

## Quarterly Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

*One hour optional working lunch until 1pm*

### Hybrid meeting

**In person** at Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98504

### Remote via Zoom

<https://dnr-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/87161572577?pwd=d25sNGJuMjFHZzdEenp5a0FodXFCQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 6157 2577 | Passcode: forests

Dial in: 1-253-215-8782

### Meeting Agenda

All times are estimates to assist in scheduling and may be changed subject to the business of the day and at the Staff-Chair’s discretion. The meetings will be recorded.

**Public Comment:** To participate in public comment please RSVP to [Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov) no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Public comment shall be limited to 5 minutes per person – time may be shortened if needed to accommodate all interested parties.

TIME	BUSINESS	MATERIALS
9:00 AM	<b>Call to Order &amp; Roll-call</b> – Trevor McConchie, Meeting Chair	
9:15 AM	<b>Approval of Quarterly Meeting Summary</b> <i>Action Item: Consider approval of May 16, 2023 meeting summary</i>	May 16, 2023 Summary
9:20 AM	<b>Forest Resilience Division Update</b> – Jen Watkins, Division Manager	
9:30 AM	<b>State Forester and Deputy Supervisor Update</b> – Alex Smith, Deputy Supervisor and George Geissler, State Forester	
9:45 AM	<b>Public Comment on FHAC Action Items</b> <i>2 minutes or less per comment</i>	
9:50 AM	<b>Charter Revision Update: Content review and process</b> – Alex Smith with staff support from Terra Rentz, Strategic Advisor and Jen Watkins, Division Manager	Final draft of revised committee charter
10:00 AM	<b>Take Action on Revised Charter</b> <i>Action Item: Consider approval of revised charter, including membership structure and to recommend for adoption by the Commissioner of Public Lands</i>	
10:20 AM	<b>BREAK – 10 minutes</b>	
10:30 AM	<b>Staff and Subcommittee Reports</b> (5-10 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Health Advisory Committee Monitoring Subgroup – Jessica Walston</li> <li>• Forest Health Advisory Committee Western Washington Subgroup – TBD</li> <li>• Program Updates: Federal Lands Section</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active tasking memos</li> <li>• Brief workgroup / subcommittee written updates</li> <li>• Federal Lands Section update memo</li> </ul>

10:55 AM	<b>2024 Legislative Session – Information Sharing and Coordination Around Forest Health Topics and Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNR agency priorities –DNR Legislative Team</li> <li>• HB 1168 Decision Package and framing: Terra Rentz, Strategic Advisor</li> <li>• State Partner priorities</li> <li>• Committee member priorities and open discussion</li> </ul>	
11:25 AM	<b>Federal Partner Updates</b> Updates on staff changes, new initiatives, and other news from federal partners helping to deliver on our shared stewardship goals for forest health and resilience in Washington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Forest Service – Robert Sanchez, Region 6 Deputy Regional Forester</li> </ul>	
11:40 AM	<b>Initiating Development of the 2024 Forest Health Advisory Committee Annual plan</b>	Template for our annual plan
11:55 AM	<b>Official meeting conclusion</b>	
<b>OFFICAL MEETING ADJOURNED</b>		
12:15 PM	<b>Open committee member working lunch</b> Both remote and in-person options to participate in exercises to continue the brainstorm and committee feedback to develop our 2024 annual work plan.	
1:00 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>	

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**Regular Meetings:** Quarterly - February, May, September and December  
**Special Meetings:**  
**Rotational Updates:** Specific occurrences subject to change  
*DNR Leadership:* State Forester - February & September; Deputy Supervisor – May & December  
*Programs:* Federal Lands, Post-fire Recovery, Prescribed Fire, Service Forestry, Strategic Science & Planning, Urban and Community Forestry

**Check the FHAC Website for latest information:** <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthAdvisoryCmte>

**Contact Committee Secretary:** Lori Reynaud ([Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov))

# Robert's Rules Abbreviated Resource

What you want to do...	What you say...	Interrupt Speaker?	Second needed?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Decided by?
Adjourn the meeting	<i>I move to adjourn</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Take a short break	<i>I move to recess for/until...</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Ask for meeting conditions to be changed (e.g. too cold/hot)	<i>Point of personal privilege</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
Introduce business	<i>I move that...</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	<i>I move to amend this motion by...</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
End debate and vote on the question (i.e. the motion)	<i>Call to question</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Enforce the rules	<i>Point of order</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
Request real-time information or clarification	<i>Point of inquiry</i>	Yes	No	No	No	N/A
Verify a recent voice vote by actual count	<i>I call for division</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Majority
Reconsider a previous motion	<i>I move to reconsider...</i>	Yes	Yes	No	No	2/3

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**  
**APPROVED [PENDING]**

**Attendees**

Zach St. Amand (Parks, <i>Alt.</i> )	Matt Comisky (AFRC)	Jay McLaughlin (SGPC)
Josh Anderson (Vaagen Brothers)	Shasta Ferranto (USSF, <i>Alt.</i> )	Elaine O’Neil (WFFA)
Kevin Arneson (Boise Cascade)	Shana Joy (SCC)	Janene Ritchie (Pinchot Partners)
Darcy Batura (TNC)	Mike Kuttel Jr. (WDFW)	Terra Rentz, Chair (WA DNR)
Jerry Bonagofsky (WCLA)	Tiana Luke (TWS)	

**Guests and Other Attendees Present:** Jen Watkins, Alex Smith, Katie Allen, Ashley Blazina, Tony Craven, Nick Kunz, Allen Lebovitz, Trevor McConchie, Stefan Petrovich, Sam Steinshouer, Andy Tate, Andrea Thorpe, Richard Tveten, Tim Walsh

**FHAC Motions and Action**

**Motion 1** MOTION by Kuttel, Jr. (Second by Arneson) TO APPROVE the February 14, 2023 Forest Health Advisory Committee Meeting Summary. MOTION PASSED

**Motion 2** MOTION by Kuttel, Jr. (Second by Arneson) TO APPROVE the March 16, 2023 Joint Special Meeting of the Forest Health Advisory Committee and Wildland Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Summary. MOTION PASSED

**Motion 3** MOTION by Luke (Second by Joy) TO ENDORSE the following recommendations as broad, guiding principles as they relate to the integration of Environmental Justice and Equity into the delivery of forest health funding, particularly as they relate to investments from the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration and Community Resilience account, including supporting materials from the staff memo provided in the May 16, 2023 meeting packet:

1. The FHAC recommends that decisions made regarding investments for Forest Restoration activities through the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience account should include thorough and holistic consultation to the greatest extent possible and commensurate with anticipated impact both within and outside the geography to build on existing efforts in DNR.
2. The FHAC recognizes that geospatial data sources and assessment frameworks can be important tools to inform forest health prioritization and monitoring work. The FHAC also recognized that there can be disparities and data gaps in the geospatial datasets and assessment framework that may lead to interpretation bias. Therefore, the FHAC recommends that DNR acknowledge that data can be imbued and influenced with disparities and data gaps through its creation, distribution, and access.
3. The FHAC’s Environmental Justice Workgroup could not identify an environmental justice assessment developed specifically for natural resources, forestry, or a similar topic. Until DNR has developed an environmental justice assessment as part of the requirements of ESSB 5141, the FHAC does not recommend using other environmental justice assessment tools as a standalone identifier for environmental injustices in forest health. MOTION PASSED

**Motion 4** MOTION by Joy (Second by Batura) TO ACCEPT the tasking memo for establishment of a Western Washington Forest Resilience Strategic Planning Workgroup and appointment of members. MOTION PASSED

**Motion 5** MOTION by Comisky (Second by Arneson) TO TABLE the adoption of the charter at today's meeting and that staff provide members of the committee with redlined edits as discussed. A decision to adopt the charter shall be tabled to either a Special Meeting as determined by DNR staff or at the next quarterly meeting, whichever is earliest. MOTION PASSED

APPOINT MEMBERS to the WWA Forest Resilience Strategic Planning Workgroups:

- Jennifer Watkins, Staff Lead
- Matt Comisky, American Forest Resource Council
- Laurel Baum, Conservation Northwest
- Janene Ritchie, Pinchot Partners
- Taylor Luneau, The Wilderness Society
- Cynthia Wilkerson, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (Tim Walls, *Alt.*)
- Brandy Reed, Whatcom Conservation District
- *TBD*, The Nature Conservancy
- *TBD*, Washington Farm Forestry Association

## **Meeting Summary**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Chair, Terra Rentz, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees, briefly describing the agenda topics, and our desire to make these meetings action oriented.

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

The committee reviewed the February meeting minutes. There was an edit to remove the word “not” from ...leadership interest in...forests”.

Mike Kuttel, Jr. moved to approve the February minutes and Kevin Arneson seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. Motion passes.

The committee was asked to review and approve the meeting minutes from the special meeting held in March. Mike Kuttel, Jr. moved to approve and Kevin Arneson seconded the motion. There were no objections. The meeting minutes were approved.

### **Forest Resilience Division Update**

Legislature provided the authority to spend \$118M in the new Forest Resilience account created by HB1168. The legislature, however, did not fully fund the account at that level. The legislature was assuming that there would be savings from the last biennium to meet the deficit, but that may not lead to the full \$118M being available. DNR is working to develop budgets. For the short session, DNR may be trying to fill the gap between funding provided and the funding level allocated in the budget.

DNR leadership shared that they appreciate the work of this group to update the charter for the committee. This is critical to meeting the intent of the enabling legislation and open public meeting laws.

Across the Division, staff are getting out into the field and working to deliver on the HB1168 projects – that work needs to be completed by June 30, at the end of the fiscal year.

DNR Prescribed Fire Program developed a new strategic assessment to address a number of barriers that DNR and partners have faced to utilize this tool to meet our forest resilience goals. A number of you were involved in that process to date, and you should anticipate the roll-out of that soon.

The Building Forest Partnerships Request for Proposal is out to partners. We appreciate the past input of this group and Amy Ramsey has worked to incorporate into the design of the program.

The 2022 Forest Action Plan Annual Report was recently completed by Ashley Blazina. We look forward to your review of those highlights and welcome any feedback from the group.

### **Public Comment on FHAC Action Items**

No public comments.

### **Environmental Justice Work Group Recommendations**

A tasking memo was developed spring 2022. A work group was established to develop recommendations to integrate environmental justice into the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account created as part of HB1168. Ashley Blazina, Western Washington Forest Health Planner and Environmental Justice Lead, served as a work group chair.

Earlier this year FHAC reviewed recommendations and provided additional input and requested Forest Resilience Division staff to provide feedback about how the recommendations may be implemented.

Ashley Blazina provided an overview of the updated recommendations. The relevant documentation starts on page 11 of the meeting packet. The documentation provides an overview of the recommendations along with additional resources and examples for the committee to consider.

FHAC is one of the first advisory committees at DNR, and possibly one of the first among our state agencies, to advance formal recommendations associated with environmental justice and integrating these themes into the funding programs at the department.

A member asked about bias in geospatial data sets. Is the data itself biased? Or is it our interpretation or how the data is used that we are concerned about? The group discussed that data collection methods and locations data is collected from can be biased towards certain types of communities or locations that may not fully capture issues faced by vulnerable populations or otherwise underrepresented groups. Another way to describe this is “missing data” or information that is not included in a data set for various reasons. The group will change the language in Sub-Section 2 to read, “there can be disparities and data gaps in the geospatial datasets and assessment frameworks that may lead to interpretation bias...”. There was also a suggestion to remove specific reference to “socioeconomic metrics” because this issue likely cuts across other dimensions of environmental justice that we are concerned about as well.

On the top of page 13, a member asked if this statement regarding contracting is in alignment with state contracting requirements. Alignment with all current state contracting requirements was confirmed.

In Appendix A on page 18, the list of lower income communities may not be comprehensive. It may be easier to just remove the list of these communities instead of trying to identify all of the communities that are actually “lower income”. Suggested language is, “Communities that may include but not limited to...”. Groups in the state are also using Adaptive Capacity as a measure of vulnerability and could help us come up with a more inclusive approach to thinking about how to focus our work. DNR will add a statement to Appendix 1 that highlights the broader definition of Community Adaptive Capacity as a more inclusive approach.

Committee Chair, Rentz, reviewed a draft recommended motion,

1. FHAC recommends that decisions made regarding investments for Forest Restoration activities through the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration and Community Resilience Account should include thorough and holistic consultation to the greatest extent possible and commensurate with anticipated impact both within and outside the geography to build on existing efforts in DNR.
2. The FHAC recognizes that geospatial data sources and assessment frameworks can be important tools to inform forest health prioritization and monitoring work. The FHAC also recognized that there can be disparities and data gaps in the geospatial data sets and assessment framework that may lead to interpretation bias. Therefore, the FHAC recommends that DNR acknowledge that data is not neutral, but can be imbued and influenced with disparities and data gaps through its creation, distribution, and access.
3. The FHAC's Environmental Justice Workgroup could not identify an environmental justice assessment developed specifically for natural resources, forestry, or a similar topic. Until DNR has developed an environmental justice assessment as part of the requirements of ESSB 5141, the FHAC does not recommend using other environmental justice assessment tools as a standalone identifier for environmental injustices in forest health.

Tiana Luke motioned to approve and Shana Joy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Western Washington Forest Resilience**

The 2020 Forest Action Plan includes a commitment to work with partners to develop a shared approach to advance forest resilience in Western Washington. The tasking memo requests the FHAC to stand up a work group to help us develop a problem statement as well as the resource values, socioeconomics, and cultural context. There is also interest in a forest health assessment process to engage scientists and evaluate the role of climate change and other factors to understand the resilience of western Washington forests and actions that can improve and enhance the condition of our forests.

A member of the group shared that the biggest threat to forests in western Washington is conversion risk. Similar to how wildfire is perhaps the biggest threat in eastern Washington. Do we have the right people on this committee to really grapple with that issue? The FHAC charter (both current and proposed update) allows the committee to identify any missing voices or partners that are important to include in work groups in order to have the right expertise to have the discussion.

WDFW representative expressed interest in participating in this process, assuming it moves forward. Would this plan result in a future funding request to the legislature? It may not be necessary to develop a comprehensive strategic plan like we did in eastern Washington. There is value in documenting our shared approach and goals, which could be the basis of a programmatic plan or multi-agency approach, or perhaps a future funding request.

A member of the public suggested that there should be a focus on noxious weeds.

Shana Joy volunteered to help represent the Conservation Commission on the work group.

A member of the group shared that the small forest landowner community would appreciate clarity on how this planning process relates to existing laws, policies, and plans. It is important that we provide clarity, not to further confuse landowners. The intent of DNR is to make this a voluntary plan, not one that adds additional requirements or issues for landowners. Unintended consequences should be carefully considered so the information doesn't impact our ability to meet other landowner objectives.

A member asked if there is overlap between this tasking memo and the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee effort focused on fire resilience. DNR shared that there is likely some overlap and synergy between these issues, but it is yet to be determined how we will want to align these efforts, if at all. It may be redundant to have both of these groups focus on wildfire preparedness in western Washington.

Shana Joy moved to approve the tasking memo and establishment of the Western Washington Forest Resilience Work Group and appointment of members. Darcy Batura seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members that expressed interest in participating include AFRC, Pinchot Partners, WFFA, Conservation Commission, TWS, TNC, and WDFW. Jen Watkins is the staff lead and will schedule meetings.

### **FHAC Charter Revision**

Committee Chair, Rentz, discussed the purpose of the charter review including the need to adopt term limits and a clear membership application process, professionalizing and clarifying our processes, and fostering transparency. Changes also focus on embracing a leadership model that would allow for a representative of the committee to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair with support from DNR staff.

The group reviewed all of the proposed changes to the charter. The proposed changes were also shared in the meeting packet in advance of the meeting.

A member asked if community-based forestry groups should be included in the membership section.

A member shared that changes represent a substantial increase in amount of time and effort that individual members would be asked to commit to as part of the committee. Would it be possible to compensate members for their time to participate in the FHAC? Those mechanisms do not exist for this advisory committee. For those that qualify under HEAL Act, there may be a way to provide compensation.

If this group is going to focus on western Washington it was suggested that we will want a large private industrial landowner representing both eastern and western Washington? WFFA engagement may be one way to address this issue, and ask if they can represent statewide. The same member also asked if the Wood Innovations position is also important to include, and if so, what aspect of the industry are intended. For example, a member may have expertise on biochar or mass timber, but probably not both.

Is establishing a chair and vice chair role as a committee helpful and tenable? A member suggested that the duties as outlined in the proposed draft charter are not realistic given existing workloads. There was a straw poll to get input on this proposal. Members unanimously shared that they do not support a chair/vice chair structure with those positions filled by members of the group.

The draft charter was edited to update language to have a co-chair structure, with a staff committee chair providing the bulk of administrative and facilitation work, and an elected committee chair to provide leadership direction and support. DNR staff shared interest in having committee members in a leadership role and being more engaged in driving the agenda and priorities. A member shared that the responsibilities section of the draft charter need further refinement to ensure the expectations are clear.

A member of the group suggested that policy and procedures to ensure appropriate behavior at meetings may be important to consider as we move forward. Shana Joy offered to share examples from the Conservation Committee as a starting place for the group to consider.



A member shared that the application process is more onerous than other similar processes and was requested to be revised. DNR has a number of RCWs that give the agency appointing authority. This application process is similar to how other states vet potential applicants. The member responded, expressing that social media contact information is not relevant and goes beyond the basic demographic data that is needed to meet the expectation of the RCW. Our focus as a group is how to reduce the impacts of poor forest health and wildfire. This may be creating more barriers to participation.

A member asked if it is necessary to solicit new applications each year. The idea is to have rolling turnover and to avoid full turnover of the committee all at once. The application was proposed to be removed as an official appendix to the charter.

A member asked for clarification about the forest conservation position. It was suggested that we need to ensure protection of private property rights.

A member asked if electronic voting is possible. It was unclear if this is possible. It was suggested that electronic voting is probably not allowed.

Committee Chair, Rentz, reviewed changes provided during the meeting today.

Matt Comisky made a motion that the committee table the adoption of the updated charter and send a redline version of the updated draft charter to the committee. The vote on the updated charter occur at a special meeting (at a date and time to be determined) or at the next quarterly meeting, whichever is first. Kevin Arneson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (QWRA) Survey**

At our special meeting in March, the group reviewed the QWRA update process for Washington State and the Pacific Northwest region. A survey link was sent out to the group. The Committee Chair reviewed results. Highlights include:

- People and Property ranked highest.
- Drinking Water was the second highest ranked resource.
- Infrastructure was the third highest.

Respondents also provided qualitative feedback, which is summarized in the results. A member suggested rank choice voting might provide a better ranking system for future surveys.

### **Staff and Sub-Committee Reports**

FHAC Monitoring Work Group: the work group met last month and discussed our quarterly treatment tracking reporting for the 20-Year Plan. Work group feedback has been helpful as DNR continues to refine how we report on the commercial and non-commercial aspects of the work. The work group recommendations for commercial treatments have been integrated into our reporting process, and we are meeting with the work group again in June to finalize the non-commercial reporting categories that will be used for future memos. Once the work group has finalized their recommendation we will share with the full committee for review and approval. The work group meeting in June will also include a focus on change detection monitoring. All members of the FHAC are welcome to attend.

Additional staff and program reports will be sent out after the meeting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 2023.

The meeting ended at approximately 1:00 PM.

# FOREST HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## CHARTER

Approved [Date pending]

### I. BACKGROUND

Forest health conditions in Washington State have been in decline for decades and the consequences of such conditions have contributed to uncharacteristically severe wildfires and a degradation in ecosystem functions. Wildfire risks have been high statewide, but are particularly acute in eastern Washington. Additional pressures on our forests across the state include insects, disease, drought, invasive species, and human development. Forest conditions are further affected by climate change, past management practices, and a lack of adequate active management. The result has been loss of valuable forest resources and forest ecosystems functions such as clean water, carbon sequestration, fish and wildlife habitat. Without significant intervention this trend will continue.

With this in mind, the 2017 Legislature passed Senate Bill 5546 (codified in part at RCW 76.06.200) establishing a forest health advisory committee to assist the department in the development and implementation of a method ‘to proactively and systematically address the forest health issues facing the state’. The 2020 Legislature passed House Bill 1168, reinforcing the role of Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC) and providing further direction to guide agency engagement with the Committee.

### II. NAME

This Charter refers to the Forest Health Advisory Committee as “the Committee.”

### III. AUTHORITY

RCW 76.06.200(3)(b) creates a Forest Health Advisory Committee, passed into law during the legislative session of 2017.

The Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) chartered the Committee. The Commissioner serves as the state of Washington's lead for all forest health issues under RCW 76.06.150(1).

### IV. MISSION

Contribute to the improvement of forest health by providing guidance and advice to the Commissioner of Public Lands on forest health conditions and solutions thereby helping to make Washington forests, regardless of ownership, healthier and more resilient to insects, disease, invasive species, catastrophic wildfire, and other disturbance. Specifically, this committee helps to inform successful implementation of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington and Washington’s Forest Action Plan.

### V. VALUE STATEMENT

The Forest Health Advisory Committee, through collaborative leadership, with input from constituent groups, strives to continually improve and maintain the health and resilience of Washington’s forests for current and future generations.

## **VI. DEFINITION**

RCW 76.06.020(6) establishes a definition of “forest health” to mean the condition of a forest being sound in ecological function, sustainable, resilient, and resistant to insects, disease, fire, and other disturbance, and having the capacity to meet landowner objectives.

The 2020 Washington State Forest Action Plan further defines “forest health” as the condition of a forest ecosystem reflecting its ability to sustain characteristic structure, function and processes; resilience to fire, insects, and other disturbance mechanisms; adaptability to changing climate and increased drought stress; and capacity to provide ecosystem services to meet landowner objectives and human needs.

## **VII. ORGANIZATION**

The Staff-Chair, Member-Chair, and committee members represent key groups or constituent entities who are determined as appropriate and appointed by the Commissioner. The Co-Chairs, and Committee members are supported by DNR staff in Forest Resilience Division as well as Executive Management with primary points of contact being the Forest Resilience Division Manager and DNR Strategic Advisor for Forest Resilience, Regulation, and Aquatic Resources. In addition, the DNR will provide administrative support providing a staff member to act as Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee provides recommendations to and advises the Commissioner.

The Committee may create Work Groups and Technical Subcommittees, including the creation of Joint Work Groups in partnership with other DNR advisory groups, as necessary in order to further explore, develop or address a specific issue or task. These forums shall be established and guided through the use of a Tasking Memo (Appendix D), approved by the full committee. These Work Groups and Technical Subcommittees will sunset upon completion of their assignment or the project.

The Committee’s calendar of work and operations shall be maintained through the FHAC Annual Plan, revisited and updated as needed throughout a given year.

## **VIII. COMPOSITION**

The Committee is composed of members representing specified groups or constituents defined in RCW 76.06.200(3)(b), or as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner and includes the following:

### **A. Committee Officers**

The Committee officers shall be the Staff-Chair, Member-Chair, and Secretary. The Member-Chair is elected from within the committee membership and shall serve a term of one year. The Department of Natural Resources administrative support representative shall serve as the Secretary of the Committee.

### **B. Committee Members**

The Committee will seek to ensure that a balance of geographic representation is achieved in recruiting and nominating members for appointment by the Commissioner. The committee may include, but is not limited to the following members, and all committee members shall strive to represent the viewpoints of the constituent groups and organizations that they represent.

Committee membership shall include representation from the following constituent groups, while not exceeding twenty five (25) members, including:

- The Director of State and Private Forestry with **US Forest Service Region 6** or their designee.
- The Director of Conservation for the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** or the director’s designee.
- The Lead Agency Forester with **Washington State Parks** or their designee.
- The Executive Director of **Washington State Conservation Commission** or their designee, representing the interests of Conservation Districts.
- The Director of Policy with the **Washington Association of Counties**, or their designee, representing the interests of county and local governments.
- At least three (3) members representing **Washington Tribes**. (*Consultation with DNR’s Tribal Relations Director is underway to finalize charter language and process for nominations and/or applications for tribal representatives through individual tribes and tribal associations in Washington.*)
- Three (3) members representing **Forest Collaboratives**.
- Two (2) members representing **environmental groups** with an interest in forest health, forest management, and landscape resilience.
- One (1) member representing **forest conservation** with an interest in supporting the preservation and maintenance of forestland and working forest, including preventing the conversion of forest land to non-forest land.
- Two (2) members representing **Small Forest Landowners**.
- Two (2) member representing **Large Private Industrial Landowners**.
- Two (2) members representing **Logging, Milling, and Log Transportation**.
- One (1) member representing **Wildland Fire Response Organizations**.
- One (1) member of the general public representing **community level interests** as they relate to **community wildfire preparedness, forest health** and/or **forest conservation, environmental justice, or human health** associated with forest management, smoke, and/or wildfire.
- One (1) member representing **academic institutions** or academic partners.
- Other interested parties deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.

Current membership can be found in Appendix A, and is updated annually.

#### C. Strategic Partners

The Commissioner may appoint additional members to the Committee when the Commissioner determines it is appropriate to assist in developing and implementing the Committee’s mission.

Additional subject matter expertise may be utilized when it will further the Committee’s knowledge or understanding of a specific topic.

#### D. Work Group and Technical Subcommittee Membership

Work Groups and Technical Subcommittees shall be chaired by existing members of the Committee, with direct support from DNR staff.

As appropriate, additional members or subject matter experts may be nominated to serve on Committee Work Groups or Technical Subcommittees, while not serving as appointed members of the Forest Health Advisory Committee as a whole. Work Group and Technical Subcommittee

members may be solicited from among Committee member organizations, or additional external strategic partners and will serve for the duration of that work group.

## **IX. NOMINATIONS & TERMS**

### **A. Term Length**

Initial appointment nominations in 2023 shall indicate a preference for either a two (2), three (3), or four (4) year term to ensure continuity of leadership upon term expiration. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

### **B. Term Limits**

Members are eligible for re-appointment following each three year term. Other than those representing a designated agency described, members are limited to serving no more than two (2) consecutive terms. An exception to the two-term rule may be granted at the discretion of the Commissioner.

### **C. Member-Chair Election Process**

The Member-Chair shall be elected from the Committee by majority vote at the winter Committee meeting of each year. Candidates for the Member-Chair position will be nominated at the fall Committee meeting of each year and will assume the role and duties immediately following the winter meeting.

### **D. Staff Chair Representation**

The Staff Chair shall be selected, on a rotational basis, from among the Forest Resilience Division's Assistant Division Managers to support diverse leadership representation from the Division's portfolio of programs. Assistant Division Managers shall rotate after serving two consecutive quarterly meetings. During the transition of Staff Chair, the Forest Resilience Division Manager and Strategic Advisor for Forest Resilience, Regulations, and Aquatic Resources shall provide consistent and stable facilitation support and assistance.

### **E. Committee Membership Nomination Process**

Nominations shall be solicited annually each spring, utilizing DNR's normal methods for communication including a DNR press release, appropriate list serves, and social media. DNR shall strive to confirm appointments to ensure participation of new members at the fall Committee meeting. Interested applicants shall be directed to DNR's Boards and Commissions website to complete a general board application and a FHAC-specific Membership. The general application portal will be open to members of the public year-round.

### **F. Committee Membership Nomination Evaluation Process**

The FHAC Nominations Subcommittee shall be responsible for supporting DNR's Boards and Commission's Manager in the routine solicitation of new members.

New member applications shall be received by DNR's Boards and Commissions Manager and provided to the FHAC Nominations Subcommittee.

Subcommittee composition shall be selected by the FHAC and shall include at least 4 FHAC members in good standing from at least three constituent categories, DNR's Boards and Commissions Manager, and at least one member of the Forest Resilience Division staff.

The Subcommittee shall be responsible for the following:

- Evaluation of current Committee composition, including existing representation, skillsets, and strengths to illuminate areas of representation and skillset that may be necessary to achieve equity and forward the mission of FHAC;
- Active promotion of vacancies and outreach for new members;
- Provide recommendations for possible areas of emphasis or thinking to the Boards and Commissions Manager, who is ultimately responsible for building the list for consideration by the Commissioner;
- Recommend, if needed, an extension of the nomination and recruitment process to address any seats that may remain vacant after the nomination period due to a lack of interest or applications received;
- Review of all applications for membership;
- Drafting of a process memo that addresses: (1) current committee vacancies, (2) deficiencies, challenges, or opportunities in the new member recruitment process, and (3) final recommendations regarding nominees.

The Subcommittee shall convene at least two weeks prior to solicitation to evaluate Committee needs, and shall reconvene one week after the nomination process closes to review applications.

Final recommendations shall be provided, via the FHAC Member-Chair, to the DNR Boards and Commissions Manager no more than 45 days after the nomination process concludes.

## **X. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Staff- Chair**

- Provides leadership for the Committee. Includes assigning the Committees' work, monitoring assignments, and guidance to annual planning.
- Facilitates Committee meetings as Chair and the establishment and coordination of work groups and technical subcommittees as they are deemed necessary; moves business actions forward.
- As needed, facilitate consultation between the Committee and relevant local, state and federal agencies and tribes and other interested parties.
- Maintains the FHAC Annual Work Plan (Attachment B)
- Develops and drafts meeting agendas (Attachment C) and identifies key meeting objectives.
- Conducts outreach to committee members to coordinate the development of recommendations and committee work plans, in coordination with the Member-Chair.

### **B. Member-Chair**

- Delivers recommendations in the form of written and oral communications on behalf of the Committee to the Commissioner; serves as the primary spokesperson and voice of the Committee when presenting recommendations to the Commissioner.
- Supports the Staff-Chair in providing leadership for the Committee.
- Assists the Staff-Chair in developing meeting agendas and the Committee's calendar of work.

- Executes the duties of Staff-Chair in their absence, with direct support from DNR Staff.

#### C. Committee Secretary

- Maintains records of attendance and business conducted at all Committee meetings.
- Make arrangements for Committee meetings.
- Supports the Staff-Chair in the drafting of FHAC agendas and in maintaining the annual Calendar of Work.
- Collates, distributes and posts official meeting packets at least two weeks prior to each standing meeting and at least 48 hours prior to each special/emergency meeting.
- Present in writing minutes of previous meetings to members and the public

#### D. Committee Staff Support

- Coordinating directly with Committee Chairs, develops and plans meeting agendas and identifies key meeting objectives.
- Conducts outreach to committee members to coordinate the development of recommendations and support delivery of committee annual plan.

#### E. Committee Members

- Support the Committee’s communications and interactions to advise the Commissioner on matters relating to forest health conditions in the state.
- Keep apprised of trends and conditions influencing the health of Washington’s forests.
- Identify and/or review recommendations for best management practices to improve or sustain forest health; advise on processes and programs to facilitate development of physical, economic and human infrastructure necessary to establish a sustainable, long-term forest health program.
- Provide creative and proactive solutions to ensure long-term success of the Committee’s mission; work to thoroughly understand the context and specifics of an issue and consider a range of alternatives when developing recommendations.
- Provide input and recommendations for the assessment and treatment framework developed pursuant to RCW 76.06.200, and the report by the Department described below.
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the treatments outlined in the department’s Assessment and Treatment Framework and Forest Health Tracker.
- Assist with review of periodic revisions to the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington and State Forest Action Plan.
- Report Committee activities and dissemination information to constituents and organizations.
- Other duties related to forest health issues in the state as requested by the Commissioner.

#### F. The Department

- By December 1 of each even-numbered year, the Commissioner (with Committee input) will provide a written report to the appropriate committees of the legislature and OFM on the department’s progress in implementing the assessment and treatment framework contained in RCW 76.06.200 and relation to the department’s 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington. The report will include:
  - Recommended barriers to be addressed and alternative strategies to more effectively implement the framework and achieve the treatment goals;
  - An analysis of necessary funding to develop and implement the framework and treatment

- recommendations in the following biennium;
  - Costs and outcomes of treatments carried out in the preceding biennium;
  - The current condition of Washington’s forests. The report will include any potential threats to forest landscapes and the nature, extent, and location of these threats, and recommend strategies to address them.
- Develop and implement assessment and treatment framework described in RCW 76.06.200, and as incorporated in the department’s 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington.
- Provide staff support for relevant Technical Sub-committees and Workgroups.
- Keep members apprised of and identify opportunities to partner and/or work in concert with the following organizations and committees when in alignment:
  - WADNR Wildland Fire Advisory Committee (WFAC)
  - WA Prescribed Fire Committee
  - WA Fire Adapted Community Learning Network
  - WADNR Community Forestry Committee (WCFC)
  - WADNR Forest Stewardship Committee

## **XI. MEETINGS AND GUIDELINES**

### **A. Meetings/Conference Calls**

- The Committee will meet at the call of the staff-chair, but will typically meet quarterly.
- Efforts will be made to provide phone or video conferencing for the meeting and comply with the Washington Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30).

### **B. Operating Guidelines**

- The Committee serves under RCW 76.06.200(3)(b) and advises the Commissioner.
- The Committee will not be operational, set policy, or function as a political arm of the agency.
- Committee meeting operations will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.
- The Committee will endeavor to make recommendations through consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, a simple majority will rule with any dissent documented in meeting notes.
- The Department will provide Committee members a minimum of 15 days advance notice of meeting place, date, time, and agenda. All effort will be made to provide materials at least five days prior to the meeting.
- The Department will provide note-taking capabilities:
  - Summary notes of committee meetings will record attendance, Committee actions and work assignments.
  - Summaries of previous meetings will be reviewed, amended (as necessary) and approved by the Committee.
  - Meeting preparation may require outside reading or research prior to the meeting.
- Each Committee member is selected for specific talents or credentials. Alternates may attend committee meetings, as the subject matter requires, and with prior communication with the Committee Co-Chairs.



- If the attendance of a committee member is not possible, prior notification to the Committee Chair or Coordinator is appreciated.
- The Staff-Chair will solicit recommendations for New Business to be included for consideration on the agenda of the next meeting.

**XII. COMPENSATION**

In 2021 the Washington Legislature passed Senate Bill 5793 which works to reduce barriers for low-income individuals and community members with lived experience to participate in the state’s critical task forces and workgroups. Under what is now RCW 43.03.220, any part-time board, commission, Committee, committee or other similar group established by the agency in an advisory, coordinating, or planning capacity function as a Class One Group, which allows stipend compensation to be provided to members that meet specific criteria.

Subject to available funding, the DNR may provide a stipend to individuals who are low income or who have lived experience to support their participation in the group to ensure principles of equity are achieved.

The FHAC shall follow any current or new guidelines issued by the DNR to ensure equity among all advisory boards, committees, and commissions. Requests for compensation evaluation shall be directed to DNR’s Office of Equity and Environmental Justice and shall be evaluated and granted independent of the FHAC.

**XIII. APPROVAL**

This Charter is effective as of the date of approval by the Boards and Commissions Manager and the Commissioner of Public Lands.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Stefan Petrovic**  
**DNR Boards and Commissions Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Hilary S. Franz**  
**Commissioner of Public Lands**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## Appendix A. Forest Health Advisory Committee Membership

Current membership of the Forest Health Advisory Committee, as of September 1, 2023 is as follows:

NAME	CONSTITUENT GROUP	AFFILIATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Josh Anderson	Milling and Log Transportation	Vaagen Brothers	<a href="mailto:janderson@vaagenbros.com">janderson@vaagenbros.com</a>
Kevin Arneson	Milling and Log Transportation	Boise Cascade	<a href="mailto:kevinarneson@bc.com">kevinarneson@bc.com</a>
Darcy Batura	Conservation	The Nature Conservancy	<a href="mailto:darcy.batura@tnc.org">darcy.batura@tnc.org</a>
Jerry Bonagofski	Industrial Harvest	WA Contract Loggers Association	<a href="mailto:jerryb@loggers.com">jerryb@loggers.com</a>
Chris Branch	Forest Health Collaborative	North Central WA Forest Health Collaborative	<a href="mailto:cbranch@co.okanogan.wa.us">cbranch@co.okanogan.wa.us</a>
David Cass	State Agency - Parks	WA State Parks	<a href="mailto:David.Cass@parks.wa.gov">David.Cass@parks.wa.gov</a>
Matt Comisky	Industrial Harvest	American Forest Resource Committee	<a href="mailto:mcomisky@amforest.org">mcomisky@amforest.org</a>
Chad Davis	Federal Agency	US Forest Service, Region 6	<a href="mailto:chad.davis2@usda.gov">chad.davis2@usda.gov</a>
Cody Desautel	Washington Tribes (eastern)	Confederated Tribes of Colville Nation	<a href="mailto:cody.desautel@colvilletribes.com">cody.desautel@colvilletribes.com</a>
Travis Dutton	County and Local Government	WA Association of Counties	<a href="mailto:tdutton@wsac.org">tdutton@wsac.org</a>
Dr. Paul Hessburg	Academic Partner	Forest Researcher, PNW Research Station	<a href="mailto:phessburg@fs.fed.us">phessburg@fs.fed.us</a>
Shana Joy	State Agency – SCC	WA State Conservation Commission	<a href="mailto:SJoy@scc.wa.gov">SJoy@scc.wa.gov</a>
Cynthia Wilkerson	State Agency - DFW	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	<a href="mailto:Cynthia.Wilkerson@dfw.wa.gov">Cynthia.Wilkerson@dfw.wa.gov</a>
Tiana Luke	Conservation	The Wilderness Society	<a href="mailto:tiana_luke@twc.org">tiana_luke@twc.org</a>
Elaine O’Neil	Small Forest Landowners	WA Farm Forestry	<a href="mailto:eoneil@wafarmforestry.com">eoneil@wafarmforestry.com</a>
Janene Ritchie	Forest Health Collaborative	Pinchot Partners	<a href="mailto:admin@pinchotpartners.org">admin@pinchotpartners.org</a>
Jay McLaughlin	Forest Health Collaborative	South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative	<a href="mailto:jay-mars@gorge.net">jay-mars@gorge.net</a>
Jim Walkowski	Wildland Fire Response	WA Fire Chiefs Association	<a href="mailto:jwalkowski@scfd9.org">jwalkowski@scfd9.org</a>
Dave Wertz	Conservation	Conservation Northwest	<a href="mailto:dwertz@conservationnw.org">dwertz@conservationnw.org</a>
<i>Lori Reynaud</i>	<i>FHAC Secretary</i>	<i>WA Department of Natural Resources</i>	<a href="mailto:Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov">Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov</a>
<i>Terra Rentz</i>	<i>Strategic Advisor (Staff Support)</i>	<i>WA Department of Natural Resources</i>	<a href="mailto:Terra.Rentz@dnr.wa.gov">Terra.Rentz@dnr.wa.gov</a>
<i>Jennifer Watkins</i>	<i>Division Manager (Staff Support)</i>	<i>WA Department of Natural Resources</i>	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Watkins@dnr.wa.gov">Jennifer.Watkins@dnr.wa.gov</a>

**Appendix B. Forest Health Advisory Committee LIVING Annual Plan template**

<b>2023 Living Annual Plan</b>				
	<b>SPRING - FEBRUARY</b>	<b>SUMMER - MAY</b>	<b>FALL - SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>WINTER - DECEMBER</b>
<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>New Member Welcome</li> <li>Annual Work Plan Review</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EJ Work Group Recommendations</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FHAC Charter Revisions</li> <li>WWA Landscape Eval Pilot</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Wildfire Defense Grants</li> <li>HB 1168 Joint Workgroup update</li> <li>Leg update: Cascading impacts of wildfire</li> </ul> <p><i>Placeholder for 2024</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Forester update</li> <li>FR Program updates: Prescribed Fire, Post-Fire Recovery</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QWRA Joint Workgroup recommendations</li> <li>Environmental Justice draft recommendations</li> <li>FHAC Charter revisions</li> <li>WWA Forest Resilience Strategic Planning workgroup Tasking</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Supervisor/DNR update</li> <li>Monitoring WG update</li> <li>FR Program updates: Forest Health Protection, Urban Forestry</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>Member-Chair Nominations</li> <li>FHAC Charter revisions update</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ]</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Forester update</li> <li>Decision Package/Budget update</li> <li>FR Program updates: Service Forestry, Community Resilience</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>Member-Chair Elections</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ]</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Supervisor/DNR update</li> <li>FR Program updates: Science &amp; Planning, State Uplands</li> </ul>
<b>Work Groups</b>	<p>Jan-Feb: HB 1168 Account Joint Workgroup</p> <p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>	<p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>	<p>May-Dec: WWA Forest Resilience Strategic Planning Workgroup</p> <p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>	<p>May-Dec: WWA Forest Resilience Strategic Planning Workgroup</p> <p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>
<b>Special Meeting</b>	<p><i>March 16, 2023:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 1168 Workgroup Recommendations</li> <li>QWRA Joint Workgroup Tasking</li> </ul>		<p><i>Pending date:</i></p> <p>FHAC Charter Revision Approval</p>	

Updated 5.16.2023

## Appendix C. FHAC Meeting Agenda Template - Annotated

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
**FOREST HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### Quarterly Committee Meeting

Tuesday, [DATE]  
 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

#### Join Zoom Meeting

[LINK]

Meeting ID: [ID] | Passcode: forests  
 One Tap Mobile: [One-Tap Number] | Dial by Location: [Direct-Dial Number]  
 Find your local number: [LINK]

#### Meeting Agenda

All times are estimates to assist in scheduling and may be changed subject to the business of the day and at the Staff-Chair’s discretion. The meetings will be recorded.

**Public Comment:** To participate in public comment please RSVP to [Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov) no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, [DATE PRIOR]. Public comment shall be limited to 5 minutes per person – time may be shortened if needed to accommodate all interested parties.

TIME	BUSINESS	MATERIALS
9:00 AM	<b>Call to Order</b> – [NAME], FHAC Chair	
5-10 minutes	<b>Approval of Quarterly Meeting Summary</b> <i>Action Item: Consider approval of [DATE] meeting summary</i> Review prior meeting summary. Accept corrections, move to approve.	[DATE] Summary
10-20 min	<b>Forest Resilience Division Update</b> – Jen Watkins (DNR) Work with Division Manager to identify Division level updates.	
5-15 min	<b>Deputy Supervisor / State Forester Update</b> – [NAME], [TITLE] Alternate based on master schedule.	
5 min or less per comment	<b>Public Comment on FHAC Action Items</b> Work with Secretary to identify if requests for public comment have been made. Covers all Action Items. Written comments may be accepted and included in the meeting summary.	
20-30 min per Action item	<b>Action item title</b> – Presenter name, affiliation <i>Action Item: [describe the general motion or decision being requested]</i> Begin with a brief presentation or recap, review recommendation or action being requested, then open the floor with a motion to accept the recommendation. Once motion is on the floor, discussion regarding the recommendation or action can occur – accept revision motions as needed, then take a final vote. Create a new Table Row for each Action Item.	Include in the packet the accompanying memo and any background information. List each item here.
15 min per item	<b>Presentation or Discussion item title</b> – Presenter name, affiliation Often, a presentation will occur the meeting <i>prior</i> to an action taking place to provide adequate time for stakeholders to conduct independent consultation. If this is a Discussion Item, list the preliminary discussion questions to ensure members are prepared to contribute.	Include any printed material or background information in the packet and list here.
5-10 min each	<b>Staff and Subcommittee Reports</b> (5-10 min each) • [GROUP NAME]	

	This section is for brief standing updates, such as workgroup updates or other general Forest Resilience program updates.	
10-15 min	<b>BREAK</b> Provide about halfway through the meeting.	
1:00 PM	<b>Adjourn</b> Adjourning the meeting is an official business action. Provide any final Chair comments, then request a motion to adjourn.	

Future FHAC Meetings

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**Regular Meetings:** Quarterly - February, May, September and December

**Special Meetings:**

**Rotational Updates:** Specific occurrences subject to change

*DNR Leadership:* State Forester - February & September; Deputy Supervisor – May & December

*Programs:* Federal Lands, Post-fire Recovery, Prescribed Fire, Service Forestry, Strategic Science & Planning, Urban and Community Forestry

**Check the FHAC Website for latest information:** <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthAdvisoryCmte>

**Contact Committee Secretary:** Lori Reynaud ([Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Lori.Reynaud@dnr.wa.gov))

## Appendix D. FHAC Tasking Memo Template

**To:** [NAME], Staff-Chair, Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC)  
[NAME], Member-Chair, Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC)

**CC:** FHAC Committee Members  
*List relevant leadership contacts that should be made aware of the tasking. Often includes the Division Manager and Strategic Advisor*

**From:** *Source of tasking memo – often this is the Deputy Supervisor, Division Manager, or Commissioner*

**Date:** [DATE ISSUED]

**Subject:** Tasking Memo for [PURPOSE]

**Attachments:** *List any relevant attachments*

---

**Title:** [Name of the Workgroup]

**Requested By:** [Name, title, and affiliation of person(s) requesting the task]

**Task Leaders:** [DNR STAFF LEAD – this is the individual who is responsible for convening the work group, managing the schedule, and ensuring the products are completed by the workgroup in a timely manner.]

1. **Overview:** Specific topics of the Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC) may benefit from more focused, small group discussion. A Work Group is proposed to complete [Describe Task]. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the objectives, work products, and timeline for the Work Group. Any work products, recommendations, or other input will be communicated to the full FHAC for approval before being finalized for review by the Commissioner of Public Lands and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leadership.
2. **Intent:** The intent of this task is to engage the FHAC to provide recommendations to [WHO] concerning [WHAT].
3. **Background:** *See* [Relevant attachment with background information]
4. **Purpose:** [Describe the purpose behind engaging the FHAC on the specific topic of interest. List the specific actions being requested.]
5. **Task Description:** [Very specifically, list the expected work of the Workgroup, any sequencing required, and the specific deliverables or suit of recommendations to be produced.]
6. **Timeline:** [clearly identify the timeline for workgroup operations. Include any major milestones that need to be accomplished]
7. **Assigned to:** For consideration by the full FHAC, with specific elements of the task and first draft deliverables to be completed by the assigned Work Group. The entire FHAC shall be included in making key decisions and approval of final products.
8. **Work Group Composition and Expectations:** The Work Group shall be comprised of [WHO – members of the FHAC? Other experts? Specific Stakeholder groups? Identify the categories of representation.], with initial solicitation occurring at the [MEETING DATE]; requests to participate are due no later than [DEADLINE]. The Work Group shall convene with an introductory meeting on [DATE] with a frequency of [MEETING FREQUENCY].
9. **Products to be generated:** [WHAT specifically is the Work Group being asked to produce? Often it is a report or memo providing analysis and recommendations on the identified topic.]
10. **Final Disposition:** [WHO will receive the final product once approved by FHAC and HOW will the final product be used.].
11. **Due Date:** [DATE of final product deadline – at least 2 ½ weeks prior to the FHAC meeting in which consideration by the full committee will occur]; [DATE of any interim products or deadlines]

# Forest Health Advisory Committee

## Monitoring Work Group

### 2021-2022 Tasking Memo

Specific topics of the Forest Health Advisory Committee may benefit from more focused, small group discussions. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the objectives, work products, and timeline for the FHAC Monitoring Work Group. Any work products, recommendations, or other input will be communicated to the full FHAC for approval before being finalized for review by DNR leadership.

#### **Monitoring Work Group Purpose**

The Monitoring Work Group is a standing committee based on language in SB5546 and HB1168 regarding the design, implementation, and monitoring of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington. The work group will provide DNR with input in the implementation of the 20 YP monitoring framework (see attached) as well as the interpretation and communication of monitoring results over time. Through partner engagement the work group will build a stronger shared understanding of the effectiveness of landscape scale forest restoration in eastern Washington and help DNR and partners communicate the results to key constituencies.

#### **Workgroup Products and Timeline for 2021 - 2022**

1. (October 2021 – Jan 2022) Review protocol and results of DNR 2021 fire season post-fire analysis, both planning areas and treatment level. Assist DNR staff in crafting story of how treatments affected fire behavior as well as message around 2021 fire season.
  - Provide feedback to DNR on the approach described in the protocol
  - What did we learn from pilot effort?
  - How do we adapt or update the pilot for next fire season?
  - Who else should be engaged? Key partners?
2. (Dec 2021 – Dec 2022) Review, interpret, and provide feedback to DNR staff on change monitoring and treatment tracking data for Dec 2022 legislative report as required in SB5546. Work with DNR staff to prioritize and implement other regional and planning area scale components of 20 YP monitoring framework.
3. (Jan 2022 – Dec 2022) Recommend how, who, and where DNR's Treatment Level Monitoring Protocol can be utilized.
  - 20,000 acres of monitoring across agencies
  - What are going to do with data? Larger summary & story. Fuels/fire risk, were treatment objectives met.
  - Access to data by stakeholders
4. (TBD) Coordination with USFS & other partners. How do we collectively monitor and avoid duplication of efforts.
  - USFS-DNR workshop in November
  - Bring in other major landowners, research institutions, etc.

- Establish technical working group.

**Work Group Co-leads**

Derek Churchill, DNR Work Group Lead

Andrew Spaeth, DNR FHAC Coordinator

DNR is interested in engaging partners in helping co-lead this work group. If you are interested please contact Derek Churchill and Andrew Spaeth at [derek.churchill@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:derek.churchill@dnr.wa.gov) and [Andrew.spaeth@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Andrew.spaeth@dnr.wa.gov).





**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF PUBLIC LANDS**

1111 WASHINGTON ST SE  
MAIL STOP 47037  
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7037

**360-902-1300**  
[WWW.DNR.WA.GOV](http://WWW.DNR.WA.GOV)

**To:** Terra Rentz, Chair, Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC)  
**CC:** FHAC Committee Members  
**From:** Jen Watkins, Forest Resilience Division Manager  
**Date:** May 1, 2023  
**Subject:** Tasking Memo for Recommendations and Guidance on Western Washington Forest Resilience  
**Attachments:** *N/A*

---

**Title:** Western Washington Forest Resilience Workgroup

**Task Leaders:** Jen Watkins, Forest Resilience Division Manager

1. **Overview:** Specific topics of the Forest Health Advisory Committee may benefit from more focused, small group discussions. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the objectives, work products, and timeline for the FHAC Western Washington Forest Resilience Work Group. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the objectives, work products, and timeline for the Work Group. Any work products, recommendations, or other input will be communicated to the full FHAC for approval before being finalized for review by the Commissioner of Public Lands and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leadership.
2. **Intent:** Published in October 2020, Washington’s 2020 Forest Action Plan provides a comprehensive review of forests across all lands — public, private, rural and urban — and offers solutions to conserve, protect and enhance the trees and forests that people and wildlife depend on. The plan set 23 goals and 159 priority actions to guide DNR and shared stewardship partner’s work through June 30, 2025. With the priority actions to increase landscape scale resilience, the plan commits to *“Work internally across DNR divisions, with the Forest Health Advisory Committee, the Timber, Fish, and Wildlife Policy Committee, and other partners to lay the scientific, social, cultural, and economic framework for an all-lands forest health and resilience vision and approach for western Washington forestlands, building off of existing plans and strategies.”*

The department will reference approach of the all-lands 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for Eastern Washington to inform this work, but fully recognizes that the approach and results in Western Washington need to be tailored to the unique issues and needs of both the forest ecosystems and forest landowners and managers. The department will also build off of information and lessons learned from the existing DNR Plan for Climate Resilience, Forest Action Plan, and the Watershed Resilience Action Plan for the Snohomish watershed.

We request the FHAC’s engagement and recommendations to outline the scientific, social, cultural, and economic framework for an all-lands forest health and resilience vision and approach for western Washington forestlands. This includes:

- **Problem Statement:** clearly define the issues that need to be addressed in order to create and sustain a healthy and resilient forested landscapes in western Washington. This will inform the scope and focus of a western Washington forest resilience vision and approach.
- **Socioeconomic and Cultural Context:** considerations that will be critical for ensuring the viability and durability of our work, including landowner objectives, social values, cultural values, and economic realities.
- **Ecological Context and Forest Health Assessments:** in partnership with science and technical

staff, establish a better shared understanding of opportunities for passive and active management that integrate diverse resource values and climate change to guide investments and decisions to improve forest health and resilience in western Washington, particularly in DNR priority landscapes.

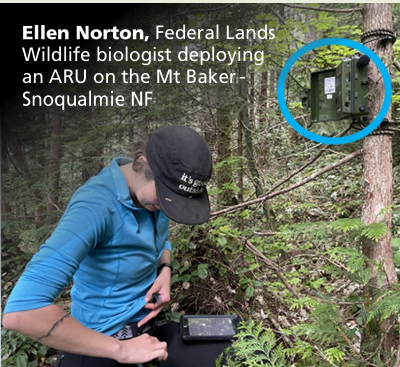
- **Vision:** with the above in mind, recommend an all-lands vision statement for forest health and resilience in western Washington.
  - **Approach and Outcomes:** as DNR and partners expand our shared stewardship work and investments in western Washington, make recommendations on how to meaningfully engage partners and balance disparate interests, collect ideas about tools and resources that can enable effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of future actions on the ground.
3. **Background:** Reference the 2020 Forest Action Plan. Additional reference materials will be provided to the workgroup, including the results of a pilot effort underway to explore methodologies for forest health assessments in western Washington and the results of initial stakeholder outreach about the risks, opportunities, and values around western Washington forests and their health and resilience.
  4. **Purpose:** To benefit from the expertise and diversity of the FHAC to develop a shared foundational vision and approach to all-lands all-hands work to improve forest health and resilience in western Washington.
  5. **Task Description:** DNR requests a memo documenting the guidance and recommendations of the FHAC on the 5 areas identified above: Problem Statement, Social and Cultural Context, Ecological Context and Forest Health Assessment, Vision, and Approach and Outcomes.
  6. **Timeline:** Final recommendations are requested by the end of December 2023. We request the workgroup to be established and begin meeting in June 2023, and hold 6 monthly meetings. A presentation of final recommendations as well as summary of any proposed next steps to the FHAC at the December meeting with a vote to approve. Submit final recommendations report to DNR. An effort will be made for at-least one monthly meeting to occur in-person with hybrid options.
  7. **Assigned to:** For consideration by the full FHAC, with specific elements of the task and first draft deliverables to be completed by the assigned Work Group. The entire FHAC shall be included in making key decisions and approval of final products.
  8. **Work Group Composition and Expectations:** The Work Group shall be comprised of interested committee members and/or representatives from their organization that can bring diverse perspectives, expertise, and experience to this topic. Initial solicitation will occur at the May 2023 meeting; requests to participate are due no later than June 1, 2023. The Work Group shall convene with an introductory meeting before the end of June with monthly meetings to follow until December 2023. The Work Group will have a DNR staff lead and will have engagement and support from additional DNR staff.
  9. **Products to be generated:** A memo providing analysis and recommendations.
  10. **Final Disposition:** The final product will be provided to the Forest Resilience Division Manager, and will be shared internally with Division staff and DNR leadership. It will be used to guide programmatic work and investments, and potentially inform 2024 legislative requests.

**Due Date:** Memo to FHAC December 1, 2023 and final memo to DNR December 30, 2023

**Project Spotlight:**

**Autonomous Recording Unit (ARU) Deployment and Analysis:** In 2020, FLS initiated extensive ARU deployment in the North Cascades to support both the Pacific Northwest Research Station and the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

ARU's are becoming the standard for collecting and analyzing species data for threatened and endangered species and species of concern which inform records of decision during the NEPA analysis process. FLS staff, in partnership with USFS staff, have **deployed over 165 ARUs** across the North Cascades since 2021, yielding **over 41 terabytes** of data to analyze.



**Ellen Norton**, Federal Lands Wildlife biologist deploying an ARU on the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie NF



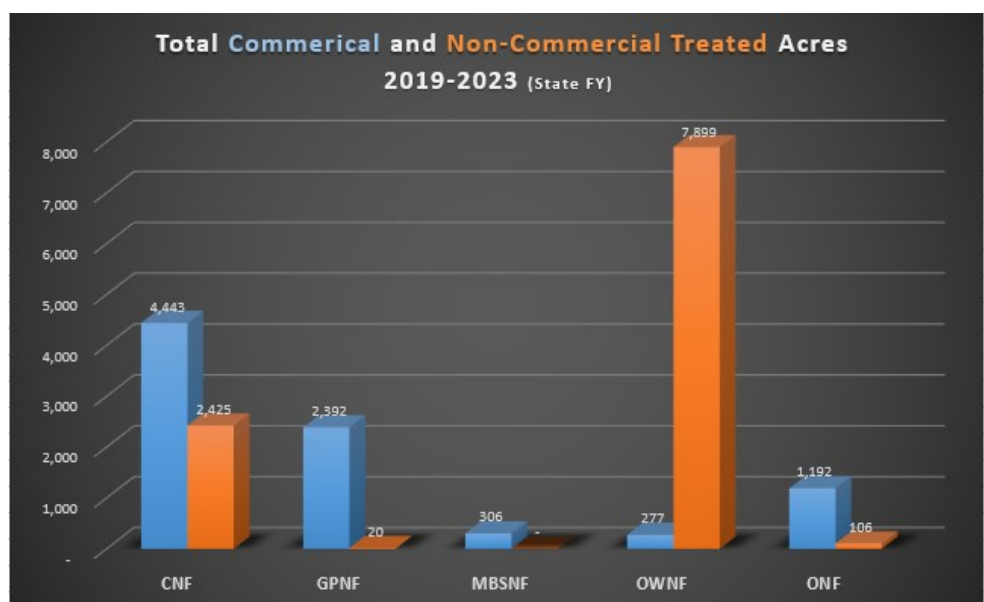
# Washington Department of Natural Resources Federal Lands Section 2023 Annual Update



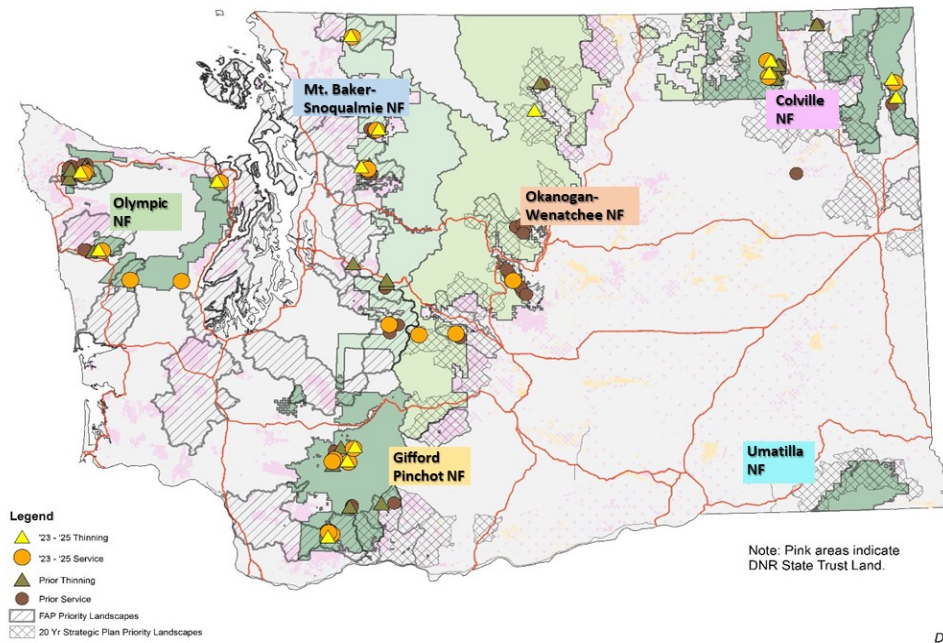
The LV800 Green Climber Slope Mower, operated by DNR FLS staff, will implement non-commercial hazardous fuels reduction projects in Eastern WA

Washington State Department of Natural Resources Federal Lands Section (FLS) initiated their 23-25, biennial work plans in July of 2023 for **6 national forests and BLM lands** in WA, primarily using the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). FLS staff will be conducting a broad array of restoration project types in Western and Eastern Washington, from hazardous fuels reduction work and forest road improvements to salmon habitat restoration and Northern Spotted Owl Surveys.

The 23-25, biennium brings new technology, like the **Green Climber LV800 remote slope-mower** seen above, and new expertise into the FLS, with full capacity now approximately **43 FTE**. Critical federal funding investments through the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)** and **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** have also landed, expanding leveraged project funding and finalizing staffing levels.

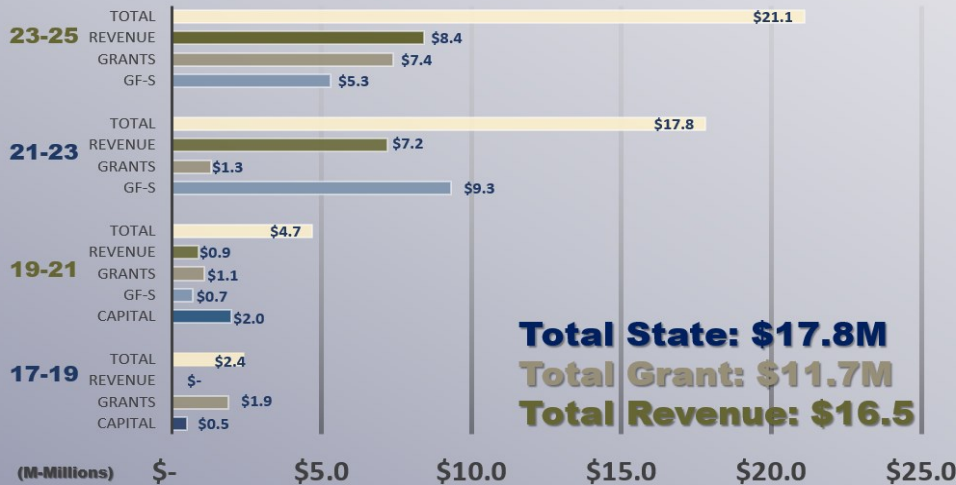


Federal Lands Program 2023 - 2025 Deliverables



<b>Statewide</b> 4.0 FTE- Program 4.0 FTE -Operations 8.0 FTE – NEPA Statewide Support	<b>GPNF</b> 6.0 FTE 10,500 MBF 650 Acres 23 Rd Miles 7 AIPs 1 NEPA Projects
<b>MBSNF</b> 2.0 FTE 6,000 MBF 300 Acres 28 Rd Miles 7 AIPs 2 NEPA Projects	<b>CNF</b> 9.0 FTE 17,500 MBF 8,500 Acres 6 Rd Miles 2 NEPA Projects
<b>ONF</b> 5.0 FTE 12,000 MBF 700 Acres 23 Rd Miles 8 AIPs 1 NEPA Projects	<b>OWNF</b> 6.0 FTE 4,000 MBF 5,900 Acres 5 Rd Miles 3 NEPA Projects
<b>UNF and BLM</b> 100 Acres 2 NEPA Projects	

**WADNR GNA State and Federal Investments: 2018-2025**



**23-25'**  
**Budget Breakdown:**

**\$5.2M State**

**\$7.4M Grant**  
 (\$5.9M BIL/IRA)

**\$8.5M Revenue**

**TOTAL \$21.1M**

Federal Lands Program GNA Accomplishments 2019-2023	Eastern Washington	Western Washington	Total
Commercial Acres	4,720	3,890	8,610
Non-Commercial Acres	10,324	126	10,450
Volume (MBF)	39,240	57,409	96,649
Aquatic Improvement Projects (Count)	2	59	61
Deferred Maintenance (Miles)	96	191	287
Decommissioning (Miles)	15	32	47
NEPA Projects Completed	7	3	10

**MORE INFORMATION**

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 www.dnr.wa.gov/GNA



2023	SPRING - FEBRUARY	SUMMER - MAY	FALL - SEPTEMBER	WINTER - DECEMBER
<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>New Member Welcome</li> <li>Annual Work Plan Review</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EJ Work Group Recommendations</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FHAC Charter Revisions</li> <li>WWA Landscape Eval Pilot</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Wildfire Defense Grants</li> <li>HB 1168 Joint Workgroup update</li> <li>Leg update: Cascading impacts of wildfire</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QWRA Joint Workgroup recommendations</li> <li>Environmental Justice draft recommendations</li> <li>FHAC Charter revisions (<i>tabled</i>)</li> <li>WWA Forest Resilience Strategic Planning workgroup Tasking</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Supervisor/DNR update</li> <li>Monitoring WG update</li> <li>FR Program updates: Rx Fire, Certified Burner Program, and Post-Fire Recovery</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>FHAC Charter revisions update</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FHAC Charter</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024 Legislative Priorities</li> <li>Open committee working lunch to develop 2024 work plan and priorities</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Forester update</li> <li>Decision Package/Budget update</li> <li>FR Program updates: Federal Lands Section – GNA, NEPA</li> <li>Workgroup Reports</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>Member-Chair Elections</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ]</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Supervisor/DNR update</li> <li>FR Program updates: Strategic Science &amp; Planning, State Uplands</li> </ul>
<b>Work Groups</b>	<p>Jan-Feb: HB 1168 Account Joint Workgroup</p> <p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>	<p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>	<p>May-Dec: WWA Forest Resilience Strategic Planning Workgroup</p> <p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>	<p>May-Dec: WWA Forest Resilience Strategic Planning Workgroup</p> <p>Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup</p>
<b>Special Meeting</b>	<p><i>March 16, 2023:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 1168 Workgroup Recommendations</li> <li>QWRA Joint Workgroup Tasking</li> </ul>		<p><i>Pending date:</i></p> <p>FHAC Charter Revision Approval</p>	

2024	SPRING - FEBRUARY	SUMMER - MAY	FALL - SEPTEMBER	WINTER - DECEMBER
<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>New Member Welcome</li> <li>Annual Work Plan Review</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Forester update</li> <li>Program updates: Prescribed Fire, Post-Fire Recovery</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Supervisor update</li> <li>Program updates: Forest Health Protection, Urban Forestry</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>Member-Chair Nominations</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Forester update</li> <li>Program updates: Service Forestry, Community Resilience</li> </ul>	<p><i>Standing Business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review &amp; approve prior meeting summary</li> <li>Member-Chair Elections</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[]</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Supervisor update</li> <li>Program updates: Science &amp; Planning, State Uplands</li> <li>2024 Legislative Report</li> </ul>
<b>Work Groups</b>	Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup	Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup	Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup	Quarterly: Monitoring Workgroup
<b>Special Meeting</b>				