aquatics projects, Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project Meadow and Brushy DxP areas. Existing planned events are already focusing on Mission: 1) Forest Walk by Methow Fire Adaptive Community in mid to late April 2)

Hampton Public Field Tour of Mission. A member shared that Rep. Schrier's staff is also looking to set up a field trip on either the east or west side of the mountains that some members may wish to attend.

**Members agreed to hold the May 4 Quarterly Meeting in person and build it into two days to support a 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and field trip, location TBD.**

#### Next Steps:

- ASAP, Sarah or Nicole will reach out to Representative Schrier's staff for more information
- Jen Syrowitz will share any information she learns of after related planning mtg. to be held on either 3/7 or 3/10.
- The OWG will discuss, start planning for combined May Quarterly mtg/ tour/ celebration at their March 9 mtg.

#### *Website Updates*

TWS has offered \$7,500 to the UCSRB/ OWG for website rework, other outreach support. Nicole is asking for SC feedback on desired website updates.

Next Steps: By Friday, March 18, SC members review NCWFHC website and email Nicole suggestions for improvements.

#### **Other/ Wrap-up**

Co-Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:36pm.

**The next remote Steering Committee Meeting is planned for 1:00pm to 3:30pm on 04/13/2022**

**The next in-person NCWFHC Quarterly is planned for 05/04/2022. Hold: 10am to 4pm; more information coming soon about field tour day (immediately pre- or post- 5/4/22)**

#### **Meeting Attendance:**

##### **SC Members-Alternates Present**

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

##### **NCWFHC Members-Entity Participants**

**Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Patrick Haggerty, Ryan Williams, Joe Hill; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage, Dave Walker; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** Sam Israel; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Josh Anderson; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Amanda Barg

##### **Ex-Officio Participants**

**OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Chris Furr, Kari Grover-Weir, Paul Kelley, Andrew Hart, Pete Wier, Erica Taecker, Sendi Kalcic, Nate Standish; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator)

### Other Attendees

**Blue Forest Conservation:** Kim Quesnel Seipp, Tessa Maurer; **C6 Forest to Farm:** Tom McCoy, Gina McCoy; **Congressman Dan Newhouse’s Staff:** Rachel McClure; **Latino Community Fund of Washington:** Giovanni Sverino; **Senator Murray’s Staff:** Raquel Crowley; Susan Crampton, interested public.