

May 7, 2025

Quarterly Summary

Chumstick Grange, Leavenworth WA

10:00 am – 2:50 pm



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Proposed May 5, 2025 Quarterly agenda	Approved. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/
Proposed April 9, 2025 SC meeting summary	Approved. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/

Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
Draft letter in support of using retained receipts funds within the UWPP geography. Tiana Luke will draft along with Karen Berg. It will then come to Steering Committee for a vote.	
Karen collect list of those interested in monitoring and work with Amy and others to make a plan to go out.	

Welcome and Introductions

- Co-Chair Anjolene Ngari called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.
- Karen Berg reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives, as well as a reminder of NCWFHC purpose to support OWNF in forest health activities. She requested approval of April 9, 2025 Steering Committee meeting summary.
- May 7 agenda and April 9 meeting summary approved.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) Updates

Updates from the Forest Supervisor's Office

USFS Written Updates

From Victoria Wilkins, Public Affairs Officer:

A **new forest website went live on April 23**. Migration to the new platform was on an accelerated timeline, so we prioritized moving over pages and information that is most frequently used or needed for the upcoming recreation season. This means that the forest restoration strategy and some related information is not on our page. That information needs some substantial updating and there wasn't an immediate need for it, so we haven't yet migrated the information to the new website.

From Seth Kammer, Partnership Coordinator:

Please see below for details on our new District Ranger for Chelan and Entiat:

Holly Krake most recently served as a Senior Advisor in the Work Environment and Performance Office. She holds a bachelor's in Mass Communication, a master's in Higher Education, and a certificate in Psychological Safety in addition to various wildland fire qualifications.



Since 2010, Holly has supported complex natural resource, recreation, wildfire, and work environment issues across the nation including national forests in the southern Appalachians, desert Southwest, Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest and Alaska as well as working at regional and national levels. A familiar resource for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Holly has lived and worked in central Washington for nearly a decade. She is passionate about restoring healthy and productive landscapes, living our core values, and being in service to colleagues, communities, and the planet alike.

When she's not working, Holly can often be found outside- paddling a river, hiking that trail, or looking for bigfoot (JK).

holly.krake@usda.gov

Ranger District Updates

Wenatchee River Ranger District, Erica Taecker

- Right now the district is sorting out personnel changes; there is still until 5/22 to sign agreements. They expect an interim plan out in the next week or so from the Chief. Tiana Luke asked about the number of positions lost, and who knows this number in the FS. Gia Landis mentioned she has some numbers and Mount Baker Snoqualmie NF just put out this information.
- Erica recognizes the collaborative request to focus on getting a second decision in UWPP, and that FS will come up with a path and timeline, but this is lower priority than other ongoing projects. She has heard the Project Work Group offer assistance, and in some areas they have partners helping with surveys. Erica said she can put together an ask for assistance.
- MattaWen is coming up and they decided to do a small timber sale versus a service work through. The plan was to try to get another small sale with FRB funding to do a straight sale and get road work done. 7mmbf or so.
- Retained receipts questions:
 - Patrick Haggerty – yesterday there was conversation about shared stewardship with retained receipts. How will these projects using those receipts be prioritized/ selected? What's the process? Erica – first, what can we afford with what we expect for receipts; what's feasible (restoration and road work most likely). They work with Supervisor to prioritize. Work also with the collaborative for input. At a minimum, make NCWFHC aware so we can fully understand the process and what's working.
 - Anjolene – the region pulled from receipts for staffing; it would be good to know how much. Erica said she would love to know also. Retained receipts is whatever is left after other expenses/obligated funds are paid. Anjolene – one of the key projects was a helicopter project on Methow. If pulled, probably indicates we aren't in a great place, so how can we get them obligated to keep them here as they are doing elsewhere? Lloyd – there were \$2m retained on the Huckleberry sale and Little Naches sent a letter to keep the money locally for restoration. We could do the same here, to keep it in UWPP area, rather than across forest or region. Tiana –in Colville, they used excess retained receipts for facilitation of the collaborative so it could be an option here in the future.
 - Matt – is the amount tracked or is it just placed into the larger budget pot? Erica – things are happening strangely now. While we can track it, we might not be able to hold

on to it. Lisa – is a letter requesting to keep things on the project potentially useful? Lloyd – this is captured in 2002 Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Tiana – confirmed this is something the collaborative can do. Anjolene – more generally, let's give examples and show support. TL will draft and work with KB. Then bring it to vote by Steering Committee.

- Andy Hover – What's the trail crew looking like? Erica – only can speak to WRRD. They are down in staff through terminations/rehire/uncertainty. Trails/wilderness are not well staffed. Cmr. Hover – trails are useful; can they use chainsaws in some areas? Matt – the last two summers, Backcountry Horsemen has been able to use them.

Field Tour Review and Monitoring Discussion

Field Tour Review

Lloyd McGee reviewed the 3 goals from the annual tour May 6:

1. Look at implementation on the ground; see what they look like.
 - a. Hear from the sale contract rep and the sale administrator
 - b. Look at the results of the treatments after reading the RX
2. Looked at how to measure results by learning the monitoring protocol
3. 3 continue to support the projects and their challenges (consultation etc.)

On the tour we saw dry forest treatments opened up well with clumps and openings and an LSR in a totally different unit. We as a collaborative advocate treating LSR units to get more growth on the trees and to amplify the habitat value.

This is our annual meeting – 12th year. Outreach WG put the tour on to highlight our work. The attendance was a workable number at ~29 people. Several members agreed that there was adequate time to discuss the ideas and what we saw in the field and that it was productive time spent.

Anjolene asked specifically if any feelings changed pre-trip to post-trip? Attendees are asked to pass on ideas, comments, ideas, critique to chairs or Karen and we will forward them on.

- Matt noted that there was more real conversation happening, learning about frustrations and challenges, not just political talking points. People were not feeling sold on something. Not a talking heads session, but multiple perspectives of just talk. Erica said FS couldn't drive logistics, and the trip was not super scripted. Staff can speak candidly right now.
- More field time! This trip is replicable.
- People liked the good use of the windshield time along the way with the vehicle cards designed to trigger thoughts for the next stop.
- We hold in common a passion and a love for this work.

LSR discussion:

- We should walk 300 ft off road to talk rather than speak in the landing to see it better. LSR was hard to visualize.
- Too many restrictions to meet the wildfire objective. Reduced some risk but maybe not worth it. Economically it was a big loss, but fortunately the dry forest made up for some of that. This was also a reentry, which is very expensive and frustrating.
- The burden on sale administrators is way more with DxP, which is being pushed much more in this administration. It's pushing contractors to be much more conservative.
- Complex prescription comes with lots of challenge to achieve it.

- Kerry Kemp – Rx for moist and moist LSR in UWPP are nearly identical, but LSR is not something they've done a lot of.
 - Can we change the order to do all the moist forest parcels first, THEN moist LSR after they have a feel for it? How are these operations ordered?
 - Contractors submit a plan, but they can change it, unless there's a limiting timing issue. This way they can get bearings in a unit with fewer complications.
 - Gia — if there is LSR in MataWen, it would be good to go there in advance.

Prescription and Sale discussion:

- Complicated Rx are tough for operators and may be an unfair burden on them.
 - Could clarify with USFS. We need to be able to understand it well to assume that the operators will.
 - Simplify the hard part. There's a way to do partial marking – do the tricky spots and then leave DxP on the rest.
 - Social license should offer a bit of honest mistake, while we also understand the need for compliance.
 - We need to have more conversations with those who have feet on the ground.
 - have to take risk away if you want to have the contractor try new things. Move risk away from the contractor. They will bias to not doing because they can't put the tree back on the stump. Get the concept of ecological restoration as a concept for the operator's culture.
- Could we have an event to teach the operators (pay wages and meals) to have skills workshop – pull together their skills with our rationale/ knowledge.
- There is now a template from the first two sales to modify for future.
- We need FWS to come out more before and after implementation and to talk about fire risk. No units were completely treated with burning – look forward to seeing this to see removal/mortality, fire patterns after burning.
- Have a separated sale to first have harvest and then the purchasers bid on the log decks based on size and species.
 - This is allowed with DNR and not allowed with FS. Could it be considered in this time, or to use GNA?
 - Is that something industry would like? Have it sorted and mill has to buy and haul only.
 - Josh said industry could do it. There is an amendment that FS can offer the treatment and then they can sell the logs. This is used for fuel break work.
 - Erica – consider the extra admin piece. Contractors will learn to do it if you sell more timber. They are tuned in to what the site needs. Yes, we need to adjust the fear piece.
 - Tiana – how would a deck sale affect the flow of funding? Erica – you'd want a timber contracting representative even if sold as a service. It would likely be a timber sale, with a separate contract to sell the deck. Pre-fund and back fund with receipts. Anjolene – industry has been having this conversation for some time.

Monitoring

Lloyd opened discussion with the objective of the monitoring work we did as a way to build trust and not get into complications that keep us from supporting all or some aspects of a project. On the Mission project things weren't ideal and FS was questioned about meeting the specs of the EA and challenged to respond on the ground. There was different data, different interpretations. Instead, the collaborative

needs to define metrics and understand them. Use a collaborative approach and the Monitoring Protocol to have common understanding of treatments.

Kerry brought some of the pre-treatment data from Meadow, some from Raging to show the monitoring in areas we saw. While hoping to get more pre-treatment data in the area, they installed 31 treatment plots Meadow, 10 Raging, and 10 control in and around Meadow. Looking for areas in a timber sale boundary that are not to be treated or a unit that got dropped, to find similar conditions. Hard to find good controls as a consequence (most areas get treated). No data collected in unit 12 because there are only a couple in the Meadow timber sale and they chose to focus on moist forest and moist LSR Rx areas. Implementing dry in other places on the forest so getting data elsewhere.

Looking at the data can help us to be much more accurate. Also, statistics are key, allowing for a standard error of $\pm 10\%$, especially good given that there is a lot of variation on the landscape. The lower the standard error, the more we can trust the data. We are using the DNR protocol recommended number of plots per unit size (ac). Ranges 2 plots for 10 ac, or 25 for 250 ac units. Note they are on a grid, for systematic randomness, not human selected. Yesterday we discussed 1 plot every 5 acres. Can drop the plot if:

- a) can't get the whole plot in the unit;
- b) it's dangerous/ for safety reasons;
- c) there's a target number of plots to hit and there are already enough.

Crystal – monitoring is important, but the real issue is misalignment of expectations (Mission). Can we bring expectations into alignment before implementation? For example, prescriptions had trees/ac, with * of “if mistletoe, then there could be more” which was vague. Monitoring is how we move forward. Can we provide AI-derived virtual visit of post-treatment to community meetings for functional comment/feedback in those crux moments when we are implementing prescriptions?

- Priya PaulDey – we can do some of this already. Matt – with Virginia Ridge they did just this at the Red Barn in Winthrop and carried the public through with computer visuals of models. It provided real expectation to the public.
- Patrick – there is more opportunity now that we have more treatments to look at on the landscape to scale this up using averages from other areas.
- Amy – use these to bring the public into unified understanding by showing other real stands and results.
- Lisa – pair this with historical visuals to use as educational opportunity (both landscape and stand-level).
- Kerry – John Marshall is working on a number of updated landscape photos and will focus on areas of upcoming and ongoing restoration projects or recent fires. Included them in CFLRP report to see pre-post treatment.
- Anjolene – reminder to reality check on what we ask FS to focus on. Instead, what can we do with these ideas to relieve them. Bring this to OWG to discuss.

- Matt – John Marshall is likely to work with OWG. Also, we need to discuss wildlife/ habitat beyond the spotted owl. Most threatened are bighorn sheep and Douglas squirrel. Matt can coordinate with wildlife folks. Anjolene — at Paul Hessburg’s presentation for Chumstick Wildfire Coalition, he used John Marshall photos very effectively.
- Lloyd – could we go get the data, photos, to help with this? NCWFHC can do some of this, plus monitoring. Anjolene — Even handing the FS data is still expecting the FS to interpret and use this data, like the Resilient Forestry contract. Tiana – another issue is that state budgets are dry and we need to look elsewhere. Matt – is there any restriction to this? Kerry – no, anyone can go out and use the protocol. Ally is hired on as DNR Monitoring Coordinator and FS is hoping to get her funded for more. In Methow, there is a team of ex-USFS persons. Ask to coordinate joint training to feel confident with the team. Lisa – she thinks she can help with this coordination at this point. Patrick – we did this before, and it fizzled out. We can reinvigorate this to meet current needs. Plot level data wasn’t a need then but it is now. Can also get a bunch of local community. Volunteer firefighters are candidates. Also revisit the Monitoring Plan which was ambitious. Look especially at social perception/ social license questions. Gather thoughts on trips and report back to FS.
 - Amy – this meeting can produce a list of those who can help; Karen can collect and we’ll all make a plan to go out.
 - This will go on the PWG meeting agenda and invite Ally Kruper the new DNR Stand Level Monitoring Coordinator.
 - Lisa — start looking to calendars to plan. Bring Ally to do this. Choose a selected field day 1x/mo or every couple of weeks.

Outreach Work Group Updates

Chair Catherine Waterston provided an update on OWG activities over the last month.

- Public tour of pre-post fire effect. Shows cross-boundary work. Relatively close for public. TNC had to burn on CDLT and FS can’t burn off property.
- LW/ Leavenworth – working with them with Chumstick Open House, CWDG tour (2 hr tour with 2 stops meadow and fuel breaks + squirrel tree tabling 6:30 presentation) casual discussion. Collab members to talk at the stops.
- Newsletter with LWFR out by June 30.
- Next mtg June 2
- Mike Lesky videoed yesterday

These activities and more are detailed in the OWG Work Plan for 2025. Approval of this plan was requested and a vote was held: – 11 members vote green; no red, no yellow.

Decision: Approve the 2025 Outreach Work Group Plan.

Further OWG Discussion –There is a pause on bringing in new members until operating protocols are in place (voted on). We need to get structure in place before we invite because we don't know who will be there already. The Work Plan does not involve inviting new members to the work plan.

Project Work Group Updates

Chair Anjolene Ngari provided an update on PWG activities over the last month.

Comment letter developed for NWFP will be a good starting point on ZOAs for future discussion: what is worth more conversation and what is not; what is agreeable. The process of letter writing went really well.

Lower North Shore project update was presented and discussed at the last meeting (what it is, details, explain the issues). It went from EA to CE. The LNS engagement agreement is *communicate*, not collaboratively develop the project. They requested specific WDFW comment on the road issue and WDFW is working on that.

Project 5-Year Look Ahead

Chair Tiana Luke guided discussion on the recent Timber EO and associated Action Memo: what does this mean for a lookahead and 5-year planning? Consider the likely projects for work in the next years and our collaborative engagement. She believes there is a big need for the collaborative at this time with the FS need. It was agreed that the collaborative in place is a constancy to help prevent controversy akin to timber wars. We can help create something better than it is now.

Tiana referred to the three EO/Memo summaries circulated ahead of the meeting (to be sent again with these notes). She then talked about the actions required:

- Need to report to the forest every 2 weeks on timber and targets.
- Our forest already has a 5-yr plan so this won't be news.
- Our forest has already been scaling up to do much needed work across the landscape, so we won't likely see much change. May be a change in how it's communicated. Tiana said it is important for us to develop good communication with FS and keep these relationships.

Jim Passage says the Districts have a lot of people coming to them saying "I have this skillset, how can I use it?" and we could help organize this. Retired skilled people can help with a little bit of direction and a plan to augment FS needs. It will help the community. Lisa agreed it will also help build the culture.

Consider impacts to recreation: all were permanent seasonals so Recreation was hit hard. Community can service campsites, can reach out to other groups for help like Leavenworth Mountain Association. Tiana cautions that we also stay mindful of our mission to support forest health and not go too far down recreation or other areas of need.

Anjolene then reviewed the EO actions. She mentioned that other forests are reviewing shelf stock. Note that some documents are final decisions. Consider doing lump sum evaluations rather than landscape by landscape. Tiana added that other forests are told to ramp up implementation but in the next few years won't have capacity for planning and then there won't be enough ready for implementation to follow.

We need to ask the Supervisor's Office to interpret: is this 25% a tack on or are we doing business as usual? Is it in production, or NEPA, or what? TWS refers to this as 25% increase in timber volume. The timber industry is promoting double this. Anjolene— What we don't yet know is how the baseline is calculated: is it the 2024 target, what was offered, or what was implemented? Also, it's important to talk about how this is interpreted across the region: will some areas be more producer-oriented than others?

Lloyd mentioned that Kari Grover-Wier said we were poised for this increase. We have already had targets above the level of the EO. He repeated Chuck's previous statement that at 25% we are still under target of need shown in NWFP. We need to keep on and fill gaps as we can. ZOA are ok so far to keep working with the forest. It's not going to change much in our forest in 5 or 10 yrs. We do need to see more volume. It's understood we need to do more. He's not sure the memo changes anything.

Anjolene – the problem isn't NEPA, it's that we are stuck in a consultation loop. Matt – FWS now has restrictions to even getting in the field to see the projects and work it out. Facilitation attempted between FWS and Fs and the funding was cut. Things that don't spell "efficiency" in the title have been cut, plus staffing.

Matt – There is talk of forming a "Wildfire Agency" to merger all fire actions. We need to also bring in the fire perspective and develop fire communications across our work too to not become siloed.

Tiana — EO Action increases CE from 3000 ac to 10,000 ac.

Lloyd – note that NEPA teams go to fire in the summer. We need to keep asking "how do we increase the pace" with these things in mind. Patrick – using NEPA contractors is actually slowing things down (e.g. Chumstick to LP). Tiana – the idea was to put the work to contractor to speed it up, but we're seeing it doesn't always work so well. Anjolene – FS has to use competitive bid process for contractors; we might be able to have more flexibility here. Gia— SNW is looking to the local contractors who know the landscape in OR where the collaborative may hold the contract. Could we mimic this?

Anjolene continued reviewing the EO Actions, saying some of these action items strengthen what we want to do. is also what we've already talked about, so there's alignment.

- Prioritize use of CE and a series are listed
- "line officers should look at condition-based management" is what we've already been trying to do. CWI area is highlighted as an area for this.
- Determination of NEPA adequacy
- Tiered decision making
- mandatory minimum approaches to scoping

- FS says they'd like to do more GNA to keep funds in the landscape rather than used by the Region
- using virtual boundaries to some degree
- Use more DXP but it's a learning process to dial in the marking part
- OWNF has already been using minimum base rates for sales and emergency authorizations and will continue to do so

A lot in the memo is not a change in management strategy. OWNF is beholden to the Forest Restoration Strategy and will keep working this way.

Matt – should we discuss the threshold CE's we're all totally comfortable with? Problem is that it eliminates the objection period of the public, and they have to go directly to lawsuit. Benefit is efficiency, but at what cost? Lisa – PWG agreed to talk about this in detail as it came of relevance with LNS. Anjolene highlighted the "prioritize use of the following CE's":

- Insects and disease (HFRA Sections 602 & 603);
- Fuel reduction and wildfire resiliency (HFRA 605(b)(1)(A) – (C));
- Fuel breaks (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law section 40806);
- Forest restoration activities (36 CFR 220.6(e)(25);
- Timber stand/wildlife habitat improvement projects (36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)

Anjolene noted that they will bring this discussion to PWG, and just introducing it here today. Tiana agreed to ask Mike to come. Group: **read CFR and Healthy Forest Act.**

Tiana — we talk about challenges (e.g. haul distances), but there could be opportunity to move some projects forward through these EO actions. Now it may be time to build infrastructure toward forest restoration. The analysis is completed; how can we use it, coupled with the initiatives?

Amy – the hazardous fuels transportation grant proposal is open until June 20 for up to \$5m toward projects like we've discussed. [Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Grants | US Forest Service](#)

Josh thought a lot about this and thinks it may be appropriate for an NGO rather than a purchaser. Funder is USDA. Vaagen got it. NWCF is a big player in this.

Roundtable

Tiana Luke (TWS) – TWS looking to national perspective on this and wanted to see if there is interest in larger discussion on big issues like this.

Kevin Areneson (Boise Cascade) – industry seeing market decline which will limit opportunities for projects, increase haul distancing issues. Capital is going into industry which is a positive. This is a plus, seeing a focus on the future. Is the market declining from uncertainty? A gamut: tariff concerns, Canada exporter moved into NE WA (Hapco, private entity). State and fed wood can't be exported.

Josh added that housing shortage is an issue. He thinks the uncertainty is the same (Canada is as uncertain on oil so they are shipping in lots).

Lisa Dowling (DFW) – habitat biologist for southern Chelan is nearly set and she should be able to introduce soon. Carmen Andonaegui is retiring. Developing their own cultural practice for shared stewardship across the state to have the agency add value statewide.

Jim Passage (LWFR) – we've seen change over 200 years. Wars, economic depression, etc. We can come back from this too as just another hiccup. Just might be painful for a few years.

Anjolene Ngari (Hampton Lumber) – out of chaos and uncertainty, beauty can be born. There was a mixed ruling on Twisp project. 9th Circuit determined that FS use of condition-based management and reliance on maximum effects analysis in place of NEPA: the FS is not required to reopen public comment. FS offered reasonable range of alternatives and complied with NEPA. However, cumulative effects analysis is deficient and remanded the decision back to the agency. It means that the agency has more work. We have yet to see if we can continue work on the Twisp Project.

Matt Danielson (CNW) – trying to fill gaps of wildlife bios and their programs of work all over by making caucuses across them to develop tools. Trying to be less reactive, and to identify needs to bring to projects.

Patrick Haggerty (CCD) – it's been a busy spring with private landowner treatments before the end of the biennium. Prescribed Burning Association is moving along; over 150 people have gotten involved with trainings. Just got the FEMA grant they applied for 5 yrs ago for Firewise training for landscape practitioners, for community, forest restoration/contractors; they put info on the website. This is at the county scale. FS has been interested. Conservation commission on the state budget went from \$15 m to \$2.5 million -- heavily impacted. The public tour to the Meadow project and fuel break is scheduled for May 29, with tabling/presentation to follow at the Squirrel Tree.

Josh Anderson (Vaagen) – regarding all the FS and changes, maybe there is not agreement as to it being done in the right way, but we can agree some change is needed. Let's work together with FS to do what we can with this situation and make it the best we can.

Amy Ramsey (DNR) – DNR budget Wildfire, forest health program cut in half. Holistic restoration across landscapes, Rx fire, etc, will be pretty minimal although they will probably remain. GNA working closely with FS on implementation and NEPA. The most impactful piece is that this funding supports the Facilitators and Coordinators for collaboratives across the state.

CWI 2024 Annual Accomplishments Report:

<https://deptofnaturalresources.box.com/s/5yelwhdnmo2ckqsds75ebyjba7wlu252>

Adapting to Wildfire: A Review of Ongoing Wildfire Planning and Mitigation Efforts Across 10 Landscapes in the Western United States; includes summary of the CWI landscape

https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr1030.pdf

2024 Forest Action Plan Update provides cursory overview of what work people are doing across the state related to forests.

[rp_2024_forest_action_plan_report.pdf](#)

Gia Landis (SNW) – Education on private lands with CWDG funding was frozen for a bit but back on line. Working with OR forests to see how to engage in contract NEPA in A-Z projects and other. SNW not a contracting agency, but can work with collaboratives in strategic planning, but not doing the contracting itself. Compiling vacancies in other forests, funding, etc. on

Karen Berg (NCWFHC) –

- Contract for drone work done and scheduled. Final details being addressed right now for work in two weeks.
- Sustainable Northwest has been pulling WA Forest Collaborative Network looking to solve tough, larger problems
- UCSRB considering all members to contribute to Facilitator/Coordinator position funding.
 - Working to make a clear plan of what we have and when we will run out. Will send minimums to Amy.
 - Gia has a list for funding of facilitation

Jeannie Blue Forest – appreciate the LSR discussion today to follow up the field trip

Crystal Elliot (TU) – restarting projects after funding freeze. Working on Stage 0 project In Wenatchee-Entiat watersheds, which is the first in WA State which restarts the evolution of a floodplain dynamics. Allows the stream to find its own course. Really a low-tech resto on steroids.

Integrating salmon restoration and forest management for fire resilience

Ailene Ettinger, The Nature Conservancy

Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) Salmon, Forests & Fire Working Group

(slides: [Forest-Fire-Salmon](#))

Ailene is working with SNAPP to create useable tools to integrate fire mgmt., forest health, and salmon restoration. Salmon are in critical danger with very low populations. Also, recent uncharacteristic wildfire is damaging to salmon. Under normal fire regimes, there are only short term impacts with longer-term benefits from fire, such as increased stream flow, sediment and wood inputs to streams. Salmon have evolved in these fiery landscapes. It is not clear how fire impacts the salmon; more

research is needed so they formed the Working Group funded by Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP).

Deliverables starting to be formed, but they are also seeking input from this group on how this science can catalyze good on-the-ground work.

Will synthesize research papers re salmon-fire-forest management (maps, database); case studies; non-technical articles. Examples of work are:

1. riparian burn severity analysis
2. Yakama Nation development of decision support tools across internal silos
3. Understanding the social factors: Ailene and Sydney are building an interviewee group for the study. If you can assist, please go to one or both of the links below, or contact them at:

Ailene Ettinger: ailene.ettinger@TNC.ORG

Sydney Sappenfield: ssappen@uw.edu, 970-376-6413

1. Link to add your name or suggest other potential candidates for interviews as part of social science research to understand the avenues and roadblocks to integrating salmonid considerations with forest health and wildfire resilience work (Sydney Sappenfield's master's thesis research): https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EWMMcs-YxShnWDo2Vq3HrwVpIVRu6de2oZUfVC_Ov6s/edit?usp=sharing
2. Link to share input and/or general interest in our SNAPP Salmon, Forests, and Fire working group, including what type of research products you think would be helpful: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJbVNY2n2ExH2wNuMKTk7osuJ7JjfRAwENwRPjREKqzfHEkA/viewform?usp=header>

Lloyd – we need to best understand each other's disciplines to work best on a landscape level. We need to integrate the terrestrial folks with aquatic folks to get to decisions that are timely. It can take a lot longer to do on the ground analysis of aquatics on a terrestrial project. How can this group/study help speed this up to arrive at a decision simultaneously on a NEPA analysis? Can they be more consolidated?

Crystal – agreed. The aquatic component of EAs is lacking in comprehensive scope right now. Need a reach-scale comprehensive assessment done at a watershed scale. Need to see how aquatic and terrestrial systems intersect. Also, how do we integrate funding? Look to reduce overall costs by sequencing work projects. Opportunity for cross pollination of these projects.

Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes are important members who aren't here today, but we need to work with them. They each have their own groove in working with FS, so we need to work out how to dovetail all of our projects.

Lloyd – There is lots of funding for fisheries to work with. Crystal – all that funding comes from mitigation requirements for BPA, so this will be interesting to see how things go.

Wrap-up and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

The next SC Meeting will be June 4, 2025, 1-4 pm, Location TBD

May 7, 2025

Quarterly Summary

Chumstick Grange, Leavenworth WA

10:00 am – 2:50 pm



Attendance

NCWFHC Member	Representative	Participation	SC	5/7 Quarterly	In-person/ Online
American Forest Resource Council	Tom Partin	NCWFHC	Y	absent with notice	
	Matt Comisky	Alternate			
Cascadia Conservation District	Ryan Williams	NCWFHC	Y	PH	in-person
	Patrick Haggarty	Alternate			
	Joe Hill	Alternate			
Chelan County	Mike Kaputa	NCWFHC	Y	-	
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Rebecca Hunt	NCWFHC	Y	RH	online
	Sam Rushing	Alternate			
Conservation Northwest	Matt Danielson	NCWFHC	Y	MD	in-person
	Dave Wertz	Alternate			
Hampton Lumber	Anjolene Ngari	NCWFHC	Y	AN	in-person
Okanogan Conservation District	Lorah Super	NCWFHC	Y	absent with notice	
	Eli Loftus	Alternate			
	Craig Nelson	Alternate			
Okanogan County	Commissioner Andy Hover	NCWFHC	Y	AH	online
	Commissioner Nick Timm	Alternate			
The Nature Conservancy	Lloyd McGee	NCWFHC	Y	LM, CW	in-person
	Catherine Waterston	Alternate			
The Wilderness Society	Tiana Luke	NCWFHC	Y	TL	in-person
	Mike Anderson	Alternate			
	Megan Birzell	Alternate			
Trout Unlimited	Crystal Elliot-Perez	NCWFHC	Y	CE	in-person
	Theo Burgoon	Alternate			
WA Department of Natural Resources	Chuck Hersey	NCWFHC	Y	CH, AR	in-person, online
	Amy Ramsey	Alternate			

Yakama Nation	Brandon Rogers	NCWFHC	Y	-	
Boise Cascade	Kevin Arneson	NCWFHC	member	KA	in-person
Cascade Fisheries	Jason Lundgren	NCWFHC	member	absent with notice	
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Mickey Fleming	NCWFHC	member	-	
Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition	Bob Keller	NCWFHC	member		
	David Nikinovich	Alternate email			
	John Callahan	Alternate			
Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community	Jim Passage	NCWFHC	member	JP	in-person
	David Walker (Chief, LWFR)	Alternate			
	Kris King	Alternate			
Methow Valley Citizen's Council	Jasmine Minbashian	NCWFHC	member	-	
Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co	Josh Anderson	NCWFHC	member	JA	in-person
	Kurtis Vaagen	Alternate			
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife	Lisa Dowling	NCWFHC	member	LD	in-person
	* empty at the moment	Alternate			
Wenatchee Cafe	Yesenia Perez	NCWFHC	member	MG	in-person
	Marco Granados	Alternate			
	Alma Chacon	Alternate			

Other Attendance

In-Person:

Karen Berg (NCWFHC), Seth Kammer, Erica Taecker, Kerry Kemp (OWNF), Brandon Austin, Nick Yorg (WDFW), Gia Landis (Sustainable Northwest), Priya PaulDey (Yakama Nation)

Online:

Rick Evans (Cantwell's office), Jeannie Davidson (Blue Forest), Susan Crampton, Ailene Ettinger (TNC)