

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)**

**Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
May 17, 2017 Meeting Summary**

FINAL (6/16/17)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA Fisheries)
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Sam Moyers (ODFW)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Amy Stevenson (USDI-BLM)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)
Travis Mackie (Cow Creek)

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Dave Harris (ODFW)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: The Natural Resources line officer is out on a 120-day detail. Richard Helliwell is acting in this role for this timeframe. Any new hires filling existing positions would be selected next fiscal year and would report after the first of the year.

USFWS: There were two new hires, including backfill of Rob Burn's former position. Jim Thrailkill remains the RCC member with Pauly as the alternate.

NOAA: NMFS is implementing the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Recovery Plan implementation strategies. Additionally NMFS has nineteen new openings in the Northwest Region but no changes in the Coast Branch.

ODFW: Adi Oelis, seasonal EBA, is onboard assisting Chris Sheely and Sam Moyers with the long-term monitoring program through October 2017.

ODEQ: Richard Whitman is the new Director.

Cow Creek: With the mitigation funding now received, in August they will start lamprey surveys in offsite tributaries.

OWRD: No updates.

USDI-BLM: No updates.

PacifiCorp: No updates.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Rich and Pam provided a tour for Roseburg High School's science club in April. They were an engaged group and asked good questions. The media ran a nice feature story in the Roseburg local newspaper (The News Review).
http://www.nrtoday.com/news/local/douglas_county/roseburg-high-science-club-learns-about-north-umpqua-hydro-project/article_b1383ed6-5b87-582b-8043-ef360ddf3146.html
- The South Umpqua High School science class is scheduled for a tour on May 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM.
- Members of the Cow Creek Tribe are scheduled to come for a tour on June 16, 2017. This includes their fisheries/natural resources group and Tribal staff (seniors, leadership, and tribal board/elders). The receipt of hydro mitigation funding, and the fact that the hydro project area is within the Cow Creek's Ancestral Territory, generated interest for this tour. Kelly will model it after some of the other recent public tours and will coordinate with Pam and Rich regarding the group's desires.
- Rich mentioned the possibility of another tour with a local non-profit veterans fly fishing/conservation group called Source One Serenity. They have requested to have a fall fishing/conservation work retreat on the North Umpqua and possibly using PacifiCorp facilities.
- **RCC Annual Public Tour Discussion:** Steve asked if the RCC wanted to continue to hold the tour at the same time or maybe make it more accessible to others and have it on a weekend. He mentioned perhaps focusing on specific audiences or groups (e.g., Audubon) and asked if there were other weekend events going on that we could tap into. Pam agreed to maybe try a weekend. Rich said that Umpqua Watersheds has a local outreach network and schedule of weekend events which we could get on. They have requested tours in the past but are not able to get many people attending on weekdays. The question was also asked if maybe we have received a saturation point and perhaps we should only hold tours every other year. A few suggested trying a weekend to see how it goes. Steve and Rich will select a weekend for RCC approval at the next meeting.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

The tailrace barriers are working well. As described by email, the blowout panels on the Slide Creek TRB were allowed to be opened for about two days of high flows to avoid diverting too much water upstream and damaging the smolt traps there. No adult fish were observed in the tailrace as a result.

The fish ladders are also working well with no special issues. The first spring Chinook of the year passed through the Soda Springs ladder on May 10, 2017.

The fish screens are also working well. PacifiCorp had to initiate the high flow procedure several times to protect Soda Springs' fish screen during the many recent high water events. This has helped to avoid damage to the system.

There will be a standard maintenance shutdown of the Soda Springs fish screen in mid-July for upgrades to the finishing screen cleaning system.

At Soda Springs, monitoring of adult fish passage through the ladder is ongoing, and the juvenile fish monitoring building has been operated one night per week since late April, and will be operated again tonight for those wanting to see it in action. Recent catches have included hundreds of salmon fry and about 100-200 parr and smolts per night.

Wetlands Update

Steve showed a Wetland Enhancement Site Update presentation on Ranawapiti and Lake Creek wetlands.

Regarding the proposed repair at Ranawapiti, Pam said the USDA-FS is always leery of bentonite. Steve said they could always use Fish Creek clay, which PacifiCorp has used before on other projects, if the USDA-FS approves. The Wetland TWG will need to approve the Ranawapiti repair design. Steve asked the Wetland TWG to get back to him with any comments or questions. The project wouldn't be until later in the summer as it's too wet and muddy in there now. Steve will provide Pam with a project write-up for the notice to proceed.

Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>Habitat Enhancement Boulders</i>	Pam is waiting on staff input
<i>Toketee Rehab Slash Disposal</i>	Pam has contacted Brian Smith for concurrence

Pam said the longer we can wait on the boulder project the better as it's still so muddy.

Rich said that PacifiCorp is considering whether to remove some sediments from the mouth of Mowich Creek at the Clearwater 2 diversion intake, and will coordinate if necessary.

Other/Upcoming Projects

Fish Creek Settling Pond Sediment Management (Permits/Plans): PacifiCorp has received the DSL permit to complete the project, which is taking the staged material from the fish screen parking area and placing it back along Fish Creek for high flow distribution back into the channel. One hundred and fifty cubic yards of gravel is already on the side of the road. There are no plans nor a budget for removal of the additional gravel upstream of the dam. We will know more about the need for additional removal as flows decline (there is 300 cfs up there right now). Pam asked if there is a way to stockpile dredged material from the Fish Creek sediment removal project, but Steve said no, according to the ACOE permit the material has to be returned to the Fish Creek bypassed reach.

Pam noted that there is often a need for gravels in other projects, and gravel should be stockpiled when possible. Steve noted that the Corps and DSL have accepted that pass-through of material around dams and into bypassed reaches is the new standard practice.

Pam asked if there was any money left in the SA 7.2 account for gravel augmentation. The balance of that account as of December 2016 was approximately \$40,000. Pam suggested that hydro mitigation projects for gravel augmentation would be easier to justify after that balance is spent. As an FYI, she added that 19.3 mitigation fund projects need to have at least a 20% match and then can only be 50% of the contracted amount.

Pam inquired about woody debris generated by the Toketee Rehab Phase 3 drilling project. PacifiCorp requested to haul the material to Lemolo quarry. Pam is coordinating with Brian Smith on the slash disposal proposal. She will also check on filling up the quarries as far as ODOT and PacifiCorp are concerned. She said that big piles sometimes just show up. They are trying to get better with their NTPs.

Toketee Dam: Steve said the final round of drilling and test borings is coming up in June. When the work at the dam is complete, the contractor will move onto the quarry investigations at the Slide Creek and Fish Creek quarries. We are still waiting for approval from FERC on the final rehabilitation designs.

Recreation (Toketee Falls Trailhead Parking): Large RVs are parking at the bridge or at the Y in the road. Pam said her agency met last Thursday, and there are now several options on the table for car and trailer parking spots or a few pull-through areas. Scott said that RVs are currently parking and blocking one whole lane of traffic, and on weekends it's a bottleneck situation because it backs up to the highway and has become quite a concern. Pam asked Steve if the anchor and guy wire at the adjacent transmission structure could be relocated. Steve will coordinate with Pacific Power wires staff and report back to Pam.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES AND ISSUES

Fish Habitat Studies (FHS): Monitoring and Maintenance Schedules

SA 6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach: *nothing new to report at this time.*

SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation: *nothing new to report at this time.*

SA 8.2 Habitat Monitoring: A contract is in place for habitat monitoring of the Slide Creek bypass improvement project, which includes aerial drone photography in July. There will be on-the-ground habitat mapping in late August, before Chinook start to spawn.

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Modification: There will be habitat maintenance work (gravel and boulders) in mid to late August. It won't happen any earlier because of the powerhouse outage. We have the ACOE permit but we're still awaiting the DSL permit. Pam asked for a quick notification call when work starts, for safety reasons, so they know where hauling is happening.

For clarification, Rich asked if we wanted to pay the \$40,000 already contracted work from the SA 7.2 fund, but Pam said her understanding was that that account was more for gravel augmentation rather than repairs or boulders. The RCC agreed to keep this year's work within the SA 8.3 fund.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: There is quite a bit of work starting to happen this year. With respect to the smolt traps and fish evaluation building, Sam reported that ODFW has beefed up their crews. He, along with Chris Sheely and Adi Oelis, the two experimental biology aides (EBAs), are spending a lot of time on this program. Regarding the recent issue with the smolt traps, they had two side by side upstream of the Slide Creek tailrace barrier. The cones were up in anticipation of the high flows, but the rock that the anchors were secured to came out. Since that incident, three more anchors and two main lines have been set. The traps are not back in operation yet. They operated for 1½ weeks and caught a fair number of fry and smolts, some of which were PIT-tagged for the predator control study.

The Soda Springs smolt trap operated a bit longer but has been damaged twice. The first repair was due to the cables slipping and allowing the trap to swing into shallow water which damaged the cone. After that repair, and while back in fishing position, the trap came unmoored, floated downstream, and ended up hung-up on a mid-stream boulder. Weekly Bros recovered the trap and is now repairing it. In the meantime, he said they have a five-foot trap available for use if flow conditions allow. Rich thanked the RCC for rapidly approving via email all these unanticipated expenses to keep the sampling program as viable as possible under strenuous flow conditions.

Besides the traps, they are working in the evaluation building and so far they have captured about 1,300 fish in two nights, including Chinook and coho fry, parr and smolts, and juvenile brown trout. A subset of smolts is typically tagged and released into the fish return system to calibrate the PIT tag antennae installed into the streambed across the Soda Springs bypass reach. High flows seem to be causing very low recapture efficiencies so far.

Regarding the Predator Control Study, there was one round of sampling on April 5, 2017 that caught about 90 brown trout. There will be another round tomorrow night then three more throughout the summer. Rich mentioned that if anyone wanted to participate in the sampling to let him know and he will keep them posted as to the schedule.

Jim asked Sam about the predator study work. Sam said they are marking, tagging, and lavaging brown trout, but not sacrificing or killing them during the study.

Flows & Ramping (F&R): Flows, Ramping, Gaging, Monitoring, Plan & Reports

Rich appreciated everyone's quick approval of the special ramping request to allow the smolt trap recovery. During the necessary down ramp event, he found a few that were stranded and got them back into the river. The next morning along the wild and scenic reach, where fish were stranded in 2004, he found none this time. He said the earlier seasonal timing helped, and with the river flow higher and temperature a bit colder, there are not many steelhead fry out. It appears to have been beneficial to do the ramping at night.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages

The Clearwater No. 1 powerhouse is currently shutdown but planned for restarting later this week. Each of the three Toketee generators is scheduled for a maintenance shutdown, separately, starting in late May and running through mid-July. During each generator's outage, the other two generators will remain in operation.

Reservoir Management

Rich reported that the Lemolo Reservoir is full at 4,147 feet. Anything above 4,145 feet is within the summer operating level. We are spilling the excess snowmelt inflows from the spill valves at the base of the dam. Toketee Reservoir is still full because of the spilling over the crest of the dam. Whenever we come out of spill we will operate in a safety level as we have in years past. Right now we are in spill mode and it will continue into the next month or so.

Pam mentioned the historic garbage dump at Lemolo Reservoir. She said SHPO has determined it's a register-eligible cultural site. The USDA-FS is talking about having it capped to avoid digging up the site but also to prevent future erosional damage. She said as an FYI, there may be some discussions required with the owner at Lemolo Resort. The lodge has been torn down and removed, and she is not sure about plans for rebuilding. The area is located between the resort and Poole Creek. Steve said the only way to mitigate it without knowing how deep it goes down is to cap it. The resort owner has said that no one has ever been cut by any broken bottles from the dump. It could be a project for late October.

Other

Rich said he received an e-mail that the Soda Springs fish passage project would be receiving the "2017 Distinguished Project Award in Fisheries Engineering and Ecohydrology" for its restoration of wild anadromous fish production via a volitional passage fish ladder with a counting station, automatically-cleaned fish screen, spillway modifications, combined with habitat improvements and long-term monitoring. The plaque includes the RCC member agencies and will be presented on June 21, 2017 at the 2017 Fish Passage Conference in Corvallis, Oregon, being held June 19-21, 2017. The award will be presented by the ASCE Environmental & Water Resource Institute and AFS Bioengineering Section Fisheries Engineering Committee.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Enhancement: Sam reported that all the work done last year has held up well. He and Kirk Haskett are doing more work with the East Fork this year and will also work their down to the mainstem Rock Creek below Mill Pond. One change is that the District will start sorting out hatchery spring Chinook salmon this year.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Pam reported that BLM has received the funding they requested last year and also that the Cow Creek Tribe has received their funding for both the 2016 and 2017 projects.

As far as the fiscal year (FY) 2018 projects, Pam sent out an e-mail showing which ones were selected to receive funding. Steve inquired as to who initiates the process for receiving awarded funds. Pam said she does this and that for the one PacifiCorp project that was partially funded, she will check to see how to transfer funds.

Pam said that originally they were going to hire a GS12 position to help out with the SA 19.3 program but due to the current hiring freeze this position is now either on hold or off the table.

She will send out a call letter in November for the FY19 projects. This timeframe will align better with the federal government budgeting process.

She then mentioned there is some discussion regarding an Enterprise Team, consisting of USDA-FS employees, to develop a draft of the federal mitigation fund Strategic Restoration Plan.

For the chosen PacifiCorp Slide Creek project, Steve asked if we could take funds from another project to use in advance of the projected October funding date. She reminded that the contracts cannot be more than 50% of the total funding award. Steve also asked if there was any chance of getting the funding before October. Pam says she'll look, although it's supposed to be money for next FY.

Rich gave the RCC an overview of the PacifiCorp proposed project that the USDA-FS partially funded. It's for extending the monitoring of spawning gravel quality in Slide Creek bypass reach upstream of and into Fish Creek. The group will have to consider whether this project is viable to do this year or next year considering the funding constraints. Rich asked if we should entertain thoughts of postponing the Slide Creek work to next year. The Settlement Agreement language reads "after five years" which we are at now. If Stillwater has to mobilize twice, it could affect the budget. They're already contracted out this year to monitor PacifiCorp's study reach. Steve said the larger concern is whether PacifiCorp will even be able to contract with Stillwater for the funded project considering the 50% contracting-cap. Rich asked Pam to check on contracting issues on their end and let us know.

OTHER

Jim thanked Rich for keeping him and the rest of the RCC informed and involved in developments and emergency conditions associated with 19.2 and other work at the Project.

NEXT RCC MEETING: August 16, 2017, 10:00 AM – Noon (Conference call)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None at this time.*

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM for a brief tour of the Soda Springs' fish evaluation building and smolt trap. The tour was attended by NMFS, ODEQ, ODFW, and OWRD.