

North Central Washington CFLRP: Reducing risk and increasing resilience in Washington's East Cascades

USDA Forest Service
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Executive Summary

Dominant forest type(s): Dry mixed conifer

Total acreage of the landscape: 1,148,355 acres

Description of the most significant restoration needs and actions on the landscape: The North Central Washington Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program project proposes carefully selected treatments that align with the State of Washington’s 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest’s (Forest) 5-Year Integrated Restoration Plan. The Forest is ready to implement high priority restoration treatments on more than 46,000 acres and expects to complete analysis and decisions on an additional 46,000 acres within the next 3 years. Our approach strategically prioritizes and places treatments in accessible terrain, creating effective opportunities to reduce wildfire risk for some of the most vulnerable communities in the Pacific Northwest and the ability to utilize unplanned fire ignitions to achieve restoration goals well beyond the treatment areas. The proposal builds on existing collaborative partnerships which have already contributed over \$12 million towards active management in this landscape.

Key treatment highlights:

- 54,000 acres of fuels treatments in critical watersheds
- 393,849 ccf of forest products from commercial thinning
- 150 miles of roads with decreased sediment delivery to streams
- 85,000 acres of habitat restored for wildlife, including several threatened or endangered species
- 94 miles of in-stream fisheries improvements

Name of the National Forest, collaborative groups, and other major partners involved in project development: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, and its member organizations including: American Forest Resource Council, Boise Cascade, Cascadia Conservation District, Chelan County, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Conservation Northwest, Hampton Lumber, Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community, Methow Valley Citizens’ Council, Okanogan Conservation District, Okanogan County, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited, Vaagen Bros. Lumber Company, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Prescribed Fire Council, Yakama Nation, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board.

Proposal Overview

Project Map

The proposed North Central Washington Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (NCW CFLRP) project area has been refined from our Tier 1 proposal. It emphasizes implementation in key landscapes and focuses on treatments designed to increase ecological resilience and protect communities at risk. These risks are clearly displayed by the Wildfire Potential (TCA_Indicator_7) data layer available on the [CFLRP Webmap](#)¹. Representing areas of uncharacteristic fuel build up and fire regimes with short fire-return intervals (less than 35 years), these data indicate the NCW CFLRP project area is at risk for severe fires to be repeated in the same area within an individual's lifetime.

In a local context, affected communities in this landscape have experienced multiple wildfires with increasingly greater severity and extent. The State of Washington Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan delineates priority treatment watersheds at a landscape-scale. The overlap between the NCW CFLRP project area and DNR's priority treatment watersheds can be viewed in our interactive story map "CFLRP: Leveraging Shared Stewardship in the Central Cascades" (arcg.is/15CCir). This story map illustrates the project setting and highlights why active management is needed here and now. It can also be accessed through the link provided on the North Central Washington CFLRP profile on the CFLRP Webmap.

Landscape Boundaries

The priority treatment watersheds of the NCW CFLRP project area surround and support vibrant communities in the Upper Columbia River basin and its tributary valleys. Eastern Washington has seen substantial increases in wildland fire frequency and intensity in recent years, and this area includes several subwatersheds that are among the highest at-risk.

This proposal selects and supports vital aquatic and terrestrial restoration treatments that align with the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources' 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan (see figure 1)² and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest 5-Year Integrated Restoration Plan. The Forest's 5-Year Integrated Restoration Plan was developed in coordination with the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative, and other partners. Implementing treatments in accessible terrain and adjacent to at-risk communities improves our ability to more safely and successfully engage wildfire in indirect attack, utilize unplanned fire ignitions to help achieve landscape-level restoration goals, and maintain critical habitat designated for federally-listed species.

¹ <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=79923c635b354eb2a07396224ab33cc2>

² Available at: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_forest_health_20_year_strategic_plan.pdf

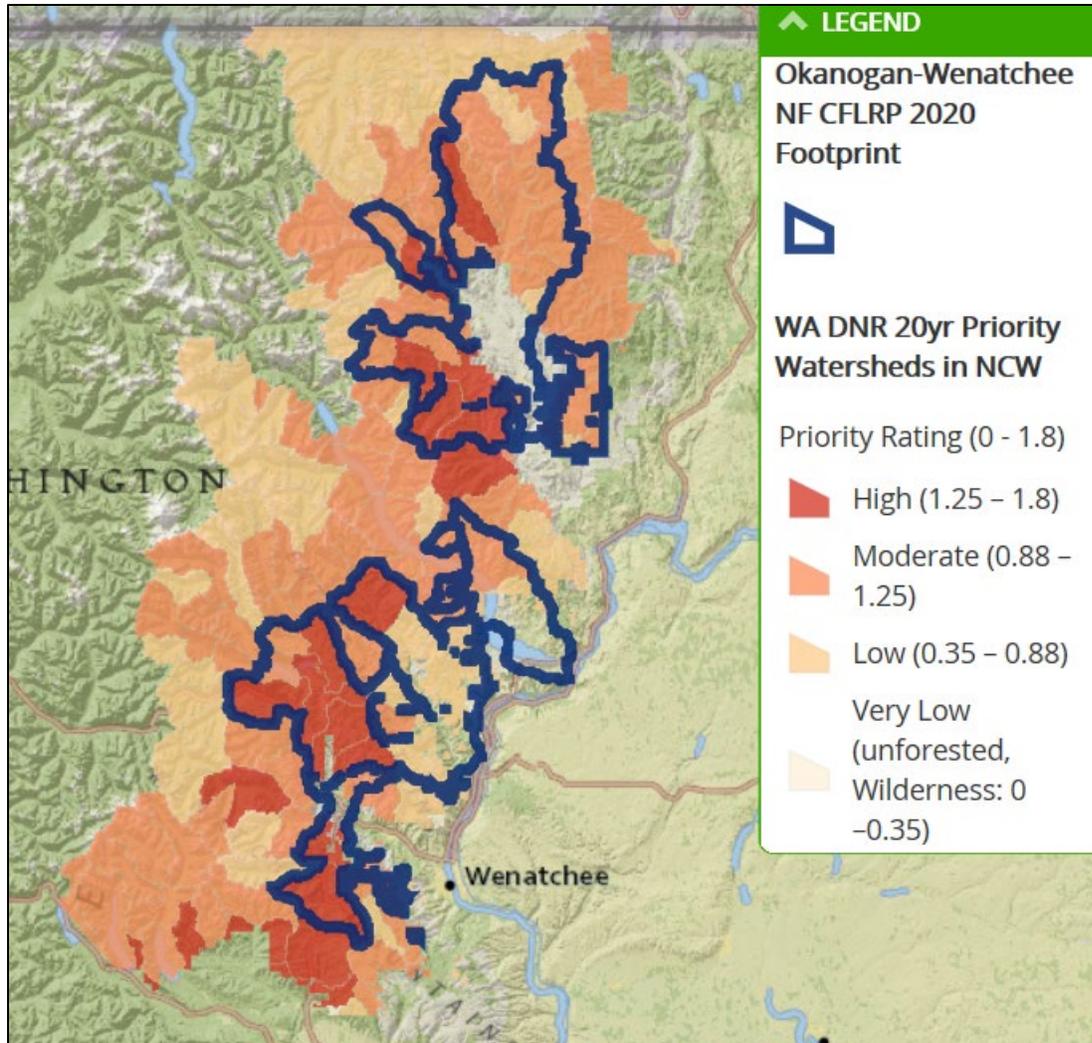


Figure 1. Proposed North Central Washington CFLRP boundary and priority treatment areas delineated in the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources’ 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan.

This proposal supports accomplishing key goals identified in the Washington 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for eastern Washington, including:

1. conducting scientifically sound, landscape scale, cross-boundary management and restoration treatments in priority watersheds to increase forest and watershed resilience by 2037;
2. reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and other disturbances to help protect lives, communities, property, ecosystems, assets and working forests;
3. enhancing economic development through implementation of forest restoration and management strategies that maintain and attract private sector investments and employment in rural communities;
4. planning and implementing coordinated, landscape-scale forest restoration and management treatments in a manner that integrates landowner objectives and responsibilities; and

5. developing and implementing a forest health resilience monitoring program that establishes criteria, tools, and processes to monitor forest and watershed conditions, assess progress, and reassess strategies over time.

Economic, Social, and Ecological Context

The proposed NCW CFLRP landscape is the home, workplace, and playground for communities, families and individuals who know and love the steep slopes, forests, valleys, streams and meadows of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and surrounding area. The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative has brought together twenty-four member organizations which represent diverse opinions and experiences connected to the uses, values and history of this area. The organizations worked with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to develop and submit this proposal.

Several communities in and adjacent to the NCW CFLRP are experiencing population growth as people recreate on or relocate to the area. Although the extent of commercial timber production has decreased significantly on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest over the last 20 years, the interest in and support of forest health and ecological resilience goals have dramatically increased. To meet these goals a full suite of restoration tools is being used to improve ecological, social, and economic outcomes. Through active management, including both terrestrial and aquatic restoration work, the Forest is working with partners to reduce and mitigate the risks from uncharacteristic wildfire to homes and agricultural-based economies and provide a multitude of benefits from resilient habitats and healthy watersheds.

The NCW CFLRP landscape contains an estimated 1,148,367 acres of disturbance-prone ecosystems^{3,4}. The most frequent disturbance on this landscape is wildland fire, though insects and disease are increasingly common. The unique arrangement of west to east drainages, dry mixed conifer forests, and the steep precipitation gradients of the Cascade Mountain range result in conditions conducive to frequent fire, including areas considered to have mixed- or low-severity fire regimes.

The proposed landscape sits on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains, between the high-severity fire regimes at the Cascade crest and the wildland urban interface adjacent to the Columbia River and its tributaries. Predominant winds are westerly and push wildland fire towards productive and developed valleys. As the second most steep, rugged, and inaccessible national forest in the country⁵, the terrain also makes access to much of the NCW CFLRP difficult, both in terms of conducting treatments and in responding to unplanned fire ignitions.

³ View the North Central Washington CFLRP story map at:

⁴ State of Washington Department of Natural Resources, "20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for Eastern Washington"; available at: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_forest_health_20_year_strategic_plan.pdf

⁵ University of Montana, 2014

This requires that the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and collaborative partners carefully select and implement projects reflecting these realities.

Communities in this landscape are among the most threatened by wildfire in the Pacific Northwest. Of 1,005 communities evaluated in Oregon and Washington, five of the most at-risk occur in the NCW CFLRP landscape. The community of Leavenworth was ranked the most vulnerable and the communities of Chelan, Entiat, Twisp, and Winthrop are ranked among the top 25 most vulnerable.⁶ As a result, these communities have organized at multiple scales to learn about, plan for, and act to better manage and respond to risks from wildland fire. The founding of the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative is in part, a result of these efforts.

NCW CFLRP community economies are supported by agriculture, tourism, and outdoor-based recreation. Hydropower is also a major influence in the area, with power generated by the Columbia River providing electricity not only to local communities, but also to the greater Seattle area to the west. Bonneville Power Administration transmission lines traverse the proposed NCW CFLRP area, and along with key railroad and interstate highway corridors represent critical regional infrastructure that may be impacted by wildfires, with significant economic consequences and costs to rebuild.

The NCW CFLRP is also home to important native fish and wildlife populations and provides critical habitat for northern spotted owl (threatened), Canada lynx (threatened), bull trout, summer-run steelhead trout (threatened), and spring-run chinook salmon (endangered). The Upper Columbia basin, located in the northern portion of the project area, provides the only designated critical habitat for spring-run chinook salmon and has been the restoration focus of the Yakama Nation fisheries program. The Yakama Nation is a key partner which received the USDA Forest Service's National 2019 Rise to the Future award for their work with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to support aquatic species recovery and habitat restoration.

The Wildfire Hazard Potential map shows 85% (818,000 acres) of this landscape is rated as moderate, high, or very high in potential for difficult-to-contain wildfires. The result is that large-scale, active management of forests is vital to increasing ecological resilience, maintaining habitat for listed species, and reducing the risk of wildfire for communities. The rugged environment of the NCW CFLRP requires an approach that strategically prioritizes and places treatments in accessible terrain, creates effective opportunities to engage wildfire in indirect attack, and, when conditions are favorable, to allow natural ignitions to fulfill their ecological role and create desired change across a broader landscape.

⁶ Joe H. Scott, Julie Gilberston-Day, and Richard D. Stratton, "Exposure of human communities to wildfire in the Pacific Northwest", 2018; available at: http://pyrologix.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/RiskToCommunities_OR-WA_BriefingPaper.pdf.

Ownership patterns in the NCW CFLRP landscape require collaborative solutions. For example, 84% of the lands in the Upper Wenatchee sub-basin are owned or managed by federal, state, or county governments and land trusts.⁷ To effect meaningful change in the NCW CFLRP area, large land managers, local governments, communities, industry, and stakeholders are working together to identify and implement solutions.

Landscape Strategy and Proposed Treatments

Desired Conditions and Strategy

The USDA Forest Service and State of Washington Department of Natural Resources are the major land managers within the proposed NCW CFLRP landscape. Both agencies are utilizing the same strategy to restore landscape resilience to ecological systems. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Restoration Strategy⁸ was developed in 2010 (revised in 2012) to utilize the most recent science in managing these highly dynamic ecosystems. This strategy uses landscape ecology principles to rebuild resilience at multiple spatial scales. It focuses on arranging patches across the landscape with patterns, composition, and structure to which natural ecological processes can respond. This approach means that all partners in the NCW CFLRP landscape are using shared techniques and working towards common objectives while providing for the mandates of specific ownership.

Key terrestrial components involve maintaining legacy structures on the landscape, the functionality of wildlife habitat, insect and disease vulnerabilities, fire behavior attributes (i.e., risk of crown fire and rate of spread), and vegetation (structure and composition). The strategy utilizes spatial historical ranges of variability to quantify acceptable ranges of forest structure at landscape scales. It also provides managers with additional tools to consider how current vegetation patterns and associated disturbance regimes compare to a future range of variability that assumes a warmer and drier climate scenario.

Under this strategy, proposed land treatments fall into two broad categories: mechanical treatment and the application of prescribed fire. Mechanical treatments create variability within stands, including use of the Individual, Clumps, and Openings method developed with researchers at the University of Washington. Treatments generally thin from below to create desirable forest structure while maintaining and developing old and large trees. Prescribed fire is sometimes used as a stand-alone tool, but more frequently requires the incorporation of mechanical treatments to reduce natural fuels accumulated through fire suppression.

The application of stand-specific techniques described above is informed by their context in the broader landscape and refined through environmental planning and public engagement to incorporate the natural resource needs and socio-economic and operational values of these landscapes. Key considerations include: creating landscape-scale variability which may help

⁷ Trust for Public Lands, "Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan" September 2016; available at: https://web.tplgis.org/wenatchee_cl/images/FINAL%20REPORT%20TO%20COPY%20CENTRAL%2010_31_16.pdf.

⁸ Available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340103.pdf.

protect critical habitat for northern spotted owl, Canada lynx, bull trout, summer-run steelhead trout, and spring-run chinook salmon; complementing county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plans; supporting the State of Washington's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan; and identifying and acting on opportunities to improve Potential Operational Delineations around communities.

In addition to forest treatments, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Yakama Nation, Trout Unlimited, Chelan County, and other partners are implementing extensive in-stream and road-related projects to benefit aquatic resources within the NCW CFLRP. Over the last 10 years, Chelan County has implemented approximately \$7 million in floodplain reconnection, riparian, road decommissioning and aquatic organism passage projects within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Future projects with Chelan County are proposed to total an additional \$5 million in investments over the next 5 years. Planned treatments in the NCW CFLRP landscape include culvert replacement and upsizing to provide aquatic organism passage, road rerouting, road maintenance and improvement, and in-stream wood structure placement. These treatments will increase the resilience of the existing hydrologic system, maintain and improve critical habitat, and create more functional aquatic systems.

Through active management informed by our restoration strategy and a robust monitoring program, the NCW CFLRP will reestablish and maintain a landscape where fire, insect, and disease disturbances occur with more historically characteristic results (see table 2 for scheduled treatments). Under these conditions, large and old trees will be retained, and conditions will foster additional large tree recruitment. As a result, forests will be more complex with different types of vegetation and structure. These qualities will improve an estimated 85,000 acres of wildlife habitat, including critical habitat for Canada lynx and northern spotted owl.

Maintenance, improvements, or select decommissioning on 350 miles of National Forest System roads will reduce impacts to watershed health and critical habitat. Combined with planned stream crossing improvements, it will also result in improved watershed function and move three key watersheds identified through the Watershed Condition Framework to an improved condition class. These improved aquatic and hydrological systems will support native fish and increased populations of at-risk bull trout, steelhead trout and chinook salmon. The landscape will be more resilient to disturbance and support habitat for federally listed species and the social values and economic industries of the communities within it.

Implementation of the NCW CFLRP project will result in strategic fuels reduction work to mitigate wildfire risk on 54,000 acres, 92% of which will be located within the wildland urban interface. Improving our ability to manage unplanned ignitions will allow us to achieve restoration goals well beyond the treatment areas.

Table 1. Planned treatments within the North Central Washington CFLRP.

| Core Restoration Treatment Types | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Years 5-10 | TOTAL |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) | 5,400 | 5,100 | 5,400 | 5,100 | 33,000 | 54,000 |
| <i>Mechanical Thinning (acres)</i> | 3,700 | 3,400 | 3,700 | 3,400 | 22,800 | 37,000 |
| <i>Prescribed Fire (acres)</i> | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 10,200 | 17,000 |
| <i>Wildfire Risk Mitigation- total (acres)</i> | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 30,000 | 50,000 |
| <i>Wildfire Risk Mitigation- WUI (acres)</i> | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 30,000 | 50,000 |
| Invasive Species Management (acres) | 900 | 1,400 | 900 | 1,400 | 6,600 | 11,200 |
| Road Decommissioning (miles) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 60 | 100 |
| Road Maintenance and Improvement (miles) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 90 | 150 |
| Road Reconstruction (miles) | 0 | 15 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 105 |
| Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres) | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 51,000 | 85,000 |
| Crossing Improvements (number) | 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 42 | 65 |
| In-Stream Fisheries Improvement (miles) | 4 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 60 | 94 |
| Riparian Area Improvements (acres) | 40 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 600 | 940 |
| Priority watersheds moved to improved condition class | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Stand Improvement (acres) | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 36,000 | 60,000 |
| Reforestation and revegetation (acres) | 2,020 | 2,713 | 2,005 | 2,081 | 10,450 | 19,269 |
| Timber Harvest (acres) | 1,780 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 17,000 | 26,880 |

Wildfire Risk Reduction

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has completed some of the most effective fuels reduction treatments in the region as demonstrated by measured benefits during wildfires⁹. Fuels treatment effectiveness analyses have been conducted in the NCW CFLRP landscape, including the McCleod fire near the community of Winthrop¹⁰ and the Cougar fire¹¹ near the community of Entiat. These two fires occurred in 2018 and were mitigated by years of proactive prescribed fire and thinning treatments. Fuels treatments in the right places have altered fire behavior, improved community and firefighter safety, and resulted in more efficient and cost-effective fire suppression. Tree survival and habitat condition after the fire are also improved.

The treatments included in the NCW CFLRP include mechanical thinning in overstocked stands, pruning ladder fuels, and piling/scattering slash debris generated from these activities. Prescribed burning will be used to reduce slash debris and in natural fuels units in which pretreatment is not needed. This proposal would implement mechanical treatments (thinning, hand piling, and some pruning) on two-thirds of the hazardous fuels reduction acres. One-third

⁹ USDA Forest Service Region 6 FY18 Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Dashboard; available at:

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opdashboard/index.html#/66d4c2df8be04e55b70661643a500c99>.

¹⁰ See how this work changed the course of the McCleod Fire as it aligned to make a downhill “run” toward the community of Winthrop during red flag fire conditions in the USDA Forest Service video “Fighting Fire with Fire in Central Washington” available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PqoY37wZQc>.

¹¹ Learn more about how developing and utilizing PODs assisted in wildfire suppression strategy and containment and resulted in benefits to a fire-adapted ecosystem in Richard D. Stratton “The path to strategic wildland fire management planning”, *Wildfire Magazine* (January-March 2020); available at: <https://issuu.com/wildfiremagazine-iawf/docs/29-1-january-march-2020-wildfire>.

of the hazardous fuels acres would be treated with prescribed fire including landscape burning and hand pile burning. Many areas require thinning prior to burning to meet desired outcomes. Thinning prior to burning on steep slopes reduces tree mortality due to scorch height.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is one of the most challenging national forests in the nation to work on due to the amount of steep, rugged terrain and difficult access. The terrain is also complex, with communities located in valley bottoms and against steep slopes. This increases operational costs, reduces the locations where treatments can be implemented, and requires more intensive pretreatment actions to implement prescribed fire successfully.

The NCW CFLRP will respond to these complexities by strategically planning fuels treatments where they will be the most effective for engaging in wildfire management efforts. This includes indirect attack and managing both planned and unplanned ignitions. In order to meet landscape-scale restoration objectives, when conditions are favorable fire will play its natural role as we manage wildfires. Treatments are positioned in accessible areas and adjacent to communities to improve firefighters' ability to more safely and successfully engage wildfire and increase the potential for unplanned ignitions to result in more beneficial outcomes.

Treatment areas are prioritized by looking at a variety of data, including fire regime history, national, regional, and local community risk assessments; priority treatment areas in the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources' 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan; and individual county Community Wildfire Protection Plans. We will also seek opportunities to improve potential operational delineations (PODs)-- areas likely to be used to contain large fires threatening high values and communities. In addition, communities and members of the partner collaboratives are working to promote a revised Smoke Management Plan for the State of Washington. This should result in an increased number of prescribed burning days available. The Washington Department of Natural Resources is currently revising the plan and changes are expected to be in place soon.

Benefits to Local Communities

The NCW CFLRP will provide resources to support the highest priority fuels reduction and ecological restoration treatments needed to effect meaningful change for this landscape and the communities depending on it. This project demonstrates a shared commitment with our collaborative partners in taking strategic actions to address forest health issues. Our proposed work will help maintain a high quality of life for area residents and visitors, provide opportunities for local and regional businesses to engage in forest restoration work, and provide support for existing regional mills relying on forest restoration by-products from the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Hotter, drier summers and longer fire seasons, combined with forests in need of active management have led to an increase in uncharacteristic wildfire seasons in Washington State and across the West. According to the Northwest Fire Coordination Center, the annual cost to

suppress large wildfires (more than 100 acres of forest land or 300 acres of grassland) in Washington state has quadrupled from \$37 million in 2008-2012 to \$153 million in 2013-2018¹². Suppression costs themselves are less than one-tenth of the total costs of wildfires, when lost business; infrastructure; and habitat, timber, grazing, and agriculture resources are added to the costs of disaster recovery and health impacts.¹³ Estimated state-wide economic costs of wildfire in the period 2010 to 2016 total more than \$10.4 billion.¹⁴

The NCW CFLRP area includes several communities identified in the Washington State Wildland Fire 10-Year Strategic Plan as being most vulnerable to wildland fire. Communities such as Chelan, Entiat, Leavenworth, Twisp, and Winthrop are relying on land managers to take additional steps to protect a wide range of values at risk.

We believe that collaborative and community-based solutions will result in better, more cost-effective ecological and social outcomes. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest sees this proposal as a key element of our commitment to work in a spirit of shared stewardship and deliver public benefits through integrated restoration treatments. These efforts complement and support the work being accomplished by adjacent tribal, federal, state, and private land owners in the East Cascades of Washington State. The condition of our Forest is inextricably linked to our neighboring communities, including preparedness for and resilience to wildfires, preservation of the natural surroundings that support tourism, and the quantity and quality of water supplies. The forest products industry and skilled restoration contractors will benefit from the increased volume of projects supported by this proposal.

The specific metrics which will be used to evaluate the benefit to local communities include:

- Enhance community sustainability
 - Maintain or increase the number and/or size of contracts offered each year to do restoration work.
 - Maintain or increase the number and diversity of wood products that can be processed locally.
 - Maintain or increase number and/or type of trainings related to restoration completed by project work.
 - Maintain or increase acceptance of frequent, low intensity wildfire or prescribed fire.
- Improve or maintain quality of life

¹² As reported by the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources; available at: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Wildfire_Strategic_Plan.

¹³ Headwaters Economics, "Economic Profile System Report: Land Use and Wildland Urban Interface", 2018 as reported by the State of Washington DNR at: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Wildfire_Strategic_Plan.

¹⁴ State of Washington Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, "Preliminary Report: Wildfire Suppression Funding and Costs", December 2017; available at: <http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2017/WildfireSuppression/p/default.html>.

- Maintain or increase acres protected from fire through creation of defensible space, fuel breaks, and other fuels reduction projects.
- Maintain or increase fuels reduction acres in relation to areas considered to be at highest risk from wildfire.
- Maintain or increase the number of jobs/shifts/amounts paid to workers.
- Maintain or increase tourism employment and income related to recreation visits.
- Improve capacity for collaboration
 - Maintain or increase extent to which different perspectives are represented.
 - Maintain or increase extent to which stakeholders previously in conflict are now working together.
 - Maintain or increase the quality and timeliness of communication among all project partners.
 - Maintain or increase the partner contributions (in-kind time and funding) committed to shared project goals.
 - Maintain or increase perceived benefits of restoration activities.

Utilization of Forest Restoration By-products

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and the Washington Department of Natural Resources are currently working with a variety of purchasers in the forest products industry. Although the forest products infrastructure within the NCW CFLRP area has declined over the last two decades, the remaining forest products businesses are highly engaged with the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative and are interested in utilizing restoration by-product to help ensure existing mills and infrastructure remain viable.

The Yakama Forest Products Tribal Mill is the closest existing mill to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and utilizes all species and classes of logs. The mill is planning to expand capacity and is interested in utilizing between 20 and 30 million board feet annually from projects on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and Washington Department of Natural Resources managed lands. The NCW CFLRP has the potential to provide restoration by-products which may help support renovations to increase capacity for Yakama Forest Products.

Other regional purchasers that have worked with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest include: Vaagen Brothers Lumber (Colville, Washington), Boise Cascade (Kettle Falls, Washington and Elgin, Oregon), Sierra Pacific Industries (Mt. Vernon, Washington), Hampton Lumber (Darrington, Morton, and Randall, Washington), and Murphy Plywood (Elma, Washington). There are two existing chipping facilities within or near the Forest. Chip, sawdust, and shavings are also taken to Avista Power in Kettle Falls, Washington. The forest products industry in this area needs a dependable supply of timber and will utilize by-products from forest restoration efforts.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and its partners are investing in ways to ensure future success in the industry. The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative has established an economics subcommittee, including representatives from the timber industry, to examine ways to sustain existing infrastructure, inform the development of new projects, evaluate and learn from prior sales to help ensure projects are economically viable, and explore new opportunities.

Although the projects described in this proposal are based on support from existing forest products industry infrastructure, increased restoration by-product generation from these and other projects in the area may help attract additional investments to the region. A long-term stewardship contracting tool is being discussed to help provide a more predictable, sustainable by-product wood supply over a 10- to 20-year contract period.

The Nature Conservancy, working with the local collaboratives, completed a wood supply assessment for the four Central Washington counties surrounding the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. This assessment revealed that the by-product wood supply which would be generated in meeting the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's restoration needs far exceeds the current rate of annual treatments. The restoration by-product projected in this proposal would help protect existing forest products jobs and infrastructure and may attract additional jobs and infrastructure investments for milling and restoration-related contractors and equipment.

Investors are currently evaluating the potential to build a small diameter sawmill and cross-laminated timbers plant. A small diameter hew sawmill that utilizes 6 to 10-inch diameter at breast height (dbh) trees would be best suited for utilizing commercial thinning and ladder fuels removal trees prevalent on the Forest. A localized mill with short haul distances of less than 50 miles, one way, would provide enhanced retained receipts and fund future restoration treatments. The high value primary products from the small saw logs would supplement the cost of removing the lower value biomass for producing secondary products.

Collaboration

The success of this project will build on the depth and strength of our existing collaborative partnerships with the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative, Washington Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, and others. The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative has one of the most diverse memberships in Washington State and has been an active partner with the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest since 2013. The collaborative consists of 24 member organizations including tribal, state, county, and local government, Conservation Districts, conservation organizations, forest products companies and associations, fire adapted communities, and local citizens. The Tapash and North Central Washington Forest Health Collaboratives support work across the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, share membership, and coordinate on forest-wide issues and planning. The

State of Washington's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, developed by the Department of Natural Resources, reflects the input of nearly 1,000 Washingtonians and 33 organizations, including experts from the USDA Forest Service, Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, and local fire agencies.

As an example of current work, the Chelan Pilot Project highlights the degree of collaborative leadership for restoration within the NCW CFLRP landscape. This shared stewardship, cross-boundary project includes Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council, Chelan County, Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Stemilt Partnership, Washington Prescribed Fire Council, and the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES). The Upper Wenatchee Restoration Pilot Project (75,000 acres) is the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's restoration centerpiece within the broader Chelan Pilot Project area. Wildfire hazard maps developed through Chelan County's \$100,000 investment in the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire are the basis for wildland-urban interface efforts in the Upper Wenatchee Restoration Pilot Project. Collaborative partners are working alongside the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and contract staff by participating in a project core team, terrestrial workgroup, aquatics workgroup, outreach workgroup, and a newly formed economics workgroup.

This unprecedented level of engagement provides valuable information to support the development of the proposed action, alternatives, and effects analysis for projects that will result in extensive restoration treatments and increase resiliency. The completed environmental analysis and decision are anticipated for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest this year.

The proposed North Central Washington CFLRP will also benefit from the learning and outcomes provided through the 2010 Tapash CFLRP. This includes developing tools and a monitoring strategy applicable to all lands in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Washington Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife. The NCW CFLRP project will refine the tools and monitoring strategy to inform subsequent management decisions.

Our successful collaboration is also evidenced in partner investments in the collaborative and in the proposed NCW CFLRP landscape. The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board has secured approximately \$100,000 in annual grants used for their facilitation support of the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative in 2019 and 2020. In the last year, the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources contributed \$1.5 million to implement work within the proposed NCW CFLRP, ranging from fuels reduction, boundary line survey and pre-sale layout, to installing beaver dam analogs to improve stream habitat. Since 2008, the Yakama Nation Fisheries program has implemented approximately 20 miles of stream improvement projects, totaling \$3.5 million on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Yakama Nation

estimates their cost share related to this proposal will be between \$4 and \$6 million over the next 5 years.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has also established additional capacity for invasive plant treatments through partnership with the Washington State University Extension Biocontrol Agent Program, contracts with county Weed Boards, agreements with youth groups like the Washington Conservation Corps and Northwest Youth Corps, and an extensive volunteer base. Environmental analysis for invasive plant management and a forest-wide decision were completed in 2017 allowing implementation to proceed in a timely and efficient manner.

Our partners are experienced and prepared to leverage public and private resources towards analysis, planning, implementation, and monitoring in the NCW CFLRP landscape. This support is clearly stated in the attached letter of commitment from the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative and support letters from Representative Kim Schrier (Washington's 8th Congressional District), State Forester George Geissler, the Chelan County Board of Commissioners, the Okanogan County Conservation District, and the Cascadia Conservation District.

Multi-party Monitoring

Multi-party monitoring in the NCW CFLRP will be completed through a collaborative approach. It will utilize different stakeholders to monitor at multiple scales and inform condition-based environmental planning and implementation. Specific monitoring questions will be selected in a process that involves all collaborative members. Stakeholders will commit to answer the questions selected by the collaborative and to use the results to inform management decisions in a true adaptive management process¹⁵. Further, in order to leverage resources and integrate local and broader scales, some monitoring questions will be standardized across the Pacific Northwest Region. These monitoring questions will also be developed through a collaborative selection process.

The NCW CFLRP proposal includes dedicated time for Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest staff who will be focused on supporting the implementation and monitoring framework in coordination with our partners. The Pacific Northwest Regional Office will provide agreed upon support to maintain datasets and facilitate reporting to decision-makers and the collaborative members in a timely manner.

For the NCW CFLRP, specific monitoring questions will be selected in a process involving all collaborative members. These questions will be informative at different scales and will be managed and tracked. As a result, project outcomes will be monitored at varying spatial scales

¹⁵ Thomas DeMeo, Amy Markus, Bernard Bormann, and Jodi Leingang, "Tracking Progress: The monitoring process used in Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects in the Pacific Northwest Region", Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper Number 54, Winter 2015.

and will encompass several ecological indicators, including fire regime and fish and wildlife habitat, and will be informed by individual stakeholder interests and methods. Local and regional economies will also be tracked, including the effectiveness of reducing wildfire risk to our local communities which have been impacted greatly in recent years by large wildfires.

To ensure a robust monitoring process is established, we will start the multi-party monitoring process at the outset of the NCW CFLRP. Key roles for all implementing parties and partners in the collaborative, will be established. Monitoring will be planned for each fiscal year as part of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's annual program of work and will be identified as a top priority. We are committed to ensuring clear communication and transparent monitoring results. This approach will inform the collaborative discussions and decisions needed to adapt and create our most effective restoration processes.

A model for this approach exists in previous CFLRP investments on the southern portion of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. This multi-party monitoring process aligns common goals and monitoring concerns, evaluating them at both the project and landscape scales. The national CFLRP indicators have shaped the development of key monitoring elements for the collaborative. Essential to this effort is the State of Washington's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, which will inform the NCW CFLRP, and includes the development of cutting-edge monitoring tools and data sets to track progress on common landscape goals. It incorporates a stand-level, multi-party monitoring protocol with associated ArcGIS online web application to collect and store data, an online public platform to transparently track planned and completed treatments, and a data set and system that allows change detection from our current condition (established from 2015 to 2019) to be updated every 2 years with information from existing PhoDAR¹⁶ flights. These existing investments put NCW CFLRP partners in a strategic position to track progress towards our shared goals annually, over the life of the CFLRP, and beyond.

Readiness to Implement Strategy

Planning, environmental analysis and decisions have been completed for over 46,000 acres of National Forest System lands proposed for project implementation within the NCW CFLRP landscape. An additional 46,000 acres (minimum) are currently in the environmental analysis process, with decisions scheduled for 2020, 2021, and 2022 (see figure 2). These decisions are scheduled in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's 5-Year Integrated Restoration Plan and will support a range of aquatic and terrestrial restoration efforts including select road decommissioning, road maintenance and improvement, improving road crossings at streams, in-stream fisheries habitat and riparian area improvements, wildlife habitat restoration, prescribed fire treatments, and commercial and non-commercial thinning.

¹⁶ PhoDAR (photogrammetric detection and ranging) flights capture high-resolution imagery, often with drones, to create three-dimensional mapping.

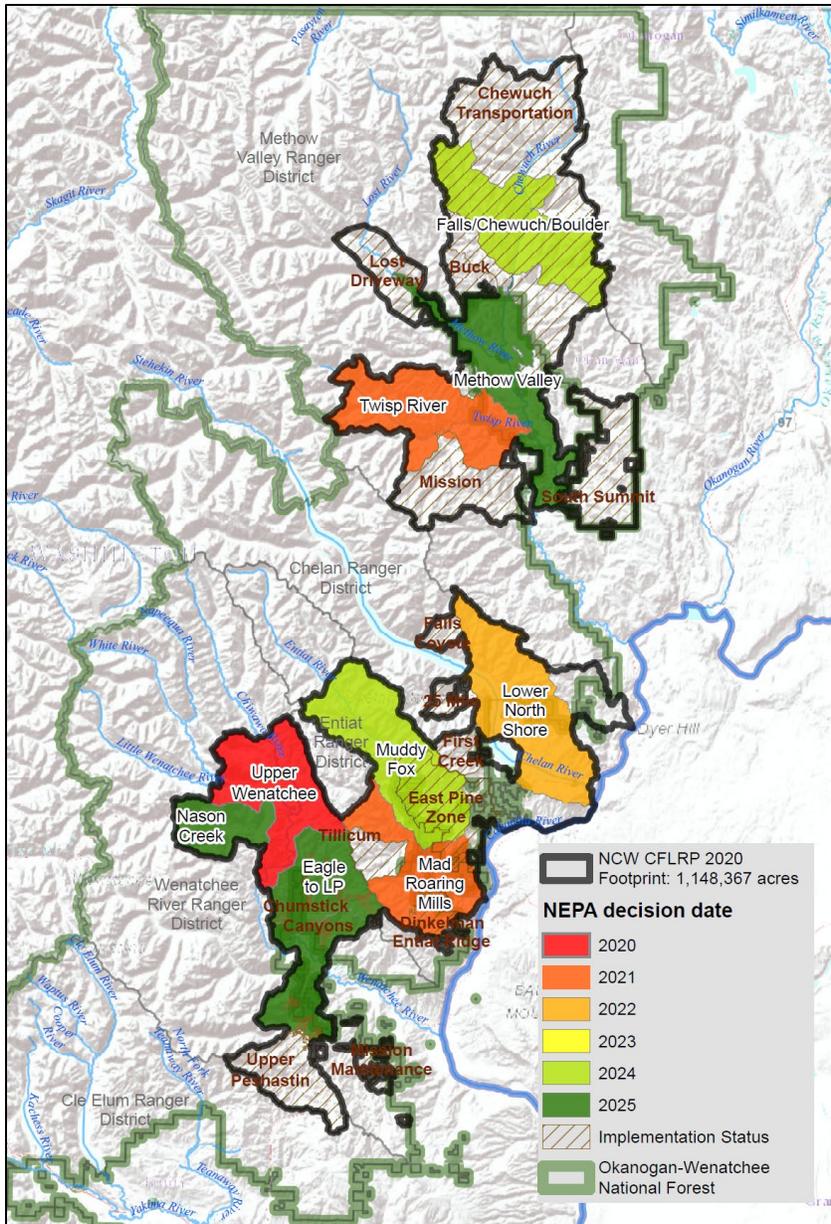


Figure 2. Implementation-ready projects and projected decisions planned within the North Central Washington CFLRP landscape.

This proposal is consistent with the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans, as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan and informed by the 2018 Synthesis of Science to Inform Land Management within the Northwest Forest Plan Area. This proposal relies on current Forest capacity to support implementation and provides opportunities to develop and grow a skilled restoration workforce that is augmented using restoration contracts and agreements.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has a large Fire and Fuels Management organization with an active prescribed fire program. The Forest has the skill set and resources to successfully

complete the treatments proposed in this project. The Forest also has agreements in place with the state and partner federal agencies to allow sharing resources and implement cross-border projects. To achieve our increased restoration objectives outlined in the NCW CFLRP proposal we will expand our use of tools such as the Good Neighbor Authority and partnership agreements with tribes and non-governmental organizations to extend our capacity and increase the pace and scale of high priority restoration work. Our greatest challenges are the high cost of treatments on this complex terrain and the limited smoke management capacity in the airshed.

Unit Capacity and Project Funding

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is fully committed to implementing the NCW CFLRP proposal which aligns with and builds on the Forest's 5-Year Integrated Restoration Plan. Key leadership is invested in these efforts, with the Forest Supervisor, District Rangers, and Natural Resource Staff Officer actively participating in conversations and establishing new agreements with our collaborative and agency partners. The Forest has made substantial investments in restoration planning over the last several years and is ready to implement this work.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest hosts one of the largest fire and fuels programs in the country, with over 270 fire fighters who also support fuels project work throughout the year. To enhance future prescribed fire management and opportunities to manage fires under strategies other than full suppression, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has started to convert one of the hosted Type 2 Initial Attack crews to a Type 2 Wildland Fire Module, with the goal of becoming a Type 1 Wildland Fire Module within 4 years.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is a member of the Washington Prescribed Fire Council partnership, routinely supports Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES) sessions, and uses partners to assist in prescribed fire application. This work is supported through written agreements and is utilized as training opportunities for partners such as local Fire Departments, State of Washington Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. In addition, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest personnel support partners, including the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, in prescribed fire implementation.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has a strong track-record of shared stewardship in this landscape as evidenced by our previous efforts, including a successful Joint Chief's project that helped accomplish important fuels reduction work and through our ongoing project accomplishment with formal collaborative groups. This shared commitment is valued by our partners, who are prepared to invest in the restoration work ahead for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, seek solutions to challenges, and share experiences with other groups through learning workshops.

Cooperation between the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will help increase the pace of planning and environmental analysis. After recognizing limited staffing capacity was creating an obstacle to endangered species consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Natural Resources allocated funding for an additional position dedicated to reviewing landscape-scale restoration projects on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. This position is being hired in early 2020.

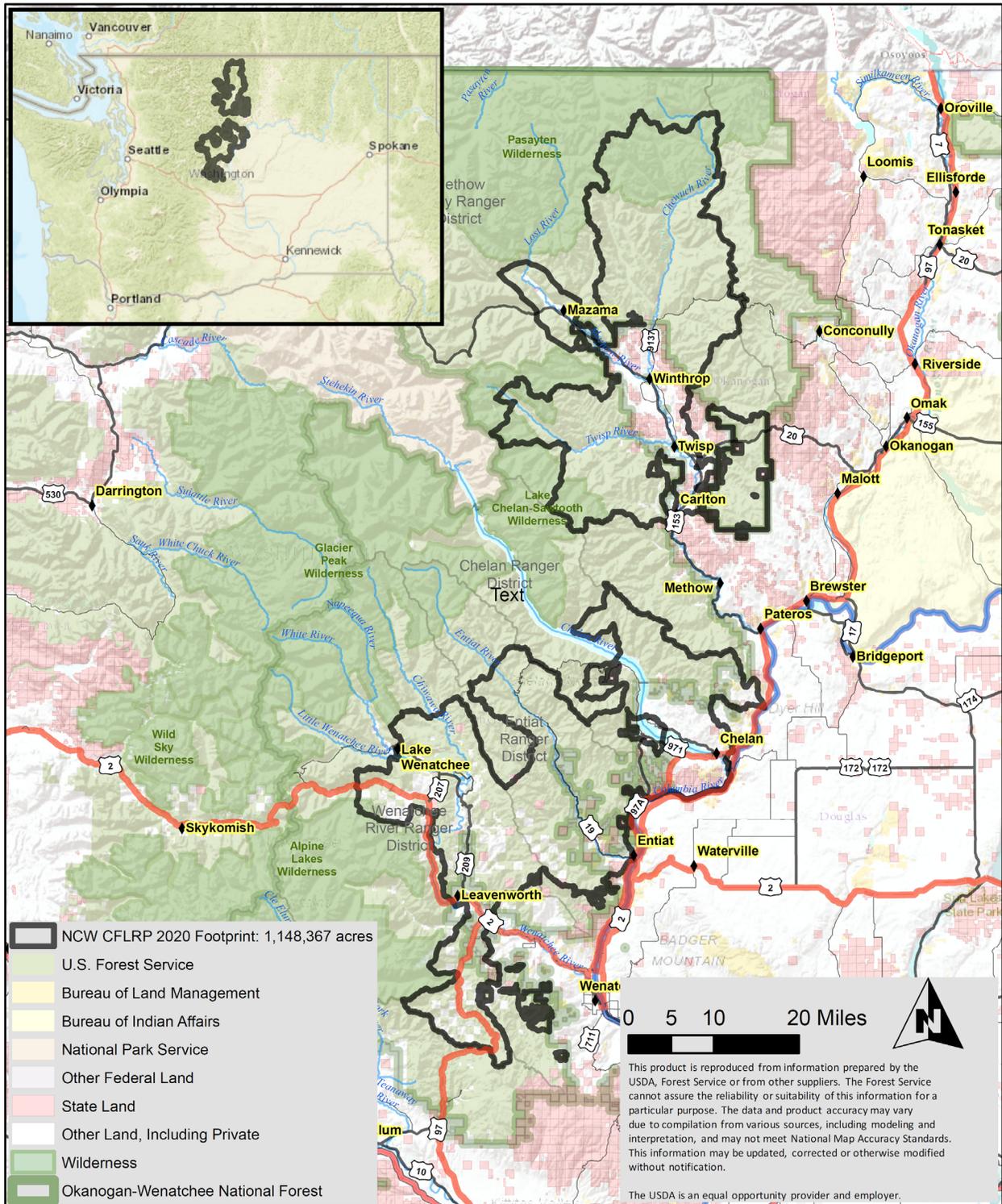
The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources are preparing to sign an agreement under the Good Neighbor Authority. The agreement will allow Department of Natural Resources to manage mechanical fuels treatments typically contracted by the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. These contracts receive bids from multiple companies from the northwest and are regularly awarded to small businesses, often minority-owned, who typically employ 10-person crews.

As shown in attachment F, the initial primary non-CFLRP funding match is expected to come from annual non-CFLRP federal appropriations to the Forest. Additional funding is anticipated to continue from key partners, including the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Yakama Nation, Chelan County, and other agency and organizational partners who have a long-established relationship with the Forest to develop, fund and implement projects that support restoration and ecosystem resilience goals.

The NCW CFLRP will help leverage additional investments within the region and utilize tools such as stewardship contracts and the Good Neighbor Authority to create a more sustainable restoration program during and beyond the life of the CFLRP funding. This will help ensure restoration treatments accomplished through commercial timber sales contribute financial resources through retained receipts and project revenue. These stewardship treatments will complement active forest management. Previous stewardship sales on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest have resulted in over \$2 million in retained receipts to implement critical restoration work on the Forest.

The North Central Washington Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project prioritizes the right work, at the right scale, in the right places. The critical restoration work proposed is not only essential for the health of our national forests, but also in protecting communities, supporting jobs, and supporting the economic viability of rural communities. We are ready to implement and committed to the success of this proposal.

Attachment A: North Central Washington CFLRP Project Map



Attachment B: Planned Treatments

| Core Restoration Treatment Types | Additional information | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Years 5-10 | TOTAL | Key treatment objectives | Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all ten years)* | Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur * |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) | See note 1 | 5,400 | 5,100 | 5,400 | 5,100 | 33,000 | 54,000 | Hazardous fuels reduction, reduce wildfire intensity, return fire interval, protect communities. | 93 | BLM, WA DNR, WA DFW, private |
| Mechanical Thinning (acres) | | 3,700 | 3,400 | 3,700 | 3,400 | 22,800 | 37,000 | Hazardous fuels reduction, stand improvement. | 89 | BLM, WA DNR, WA DFW, private |
| Prescribed Fire (acres) | | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 10,200 | 17,000 | Hazardous fuels reduction; requires adequate burn windows to implement. | 95 | BLM, WA DNR, WA DFW, private |
| Other (acres) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk | | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 30,000 | 50,000 | Hazardous fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface. | 95 | BLM, WA DNR, WA DFW, private |
| Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - WUI acres | See note 2 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 30,000 | 50,000 | Hazardous fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface. | 95 | BLM, WA DNR, WA DFW, private |
| Invasive Species Management (acres) | | 900 | 1,400 | 900 | 1,400 | 6,600 | 11,200 | Invasive plant control and monitoring, restoring native plant communities. | 95 | |
| Native Pest Management (acres) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Road Decommissioning (miles) | | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 60 | 100 | Reduce sedimentation into streams, restore watershed health, and improve critical habitat for ESA-listed fish. | 100 | |
| Road Maintenance and Improvement (miles) | | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 90 | 150 | Reduce potential for sediment input into streams. | 100 | |

| Core Restoration Treatment Types | Additional information | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Years 5-10 | TOTAL | Key treatment objectives | Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all ten years)* | Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur * |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|---|--|--|
| Road Reconstruction (miles) | | 0 | 15 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 105 | Reduce potential for sediment input into streams. | 100 | |
| Trail Reconstruction (miles) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres) | | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 51,000 | 85,000 | Rejuvenate and promote understory forage. Increase number of riparian acres with beaver activity. | 95 | |
| Crossing Improvements (number) | | 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 42 | 65 | Restore watershed health and improve critical habitat for ESA-listed fish by removing fish migration barriers and improving crossings. | 95 | WA DNR, WA DFW, private |
| In-Stream Fisheries Improvement (miles) | | 4 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 60 | 94 | Restore watershed health and improve critical habitat for ESA-listed fish using a variety of techniques which may include large wood placement, bank stabilizations, and side channel reconstruction. | 95 | private |
| Lake Habitat Improvement (acres) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | BOR, WA DNR, WA DFW |
| Riparian Area Improvements (acres) | | 40 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 600 | 940 | Restore watershed health and improve critical habitat for ESA-listed fish using riparian planting, invasive species treatments, and road removal. | 95 | private |
| Soil and Watershed resources enhanced or maintained (acres) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | |

| Core Restoration Treatment Types | Additional information | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Years 5-10 | TOTAL | Key treatment objectives | Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all ten years)* | Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur * |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Priority watersheds moved to improved condition class (number) | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | Restore watershed health and improve critical habitat for ESA-listed fish. | 95 | |
| Stand Improvement (acres) | | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 36,000 | 60,000 | Promote large tree structure; reduce fire, insect, and disease risk; reduce in-stand competition. Improve stand health through small tree thinning. | 95 | BLM, WA DNR, WA DFW, private |
| Reforestation and revegetation (acres) | | 2,020 | 2,713 | 2,005 | 2,081 | 10,450 | 19,269 | Natural, active, and facilitated regeneration of native plant species. High severity burned areas would be planted. Fill-in plant after commercial timber harvest to promote desired species composition. | 100 | |
| Timber Harvest (acres) | See note 3 | 1,780 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 17,000 | 26,880 | Promote forest resiliency to drought, insects, diseases, and wildfire by increasing residual tree vigor and decrease in-stand competition. Treatment would increase complexity in forest structure (including restoring large tree structure) , forest density to more closely resemble historic reference conditions. Hazard tree | 95 | WA DNR |

| Core Restoration Treatment Types | Additional information | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Years 5-10 | TOTAL | Key treatment objectives | Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all ten years)* | Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur * |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | reduction and public safety would also benefit. | | |
| Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Abandoned Mine Reclamation/Remediation | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

* Specific out-year implementation projects on non-National Forest System lands have not been designated and would be clarified if this proposal is approved.

Note 1: Fuels treatments on the OWNF average \$600/acre mechanical and \$200/acre prescribed fire. Acres treated per year estimates are based on receiving between \$1-2 million of targeted CFLN fuels funding and an equal amount of NFHF funding for match. Additional acres are available for treatment if higher funding levels are available.

Note 2: Sources- Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Chelan County and the communities of Manson and Chelan and USDA FS Region 6 WUI spatial data layer.

Note 3: Projects ready for implementation on the Methow Valley RD include only ground-based treatments. Projects in planning will include both ground-based and cable or tethered logging, percentages are unknown at this time.

Attachment C: Utilization of Forest Restoration By-products

| Fiscal Year | Estimate of acres treated annually that will generate restoration byproducts | Total projected annual harvested volume (ccf) from NFS lands | Expected percentage commercially utilized from NFS lands |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| 2020 | 1780 | 6874 | 100 |
| 2021 | 2700 | 48985 | 100 |
| 2022 | 2700 | 30810 | 100 |
| 2023 | 2700 | 43180 | 100 |
| 2024 | 2800 | 44000 | 100 |
| 2025 | 2800 | 44000 | 100 |
| 2026 | 2800 | 44000 | 100 |
| 2027 | 2800 | 44000 | 100 |
| 2028 | 2900 | 44000 | 100 |
| 2029 | 2900 | 44000 | 100 |
| TOTALS: | 26880 | 393849 | 100 |
| | <i>Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on NFS lands:</i> | 100% included above on NFS lands. Additional volume may be realized contingent on out-year restoration planning decisions. | |
| | <i>Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on other landownerships within the CFLRP boundary:</i> | Although additional acres may be accomplished on other land ownerships within the CFLRP boundary, those acres are not reflected above. | |

Attachment D: Partner Contributions

| Collaborative Member/Partner Name | Organizational Affiliation (if applicable) | Was this person involved in proposal development? (*see Yes Note below) | Primary Issue Category | Second Issue Category | Third Issue Category | If "other," briefly describe |
|--|--|---|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Tom Partin | American Forest Resource Council | Yes | Forest Products | | | |
| Kevin Arneson | Boise Cascade | Yes | Forest Products | | | |
| Jason Lundgren | Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group | No | Other | | | Fish |
| Patrick Haggerty | Cascadia Conservation District | Yes | Watershed | | | |
| Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa | Chelan County | Yes | Forest Products | Fire Management | Watershed | |
| Chelan-Douglas Land Trust | Chelan-Douglas Land Trust | Yes | Environmental | | | |
| Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition | Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition | Yes | Watershed | | | |
| Bob Anderson | Colville Tribal Sort Yard | No | Tribal | | | |
| Kathleen Gobush, Dave Werntz | Conservation Northwest | Yes | Environmental | | | |
| Anjolene Price | Hampton Lumber | Yes | Forest Products | Watershed | | |
| Jim Passage, Mick Lamar | Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community | Yes | Fire Management | | | |
| Hannah Dewey | Methow Valley Citizens' Council | Yes | Environmental | | | |
| Stan Janowicz | Natural Resources Conservation Service | No | Federal | | | |
| Lorah Super | Okanogan Conservation District | Yes | Environmental | Forest Products | Fire Ecology | |
| Chris Branch, Char Schumaker | Okanogan County | Yes | County | | | |
| Lloyd McGee | The Nature Conservancy | Yes | Environmental | | | |
| Mike Anderson | The Wilderness Society | Yes | Environmental | Recreation (non-motorized) | Watershed | |
| Crystal Elliot | Trout Unlimited | Yes | Environmental | Watershed | | |
| Matt Scott | Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co | Yes | Forest Products | | | |
| Carmen Andonaegui | WA Department of Fish & Wildlife | No | State | | | |
| Chuck Hersey, Jennifer Watkins | WA Department of Natural Resources | Yes | State | | | |
| Dale Swedberg | Washington Prescribed Fire Council | Yes | Fire Ecology | | | |
| Brandon Rogers | Yakama Nation | Yes | Tribal | | | |
| Sarah Walker (NCWFHC Faciliator) | Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board | Yes | Watershed | | | |

* YES = Helped develop recent projects included in this proposal; approved proposal development/submittal; contributed resources to projects in this proposal; and/or contributed to proposal text

Forest Service staff working with collaborative: Kristin Bail- Forest Supervisor; Chris Furr- District Ranger, Methow Valley Ranger District; Kari Grover-Wier- District Ranger, Chelan Ranger District; Jon Meier- Acting District Ranger, Entiat Ranger District; Jeff Rivera- District Ranger, Wenatchee River Ranger District; Jason Peterson- Engineering/Minerals/Fleet Staff Officer; Teri Tucker- Natural Resources Staff Officer; Jamie Cannon- Geospatial Analyst; Matt Castle- Deputy Fire Staff; Ana Cerro-Timpone- Wildlife Biologist; James Dickinson- Landscape Ecologist; Darren Goodding- Environmental Coordinator; Emily Johnson- Fisheries Biologist; Brigitte Ranne- Terrestrial Ecologist; Meg Trebon- Environmental Coordinator

Attachment E: Collaborative Commitment Letter



January 6, 2020

Glenn Casamassa, Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region
USDA Forest Service
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Regional Forester Casamassa,

The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC) is fully committed and engaged in the development and support of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) CFLRP proposal. The NCWFHC was convened in 2013 with 17 member-organizations to advance forest restoration on OWNF lands through open, transparent actions to increase resiliency to uncharacteristic wildfire, preserve and enhance aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, protect critical habitat, promote utilization of natural resources, and support local economies in North Central Washington. Our membership represents the conservation community at local, regional and national levels; a regional integrated forest products industry who depend on the OWNF wood to supply the Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes; local, state and federal agencies; conservation districts; local fire-adapted communities and coalitions; non-profits and other stakeholders.

Since its inception, the NCWFHC membership on whose behalf this letter is being submitted has grown into a highly diverse group of 24 committed member organizations:

American Forest Resource Council
Boise Cascade
Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement
Group
Cascadia Conservation District
Chelan County
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition
Colville Tribal Sort Yard
Conservation Northwest
Hampton Lumber
Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community
Methow Valley Citizens' Council

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Okanogan Conservation District
Okanogan County
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Trout Unlimited
US Forest Service – OWNF
Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co.
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
WA Department of Natural Resources
Washington Prescribed Fire Council
Yakama Nation

11 Spokane St., Ste. 101
Wenatchee WA 98801

(509) 888-0321
www.NCWFHC.org

The comprehensive interests of the NCWFHC span all aspects of terrestrial and aquatic forest restoration. Notably, the NCWFHC and its individual member organizations have acquired and leveraged millions of federal, state and private dollars to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration on many of the OWNF restoration projects that are incorporated into this CFLRP proposal. Examples of such implementation support include:

- Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership (approximately \$2.3 million);
- Supplemental Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program funds for the Chelan Pilot (> \$2 million with 20% match of in-kind contributions);
- The Nature Conservancy (> \$200,000 for Landscape Evaluations and other planning),
- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (>\$500,000 to support OWNF project planning, coordination);
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources cross-boundary grant funds to support Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project implementation design, boundary surveys and field layout (\$200,000).

NCWFHC members have made and continue to provide significant in-kind contributions and resources related to field survey data collection, project design activities, public education and monitoring to support comprehensive, cross-boundary forest health restoration efforts. To evaluate the wood supply that could be generated from meeting the Restoration Needs Assessment targets across all available and accessible land ownerships in central Washington, The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the NCWFHC, conducted a Wood Supply Study, which concluded that meeting the restoration needs on available and accessible OWNF lands could contribute a significantly larger, more predictable and sustainable supply of byproduct wood than current OWNF levels. CFLRP funding for project implementation would help expand the potential for this byproduct wood supply, thereby improving conditions for the local forest products infrastructure recruitment that is needed to reduce haul costs, increase viable sales and the retained receipts needed to contribute significantly to implementation of both the state 20-Year Strategic Plan and OWNF 5-year Integrated Restoration Plan.

The NCWFHC has built consensus and supported the development of several OWNF restoration projects including Mission Restoration Project (50,200 acres), Mt Hull Restoration Project (20,563 acres), Annie Restoration Project (5,200 acres), Light Stewardship sale (8,600 acres), and the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project (74,000 acres). OWNF CFLRP proposal funding will not only enhance the restoration pace and scale on the OWNF to meet Region 6 goals and targets but will also help meet the strategic goals and targets set forth in the state Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Natural Resources' Forest Health 20-Year Strategic Plan. The state's 20-Year Strategic Plan is based on the Forest Restoration Needs Assessment developed jointly by Ryan Haugo, Conservation Director of TNC in Oregon, and Tom DeMeo, Region 6 Ecologist, along with other partners. All CFLRP implementation funds would be significantly matched with 20-Year Strategic Plan funds and other ongoing NCWFHC member contributions to augment and diversify overall resources for project implementation.

In conclusion, we strongly believe the OWNF CFLRP Tier 2 proposal meets all eligibility requirements as outlined in the proposal package. Through the strength and breadth of the membership as listed above, its demonstrated and sustained commitment to partnership with the OWNF on project planning and implementation, and reliance on a scientifically-based approach, the NCWFHC is poised and well-positioned to contribute to and accelerate forest health restoration project implementation across all lands with CFLRP funds.

Sincerely,



Chris Branch, Commissioner
Okanogan County
NCWFHC Co-Chair
chris.branch@co.okanogan.wa.us



Lloyd McGee,
The Nature Conservancy
NCWFHC Co-Chair
lmcgee@tnc.org

Attachment F: Funding Plan

| <u>Fiscal Year 1*</u> | <u>Funding Planned/Requested</u> |
|---|---|
| Partner fund contributions on NFS lands | \$500,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands | \$500,000 |
| Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands | \$500,000 |
| <i>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</i> | \$1,500,000 |
| CFLRP Funding Request | \$1,500,000 |
| <i>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</i> | \$1,500,000 |
| Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands | \$100,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| <i>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</i> | \$100,000 |
| <u>Fiscal Year 2</u> | <u>Funding Planned/Requested</u> |
| Partner fund contributions on NFS lands | |
| Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands | \$500,000 |
| Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands | \$2,500,000 |
| <i>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</i> | \$3,000,000 |
| CFLRP Funding Request | \$3,000,000 |
| <i>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</i> | \$3,000,000 |
| Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands | \$100,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| <i>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</i> | \$100,000 |

| Fiscal Year 3 | Funding Planned/Requested |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Partner fund contributions on NFS lands | \$450,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands | \$1,000,000 |
| Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape | \$50,000 |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands | \$2,500,000 |
| Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands | \$4,000,000 |
| CFLRP Funding Request | \$3,450,000 |
| Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands | \$3,450,000 |
| Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands | \$50,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands | \$50,000 |

| Fiscal Year 4 | Funding Planned/Requested |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Partner fund contributions on NFS lands | \$50,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands | \$1,500,000 |
| Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands | \$2,500,000 |
| Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands | \$4,050,000 |
| CFLRP Funding Request | \$3,000,000 |
| Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands | \$3,000,000 |
| Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands | \$50,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands | \$50,000 |

| Fiscal Years 5-10 | Funding Planned/Requested |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Partner fund contributions on NFS lands | \$850,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands | \$8,000,000 |
| Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape | \$250,000 |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands | \$15,000,000 |
| <i>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</i> | \$24,100,000 |
| CFLRP Funding Request | \$18,850,000 |
| <i>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</i> | \$18,850,000 |
| Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands | \$200,000 |
| Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands | |
| <i>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</i> | \$200,000 |

Funding needed for NEPA and environmental compliance in support of the CFLRP Project:

No additional funding (beyond maintaining current appropriated funding levels for the Forest) is requested to complete NEPA and environmental planning related to this proposal. NEPA is complete for over 114,000 acres of proposed treatments to meet integrated restoration objectives. This includes 46,000 acres of National Forest System lands still in need of, and ready for treatment. These acres span the proposed North Central Washington CFLRP project area and include priority watersheds highlighted through the Washington State 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan. An additional 144,271 acres are currently under NEPA analysis with decisions anticipated in the next three years. These decisions will support an additional 46,000 acres (minimum) of integrated restoration projects that include commercial and non-commercial thinning as well as aquatic restoration treatments.

*Additional Note: Washington State enacts budgets on a two-year cycle beginning July 1 of each odd-numbered year. Partner-funded contributions reflect this expected funding pattern.

Attachment G: Forest Leadership Letter of Commitment

The signature(s) below on the Tier 2 proposal reflects the Forest Supervisor(s) awareness of the eligibility, implementation, and monitoring requirements for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), as described in [the Application Process Overview and Criteria for Tier 2 document](#). Prior CFLRP evaluations have highlighted the importance of leadership intent and support for CFLRP strategy implementation and a commitment to continued collaboration through project implementation and monitoring. The signature(s) below is/are taken to reflect the unit(s)' support for and commitment to the CFLRP project as outlined in the Tier 2 proposal.

If a unit would like to provide additional, optional, perspectives framing their support of this proposed CFLRP strategy and how it fits within the national forest's overall goals and program of work, please do so here. If this proposal spans multiple national forests, consider sharing key approaches to leadership coordination across these units.

Note from the Forest Supervisor:

There is a deep history of partnerships and collaboration on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, including with the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC), the Tapash sustainable Forest Collaborative, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, among others. The NCWFHC has been an active partner with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) for over 9 years and has a diverse membership, consisting of 24 member organizations including Tribal, State, County and local governments; Conservation Districts, conservation organizations, forest products companies and associations, Fire Adapted Communities, and local citizens. Most recently in the era of Shared Stewardship, over 33 organizations came together to create the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for eastern Washington that has worked in close coordination with the Forest on analysis, planning, and implementation to leverage public and private resources in complete complement to the forest collaboratives.

I highly support this CFLRP proposal. The engagement and support of our many partners over the years has resulted in important conservation and economic benefits to the North Central Washington landscape. The OOWNF is committed to working with these partners to further our collective work to advance the pace and scale of active management, increase resiliency to uncharacteristic wildfire, preserve and enhance aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, protect critical habitat, promote utilization of natural resources, and support local economies. This proposal demonstrates how the OOWNF would effectively leverage our substantial partner commitments to achieve these crucial outcomes.

Forest Supervisor name(s): Kristin Bail

Unit name (s): Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Forest Supervisor Signature(s)

