

SC Members-Alternates Present

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC): Tom Partin; **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):** Mindy Untalan; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** ABSENT

Other NCWFHC Members, Participants

Blue Forest: Kim Quesnel; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Ryan Williams; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Latino Community Fund of Washington:** Oskar Zambrano; **Methow Valley Citizens Council:** Sam Israel; **Staff to Congressman Newhouse:** Rachel McClure; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator); **US Forest Service-OWNF:** Kristen Bail, Peter Wier, Michelle Caviness, Chris Furr, Paul Kelley, Andy Hart, Sendi Kalcic, Darren Gooding, Michelle Caviness; **Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council:** Ryan Anderson; Susan Crampton, Public.

Welcome and Regular Business

Co-chair Anderson opened the meeting at 1:02 pm. Participants introduced themselves. The co-chair walked participants through meeting objectives and preparatory materials. Corrections to the September SC meeting summary were shared in track change mode.

Members approved the corrected summary September 1, 2021, SC meeting summary. The final summary with revisions will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

OWNF – People, Proposals, Projects

Head Count Cap, Staffing Update

The Regional Forester received the selection for the WRRD position and the District is awaiting approval. Amid the head-count caps, OWNF priority is funding for current salaried positions. Currently 14 restoration related vacancies, plus additional recreation vacancies. The SO will create a new organizational chart at the end of the calendar year that aligns with head count cap, excluding fire staff. The OWNF continues to have a lot of movement with staff detailing into new roles/positions.

The Washington Office requested an estimate of a preliminary post fire recovery needs to prepare for potential appropriations. The OWNF had several large fires on the north end of the district Cub Creek 2,

Fire-Season Update

The SO provided a summary of the fire season, which included Cedar Creek, 25 mile Entiat, South District Snyder Creek on the Naches (107,000 acres at last tally). Over 207,000 acres burned. Next steps on post-fire activity include:

1. Suppression repair (hand lines, dozer line repair)
2. Burned Area Emergency Response
3. Post fire restoration (tree salvage not funded within current appropriations.)

BAER team to come out and assess Cedar Creek, Cub Creek 2, and 25 mile. Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) available in the MVRD, and will head to Snyder Creek once it is out. BAER repairs have 1 year from when fire is wrapped up (quick turnaround). Fire restorations have more time (utilize partners and what the timeline is for)

Agree on Any Next Steps/Follow-up:

- *Darren, Pete and Molly will work with BAER teams on process, timeline and inform partners.*
- *Andy Hart and Darren to follow up with Mike Liu re: BAER funding for native plant seeding to reduce spread of invasive plants*

UWPP

Consultation, LSR Process/Progress

Consultation timeline: Biological Assessment is on track for mid-Nov (11/18) completion. Once Level 1, consultation begins, anticipate 135 days for Biological Opinion and a final EA (April 2022). May be possible to get a sneak peak of EA 1 week prior to legal notice for objection period. A lot of work in LSR habitat and loss of Monty Cook/ OWNF staff knowledge, makes things challenging. Engagement by NMFS and new USFWS is also a unknown, uncertain given lack of a BA to support consultation.

September Sales Tour Report Out

Participants went to the field and discussed preliminary draft prescriptions, D x P approach vs. individual tree marking. May need to increase volume for economic viability. Need to identify local sources of rock, gravel if possible and mechanisms for NCWFHC to contribute to areas not of commercial value, opportunities to treat more acres, sooner through partnership. There are potential funding pots to assist with implementation, namely Legacy Roads and Trails, Forest Resiliency Bonds, NFF, etc.

Chelan County Updates

Chelan County presented on its work to build on the DNR's completed Vegetation Structure Model/Roads Assessment, update the landscape assessment, and figure out the NEPA process pathway for Aquatic and terrestrial. YN currently reviewing SOW; County will share final draft with Members. Key communications with stakeholders regarding treatment areas and FRB options will be starting this fall.

The County has interest in evaluating and building mill infrastructure and has had several public private meetings to develop funding partnerships totaling \$350,000 (50-50 with Wood Innovations Grant Program) for a forest innovation campus. Next steps include

- ✓ Assemble task force
- ✓ Perform Outreach work
- ✓ Discuss pathways for NCWFHC engagement

Blue Forest/FRB

Blue Forest is assessing key UWPP landscapes (polygons 4,5,6) and exploring how to move treatments in some areas up, sooner on the timeline and define geographic potential for FRB, what implementation plan could look like. Sequencing discussions are underway with WRRD via Michell Caviness and Andy Hart, who will need to loop in new staff coming aboard.

Agree on Any Next Steps/Follow-up:

- *Participants will pose questions, comments and input to Kim Quesnel and Mike Kaputa.*
- *Mike Kaputa to Reach out to FS staff on sequencing and Tracking of Blue Forest work.*
- *Anjolene Price/ Economics subgroup to coordinate meeting with Mike Kaputa on Wood Innovations Grant.*

Priorities for Engagement with MVRD

Mike L. shared the PWG priority ranking of MVRD projects the collaborative is interested in engaging with the district on (based on Projects Committee meeting September 30, 2021)

1. Twisp
2. Fire Salvage and reforestation needs
3. Shaded fuelbreaks
4. Mission Sale
5. Buckshot
6. Next Landscape Assessment Area

Members agreed informational/ White Papers should be vetted by the PWG before sharing with the SC. A member did not recall the above topics prioritization outcome, which occurred at the end of the 9/30 PWG call. The MVRD needs to focus on time-sensitive priorities like BAER, post-fire restoration for Cedar Creek, Twisp.

Agree on Any Next Steps/Follow-up:

- *The PWG-SC will continue engagement with MVRD re: what ecological restoration can look like after fire, discussion of Twisp, other priorities*

FRS Refresh

CNW executed a contract for FRS Refresh work with Bill Gaines. OWNF is awaiting arrival of key personnel (Ecologist). This will extend timeline and allow alignment of aquatic, terrestrial content rigor.

Agree on Any Next Steps/Follow Up:

- *Mike will follow-up with Bill Gaines and OWNF about revisions, and YN regarding Aquatics SOW alignment*

Roundtable

- TWS is adding staff support for NCWFHC activities. Position open till the end of October.
- October 14 LightHawk Flight is being planned for 2 planes with Congressman Newhouse, State office Director for Senator Murray, select SC members, with a contingency plan for inclement weather and venue to allow more members to participate. Anticipate 11am to 1:30pm.
- OWG co-chairs Patrick and Sam Israel going through a workplan
- UCSRB has a podcast. Highlight forest health issues. Invite topics for episodes by emailing Nicole directly.

Agree on Any Next Steps/Follow Up:

- *Nicole will distribute briefing paper to NCWFHC members and confirm head count.*
- *Nicole and Sarah to explore member interest, options for remote participation*

ID, Prioritize Topics for November NCWFHC Quarterly Meeting

- NCW BioChar
- Chelan County Wood Innovations Grant

- LightHawk flight debrief
- OWNF-SO report out on FY accomplishments/ 6 flagship metrics from Teri (not time-sensitive for Nov Quarterly).

Agree on Any Next Steps/Follow Up:

- *Lloyd to send list of “Flagship OWNF Metrics” to Kristen and Andy Hart.*

Co-Chair Branch/Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:41 pm.

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

The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2021, from 10:00am-4:00pm