

September 7, 2022

DRAFT Steering Committee Meeting Summary

Webinar/Teleconference

1:00-3:30 PM



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Meeting Summary from June 1, 2022	Approved with corrections. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/
Proposed September 7, 2022, Agenda	Approved with addition of Wildfire Update. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/

Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
CWI Web Map	By September 30, SC Members provide any feedback on CWI dashboard-Web App to Kari Grover Weir
CFLRP Monitoring Subgroup-Economics	Andy Hart will provide resources from Kerry Kemp to Mike Kaputa and Tom Partin
Sharing State of LSRA Science	Andy Hart to confirm timeline/ Nov.(?) share with Sarah
Presentation on FRS Review-Refresh	Sarah will connect with Bill Gaines re: timing for FRS sharing with NCWFHC/ Nov (?)
Outreach Re: UWPP Final EA and Decision	Patrick will add topic to next OWG Agenda
Strategy for Support of UWPP if litigated	Sarah will add topic for discussion at October SC mtg.
Feedback on Near-term Governance Change Recommendations	Tiana will share SC Subcommittee recommendations doc with Sarah, who will distribute to NCWFHC for feedback to Tiana prior to 9/16.
Governance Recommendations	Sarah will add Economics Work Group, Monitoring Work Group formation, Governance change discussion-decisions to October SC Mtg. Agenda
NCWFHC Capacity Support	Victoria Wilkins and Tiana/ the SC governance subcommittee will connect re: OOWNF attendance on 9/16 to discuss ideas for deliverables, shared benefit.

Welcome and Regular Business

The facilitator welcomed participants. Co-Chair Anderson opened the meeting and walked through the meeting agenda and preparatory materials. A request was made to add a wildfire update to the agenda.

[NW Pasayten Fires Information - InciWeb the Incident Information System \(nwcg.gov\)](#)

[White River Information - InciWeb the Incident Information System \(nwcg.gov\)](#)

Even-year SC Member-Representative affirmations to participate for another term (2022-2024): Tom Partin/ AFRC, Crystal Elliot/ TU, Lloyd McGee/ TNC, Mike Anderson/ TWS.

Members approved the June 1, 2022, SC meeting summary. The final summary with corrections will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

OWNF Updates

For staffing, the OOWNF is In the process of offering SO positions, Hydrologist and NEPA Officer, and trying to be more strategic by anticipating staff departures and hiring process for vacant positions.

The OWNF's draft CFLRP implementation plan will go to the Regional Office (RO) in late September. The cutoff date for the final draft plan is the beginning of October. The OWNF has met with different partners and NCWFHC members to discuss CFLRP monitoring needs; others welcome to join discussion. CFLRP Monitoring subgroup is being asked to collaborate on needs (requirements) vs. wants, partner support pathways.

Q: Volunteers for Economics? Andy Hart will provide Mike Kaputa and Tom Partin with additional resources from Kerry Kemp.

The Forest-wide LSRA update Oversight committee (DNR, WDFW, Services, others) has created a hybrid IDT of mostly FS staff who met today with the Committee to discuss red flags on data sets, timelines. A draft product is anticipated by February with scientific community review prior to being submitted. The IDT now meets bi-weekly and the Oversight Committee meets monthly. The LSRA review process will have a similar programmatic review process and timeline as the Forest Restoration Strategy Review to streamline things with the Services.

Q: With the LSRA and FRS update completed, how much time does the OWNF anticipate saving on upcoming projects? Hard to quantify; differs by project-landscape.

Q: Is the contract with Bill Gaines ready to proceed? There is CWI funding; however, the biggest challenge is the contracting. Finalizing and processing the OWNF-Chelan County agreement will take 6 weeks, so mid-October is the target to start work.

Central Washington Initiative Web App (arcgis.com) The OWNF is working on updating the functionality of the CWI web map and dashboard. FY22 funding year ending September 30, 2022. FY22 funding going to support Fuel reduction projects, Heritage survey contracts, Blanket purchase agreement, Aquatic Projects. The SO will meet with the WRRIT on 9/8/22 to discuss FY23 budget and landscape action plan for next 10 years, fire shed by fire shed.

Currently, CWI focus is OWNF lands with planned expansion to all lands. Current implementation tracking is based on last year's projects; however, has been changed: reporting now consists of when the work is implemented, not planned. CWI goal for treated land is 124,000 acres in 2024. Goal is method to keep tracking consistent.

OWNF is staffing a CWI Planning Team to include an Archaeologist, GIS Specialist, North zone Fuel Specialist, Timber Management Assistant in Leavenworth. A Planning Coordinator has been selected and they are waiting to announce. Three Fish Biologist positions have been advertised.

\$1 million Community Wildfire Defense Program (CWDP) funding available. NCWFHC Members, other eligible partners coordinating on applications and evaluating how to bolster state-private lands work.

The UWPP draft decision will be out for objection the week of October 25, with OWNF review if objections planned to begin January 2023. Implementation staff remain focused on the Meadow planning area. OWNF-Chelan County coordination continues re: projects in Lake Wenatchee, Plain areas appropriate for Forest Resiliency Bond.

Q: Community involvement before objection period to share NCWFHC comments? Several items that were invested in that can be reused. Patrick to coordinate OWG discussion.

Q: NCWFHC support of UWPP if there is potential litigation? Sarah made a note for SC follow-up.

Wildfires on the OWNF: Irving Peak up to 3,000 ac, White River is up to 1,500 ac. Both fires downgraded to a Type 3 team. Utilizing roads and air attacks; some closures in effect. Four structures at risk along Sears Creek. NW Pasayten Fire: 6 fires in the Wilderness near the Canadian border. National Incident Management Ops team is working on this fire via a joint delegation with FS and State. PCT closures and structure protection were needed.

Forest Restoration Strategy Refresh

New CNW staff getting up to speed on Mike Liu's work to date. Bill Gaines has briefed OWNF Supervisor and other FS staff; no red flags. Revisions and work on aquatics components needed before sharing.

Next Steps

Sarah will check in with Bill Gaines re: timing/ possible November.

Midnight Restoration Project

Subgroup received a presentation from Resilient Forestry re: process for landscape analysis and ID of treatment needs that can hit all the spots without a lot of conflict. Proposed action in draft format will go to MVRD staff for review and feedback. TWS will extend their contract with Resilient Forestry 1 or 2 months to allow additional discussion.

Q: Are TWS, tribe, TNC, others still funding the planning? TWS funding P&N, Preliminary Proposed Action; YN is lead on aquatics; DNR helping with staffing. CWI funding-budget; different than UWPP process. OWNF will handle contracting after project is through scoping at District level.

Governance/Foundational Documents Review

The Governance review subcommittee is now getting together once a month. Recommendation to develop a "Collaboration Handbook" to outline, memorialize OWNF-NCWFHC tools, methods for interaction, zones of agreement, etc. This would be a long-term project that could benefit from contracted support.

Near-term, recommendations for SC to consider include limit Steering Committee Meeting Participation to SC Member representatives only, limit Forest Service participation in SC Meetings. OWNF has indicated interest-openness to strategic/ as-needed engagement.

SC may wish to formalize an Economics Work Group, as UWPP Economics subgroup has changed, morphed over time. Plan would be for this group to work on developing a draft charter/scope to bring back to the SC for review, discussion. Need to define shared NCWFHC economic issues, interests.

Participants discussed need for a NCWFHC Monitoring Work Group; current CFLRP need-timeline drove formation of a specific Monitoring subcommittee. Group still needs to consider longer-term.

Sarah suggested the SC governance review subgroup also consider preferred vocabulary (work group, subgroup, task force, etc.) as part of the review of roles, responsibilities, and feedback loops.

Next Steps

Sarah will share subcommittee recommendations with Members and request feedback to Tiana by 9/14. Subcommittee will continue its work. Sarah will put discussion-decision item about change in SC meeting structure-attendees, Monitoring Work Group and Economics Work Group formation on the October agenda.

NCWFHC Capacity Support

OWNF has funding via first year of CWI for agreement with Sustainable NW to support development of NCWFHC Capacity/ Elements. Looking for discrete activities that could be undertaken Jan 1-Dec 31, 2023. Idea is to build on concepts from Joint Leadership training with OWNF re: deliverable(s) to support better collaboration, work together to support CWI. Assistance with ID of priorities, process to reorganize protocols, develop zones of agreement, etc. would be beneficial. Sustainable NW needs to explore capacity to support deliverable development.

Next Steps

OWNF will engage with SC governance subcommittee to discuss mutually beneficial 1-year deliverables. Tiana will invite Victoria Wilkins to the next Governance meeting, Thursday 9/15 10am -noon.

August 16 CWI Roundtable

Participants shared thoughts on the CWI Roundtable discussion with Rep. Schrier, Regional Forester Casamassa, and State Forester Geissler.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Co-Chair Branch adjourned the Steering Committee meeting at 3:32pm.

The next remote Steering Committee Meeting is planned for 1:00pm to 3:30pm on 10/05/2022

The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is planned for 10:00am to 4:00pm on 11/02/2022

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, ABSENT; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** Josh Anderson ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson, Tiana Luke; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers.

NCWFHC Members-Entity Participants

Cascade Fisheries: Jason Lundgren ABSENT; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Patrick Haggerty; **C6 Forest to Farm:** Tom McCoy, ABSENT; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; David Walker; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Amanda Barg.

Ex-Officio Participants

OWNF: Chris Furr, Kari Grover-Weir, Andy Hart, Paul Kelley, Erica Taecker, Victoria Wilkins; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Ryan Niemeyer, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

Other Attendees

Blue Forest: Tessa Maurer; **Chelan Douglas Land Trust:** Michelle Tiegel; **Colville Confederated Tribes:** Rebecca Hunt; **Latino Community Fund Washington State:** Giovanni Severino; **Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Jeff Paulson; **Wenatchee CAFE:** Laura Rivera; **Sustainable NW:** Pete Teigen.