



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Proposed Aug 6, 2025 Quarterly agenda	Approved. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/
Proposed July 2, 2025 SC meeting summary	Approved. The final will be posted online at: https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/
Apply for the Community Foundation NCW Legacy Fund Grant	Approved

Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
How to comment on Lower North Shore if it won't have scoping?	Ana Cerro
LNS Agreement states: "Prior to the decision, the RD will provide opportunity for collaborative input." This would be during scoping, so we'd need to change the agreement. This will be addressed in PWG.	Tiana Luke, Anjolene Ngari
Ana will talk with Andrew Lakota to see if a G-Z approach on Chumstick with the bidder doing the layout and design is an option if there are not enough resources internally.	Ana Cerro
Determine if possible to have the team present the monitoring data at the Science Symposium in November.	Lisa Dowling will check in with Kerry Kemp and Ally Kruper and get back with Karen Berg
Are there changes to tree planting rules/ practices in forest health strategy?	Amy Ramsey
Draft a public-facing statement on the collaborative and share the statement on the website, plus briefings of our projects.	Karen, with help from Lisa and Chairs.

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator Karen Berg opened the meeting at 9:34 AM and welcomed all participants. Introductions around the room. There were some new faces present, one of whom is Leslie Selgestad, the new Outreach Coordinator at UCSRB who will assist with notes.

Karen then outlined the theme of the day: we will be looking at our plans, our tracked accomplishments, to acknowledge where we are and what the future should bring as we coordinate work across the landscape.

Agenda and Summary

Karen asked if there were any edits or adjustments to the August 6, 2025 Quarterly meeting agenda. Tom Partin suggested adding discussion time for the recent article in High Country News. There was no objection and the item was highlighted for the Roundtable Updates time slot.

Karen asked if there were any edits or adjustments to the July 2, 2025 SC meeting summary; none were noted.

The Aug. 6, 2025 Quarterly agenda and July 2 SC meeting summary were approved as presented.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) Updates

Supervisor's Office Updates

Andy Hart (Natural Resources Staff Officer) Review OWNF FY26-27 work plan:

He noted there are several new people in the Forest Service, so things are still changing. He presented the timber results and targets in a table (adjusted since the meeting by the Regional Office and presented here as most recent version):

FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
30	41	50	50	50

The target will remain at 50mmbf from FY28 forward.

Struggling this year to keep pace. OWNF wants to be a donor forest by exceeding forest targets and having enough to help other Forests reach their targets, but right now things are slow with projects in litigation.

2025 Project info and dates of note:

- Carrot Top: Contract Review is scheduled for Tuesday the 5th. Goal is to advertise somewhere between August 8-12th for 30 days. Bid opening would be week of Sep. 7th. Side note: if it goes no-bid then we will pursue a direct sale
- Nata Wen: Contract Review is scheduled for Aug 14th. Goal is to advertise the week of August 18th. Bid opening would be somewhere between Sep 18-24th.
- Entiat Decks (Pomas): Once we get a package put together then we will go with a 14-day advertisement. Think Adam and Kendall will be able to get the decks measured next week and a contract put together before the end of August. This would look like a bid opening mid-September.

2026 Projects in our area and expected volumes:

- Chumstick to LP (WRRD) (Eagle TS) – 8000 mbf
- Midnight Restoration (MVRD) Sale # 1-Night Wolf – 5000 mbf
- Three in Twisp Litigation
 - Cowbell (MVRD) – 120 mbf
 - Coal Train (MVRD) – 7000 mbf
 - Rotor Wash (MVRD) – 3500 mbf

Chumstick dependent on getting the NEPA out this year.

Several projects are in line with ESA consultation right now. FS is putting a lot more pressure on USFWS right now, from all angles, to get these done. Other non-timber projects have been so long in ESA that it hampers other projects. It's a different world with all the changes, but there is a good schedule working with FWS and partners. Andy Hart will be meeting monthly with the collaborative PWG to increase production, things like A-Z, G-Z, and other options.

Tom Partin: Pomas Fire volume coming from Shaded Fuel Breaks ahead of the fire? It seems a lot of volume off a small fire.

Andy: Last heard was that it was about 1300, and he is also surprised as the volume. They may have gone ahead and followed what was expected in the NEPA. He expected 600 or so to hit the 18 million deck sale. They count firewood and also put it through the system, though they realize that is not the intent of the EO. He'll be working to see if more can go to timber and less to firewood, but it also is affected by the quality of the wood.

Tiana Luke: heard they were putting in secondary fire breaks as part of this project on roads away from Pomas. Road closures are connected with fire breaks.

Andy: Yes, tied to the Wolverine fire – timber folks not on the fire so they don't have perfect communication.

Matt Danielson: what are they doing with the decks? Does the money stay on the Forest?

Andy: its all considered timber sale. Regular timber sale won't be able to necessarily tie the money to this Forest, but goes to the treasury. Use stewardship contracts to keep money here, but can't do that on every sale.

Matt: if the volume is met for the year, how does that affect other sales? Can the trees be retained elsewhere for wildlife values? Assuming contracts must be met, but could planning be adjusted?

Andy: yes, they have the ability with stewardships to move the money around to wherever the stewardship need is. But reallocation of thinning hasn't come up yet as an idea.

Lloyd McGee: Will S. Tieton and Taneum volumes will be put up for competitive bid, not just TFPA?

Andy: TFPA is for the planning. Not decided they'll do a direct sale to Yakama, but more likely they will put to bid because they're getting good prices.

Lloyd: isn't the Pomas Fire a reburn in the wilderness area?

There are a lot of logs coming out that don't look burned. This is a big volume increase than what was planned.

Gia: my understanding is that some of the fuel breaks outlined in the UWPP are being cut also.

Sara: little to no green trees were coming from the Entiat, they were cut from Entiat River Rd.

Seth Kammer (Partnership Coordinator) CFLRP Reporting:

Seth reviewed the updated reporting for CFLRP FY25.

- FS is required to report CFLRP activities every year for continued funding
- All projects are important in an all hands/all lands approach within landscape-wide restoration efforts
- Collective understanding and collaborative support across membership (i.e. grant proposals, volunteers, legislative)

Reporting timelines are on track. Final reports are due Oct 15.

What Projects will be Included in the 2025 NCW CFLRP Report?

- ✓ Located within the CFLRP boundary ([Reference Map: https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=135a44ca6b2540f5a859281d4c03296b](https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=135a44ca6b2540f5a859281d4c03296b))
- ✓ Active between October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025
- ✓ Support work outlined in the NCW CFLRP proposal:
 - Implement scientifically grounded, cross-boundary forest and watershed restoration treatments in priority areas to boost resilience
 - Mitigate the threat of extreme wildfires and disturbances to safeguard people, communities, natural ecosystems, and critical infrastructure.
 - Promote rural economic growth by applying forest management strategies that draw private investment and support local jobs.
 - Coordinate large-scale restoration efforts that harmonize the objectives and responsibilities of diverse landowners.
 - Establish and execute a comprehensive forest health monitoring program to track conditions, measure progress, and refine strategies over time.

All NCWFHC meetings and events (e.g. attendee hours) are tracked by Karen Berg, but other partner involvement will be recorded as separate projects.

If you have (or might have) a project that fits this criteria, please reach out to Seth Kammer to ensure the data is tracked. He will work with the project contact to get the data in the spreadsheet correctly.

Ranger District Updates

Entiat Chelan Ranger District – Ana Cerro:

- Pomas getting new Type 3 team in on Tuesday, mostly for Chiwawa line implementation. Many new starts over the weekend around Lake Chelan, so team not able to act with steep, rugged terrain.
- Lower North Shore:
 - Due to lack of staffing and no volume associated with project, it's going on hold and Chumstick to LP is coming to the front.
 - LNS will move forward next after that unless another priority pops up.
 - Retaining the Enterprise team. They will try to keep forward movement re. new NEPA regs and staffing changes, so we can move as fast as possible when it goes forward.
 - Not scoping the project.
 - Tom asked: how do we put comments in if there is no scoping.
 - Anna: were going to put out a letter describing the actions, but not inviting comment. It was presented at April PWG meeting. Presentation circled then and Karen Berg will recirculate. She will go back to learn how to comment. These regs have changed. New rule that EAs can be put out without getting comments.
 - Lloyd: don't we have this outlined in the Collaborative Engagement Agreement where this touchpoint is laid out?
 - Tiana: we have the Agreement, but not necessarily listed a specific touchpoint.
 - Lisa Dowling: It's a lower priority project for us, so all levels of engagement but we can readdress it.
 - Agreement states: "Prior to the decision, the RD will provide opportunity for collaborative input." This would be during scoping, so we'd need to change the agreement. This will be addressed in PWG.
- Chiwawa

- Currently implementing the line, with green trees cut on the line. This had more details on the specs for diameter limits.
- Chumstick
 - There is a huge change in the ID Team
 - Draft EA needs refinement; no biological and fisheries is minimal
 - Working closely with Chelan Wildlife Service as this is a top priority also for them
 - Aiming for the consult complete by end of Dec with a decision soon after
 - Lloyd: G-Z approach on Chumstick – would FS do their own layout and design, or would the bidder do it?
 - Ana: she thinks it is done somewhat internally. It will be somewhat condition based and not entirely. She can talk with Andrew Lakota to see if this is an option to contract out the layout if there are not enough resources internally.

Project Work Group Updates

Co-chair Ngari asked about monitoring. Lisa updated on the combined DNR/DFW team. No Meadow plots are done where they are actively implementing, but 9 control plots in Meadow and 15 pre-treatment plots in UWPP FRB area (total 34). All Meadow plots were treated in the last year and have monitoring plots established with them and they now have their post-treatment measurements. Plan to have 30 more pre-treatment and control plots in Raging. There will be a series of volunteering monitoring done on Thursdays coming up, organized by Patrick Haggerty. Adding more working with Chelan Co on FRB area with focus on mastication treatments.

Lloyd: who will bring back the data so we can discuss what we're learning? Also, there will be a Science Symposium Nov. 13-14. Can we have the team present the data there that is run through a science team to get a confirmation of good work in the monitoring protocol? Lisa doesn't know that the timeline will work. Ali and Alex working with Keri Kemp on this. Lisa will find out and reach back to Karen with information.

The next project work group meeting tomorrow morning, Aug. 4 is cancelled for lack of agenda items.

Outreach Work Group Updates

Outreach Workgroup Chair Catherine Waterston gave update on the legislative tour planning that the SC requested they look into in the June meeting. A small team has been working on this, with Catherine and Gia Landis (Sustainable Northwest) are POCs, with 4 groups leading the effort (TNC, SNW, CCNRD, CCD). They are focusing on state and local elected officials focused on cross-boundary wildfire risk reduction work. There is a tight focus on local issues. The date was nailed down to availability of state legislators.

The tour will be October 10. They will continue to have planning meetings. Ask Catherine if you'd like to be involved.

The legislative tour invite was sent out and will go to vote if NCWFHC wants to sign on as one of the groups inviting the legislators. There will be a 24 hour vote going out later today. Tiana added: The

focus is on getting legislators to recognize the importance of HB1168 so it seems clear that NCWFHC should be on board inviting legislators to this tour.

Anjolene noted that today notice went out seeking comment on the USFS reorganization, due end of August. Much is happening that we need to keep our elected's understanding as early as possible.

Mike Kaputa brought up the value of discussing insurance on this tour.

In the last quarter, there were 3 events either that we participated in or that members put together:

- Wenatchee CAFE hosted a public event
- UWPP public tour with CCD
- Our Valley Our Future held wildfire symposium

Plus there were 2 mailers out to the public:

- LWFR put out newsletter on UWPP and discussed collaborative
- CWPP / Leavenworth Priority Landscapes put out a newsletter with map of federal projects and resources available to the public.

OWG meets the Tuesday before the collaborative meetings (first Tuesdays) and next one is Sept. 2

There may be opportunities to be involved in other tours: 10/3 with Okanogan CD on a state legislative tour; 10/1-2 with UCSRB legislative tours. The Wilderness Society is also hosting a legislative tour in August, focused on Better than Fix Our Forest Act, using a science approach.

Working Together in Changing Times

Amy Ramsey Department of Natural Resources; Vernita Ediger, Sustainable Northwest; Darcy Batura, The Nature Conservancy

Amy brought up the idea that there are many crossing discussions that could come together if we convene partners at different scales for a shared discussion on what's happening going forward? There is potential for place-based collaborative network, and she'd like to see if this is of interest, and if so, who is involved?

Vernita is excited about opportunities for a place-based conversation to see what partnership with the agency might look like going forward. With all these changes afoot, such as changes to NEPA and tightened mandated public comment, we need to consider deeply: how do we engage? how to engage new voices? What do partners need? How do we work now?

Darcy added that it has been a while since we truly worked together and now is the time to leverage our work and create a greater sum than the parts, not just adding up our individual progress. This gathering could be a space for inspiration and growth.

They asked the group if there is interest in a ½ day or 1 day workshop/summit on Nov 12 before the Science Symposium. The membership expressed interest in this. Amy will set up a further planning meeting. If interested, please contact her. It was suggested to have representatives from each collaborative group that will participate.

20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Where Are We Today?

Amy Ramsey Department of Natural Resources

Amy presented the basics of the WA 20-year Forest Health Strategic Plan, and reviewed maps and treatment accomplishments (pdf distributed). The goal is to keep an eye toward the maintenance phase. How & where can we lean in to get to maintenance phase of these landscapes? For today: What info is needed/ data produced to better understand where we are?

Amy explained how priority areas were determined and that much more area goes through planning than becomes treatment area. According to the 2015 Haugo study, the region needs 2.7 m acres of treatment, but the Plan made a 1.27 m acre target. DNR has done change detection analysis to see how much has actually been changed.

She reviewed the Goals of the Plan. Goal 4: Coordinated Action is where we're shining. We're using the tools like GNA and TFPA effectively. DNR has a federal lands team to do implementation on federal lands and now has a NEPA team in this to add NEPA capacity. Related to Goal 5: Monitoring, DNR hired 2 monitoring specialists and they are using the DNR Monitoring Protocol on FS. Because some areas need more than one treatment for completion, they are sorting out how to count these acres to tally toward the 1.25 m acre target. At a course scale, Amy estimates about 30% has been done to date.

Amy would like to tailor this information for more groups and to better inform the public about what's been done so far.

Matt Danielson: are there changes to tree planting rules/ practices in forest health strategy? Amy will find out and respond later.

The map is located at: [WADNR Forest Resilience Data and Mapping System](#). Click on subbasins for Landscape Evaluation details. Data get uploaded via MOUs or if Amy requests it to put in the map. What should be collected? This can be considered as a topic for the 11/12 cross-collaborative meeting. The Forest Health Tracker and the Forest Resilience Data and Mapping are parallel products. The intent is to put Forest Resilience Data into the Health Tracker.

Governance Synopsis

Co-Chair Tiana Luke (TWS) and Facilitator Karen Berg

As requested at the July meeting, Tiana and Karen gave a synopsis of the proposed final changes. They presented on the Operating Protocols changes to date, starting with a timeline review of decisions. They summarized the Goals/ Concerns/ Clarifications. Current Hybrid Operating Protocols were laid out. A matrix of Structure/Roles Comparison: Existing and Proposed was presented for a detailed look after the meeting. Members are requested to come prepared to discuss and decide on these protocols on October 1 meeting, in person in Wenatchee. If anyone wants to make anonymous comment, reach out to Karen ahead of the meeting.

Grant Funding Opportunities

Karen told the membership that we put in a proposal for National Forest Foundation. The process is useful for more than just funding: it's an opportunity to recognize our accomplishments, collect history, etc. Members made appreciation of UCSRB staff for all they do here. A proposal will go in for Thriving Together's Vital Conditions grant. She asked the membership for approval to apply for Community Foundation NCW's Legacy Fund Grant.

Decision: Approve applying for the Community Foundation NCW's Legacy Fund Grant.

All grants will be notifying us in the fall. Both CFNCW and Thriving Together request an interview/presentation, which will happen in the fall. We have funds to last to nearly the end of the year, but will need some gap funding. The budget is variable based on hours worked, which changes over 30 hours to include benefits. Stay tuned for votes on the forthcoming proposals.

The budget was presented and we will come back to other funding ideas beyond grants such as each member contribute a small amount, or have a small portion of other successful grants fund a part of the salary (.1 FTE, for example).

It was noted that the Healthy Forests Act came with an unfunded collaboration mandate, which leaves all collaboratives in a tough position.

Member Roundtable

- Karen Berg: discussed the 9th American Forest Congress. It was an incredible gathering of people across the sector and the nation who came together and in a wonderful democratic process, developed a series of Principles (our underlying values) and Resolutions (what we will strive to do, and ask others to do). The formal, cleaned up versions will be released soon, as participants are asked not to distribute drafts so as to not create confusion. This was a historic event that doesn't happen every year, and the results will be brought to legislators.
- Lisa Dowling: is no longer wearing 2 hats, now that they have filled their staff openings. Lisa will ask about having an alternate on NCWFHC. She has been spending a good amount of time in the field monitoring for CFLRP, and will continue with Monitoring Thursdays. They are adding DFW forested lands into the DNR Monitoring Framework. There is a training coming up for their foresters on eastern forests.
- Tiana Luke: noted that September will also have a time for recommitment statements from members.
- Anjolene Ngari: overview of many items she's been in discussions with USFS about. Andy Hart will join PWG for more details in those work sessions, and they will aim to meet with Nate Standish also. There is rapid change with LSRA, ESA Consult, staffing, and direction. Plan to coordinate with IDT/District level earlier and keep the back end folks up front. Is it possible to do one CE per District each year? Start with a CE and go to EA if needed. Consider CE stacking will have cumulative effect. A Regional Stewardship Agreement (from Region 3) is being considered. Learn from Fremont-Winema on their G-Z. Lots of GNA use. Need qualified cruisers. There are opportunities for co-stewardship. Ease the Silviculturalist Certification process if possible.
- Lloyd McGee: wood products roundtable is now only member run. Maybe industry can work together another way.
- Keven Arneson: markets are soft now. Another mill is closing – Pilot Rock Wood Grain – on Oct 1.

- Jim Passage: upcoming Ken Burnes film worth a watch to inspire on the importance of governance. Coming out Oct.
- Tom Partin: met with Colville NF. Shared stewardship in Kooteney will help infrastructure. Landscape view is helpful. Twisp litigation: holding for FS to do cumulative effects impact statement, a fairly quick process but may not get done for this operating season. 3-4 sales will be sold.
- Andy Hover: will SRS payments be authorized (federal decision)? This impacts 25% of receipts for roads, and funds are inadequate right now.
- Cristy Bishop/ Mandy Maxwell: She is the new part-time Coalition Director. CWDG contract for home assessments is done. Outreach to community is strong the 1st half of the year. Secured seasonal water tanks through Chumstick and are building the coalition together
- Jason Lundgren: involved in FS meetings in aquatics.
- Eli Loftis: funds cut by 94% on forest health. Relying now on Title III and FEMA funds. There has been a lot of fire lately. 10/3 will be legislative tour. Had a tour with Commissioner Upthegrove in July.
- Patrick Haggerty: Monitoring Thursdays will be from 8/14 to 9/4. Meet at WRRD at 8am to carpool to sites if you would like to participate.
- All: an article was published last Thursday that portrayed the collaborative in a negative light. There are many inaccuracies, misquotes, and misleading information. The group decided not to respond reactively, but to take action.
 - Several ideas were suggested.
 - Submit corrections to the author and editor/s.
 - Have all those interviewed write a letter together to the author and editor.
 - Someone outside the collaborative could submit corrections or write a letter to the editor
 - We can continue to ensure transparency: clearly communicate membership and how to be involved; add the media statement to the website
 - Invite local media to public events/ meetings
 - Clarify or revise our operating protocols to address messaging, media statements, and code of conduct
 - Operating Protocols currently state that Co-Chairs speak to the media. This has been policy since the 2013 charter.
 - Andy Hover suggested that if an individual member says something about NCWFHC to media, send a form letter to them directly explaining the code of conduct/ protocols/ consequences. Separate the entity organization from the individual.
 - Have a discussion with individuals in the article. Those in the meeting were misquoted, so maybe others were misquoted
 - Tell our story correctly. The litigation on Twisp Project caused court scrutiny and showed USFS had complete adherence to rules and regulations. The litigants lost the court case and their reputation. This article was done in retaliation, rather than investigative journalism. NCWFHC should just keep the course and work beyond reproach.
 - Publish statements in anticipation of interest, rather than direct response to this. Express what we do and send it through our networks.
 - Some entities will respond and bring their story to a bigger audience. We can show our successes through these channels.

- Next steps: have a series of smaller meetings to discuss; draft a statement. Share the statement on the website, plus briefings of our projects.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.



Attendance

NCWFHC Member	Representative	Participation	SC	8/6 Quarterly	In-person/ Online
American Forest Resource Council	Tom Partin	NCWFHC	Y	TP	online
	Matt Comisky	Alternate			
Cascadia Conservation District	Patrick Haggarty	NCWFHC	Y	PH	online
	Joe Hill	Alternate			
	Ryan Williams	Alternate			
Chelan County	Mike Kaputa	NCWFHC	Y	MK	in-person
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Rebecca Hunt	NCWFHC	Y	RH	online
	Sam Rushing	Alternate			
Conservation Northwest	Matt Danielson	NCWFHC	Y	MD	online
	Dave Wertz	Alternate			
Hampton Lumber	Anjolene Ngari	NCWFHC	Y	AN	in-person
Okanogan Conservation District	Lorah Super	NCWFHC	Y	EL, LS	online
	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
	Megan Birzell	Alternate			
Trout Unlimited	Crystal Elliot-Perez	NCWFHC	Y	CE	online
	Theo Burgoon	Alternate			
WA Department of Natural Resources	Chuck Hersey	NCWFHC	Y	CH, AR	online
	Amy Ramsey	Alternate			

Boise Cascade	Kevin Arneson	NCWFHC	member	AR	in-person
Cascade Fisheries	Jason Lundgren	NCWFHC	member	JL	online
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Mickey Fleming	NCWFHC	member		
Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition	Cristy Bishop	NCWFHC	member	CB, MM	online
	Mandy Maxwell	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	online
	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	YP	online
	Marco Granados	Alternate			
	Alma Chacon	Alternate			

Additional Parties:

Karen Berg (NCWFHC), Leslie Selgestad (UCSRB), Andrew Hart, Seth Kammer, Ana Cerro (OWNF), Darcy Batura (TNC), Priya PaulDey (Yakama Nation), Gia Landis, Vernita Ediger (Sustainable Northwest), Keith Olney, Susan Crampton (interested public)