

December 6, 2002

North Umpqua Parties Amend Hydro Settlement Agreement

Roseburg, OR. – Parties to the settlement agreement for the licensing of the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project announced today they had approved an amendment to the agreement.

The amendment that was signed November 1, fine-tunes features of the agreement regarding increased stream flows and gravel augmentation. It also gives more flexibility to settlement parties when choosing areas for habitat enhancement below Soda Springs Dam. Original settlement language required habitat enhancement within the Soda bypass reach while new language allows habitat enhancement elsewhere below Soda Springs Dam.

“We now know that in the Soda bypass reach, what had been originally proposed for habitat improvement was not likely to work,” said James Caplan, forest supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest. “The amendment allows meaningful habitat work in areas where it will do the most good for fisheries, and will help us assure the goals of the Northwest Forest Plan are met.”

“The signing of this amendment demonstrates how the settlement parties can work together and achieve real benefits for the environment, even before a new FERC license is issued,” said Bill Eaquinto, vice president of PacifiCorp hydro licensing.

FERC is expected to incorporate the amendment into its environmental review process and issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement, within the next few months.

Parties to the original Settlement Agreement include PacifiCorp, USDA Forest Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Water Resources Department.

The agreement was signed in a June 2001 ceremony with Governor John Kitzhaber that culminated long negotiations to protect salmon and steelhead fisheries yet maintain an important hydroelectric resource for customers of PacifiCorp.

The North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project is located in the headwaters of the North Umpqua River near Roseburg, Oregon. It is owned and operated by PacifiCorp. Project facilities include eight hydroelectric developments with a capacity of 185 megawatts.

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