

December 7, 2022

DRAFT Steering Committee Meeting Summary

Webinar/Teleconference

1:00-3:30 PM



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Meeting Summary from October 5, 2022	Approved. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/
Develop a NCWFHC Letter of Support for UWPP to be submitted during Objection Period	Approved (if filing during Objection Period cannot be construed as an Objection; otherwise, will be submitted after Objection period)
PWG Recommendation re: Midnight Preliminary Proposed Action	Approved
C6 Forest to Farm Requests for Support	Item #1, General Letter of Support, Approved
Initiate Planning for NCWFHC 10-year Anniversary Event	Approved
Initiate Formation of a Monitoring/ Adaptive Management Work Group	Approved

Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
CWI FY23 Proposed Budget Power Point Presentation	Meg Trebon to send Sarah presentation to distribute to SC via email
CFLRP Monitoring Subcommittee request re: NCWFHC input on the proposals and how money could be allocated if more proposals than funding available.	Sarah will share outcomes re: formation of Monitoring Work Group with Kerry, confirm timelines for input
Aquatic Forest Restoration Strategy Review	Brandon will email the YN-Interfluve Aquatic FRS recommendations to Sarah to distribute to SC. SC will provide fatal-flaw comments to Brandon by December 21, 2022. Sarah will put SC discussion-approval topic on January SC agenda.
Letter of support for UWPP to be filed during Objection Period (ends 01/23/23)	Mike A. will confirm no challenges with timing-approach. Sarah will reach out to David Walker/LWFAC to lead with Mike A. on letter content.
Midnight Proposed Action	Co-Chairs will develop a letter to accompany PWG recommendation and Sarah will email to OWNF/ MVRD
NCWFHC General Letter of Support for C6	Chris Branch will coordinate with Tom McCoy on letter content
Additional C6 Discussion	Sarah will add time for follow-up to January SC agenda
NCWFHC Structure-Point of Contact Table	Sarah will modify existing table prior to next SC meeting for review-feedback. When format stabilizes, Sarah will curate for NCWFHC
Twisp Restoration Project	Sarah will Doodle for SC follow-up call in early January

Welcome and Regular Business

The facilitator welcomed participants. Anjolene reviewed the new SC meeting format. Co-chair Anderson reviewed the October 5, 2022, draft SC meeting summary with Members.

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

OWNF Updates

CWI – FY23 Budget Proposal

Meg presented a set of informational slides about the CWI FY23 budget, planned activities and near-term NEPA projects/ status.

Q: Mike A: What is covered by the “collaboration support” budget item? A: Meg: Forest Service funding for a contract with Sustainable Northwest to help with CWI public engagement.

Q: Amanda: Where is the Chelan Fuel Breaks area? A: Meg: It crosses the Chelan-Entiat Ranger District; scoping has not started.

CFLRP Monitoring Subcommittee

Kerry reviewed formation of the CFLRP monitoring subcommittee and process OWNF used to convene 5 different monitoring subgroups over the past 5 months to: evaluate key monitoring questions and other monitoring proposals, ID how to create efficiencies, discuss who-how (cost) to collect and analyze data. Most sub-groups will have a 4th meeting this month. The OWNF target for a draft CFLRP monitoring proposal is January 2023. Monitoring budget is up to 10% annually/~\$300,000 if approved by the FS. The number of proposals may exceed the total funding available.

Q: Matt: Are the subgroups looking at effectiveness monitoring or implementation monitoring? A: Kerry: 4 out of the 5 groups are looking at effectiveness monitoring.

Timeline for LSRA Updates

Kerry (LSRA Update Team Lead) reported that the February target timeline has gotten pushed out 1-1.5 months due to need to bring new Team staff up to speed on LSRA update process, scope. On Monday, the Chelan County Commission approved the Natural Resources Department/ Mike Kaputa contracting with Bill Gaines to help support the OWNF LSRA updates.

Forest Restoration Strategy Review-Refresh

Inter-Fluve and Yakama Nation staff presented on the Aquatic Forest Restoration Strategy (FRS) team review that was established by the NCWFHC and funded by WADNR and recommendations they developed. The team suggested that both UWPP, Twisp project aquatic evaluations improved understanding of aquatic conditions and processes, useful as case studies. They proposed continuing to use steps 6 and 7 of OWNF Landscape Evaluation recommendations and expand to include a broader range of aquatic system ecological indicators, utilize existing framework from the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team (UCRTT).

Gene shared that OWNF would review with partners in the spring. OWNF goal is to develop a draft 5-year aquatic watershed plan by mid-January. Gene indicated OWNF needs to determine if the Forest Restoration Strategy will be formally updated.

Q: From Kerry’s perspective, does the Forest Restoration Strategy need to be updated? A: Kerry: Terrestrial portion and process are still valid; however, there are some new elements that would be good to add. The USFS needs to take a closer look to determine if an update to the Aquatics component of the Forest Restoration Strategy is necessary.

Follow-up: Sarah will coordinate with YN and email recommendations to SC for “fatal-flaw” review and feedback by email to Sarah by December 29. Sarah will compile and email to YN and Inter-Fluve POCs by Friday, December 30. The January SC meeting will include a decision-request for approval, transmittal to OWNF

UWPP EA/ Objection Period

45-day Objection period will start on 12/8 and end 01/23/23. OWNF is working on continued implementation with Blue Forest in the Forest Resilience Bond area, plenty of aquatic projects lining up.

Q: Are there are surprises or big changes in the Final EA? A: No major changes. Minnow Ridge fire update was added.

Q: What are the plans for timber sales and treatments? Treatments ready to go? A: Hope Meadow DXP will go out FY23. No fuels treatment in FY23 but the opportunity to start non-commercial treatment.

Twisp Project/ Lookout Timber Sale

Mid to late last month the Lookout sale went out to bid and the OWNF-MVRD made a successful award to Hampton Lumber. In late November the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) filed a complaint with the federal district court.

FLT Roles-Tables Concept and New Point of Contact

Colleen Malaney is the new Acting Partnership Coordinator. The goal is to fill the position permanently. She is working on joint leadership discussion about tools/ table with roles, etc. and will share more in January on OWNF collaboration tool development.

Requests and Recommendations

Request for Letter of Support for UWPP

Dave Walker/ LWFAC requested a NCWFHC letter of support for the UWPP, to be filed during the Objection period. The UWPP is the number one safety concern for the Lake Wenatchee Community and listed at or near the top for communities at risk of wildfire in Washington. The extent and cost of recent fires was significant. As noted earlier by OWNF, no significant change between Draft and Final EA.

Request for BioChar Support

Tom McCoy/ C6 Forest to Farm requested a general letter of NCWFHC support to help seek capital funding; use broadly to reach out to legislators and to find grants. He also shared other support concepts (e.g., development of an MOU-MOA, NCWFHC engagement in discussions with legislators and permitting-regulatory agencies).

Project Work Group

The PWG met last week and developed a recommendation to the SC re: the Midnight Preliminary Proposed Action from Resilient Forestry. The recommendation is that the SC pass the PPA “as-is” to the MVRD, acknowledging there will be opportunities for further input and engagement by the NCWFHC and Public as the Midnight Project goes to Scoping, enters the NEPA process.

Outreach Work Group

Nicole/ OWG coordinator shared Lloyd’s concept for a 2023/ 10-year Anniversary Event that would be timed with a Quarterly meeting over 2 days: Day 1 meeting and social/ dinner and Day 2 field tour. Fundraising would be necessary. UCSRB’s contract with DNR-NCWFHC provides for staff support of a 2023 event by June 30, 2023, so need to schedule prior. Mike A. noted date may or may not align with a potential visit from FS Chief Randy Moore to CWI area that is being discussed for late May to early June.

Governance

Revisit Discussion re: Need for Monitoring/Adaptive Management Work Group

The facilitator recapped past SC discussions, which had resulted in agreement to wait and see how the CFLRP monitoring subcommittee process evolved before deciding on the need to form a Monitoring Work Group.

The SC discussed whether a NCWFHC Monitoring Work Group would be effective. A benefit would be collaborative discussion and agreement on approach. Monitoring that is not collaborative can create tension and uncertainty regarding the work. Because CFLRP is more focused on effectiveness monitoring, implementation monitoring could be a good fit/ piece for the NCWFHC to support. There was general agreement about the need for third-party/ contracted staff support to coordinate the MWG. Scope could include protocol development (i.e., shared methods and questions, needs to be addressed for monitoring). NCWFHC could use existing Multi-party Monitoring guidance to help set up process, including Adaptive Management piece.

NCWFHC Point of Contact/ Roles Table

This item tracks back to Joint NCWFHC-OWNF Leadership Team meeting and tools to improve collaboration. Both OWNF and NCWFHC agreed a table with points of contact and roles would make communication clearer and more efficient. This morning, OWNF shared what they are working on to help define staff roles, communication process, etc. The Attachment is a table UCSRB maintains for the NCWFHC that could be modified to add more information related to Work Groups, subgroups, interaction with OWNF-led processes like UWPP, etc. UCSRB offered to help develop a different version and curate the table for the NCWFHC once it stabilizes.

Follow up:

- Sarah will develop a next version of a NCWFHC Roles-Structure table and email it to the Governance subgroup prior to the next SC meeting.

Steering Committee Decision Requests

Develop a NCWFHC Letter of Support for UWPP

Approved. Mike Anderson will confirm with OWNF that submitting during Objection period is ok. Mike will reach out to David Walker and Jim Passage on support for letter content/ development.

Approve PWG Recommendation re: Midnight Proposed Action

Approved. Co-Chairs will draft letter on behalf of NCWFHC with PWG recommendation and Sarah will email it and Midnight PPA to OWNF.

Approve C6 Forest to Farm Request for NCWFHC Support

Approve item #1, General Letter of NCWFHC Support

More information needed for item #2 and item #3. Coordination will continue with C6 and further SC discussion will be scheduled in near future after additional C6 conversations with Ecology, other permitting agencies.

Initiate Planning for NCWFHC 10-Year Anniversary Event

Approved.

Initiate Formation of a Monitoring/Adaptive Management Work Group

Approved. Key Discussion Points:

Need to develop charter and scope of work

OWNF representation in the Work Group

External coordination-technical staff needed to support WG

Feedback on Proposed-Identified Topics for January 4 SC and February 1 Quarterly

Bill Gaines confirmed for January SC mtg/ presentation on Final FRS Review and Recommendations. Chelan County will present on FRB, Forest Products grant in February

Review Next Steps for Twisp Project

NCCC filed litigation claiming the FS violated the Federal Advisory Act and NEPA process. A briefing to the SC from AFRC Legal Counsel is being scheduled.

Q: Mike A; Option for other Members to include their Counsel? Mike A. will check with Tom P.

Q: Are there any legal injunctions or stay? No. Hampton does not have plans to start logging until 2024.

Sarah will coordinate with Mike A. and distribute a Doodle poll to the SC in the near future.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Co-Chair Anderson adjourned the Steering Committee meeting at 3:52pm.

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

The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is planned for 10:00am to 4:00pm on 2/01/2023

Meeting Attendance:

SC Members-Alternates Present

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

NCWFHC Members-Entity Participants

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

Ex-Officio Participants

OWNF: Andy Hart, Meg Trebon, Paul Kelley, Erica Taecker, Kerry Kemp, Victoria Wilkins, Gene Shull, Colleen Malaney, Keith Kistler, Julie Bain, Nate Standish

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

Other Attendees

Blue Forest Conservation: Kim Seipp; **Inter-Fluve:** Mackenzie Butler, Gardner Johnston; **NRCS:** Jeff Paulson; **Senator Murray staff:** Raquel Crowley