

SC Members-Alternates Present

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC): ABSENT; **Chelan County:** Mike Kaputa, Bob Bugert; **Colville Tribal Federal Corporation - Timber:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest (CNW):** Jen Syrowitz, Mike Liu; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Graham Simon; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers

Other NCWFHC Members, Participants

Blue Forest Conservation: Nick Wobbrock, Tessa Maurer; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Ryan Williams; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Melody Kreimes, Alicia Meier, Nicole Jordan, Sarah Walker (Facilitator); **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Jeff Rivera, Andy Hart, Kari Grover Wier, Eireann Pederson, Darren Gooding, Deb Kelly; **Staff to Senator Patty Murray:** Raquel Crowley, Yazy Ibrahim; Susan Crampton

Welcome and Regular Business

Co-chair Branch opened the meeting at 1 pm. Participants introduced themselves. The facilitator walked participants through meeting objectives and preparatory materials. No changes were proposed to either the June SC meeting summary or July agenda.

Members approved the June 2, 2021, SC meeting summary. The final summary will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

OWNF – People, Process

Supervisor Bail summarized hiring status and priority for several open/ detail positions, and reviewed agency stance on COVID-19.

- Jeff Rivera leaving end of month for R3/ AZ. HR is getting a Detailer and proceeding with paperwork to hire.
- CleElum Ranger will be starting the beginning of August
- Jason Peterson, OWNF SO Engineer, retiring in September 2021

OWNF will receive its Head Cap number at end of the month; determine which positions get filled. WRRD is in the process of filling their Fish Biologist and Silviculturist positions. Current plan is for OWNF employees to reenter the office in October.

OWNF 5-Year Plan Submittal to R6

Reflects what OWNF can accomplish; with CFLRP and Joint Chiefs if they get funded. Have planning tool to evaluate where added capacity is needed; adjust based on schedule changes, costs of engineering and materials that are currently high. No e-handout for FY22 UPOW submittal with above; too complex.

Pinch points/ limited OWNF resources to meet need: Archeology (GS-7 or GS-9) to assist with requirements for the State. Sale prep layout for timber; not enough presale staff. Engineering gap.

- ✓ **Opportunities for partners to help address these areas**

Status of Joint Chiefs and CFLRP

OWNF proposals pulled together and submitted. Congress has yet to appropriate FY22 funding. Will hear back in September.

Update: Forest Restoration Strategy Refresh

Mike L. reviewed the current version. The SOW draft timeline has been pushed out 1 month to allow time for OWNF to get new Forest Ecologist on-board before beginning work. Tighter cost estimate at \$10,200; close to the original estimate.

Contact Mike Liu with any comments on current proposal

Twisp Restoration Project

MVRD Update

A press release documenting changes between the original Twisp Restoration Project draft EA and final is planned for release in the next day or two. Meg is on fire detail. MVRD is preparing for Consultation (not sure on the date). A Public field trip is being planned for Jul 28 (1 or 2 depending on interest). OWG could assist with vehicles, logistics, etc.

AFRC is also planning a field Trip in the matrix – Poor Man drainage and over Thompson Ridge—at end of July. **[Note: Field Trips postponed due to wildfires]**

Nicole to follow up with Eireann/ MVRD on Twisp field trip outreach

Members to contact Tom Partin or Matt Comisky with any questions about AFRC field trip

PWG Internal Meetings, Outcomes to Date

PWG has not reached consensus on how to resolve some remaining items. Given the timing of News release and community engagement not sure if there is time to reach PWG consensus and comment on the project. MVRD news release and outreach planned to provide status update before EA finalization.

Mike L., Crystal, Mike A. will develop a summary of items since draft EA that have been resolved/ have PWG consensus or concern remains for eventual use in a comment letter.

UWPP Update

Timeline

Working on LSR consistency piece concurrent with consultation to get NEPA finalized. Scheduling can be challenging. Vacancy on Level 1 team; fill date unknown. RO consultation 'blackout window' in November and December due to staff leave. Meeting with LSR Workgroup to receive feedback on second consistency memo (root rot). Taneum timeline shift, need has also created a bit of LSR bottleneck; limited OWNF capacity. Participants discussed ways to support, expedite Level 1 work on LSR consistency memo.

OWNF guidance to biologists is to move forward with finishing BA independent of LSR piece; believe we have the information needed for LSR. Moving forward with survey work; field work for next year to get the first sales up will not be affected. Pre-Sale timber planning is continuing, to get work done in September.

Andy H. to follow-up with Chuck H. about potential support on Level 1/ LSR consistency memo

Chelan County Forest Resiliency Bond (FRB)

Over the past few months, DNR leveraged some of its remaining FY21 funds to support Chelan County and Blue Forest's partnership to investigate the feasibility of applying FRB locally for the UWPP.

UWPP landscape meets all key FRB candidate criteria. Multiple entities could be excellent implementation partners. Given that OWNF is largest implementation partner, question of limited capacity is perhaps biggest issue. Lots of data available to model potential benefits.

Blue Forest is currently in the Explore and Design process of the FRB Development – have heard different perspectives on where to begin. Foresee completing this in multiple phases. Now, focus is on refining initial list of potential Beneficiaries: WHO would invest if they will save money or make money by the investment? Water Utilities, Power Companies, Insurance Companies, others??

Participants suggested residents and homeowners of community (e.g., Nason Ridge project area), local fire district. Insurance Companies in the area—check with the Fire Department on this (State Farm is a high rural insurer). There is the potential for Tessa and Kim from Blue Forest to have added engagement with NCWFHC on this in late August during a follow-up visit to WA.

[Mac Cloyes](#) is new Blue Forest Policy Director. Exploring potential interest with Schrier & Murray.

Other Forest Resiliency Bond information resources:

- ✓ <https://www.frbsf.org/community-development/publications/community-development-investment-review/2019/october/forest-finance-unlocks-opportunities-for-rural-communities-exploring-the-triple-bottom-line-impacts-of-the-forest-resilience-bond-model/>
- ✓ <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/ca-wildfire-resilience-insurance/>

Tessa to share slideshow and UWPP report with Sarah to distribute

Mike K. and Jen Watkins/ DNR meet with Blue Forest this month to develop state/ insurance company contacts

Chumstick-to-LP Restoration Project

7/1 Meeting Outcomes: Draft RFI, Working Draft Agreement

Economics subgroup and PWG reviewed OWNF draft Request For Information and agreed to add language to beef up ESA consultation needs and include aquatics at an equal emphasis as wildlife. OWNF will update and release. Info from RFI will inform OWNF decisions about if-how to proceed. Nate Standish is OWNF contact; Carl Erickson is Regional Contracting Officer involved.

A revised Framework has been sent out (who column, why column added to facilitate simplification; re-wording touchpoint 2 to be more specific and desired future conditions; add pre-monitoring check in.

Q: Could FRB be used to ensure A-Z funder? Reduce the risk – Blue Forest said absolutely but need to know the complexity value proposition (value success in their terms, cost of inaction). NCWFHC would need to determine the value.

Sarah to send reminder to Chumstick-to-LP workgroup re: Framework and Agreement revision needs

Mad Roaring Mills Landscape Restoration Project

Draft Agreement Development

Sam Israel, Mike Anderson, and Mike Liu drafted a letter and Agreement matrix. Participants agreed Pre-NEPA involvement would be less as shown; YN has worked on Aquatics. Simpler than Chumstick-to-LP Agreement. Members understand analysis, landscape assessment and restoration benefits.

Chelan-Entiat RD summarized that not many Public comments were received. Some on terrestrial and road components (e.g., motorized community interest on level 1 roads; potential trails/roads). Draft EA planned for late fall, November 2021.

By c.o.b. July 14, members will provide comments and feedback to Sarah and Mike Liu.

Mike L. will finalize draft MRM Agreement and letter to go OWNF.

August 4, NCWFHC Quarterly Meeting

Identify Potential-Priority Topics

Mike A. reported on a national study of Latinx community members disproportionately impacted by wildfires and smoke and inquired about Chelan and Douglas County. Is there a key community group that is not a part of NCWFHC that should be? Contact Raquel Crowley with Senator Murray's office for CWU contact.

Other potential topics identified:

- Debrief from planned July field trips
- NCW BioChar Initiative update

Participants discussed potential for an in-person vs. virtual meeting.

Mike A. to contact Raquel Crowley on Latinx contact for potential agenda item

Sarah to reach out to Members on in-person meeting availability

Roundtable

- OWG seeking new co-chair – Sam Israel was nominated. Send interest to Nicole or Patrick.
- Mike Kaputa and Lloyd McGee working with small diameter mill recruitment process and funding avenues available
- Legislative letter follow-up on FS Appropriations Bill with increased capacity. Congressman Newhouse staff met with Mike Anderson and Chris Branch – Chris trying to schedule fly-over.
- CFRLP funded at \$60 million, FS overall up 15% in the House appropriations bill.
 - ✓ <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20210701/112878/HMKP-117-AP00-20210701-SD002.pdf>
- Suggestion for PWG to meet after Twisp field trip.

Co-Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2021, from 10:00am-4:00pm

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2021, from 1:00pm-3:30pm