

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):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** ABSENT; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Scott Chambers, Anna Boris; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers

Other Meeting Participants

Cascadia Conservation District (CCD): Ryan Williams; **Confederated Tribes of the Colville:** Cody Desautel; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Methow Valley Citizens Council:** Sam Israel; **Methow Valley News:** Natalie Johnson; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Alicia Meier, Melody Kreimes, Pete Teigen, Sarah Walker (Facilitator); **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding, Jeff Rivera, Chris Furr, Andy Heart, Paul Kelley, Sendi Kalcic, Deb Kelly; Susan Crampton

Welcome and Regular Business

Co-chair Chris Branch opened the meeting at 1:00 pm. Participants introduced themselves. The facilitator reviewed meeting objectives and changes to draft March summary, April preparatory packet.

Members approved the March 3, 2021 Steering Committee meeting summary with corrections. The final meeting summary will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

Notables Since March SC

Letter of Support for Funding Under HB 1168

The NCWFHC had submitted a letter of support for the state Wildfire and Forest health bill HB 1168. Anna Boris reported the bill passed the House Ways and Means Committee on 4/2/21 and will head to Senate floor this week, as early as 4/8. If passed it goes back to the ways and means committee.

Anna Boris will let Sarah know about the status of the BioChar amendment for NCW

FY22 CFLRP Sign-on Letter

The NCWFHC signed on to the CFLR support letter (provided in packet).

Concept: NCWFHC Letter re: Congressional Appropriation to USFS

Mike A. discussed timing, need and proposed to write a letter to Congressional members, delegates to advocate for additional funding for the USFS

- <https://www.mountaineers.org/blog/why-we-need-a-bold-investment-in-the-forest-service>
- <https://www.mountaineers.org/blog/documents/forest-service-funding-report-april-2021>

Mike Anderson will draft a letter. Melody Kreimes, Jen Syrowitz, Chris Branch, and Tom Partin to help/review.

NCWFHC – OWNF ‘Leadership’ Meetings

At Kristin’s request, the Co-chairs and UCSRB/Chair, facilitators met after the last Steering Committee meeting to debrief. Would like to continue these meetings. No SC current SC concerns; however, meetings need to/ will include Yakama Nation. Future update to by-laws or protocols may be needed.

Convene planned meeting on Friday with Supervisor, YN, Co-Chairs, UCSRB/Chair, facilitators.

OWNF - People, Process, Projects

Staffing Updates

- Forest Fish Biologist leaving for job at State Office
- Darren Gooding will be detailing as a Natural Resource Staff Officer.
- List of candidates for CleElum Ranger position. End of month who is recommended
- Administrative staff leaving
- Additional Outreach for Fish Biologist going out for government and non government applicants.
- Still looking at filling other vacancies as they are able too.
- Budget snapshot. Not able to hire all seasonal jobs that they wanted to and possibly will need to hire through emergency 30 day hire process.

Check-in on Joint Chiefs, Other Funding Opportunities

OWNF has no official direction from FS. Started initial conversations and thoughts with key partners. Big role with state partners with meeting expectations of projects. Ask for a point of contact for Joint Chiefs proposals and being finalized right now for 1 point of contact most likely a fire folk personnel.

Kristin will follow-up at May Quarterly for point of contact.

UWPP

Last week contractor provided updated EA with comments from last SC. 2 week time turn around end of next week to make sure all comments were answered. Write up on LSR consistency piece. Biological Assessment. Field crews are getting ready in preparation for the summer, silvicultural surveys. No comments on UWPP that came as a big surprise or that will result in a lot of additional work. Can work on telling stories better As a follow up, the monitoring meeting also raised the desire for a joint IDT/collaborative plan-in-hand review of sales given the condition based approach.

Sarah email Patrick Haggerty’s summary bullets from monitoring workshop

NCWFHC-OWNF Collaborative Engagement Framework

Forest Restoration Strategy

Mike Liu reviewed the feedback received including OWNF input on staffing constraints and reiterated intent of “refresh”; desire to have a very integrated approach and independent approach. Confirming who would make up review group. The Yakama Nation is interested in participating and supporting Aquatics. A goal of the FRS ‘refresh’ is to make the Aquatics component as robust and ‘final’ as the

Terrestrial element, incorporate other information useful for dialogue with DNR, LSR Workgroup, consultation agencies. Open to any suggestions on how this would look.

- A suggestion was made to include Cody Desautel on the Advisory Group.
- A suggestion was made to add Andy Hart as point of contact for the Advisory Group.

Participants discussed other funding/support resources—CNW, TWS, possibly YN. The SO noted a letter to accompany the final proposal to OWNF for FRS refresh is a good idea.

Mike Liu will update FRS Refresh proposal for further discussion at the May Quarterly meeting.

Twisp Project Update

Recap of PWG “Deep Dive” Meeting Outcomes

There were too many topics for the agenda and format planned. The District was prepared with a lot of information to share. Another meeting is scheduled for April 15th focused only on Spotted Owls and LSR. Zones of agreement need to be defined alongside remaining issues and interests the whole group/ NCWFHC holds. Participants discussed options for a trip to the field; OWNF, others still under restrictions for “public”, group events. The PWG will look into convening an internal/ PWG field discussion to review stands, data as COVID restrictions allow.

Next Steps for ‘Outward’ Community Messaging

Participants identified options to host a public meeting in-person or via Teams. Preference for in-person if COVID allows to share changes between draft and final with the public. Targeted press release?

There were questions about how many deep dive meetings are required to move forward. Members identified the need to define key zones of agreement (vs. zones of disagreement). The next “deep dive” meeting will set the stage for how many more meetings PWG-MVRD may be needed. These meetings are intended to resolve Q&A on the proposed action. The SC/PWG committed to go through the set of topics from the Collaborative so not an endless list of concerns and meetings remain efficient and effective. Members discussed concern about delaying the process. More project meetings mean OWNF staff time and energy are taken from work in other areas; however, collaboration is valued and critical to both PWG-MVRD/OWNF partnership on Twisp, so investment is important.

*Pete/Sarah will work with PWG Co-Chairs to schedule follow-up/ Deep Dive II mtg. on Twisp
PWG will explore field trip options.*

Documenting Project-Level Understanding

Draft Chumstick-to-LP Collaborative “Agreement”

The working draft Collaborative Engagement Framework contributed to development of a working draft Chumstick-to-LP Collaborative Agreement/ proposal to OWNF-SO, WRRD regarding desired pre-NEPA, NEPA process, and other desired “touch-points” for the project. Still soliciting feedback to make the table an Agreement. The project-level Agreement/ table would be tailored to each project and linked to existing 5-year Plan and NEPA timelines.

Members agreed to use Framework and apply to Draft Chumstick-to-LP Agreement/ Proposal to OWNF.

Process question regarding letter from SO or District to NCWFHC (or SC Co-Chairs? PWG Co-Chairs?) for each project.

- Is this necessary; could existing mtg. agendas/ summaries be used to document OWNF notification about a project “coming online” (OWNF is thinking pre-NEPA)?

Members agreed to follow-up at June SC regarding desired level of formality, process for documentation.

Chelan County Forest Resiliency Bond (FRB)

Chelan Co. is working with Blue Forest to explore FRB work on some OWNF landscapes (Nason Creek, Eagle to LP). The Blue Forest Team can give an overview and some details at the May Quarterly. For Nason Creek, CCNRD contracted with Bill Gaines to evaluate landscape.

Blue Forest/Chelan County RFB will present at May Quarterly Mtg.

Round-Table Updates

Quad County Timber Meeting

Co-Chair Branch participated; Ferry, Stevens, Pond Oreille and Okanogan Counties represented.

Other

- Kittitas County how we can support each other: challenges with State rule making; Dept. of Ecology (would like to get moving on controlled burning, Bio-char).
- Mission Project: PWG request for maps of stands, Rx, potential sales from FS to help move the conversation along. Specific questions should be sent to MVRD, Chris Furr.

ID May Quarterly Agenda Topics, Meeting Wrap-Up

- OWNF Programmatic Agreement for Heritage
- Twisp, UWPP
- Collaborative Engagement Framework
- Forest Restoration Strategy Refresh
- Snow2Flow
- Regional Aquatics Prioritization
- Blue Forest-CCNRD FRB

Meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.

The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2021.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021 from 1:00pm-3 The next NCWFHC Quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 5.:30pm.