



September 30, 2014

Dear Mr. Everett,

Thank you for attending the Washington Forest Collaborative Summit in Wenatchee on September 8, 2014. The Washington forest collaborative groups appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on its *Report to the Washington State Legislature*. As you know, the following collaborative efforts are working **actively** to restore the forests of the state:

- North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC)
- Northeast Washington Forest Coalition (NEWFC)
- Pinchot Partners
- South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative (SGPC)

These groups look forward to receiving the *Eastern Washington Forest Health: Hazards, Accomplishments and Restoration Strategy*. In the future, it would be important for DNR to include west-side restoration needs in its analyses. In “Section D. Eastern Washington Forest Restoration Strategy,” we recommend adding narrative regarding the critical role of collaborative efforts in building consensus around the ecological, economic, and social interests associated with landscape-scale forest projects. The above groups are working to help land managers develop priorities, and support implementation and monitoring. All of these efforts serve to increase the pace and footprint of restoration with an emphasis on improving the economy of rural communities throughout Washington. Such accelerated restoration will be necessary to achieve the level of restoration needed to effect change on the forested landscape across the state.

Specifically, the groups listed above respectfully request the Washington Legislature allocate funds to support and increase capacity-building to engage stakeholders, conduct field trips and build social agreement on projects from planning through implementation and monitoring. The range of capacity needs vary among collaborative efforts. Establishing a competitive Request for Proposal process that could award up to \$200,000 per collaborative for the next biennium will augment the local and regional investments already committed.

In addition to limited resources for capacity-building, resources are lacking for project implementation across the state, especially on federal lands. While two of the state’s groups have formal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program funding for project implementation, the majority do not. Relying on U.S. Treasury dollars for U.S. Forest Service (USFS) project implementation has long been identified as a limiting factor to accelerated restoration. For this reason, we recommend that DNR also request

that the Legislature allocate state funds to match federal dollars to increase project implementation on USFS lands. An estimate of at least \$2 million is suggested.

Lastly, we have attached a summary of more detailed comments made to DNR staff at the September 9, 2014 WA Forest Collaboratives Summit held in Wenatchee.

We look forward to partnering with the DNR to achieve much needed restoration across Washington. Please feel free to contact Melody Kreimes, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and NCWFHC facilitator, if you need more information in support of this letter.

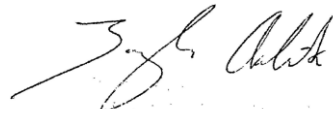
Sincerely,



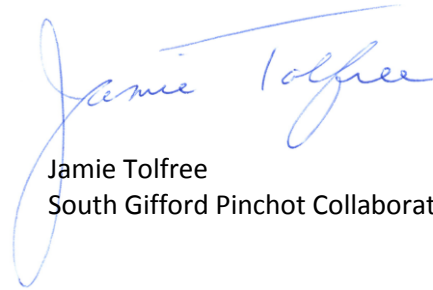
Lloyd McGee, Co-Chair  
NCWFHC Representative



Russ Vaagen, President  
NEWFC Representative



Taylor Aalvik, Chair  
Pinchot Partners



Jamie Tolfree  
South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative

cc: Governor Inslee  
Commissioner Goldmark  
J.T. Austin (via email)  
Lauren Burnes (via email)  
Chuck Hersey (via email)