

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC Project No. P-1927)
Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
January 20, 2016 Conference Call Meeting Summary**

** FINAL (Approved 3/4/16) **

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA)
Ed Meyer (NOAA)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)

Also Present

Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Anne Shirley (BLM)
Jim Thraikill (USFWS)
Mary Graine (OWRD)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

RCC Action: Approve edits to the October meeting notes and agree that the notes are complete.
*** Approved 1/20/16 ***

Member Updates/Organization News

NMFS: Will Stelle (West Coast Regional Administrator) has resigned and the position is posted for hiring.

USFWS: A permanent RCC representative and replacement for Rob Burns has not yet been identified.

Cow Creek: Kelly Coates is in the Medford office now, but still serving as the Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator. The tribe is looking to hire a fish biologist.

Public Outreach

Rich noted that KEZI news produced a video feature during the annual public tour that was played on television and available on-line.

Rich noted that a few conservation groups, including the Steamboaters, have requested an update about Soda Springs fish passage data for dissemination to their members. The RCC agreed that this was acceptable, and Pam requested that RCC representatives are copied on any messages delivering fish passage information to the public.

Future Annual Public Tours Discussion: The group reviewed the October 2015 tour. Pam noted that she thought it went well, and new USFS staff that attended appreciated the opportunity. Steve asked whether the group wanted to try next year's tour on a weekend day. Pam suggested keeping the tour on a weekday and implementing a renewed effort to publicize the event before moving the tour to a weekend. It was noted that past tours were conducted on weekends and did not result in increased attendance. Chris noted that the RCC should try new avenues and methods of getting the word out to the public. Rich suggested utilizing Umpqua Watershed's membership activity network to get the word out. The group will begin publicity planning at the next RCC meeting.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Status/Update: December was a challenging month from a weather standpoint and the resulting high flows. In addition, mechanical components on the fish return hopper broke on December 9, so the fish screen has been out-of-service since then. Rebuild of and upgrades to the system are ongoing, and the expected return-to-service is mid-February. The annual O&M report was submitted to FERC on January 13, 2016.

Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations Update: The hydraulic evaluation of the ladder and screen are complete except for a set of high flow measurements which we hope to complete this winter or spring, pending the availability and magnitude of high flow events and generation at full-load.

The biological evaluation of the ladder is approximately seventy-five percent complete. The evaluation field work will be completed in mid-March. Preliminary net upstream fish movement for mid-March through December 2015 was 441 chinook, 239 steelhead, and 240 coho.

Tailrace Barriers

To keep blowout panels from opening and allowing fish to swim in during high flow events, PacifiCorp has adopted a new standard operating procedure that emphasizes more frequent monitoring and cleaning of the pickets and also specifies reducing generation any time panels are observed to be open. The new SOP has been implemented a few times already this winter and has helped reduce the frequency and duration of panel openings.

Fish Creek Projects

Scott reported that the fiber and power cable has been installed, and the programming was in-process. Commissioning of the fiber and power systems will allow the canal shut-off and drainage system tests to be conducted later this year pending water availability.

Rich noted that he has received the Corps' permit for sediment removal upstream of FC diversion dam; the DSL permit application has been submitted and the authorization is pending. Operation of the sluice gate during high flows has helped with flow through the ladder. The group discussed the

need for a new NTP. Pam noted that the area was previously cleared for construction of the screens, so a new NTP request was not required. PacifiCorp will provide the required, advance notification of construction to USFS prior to any sediment removal operations.

Lemolo 2 Aquatic Connectivity Sites

Ten sites are planned for construction on Lemolo 2 waterway in 2016. An outage is planned for mid-June to mid-August. Initial ground-disturbance in the form of geotechnical borings along the canal and road are planned for March. Steve submitted the NTP request this week. Pam noted that botanical surveys during flowering season may be required, but otherwise the approval should be available in time for the proposed schedule.

Wetlands Update

A technical working group meeting is planned for next week. PacifiCorp will present the designs for the Lake Creek wetland to the TWG for approval.

Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Scott noted that there was a sinkhole next to an eight-inch culvert on CW2 canal road. An NTP request will be prepared for USFS review.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Habitat Studies

6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach: *Nothing new to report.*

7.2 Gravel Augmentation: *Nothing new to report.*

8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat: *Nothing new to report.*

8.3 Soda Springs Habitat: Annual report was submitted to the RCC on January 12, 2016. The maintenance work conducted in 2015 provided good chinook spawning habitat, which was used heavily in October 2015. Rich has observed that the gravel is still intact following winter flows experienced to-date.

19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: The annual report is being prepared by ODFW for planned delivery to the RCC in March 2016. A TWG meeting and site visit to Soda Springs is scheduled for March 16, 2016. Rich summarized a TWG funding request for \$13,250 from the SA 19.2 fund for Stillwater Sciences to prepare a predator study implementation plan and estimate juvenile anadromous fish carrying capacity.

RCC Action: Approve use of \$13,250 of SA 19.2 funds as described above. ***Approved 1/20/16***

Flows & Ramping - *Nothing new to report.*

OTHER ITEMS

Operational Updates

Powerhouse/Canal Outages: On January 14, 2016, Rich emailed the agencies the schedule for 2016 planned maintenance outages that affect bypass reach flows. There are three planned canal dewatering outages: Clearwater 2 in April, Lemolo 1 in May, and Lemolo 2 in June through August.

Reservoir Management (Toketee Reservoir WSEs): The annual Lemolo Lake drawdown report was submitted to the ODFW and USFS on January 14, 2016. The drawdown proceeded according to plan in fall 2015.

Toketee Lake continues to be operated at the lowest water level and probably will for several years. PacifiCorp is analyzing potential dam remediation alternatives. An alternative will be selected in 2016, initiating permitting and agency coordination for proposed construction in 2018.

SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Dave Harris): The designs are complete for in-stream projects in Rock Creek; access and staging coordination is in-progress. ODFW is coordinating receipt of logs from the Stouts Fire area with BLM. Logs will be staged at the Swanson Brothers mill in Glide. Sam is continuing to survey streams for chinook and coho. Sam and Kirk are also continuing to analyze the fish passage video data and have a couple more months of 2014 video to complete. Chris Sheely, the EBA hired with 19.2 funds, is on-board and helping out with surveys above and below Soda Springs.

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Pam Sighting): The USDS-FS is conducting internal meetings to decide how to proceed with finalization of the strategic plan. They plan to fund \$300,000 of projects in FY 2016. March 25, 2016 is the deadline for project proposals. Pam noted that there is a new form to submit for project review. No additional public meetings are planned at this point, and it is uncertain whether additional meetings will take place before projects are selected.

Other: Jim noted that ODFW is planning to introduce tiger trout (brook x brown trout hybrids) into Diamond Lake this year hoping that they will prey on the invasive golden shiners and tui chubs. He requested that ODFW carefully track numbers of such predatory fish introduced in Diamond Lake and subsequently observed in downstream Project waters to address potential emigration concerns.

Next RCC Meeting: An in-person meeting will be held May 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the North Umpqua Implementation Center. The 2016 Rolling Action Plans will be signed at that time.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.