

FINAL, Approved 10-8-14
8-20-14 Meeting Summary
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy) *
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA)
Chris Stine (ODEQ) *
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Ann Reece (OWRD)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Jason M. Wilcox (USDA-FS)
Rob Burns (USFWS)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy) *
Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp Energy) *
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Tribe) *

Not Present

Anne Shirley (BLM)

* Attendance by phone

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Introductions, Member/Organizational Updates, Upcoming Meetings/Presentations

Member Updates (staff changes, organization news)

NOAA – With the dissolution of the Hydropower Division, Ed’s position is now a Staff Engineer, but he expects his involvement in NUHP fish passage issues to remain similar.

OWRD – The Director has resigned.

ODFW – The interim Region Manager is Steve Marks. Dave’s new supervisor will be Tim Walters (watershed manger). The Umpqua Fish Staff has a temporary six month rotation that will impact all staff except our STEP biologist. No changes have occurred at our Rock Creek hatchery at this time.

USDA-FS –

- Steve Burns (Fisheries Biologist, Diamond Lake Ranger District) is relocating to the Rogue-Siskiyou District. His position will be replaced. Jason Wilcox (Forest Fish Biologist) will be the fish contact in the meantime.
- Mark Sommers is the new hydrologist and is working out of Glide. He will cover both the North Umpqua and Diamond Lake districts.
- Viva Worthington is retiring from the DLRD Ranger position on September 30. There will be rotations to fill 90-day segments until someone is hired.

Public Outreach

Rich gave a project tour to members of the Watershed Council on August 18, which Dave Harris also attended. Rich also attended the monthly Hydrology Breakfast in early August where USGS researchers gave an update regarding the findings from synoptic water quality studies done in 1995, 2005, and 2007. They plan to have a final report out soon.

Upcoming

- **September 4 (6:30PM @ Round Table):** Rich will give a PowerPoint presentation to the Umpqua Valley Fly Fisherman similar to the usual public tour presentation.
- **October 4 (tentative):** Rich may give a Soda Springs Fish Passage presentation and tour to the Umpqua Watersheds group.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Operation and Maintenance: The facility is operating on emergency power today due to a plant shutdown required for power pole replacements which are expected to be complete by Friday, August 22. Because the emergency generator may not supply enough power to work all systems simultaneously, the north intake has been opened during this plant outage to ensure the facility will survive a debris event.

Pam asked Steve to check on the 5-day advance notice of ground-disturbing activities associated with the pole replacement work.

Kelly asked about power pole replacements and have cultural clearances been done. Pam said, yes absolutely, always.

Jim asked about the duration of previous north intake use as planned during equipment repairs over the summer. Rich said that the north intake was opened on July 7 concurrent with agency

notification, and was closed on August 15, a month before the agency-requested deadline. The early closure was due to the NUHP crew prioritizing Soda Springs over other work and investing substantial effort on system improvements there.

Rich reminded everyone that the reason for having the north intake open then was that so many cleaning and control systems were compromised and needing repair. The 2G-4 actuator was out of service needed replacement. The long term fix is to replace that actuator with a hydraulic actuator. Scott said this should happen by the end of September. Regarding fish impacts, Rich said that it was unlikely that adult salmon would get through the north intake's 2" bar rack, but juvenile fish certainly could if they move that direction rather than through the fish screen or spillway. Knowing the proportion of flow going to the north intake will help, so Rich has already added this to the scope of the performance evaluation. Rich reminded that it has always been part of the facility plan and design that the north intake would be used when appropriate and necessary to keep the screen from becoming damaged.

Ed said that the original idea of the north intake was as an emergency for facility protection, but it has evolved into more of a precautionary measure. He's hoping that over time, we would open the north intake less frequently than during the past year. He said an alternative is to spill a substantial amount of water such that most fish pass through the spillway rather than entering the north intake and powerhouse.

Jason was concerned that frequent use of the north intake could have implications to juveniles. Both Jim and Jason talked about the least amount of smolt and timing and that an evaluation might be best in early July. We might want to figure out when best to do it. Rich offered that more will be known after the performance evaluation.

Rich said the first step is to monitor the use of the North intake as the fish passage facility develops a longer-term operational history. If it is used infrequently as envisioned then no changes are needed. If it is used more frequently than anticipated, and especially during periods of smolt outmigration, then additional investigation may be warranted regarding fish impacts and alternate operating scenarios.

Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations: The hydraulic evaluation is ongoing, and the Northwest Hydraulic Consultants crew is working on the facility today They verified the fish ladder rating curves developed in July and are measuring flows in the fish return system and fish screen.

Tailrace Barriers

Biological Evaluations: Meridian is currently setting up the underwater video at the Slide Creek tailrace barrier. The FHS TWG will convene after the RCC meeting to review the study plan and recent agency comments regarding this evaluation.

Fish Creek Dam and Canal Projects

Fiber and Power Upgrade: Chris Kelly's review of the proposed alignment revealed that a portion of the project is located within an arc site. PacifiCorp is trying to more clearly define the extent of ground disturbance and conduct some preliminary archaeological probe and shovel tests to determine whether additional archaeological surveys are required prior to construction. PacifiCorp will then get the cultural review form to the USDA-FS for their review. We are currently awaiting the USDAS-FS Notice to Proceed.

Rich reported that the diversion has been closed throughout the summer. The Fish Creek fish ladder was shut down for a couple hours recently to remove debris and sediment up to cobble-sized rocks, and will need another brief shutdown soon to complete this work.

Wetlands

There are three remaining wetlands to be constructed.

Fire Swamp Wetland: The USDA-FS Notice to Proceed was received on August 19. The 30% design will happen in the fall. Construction is planned for 2015.

Stump Lake Pothole Wetland: Weekly Bros. is under contract and will start construction in September. The USDA-FS will do the plantings.

The last wetland, adjacent to the Lake Creek elk camp, is planned for 2016.

Aquatic Reconnects Update

Scott reported this project is under contract with S&B James. They are in the process of putting in silt fences and clearing out the hazard trees. They are procuring materials and there will be an outage on the Clearwater 2 system in October. Their intent is to do as much work up to the canal to October 1. At this point, Scott is keeping Viva Worthington apprised of required road closures. Pam asked to be copied on these closure notifications. Scott will expand it to Miles as well.

Steve said that there will be seven sites constructed in 2015 and ten in 2016.

Other Updates

Stump Lake/Bear Creek Debris Removal: Pam noted that Steve had been doing research regarding FEIS coverage of maintenance dredging projects after the proposed dredging at Stump Lake was discussed at the last RCC meeting. Specific dredging locations, with the exception of Soda Springs reservoir, are not discussed in the FEIS, but there is adequate NEPA coverage via the discussion of general maintenance dredging in the FEIS.

Weekly Bros. is already contracted to complete the Stump Lake wetland enhancement. Once the Notice to Proceed is received from the USDA-Forest Service, we'll have them do the dredging work upstream of the Clearwater 1 dam spillway (i.e. Stump Lake) as well.

The debris in Stump Lake is almost cutting off flow to the spillway and the instream flow release system, and is a safety and compliance concern. Rich has put together the permit materials for the DSL and the US ACOE (ACOE, Corps).

Chris asked about the dredging in Stump Lake and whether the DSL or Corps has provided any information yet. Would they issue as a Nationwide or would they combine it? Rich said that in the past, they've lumped projects together when geographically close. We have a nationwide permit for wetland enhancement at Stump Lake at the upper end of dam, and the Corps has suggested they may add the dredging to that existing permit. Chris mentioned that the anticipated impacts to water quality sometimes aren't fully addressed by the Nationwide permit. Chris said he would like to coordinate with the Corps, DSL and PacifiCorp. He wants to be kept in the loop. If the Corps goes down that road with permit/certification, things can fall through large cracks and never be addressed.

Lemolo Lake Woody Debris Removal: Currently awaiting a permit or exemption from the Corps.

SS Bypass Reach Gravel (1,000 cubic feet): This is an implementation project. A pre-construction notice has been sent to both the DSL and ACOE. It should fall under a Nationwide permit, as a continuation of the previous work there. It will be a fish habitat exemption for the DSL.

Phase II Drilling at Toketee Dam: Steve described the second round of drilling and test pits required to evaluate material that is underneath Toketee Dam and inform the seismic evaluation. The work will be conducted on the crest and at the toe of the dam adjacent to the previously approved activities of Phase 1. He's hoping it will be a quick turnaround for the Notice to Proceed.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Habitat Studies

6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach: Flow restrictions at Soda Springs and Toketee are preventing much ramping at Slide powerhouse, thus there is no reason to monitor until such time as ramping operations are resumed, which could be several years.

7.2 Gravel Augmentation: Gravel will be added if permit documentation is received in time. It should happen between October and December this year.

8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat: The next monitoring is scheduled for 2017.

8.3 Soda Springs Habitat: The TWG has agreed to have Stillwater Sciences do a description of existing spawning gravel prior to the augmentation, which Rich will schedule

19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Predator Control Study: Rich said the RCC is still reviewing a June proposal from Stillwater Sciences to refine predator control study details. Rich will resend the proposal to the RCC for review.

Long-Term Monitoring: Currently no monitoring crew is planned to be hired next year, because the performance evaluation is underway instead. Dave said the performance evaluation will refine how the evaluation building is configured and used, and also help improve the video monitoring at the fish ladder.

Fish Passage Design

The design-build contract is in place for Weekly Bros. to expand the fish viewing window. Some design questions were already reviewed by Ed, and a conceptual design is expected in October for TWG review. They will also be designing and building a platform on the fish ladder exit for cleaning debris from the trashrack, and Rich would appreciate TWG review of that as well.

Flows & Ramping

No TWG actions at this time. The annual report for WY 2012 is currently in progress. Roger Reynolds and the USGS are doing analyses and may be able to provide two water years on one CD. We will want to reconvene the TWG soon to evaluate the need for such a complex report.

Lemolo Reservoir Management Plan: The annual fall drawdown plan was submitted to ODFW and USFS in August. It predicts a fairly normal drawdown beginning after Labor Day, proceeding within normal limits, and expecting to keep the Wild and Scenic Reach flows above the normal 725 CFS minimum target.

Rich mentioned that the USFS and he have been reviewing a draft of the Lemolo Lake Modeling Report by MaxDepth Aquatics, and that a final report should be out within a month or so.

401 Water Quality Certification

The monitoring of dissolved oxygen within Soda Springs bypass reach was completed in July and showed levels well within DEQ criteria. Chris Stine has already reviewed and approved the report. That was the last of the “special studies” required, so the Certification monitoring program is now dominated by annual monitoring and reporting from the Soda Springs water quality station and the network of flow gage sites, and also the periodic pH monitoring at Lemolo 1 forebay on 5-year intervals. Chris reminded that one thing to keep an eye on is the

Lemolo 1 forebay operation. The deeper and more frequent flushing will keep the algal growth down to a minimum and hence minimize pH.

OTHER ITEMS

Operational Updates

Powerhouse/Canal Outages: Fish Creek maintenance will occur this fall while the diversion is already shut down. Clearwater 2 is still planned for an outage October 1 to Nov 10.

Impoundment Water Level Conditions and Plans: Lemolo Lake (see note about the fall drawdown plans under F&R TWG updates, above)

Toketee Lake Update: Scott had questions on the restriction. Getting to the lake is problematic using the boat ramp. When doing the reconnect project, boats were launched at a different location.

SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Harris)

Dave reported that Kirk Haskett has finished the summer work on the mainstem Rock Creek, down to the Rock Creek campground, between the Harrington and Rock Creek side channels. They have been using that same technique the past few years and it's working well. This summer they are coordinating with the BLM. Instead of leap frogging, we are working with them on their lands. They still own their part of the project, but we have connected four or five projects that way. ODFW helped design the BLM projects, and sat with them to help them get up to speed hydraulically. Everyone is learning and doing a good job. Because of this work the fish ladder video reading was put on hold for a few months.

Sam will start monitoring spring Chinook soon in Rock Creek, via snorkeling. The juvenile bypass system at Rock Creek fish ladder and screen is being modified today. The new component is like a stainless steel "super slide."

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Sichting)

2014 Project Selection: Pam reported these have been selected for awhile. Many Title II projects received funding. Harrington Creek was partially funded. There is a list on the USDA-FS website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umpqua/home/?cid=stelprdb5348352>). Unfortunately, the cashier's check got lost, but it was finally found yesterday and will be put into the projects. The BLM gets funded and then the rest is doled out to the various projects.

Strategic Restoration Plan: Pam reported that this had been pushed back a bit, but that there will be a public plan meeting on November 6, at the Supervisor's Office. The USDA-FS website will keep people informed.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Action Items

Action Items	Status
Pam Sichting will send an internal e-mail to USDA-FS staff folks to find out the status of the 5-Year Strategic Plan, then report back to the RCC.	
Pam will e-mail selected 2014 Project List out to RCC.	
Rich will re-email the Stillwater proposal to RCC.	

Next RCC Meeting: October 8, 2014 (9:00AM–11:00AM); Public Tour (11:00AM – 3:00PM).