

### SC Members-Alternates Present

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

### Other NCWFHC Members, Participants

**Blue Forest Conservation:** Kim Quesnel, Tessa Maurer; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Patrick Haggerty; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Methow Valley Citizens Council (MVCC):** Jasmine Minbashian; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Alicia Meier, Nicole Jordan, Sarah Walker (Facilitator); **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Jeff Rivera, Chris Furr, Andy Hart, Melissa Shelley, Paul Kelley, Aaron Rowe, Kari Grover Wier; **Staff to Senator Patty Murray:** Raquel Crowley, Susan Crampton.

### Welcome and Regular Business

Co-chair Anderson 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 April SC meeting summary or June agenda.

**Members approved the April 7, 2021, SC meeting summary.** The final summary will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

### OWNF – People, Process, Projects

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

- Tentative offer for Cle Elum Ranger
- No date for OWNF/ N. Zone Fish Bio departure. Working to identify top candidate
- Reviewing Forest Ecologist applications to fill James Dickenson's position
- When Pete Cadena goes, will need to refill Forest Heritage position
- HR working on persistent N. Zone vacancies; Archaeologist remains key position
- Forest Tech timber stand tech to be refilled
- GS11 Silviculturist (2 weeks away from offer on this position) out of Leavenworth
- Working on GS9 Presale Forester at WRRD
- MVRD. New Zone Soil Scientist Tracy Christopherson starting in August. New North Zone TMA Adam McClellan/ Silviculturist coming from DNR out of Spokane.

Regarding COVID-19, the OWNF is still awaiting national guidance; still in telework stance. Starting face to face meetings; however, offices remain closed. Union negotiations – hopeful July or August. SO will not be open until March due to remodel.

### FY22 Program of Work and 5-Year Plan Development

The Forest Leadership Team review found some holes on forest-wide projects; many staffing holes. FY22 POW incorporates travel management, big horn sheep planning. Supervisor Bail asked SC members to consider the most meaningful/ efficient way to share the large and detailed spreadsheet of project work and gaps.

The OWNF 5-year Plan update is due July 1. Andy Hart and Matt Castle are making changes and additions to reflect Chiefs and CFLRP, fuels work. Region not intending to add personnel capacity for FY23; Heritage (archeology) and Rec side short staffed. Final head count cap numbers are expected in July—trim or add.

- *ASAP Sarah will follow-up with Kristin regarding dates that work for OWNF staff and distribute a Doodle Poll for a virtual meeting to review the FY22 POW spreadsheet.*

### Great American Outdoors Act, Pres. Budget Updates

President's FY22 budget request outlined projects Congress will consider for appropriation. Three existing projects Mt. to Sound corridor, Stevens Pass corridor, Pacific Crest Trail (\$150,000 for Cascades work, and Mission aquatic work \$180,000). Mission AOP request may not be sufficient to cover all costs.

Awaiting contract tools from R6 to obligate remainder of FY21 funds. FY23 request is lean due to carryover from FY21, FY22. No bids and high bids have made getting contracts in place a challenge.

Presidential request for increase in funding awaiting Congressional approval. Significant increases in contract and agreement funds. 47million proposed for watershed resilience.

### UWPP

Ranger Rivera provided an update on the June 1 field trip of the UWPP with Congresswoman Schrier. Co-Chair Anderson noted that turnout was good and the format her staff developed let OWNF staff and NCWFHC members-partners involved with the UWPP tell their story.

UWPP timeline is on track with objection period expected in August, signed decision in September. The contractor has updated the draft LSR memo (consistency with LSR); OWNF needs 2-3 weeks to review. LSR working group is aware of parameters of the project and team members have been involved the last 2.5 years. No indication from LSR Workgroup that what is being proposed is of any concern or that there will be a hold up to the consultation timeline. OWNF will plan a few weeks ahead of time to get on the LSR work schedule.

Jen W. presented on the importance of monitoring on Wenatchee/Okanogan. In April, a Monitoring workshop was held meeting to see what other partners are doing and come up with a UWPP draft monitoring strategy – what do we need, how are we going to do it, what is the NCWFHC role. A revised draft is available for review. The hope is to adopt Version 1 on July 1. Goals is to host first monitoring meeting in winter and revised the Monitoring Strategy annually. The PWG hopes that the UWPP monitoring framework can be utilized-adapted for the Twisp project and others.

- *Members that want to provide feedback on the draft UWPP Monitoring Strategy (Version 1) in June or have any questions or comments will email [jennifer.watkins@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.watkins@dnr.wa.gov)*

### Restoration Strategy Refresh

Mike L. walked participants through changes to the proposed Core Team and additions in this version of the proposal based on recent feedback. This included shifts or confirmation of previously proposed

OWNF, DNR staff time commitments. Proposed projects and geographic scope: 1. UWPP; 2. Twisp River; 3. Manashtash Tanum (Covers 3 zones and different landscapes; all projects in planning stage).

- Lloyd McGee offered to be on Science Advisory Group.
- AFRC would be willing to help with the socio-economic component.
- Mike to follow up with Lloyd on his suggestion to consider Little Naches watershed in S. Zone and adding a reporting-outreach element to the proposal.
- Tapash Collaborative is supportive. Bill is working on setting up a meeting with Andy Hart. This will help develop timeline.

Mike L. reviewed the funding that has been vocalized/ committed by Members to date and noted a \$5000-\$7000 funding gap.

#### *Next Steps:*

- *CCNRD will contribute \$2000 and will be included with email updates.*
- *Lorah Super will reach out to OCD and MVCC for potential contribution*
- *Patrick Haggerty to reach out to CCD Board on contribution (effort would have to link to shared stewardship cross boundary with state, private, and federal—can this language be added?)*
- *Other NCWFHC members that may wish to contribute financial resources to help fill the remaining FRS Refresh funding gap, contact Mike Liu.*

### **Twisp Restoration Project**

Chuck provided an update on the DNR-led field trip that FS staff, mix of collaborative members attended. Focus was to connect on a personal level. Field trip stayed in the valley bottom, looked at a site where potential to cut larger than 22" diameter lumber. Industry members gave an economic look and shared perspective about tree size and species, impacts of transporting. Conservation/ community members see potential resolution to some important questions that remain. It was clear all participants desire to see the project move forward. The field trip was very productive.

The PWG needs a follow-up internal discussion to agree on any remaining questions and identify need and process for further engagement with MVRD (e.g., field trip?)

- *ASAP, Sarah will Doodle PWG with options on June 9/ 10/ 11 for Twisp Internal follow-up*

### **Project-Level Collaboration**

Lloyd reviewed the draft framework intended to help define how communication will occur between FS and NCWFHC on projects. OWNF agrees to work with NCWFHC to apply framework to Chumstick-to-LP and refine the draft Project Agreement. Supervisor Bail asked if the SC would like the OWNF to continue to use the existing NCWFHC framework (i.e., PWG) for engagement at project level or another approach. A Core group terrestrial, aquatic, and outreach subgroups could be a good model. Need to discuss with PWG.

Participants discussed the amount of work NCWFHC members can take on; key representatives at the table are working across multiple projects. For the UWPP, the WRRD IDT estimated 10-20% of FS time to manage contractors but has far exceeded that. Need to get existing work finished before taking on new projects. A-Z needs to be defined; need to develop an RFI. Does one step need to precede the other or can they occur concurrently? Carl Erickson/ OWNF may be helpful for some information.

The OWNF is learning. If goal is to increase pace and scale without FS staffing, partner or contractors must provide the capacity and resources. Need to evaluate and learn from lessons of UWPP as part of process. Rodney Smolden/ SO CNF has extended offer of A-Z information exchange to Ranger Rivera.

#### *Next steps*

- *Ranger Rivera will communicate with Rodney Smolden*
- *Sarah will distribute Doodle Poll for PWG to discuss draft Chumstick to LP agreement and RFI development*
- *Sarah will distribute RFI example from Joint Task Force work.*

#### **Mad-Roaring-Mills**

Scoping period closes in a few weeks. Co-chair Anderson shared a draft (partial) NCWFHC Scoping comment letter and requested support to develop the terrestrial restoration component, fuel treatments comments. The project has no commercial harvest.

#### *Next Steps:*

- *Mike Liu and Mary Sutton will look at terrestrial side and provide comments.*
- *Sarah will email PWG to identify members to develop draft M-R-M Project Agreement that can be emailed to OWNF to outline desired level of NCWFHC engagement.*

#### **Chelan County Forest Resiliency Bond (FRB)**

Blue Forest provided a follow-up to the May Quarterly presentation regarding how FRB can bring resources to planned projects. US endowment to bring FRB to Southern Oregon, Western Washington Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie, Chelan County. UWPP came up as a potentially good fit for a FRB to help increase pace and scale. Blue Forest and DNR partnered on a fast, dedicated feasibility study (May and June) to look at:

1. State of scientific (landscape benefits)
2. Funding landscape with state and federal (Dept. Natural Resources of , SRFB)
3. Local Beneficiary (who would see positive impacts?)
4. Needs related to partner relationships (implementation partner act as a general contractor and is chosen by the FS – increase staffing capacity for the FS)

Chelan Co. and Blue Forest will present results at the July SC meeting. The UWPP Core Meeting may be a good place to gather other input, any additional questions before then.

#### *Next Steps:*

- *Blue Forest and Chelan County will present UWPP Feasibility results at the July 7 SC mtg.*
- *Participants will email Tessa ([tessa@blueforest.org](mailto:tessa@blueforest.org)) or Kim ([kim@blueforest.org](mailto:kim@blueforest.org)) with thoughts about what is needed on UWPP landscape or questions in advance of 7/7 meeting.*
- *Patrick Haggerty will send next UWPP Core Group Mtg. date to Sarah to distribute.*

#### **Joint Chiefs Proposal**

Combined effort between FS and Joint Chiefs (federal and non-federal land). Collaborative effort with NRCS and DNR (intentional with capacity). Proposal focuses on reducing and mitigating forest fires. Water quality, improve habitat for at risk species. Focus on 3 areas: 1) Mission, 2) Entiat Focal Area (fuels in Crum Canyon, UWPP and aquatic treatments in Mad Roaring large amount of area), 3) Naches Little Crow = fuels work and aquatic work. The proposal considers 5-year plan projects and what makes sense to add from Joint Chiefs. Funding for FY22 needs to be tied to shovel ready projects; 3-year funding period. \$12 million price tag and 4,100 acres of treatment in the 3 landscapes. May have to refine. Due at the RO next week; Due June 25 to WO. Lots of opportunity.

- *Members will contact Aaron Rowe with any questions.*

## Round-Table

### OWG is Looking for New Co-Chair

The current Co-Chairs are from the same region and same organization. There is interest in diversification among geographic regions and entities. Contact Nicole Jordan if you are interested!

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

***The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 7, 2021 from 1:00pm-3:30pm***

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