Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2023 4:21:38 PM First name: Mark Last name: Donnell Organization: North Central Washington Fire Chiefs Association Title: President Comments: January 6, 2023

Kristin Bail, Forest Supervisor Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest 215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Supervisor Bail:

The North Central Washington Fire Chiefs Association (NCWFCA) would like to extend its support for the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project on the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest.

The increasing threat of uncontrolled wildfires in our region and across our public lands is well documented. Each year we in the fire service serve on the front lines, facing this threat.

The Fire Chiefs of Central Washington are committed to protecting our communities, our economies, and our environment. The Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project offers a proactive approach to forest health and community protection.

The extensive and complex planning process leading up to this project implementation is unprecedented here in Central Washington. We, the Fire Chiefs of Central Washington encourage the increased pace and scale of revitalizing our National Forests with an emphasis on mitigation in the Wildland Urban Interface lands, surrounding vulnerable communities.

The NCWFCA would ask to be included in any objection resolution correspondence and future information on the project's implementation and monitoring.

Mark Donnell President North Central Washington Fire Chiefs