

February 12, 2025

Steering Committee Mtg. Summary

Wenatchee Valley Fire Station 11, Wenatchee, WA

3:20 pm - 4:00 pm



Special Steering Committee Meeting – Closed Session

Attendance

In-Person:

Anjolene Ngari (Hampton Lumber); Patrick Haggerty (Cascadia CD); Catherine Waterston (TNC); Karen Berg (NCWFHC); Gabby Vermeire (UCSRB); Lora Super (Okanogan CD); Matthew Danielson

Online:

Commissioner Nick Timm (Okanogan Co); Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation); Matt Comisky (AFRC); Rebecca Hunt (Colville Confederated Tribes); Mike Kaputa (CCNRD); Megan Birzell (TWS)

Welcome and Introductions

Karen Berg called the Steering Committee meeting to order at 3:20 pm for a special closed session. Karen noted agenda changes: The Sustainable Northwest letter of support for HB 1168 could not be voted on because a quorum was not present and will need to be voted on by email.

Scope Changes to Resilient Forestry Contract

Kerry Kemp reviewed the reasons for changing the scope of work in the contract with Resilient Forestry for stand monitoring. Kerry had spoken with the Monitoring Project work group about how Resilient Forestry said they could put in 10 monitoring plots with money provided by Collaborative through their grant. Kerry suggested that RF do other monitoring work, since FS was already monitoring plots over the coming season such that they will likely be more efficient.

Instead, it was decided to have RF record drone imagery for the Upper Wenatchee pilot project area and Raging sales. Resilient forestry is well-positioned to do this type of work, and it would be helpful in conjunction with the stand monitoring already being done by FS. It would also be good to shift the scope to doing drone imagery so we have different scales of treatment available in that area.

The grant money for this comes from the DNR surplus out of the Building Forest Partnerships money, which was previously allocated for a facilitator. Because there was no facilitator for quite some time, the money was reallocated to monitoring. The contract will need to change the grant amendment language to have RF do drone imagery/processing rather than stand monitoring.

Mike Kaputa said he wanted to know more details about where and how monitoring will occur, and wanted to make sure there wasn't any duplicative/overlapping monitoring.

Kerry said that the monitoring would be across the CFLRP project area. The FS had wanted to pair their stand monitoring protocol with meso-scale drone data. This was in direct response to concerns about monitoring on the Mission project, and that partners were also concerned about pattern metrics of trees as a result of treatment, and didn't think that stand monitoring was powerful enough on its own to address those questions. The FS has already collected stand data from the Meadow and Raging sales, but didn't have any drone imagery to address other questions, hence why Kerry recommended this approach to the Collaborative.

Q: Who is directing contractor?

- The Resilient Forestry contract is not final; this decision is to reallocate the scope of work. This is a DNR grant, and UCSRB would be the fiscal sponsor.

Mike said that Chelan County would like to be involved in the work.

Letter of support for second decision on Upper Wenatchee

Chuck Hersey reminded attendees of the two alternatives for the Upper Wenatchee Pilot project: Alternative 2 would treat less acreage with no LSRA requirement, while Alternative 1 would treat more acreage but require LSRA. The decision to the SC today is to approve sending a letter to Tara Umphries once it is approved by the Collaborative. Sending the letter ASAP will emphasize the urgency and importance of this decision to the collaborative and will get Tara up to speed on this issue.

Karen will send out the letter to the Collaborative. The timeline for edits are a week out from being in receipt of the draft letter.

Decisions Timelines

HB 1168 letter of support will be out by end of day tomorrow by SNW and forwarded to SC for vote

- 48 hour turnaround for approval by email

Grant amendment on drone monitoring

- 24 hour turnaround, end of day Friday

Second Decision letter to Supervisor Umphries

- 1 week turnaround, end of day Thursday 2/21

Wrap-up and adjourn

Co-Chairs Super and Ngari adjourned the Meeting at 4:00 pm.

The next SC Meeting will be March 5, 2025 at Wenatchee Valley Fire Station 11, 1-4 pm