



April 5, 2018

Forest Supervisor Mike Williams  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters  
215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Supervisor Williams,

The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative would like express our support of the actions listed within the Draft Decision Notice for the Mission Restoration Project as described in Alternative 2. We see these actions as an important first step towards landscape-scale restoration in the Libby and Buttermilk Creek watersheds.

Launched in 2013 with facilitation by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative is a diverse group of local and regional stakeholders working together to advance forest health through transparent and inclusive actions which improve forest resiliency, provide healthy habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, protect natural resources, provide for recreational opportunities and utilization of natural resources, and support our local economy on forested land in Chelan and Okanogan Counties. We have been engaged with you on the Mission Project since 2014, including investment in the landscape analysis and field reconnaissance. It is meaningful to see this project reach a decision and prepare to move from planning into implementation.

While our collaborative supports the actions within the final decision, through our review of the restoration needs and information analyzed to date it is clear that this project is only part of a long-term strategy for management to foster restoration and resiliency in this landscape. Individual members of our collaborative will continue to discuss and may provide additional written comments with your agency concerning priority restoration needs that were not included within this decision. Our collaborative is committed to all future discussions on possible actions to build upon this decision in the years to come.

Looking forward, North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative is keenly interested in the implementation and monitoring of the final decision. Members of our Projects Workgroup have already been in discussions with your district about strategic implementation planning and leveraging financial resources to facilitate timely implementation of the full decision, and we intend for these to continue. As the timber will be sold in two stewardship projects, we request to be directly involved in discussions around the preparation of the stewardship projects and how funds generated will be spent in the project area. Additionally we have prioritized monitoring of this project including baseline monitoring before implementation begins, and look forward to discussions with your district to help guide our implementation and effectiveness monitoring priorities.

We would like to emphasize our appreciation for the Methow Valley Ranger District's collaborative approach to this project, and we hope that same dedication and commitment to collaboration continues following a final decision. Many insights emerged from our collaboration on the Mission Restoration Project that we are eager to bring to our continued work with you on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and we are especially looking forward to applying successes and lessons learned to restoration planning in the high priority Twisp River watershed.

Please contact Pete Teigen, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and NCWFHC facilitator, (509) 662-4710 or [pete.teigen@ucsr.org](mailto:pete.teigen@ucsr.org), with any questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Partin, American Forest Resource Council  
NCWFHC Co-Chair



Lloyd McGee, The Nature Conservancy  
NCWFHC Co-Chair

cc: Mike Liu, Methow Valley District Ranger  
Paul Nash, Team Lead