

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
May 23, 2018 Meeting Summary****FINAL (8/3/18)**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)*
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA Fisheries)
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)

Other Attendees

Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)

* via conference call

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Amy Stevenson (USDI-BLM)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESSMember Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: Pam is done with her detail. Bob Nichols is the new Forest fish biologist. He has made it a priority to fill the Diamond Lake Ranger District fish biologist position. Adam Veale is now the Fire Management Officer for the Zone (DLRD/NURD).

NOAA Fisheries: Jim is done with his detail.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

South Umpqua High School science class: Sixteen kids came up for a presentation and tour (similar to the RCC public tour) on May 22, 2018. The tour was a success.

Roseburg High School boot camp: Pam is coordinating with Rich for a project tour and presentation on August 7, 2018. The focus will be on the need to remain in high school to open doors to employment opportunities, including those available in the resource management and hydropower/utility sectors.

The group discussed this year’s project tour. It was determined that weekend scheduling did not result in significantly higher attendance. Weekend tours may be considered every other year. Friday, October 12, 2018 was proposed as the date of this year’s tour. There is potential to garner attendees from other local weekend events occurring in the area on this weekend (e.g., Umpqua Brewfest). The group will consider this date and outreach opportunities and discuss in further detail at the August RCC meeting.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Rich provided a general update and noted that the facilities are in good condition and operating as intended.

Tailrace Barriers: Jim inquired about the ten adult coho salmon that were able to get inside the Slide Creek tailrace barrier last winter. Rich explained that these fish accessed the tailrace during a high flow event on Thanksgiving 2017. Since that time additional operational restrictions during high flows have been implemented to reduce risk of panel openings. Additional mechanical controls (custom “bungee” cords) were also installed to help keep the panels closed. All but one of the fish were salvaged from the tailrace and liberated to the river.

Ladders/Screens: Ed inquired about any recent debris loading on the screens. Rich noted that the screens have not recently been plugged by any debris loading events of the type that plugged the screens in 2012 (i.e., upwelling of reservoir-bottom sediments and organic debris). The current hypothesis is that continued operation of the screens has changed the dominant flow vector in the reservoir, and the channel has reached an equilibrium that is less likely to mobilize reservoir-bottom sediments than occurred during the first years of operation. Operations personnel are prepared for these events and will implement emergency procedures as needed.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>T&D Vegetation Management in Restriction Zone</i>	Awaiting USDA-FS NTP
<i>BLM Programmatic ROW Management</i>	Awaiting revisions to HPMP and additional coordination
<i>Lemolo 2 Canal Maintenance</i>	NTP request to be sent to USDA-FS soon

Other/Upcoming Projects

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation: PacifiCorp will be submitting quarry development plans, which will include a total volume of rock production, to the USDA-FS this summer. Construction is projected to occur in 2020 and 2021. We are still awaiting FERC approval and standards for seismic analysis.

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.*

SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation: Early this year Rich distributed the Implementation and Monitoring 5-year Report for 2012-2016. There are currently no plans for spending from this account.

SA 8.2 Habitat Monitoring: The 5-year Monitoring Report was distributed to the TWG early this year.

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Modification: Steelhead have been observed spawning on these sites following last year's habitat improvements and the gravel additions done this winter. Rich will coordinate with the TWG regarding habitat condition and any maintenance needs. [Following the meeting, the group reviewed the site and determined that there were no pressing needs aside from continuing to augment gravel. It was agreed that planned USDA-FS gravel augmentation, to the greatest extent possible, should be made by attempting to deliver material to these sites via upstream delivery and natural deposition.]

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: Rich indicated that the budget for PacifiCorp's portion of these projects appears on track. He noted the number of juvenile salmon and steelhead tagged so far this year has been much higher than the number tagged last year. He also stated the total number of tagged adult trout in Soda Springs reservoir is now over 300 fish. The PIT tag antennae along the riverbed in Soda Springs bypass reach is operating much better than last year and detecting many of these tagged fish.

Long-term Monitoring – The annual report is nearing completion, with ODFW revising it per TWG review. The ODFW crew has been doing steelhead redd surveys and also trapping of juvenile fish at two rotary smolt trap sites plus the Fish Evaluation Building. Pam inquired about software failures at the fish ladder counting station. Rich said he and ODFW have been fine-tuning the motion detection thresholds in the FishTick software. The most recent changes were implemented on April 18, 2018 and based on his most recent comparisons the system is now capturing all adult fish movement effectively, though it is not able to detect many of the fish <8 inches long when they swim along the bottom.

Predator Control – The Predator Control Study report from Stillwater Sciences was reviewed and approved by the TWG and will be delivered to the RCC concurrently with the LTM report upon its completion, which should be soon. Stillwater Sciences also revised the Implementation Plan to account for our experience from last year and make this year's efforts more efficient and fruitful. The trapping program has been much more successful this year due to lower flows and the experience gained last year. Stable isotope analysis has been added to the 2018 program to refine knowledge of predator-prey interactions. The 2017 report suggested that brown trout diets were 92% insects and 8% fish; the stable isotope analysis will help determine whether this ratio is correct and what species of fish are being consumed.

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

Flow Monitoring reports for WY 2015 and WY 2016 were recently submitted to the flow management agencies and the report for WY 2017 flows is in progress as data arrives from the USGS. The Water Quality report for Soda Springs monitoring station for WY 2017 was recently submitted to ODEQ. It showed that the measured water quality parameters were all within ODEQ criteria last year, as usual. (Rich corrected a typo which Chris had identified on the summary page.)

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages

Clearwater 2 biennial maintenance is planned for June 5, 2018 through June 21, 2018. [Spraying of noxious weeds along the dewatered canal is scheduled for June 13, 2018.] Lemolo 2 biennial maintenance is planned for July 9, 2018 through August 13, 2018. Canal relining is planned during the outage, and an NTP request for that work will be submitted to USDA-FS soon.

Reservoir Management

Lemolo Lake (Report): Reservoir refill went as planned and the lake is now within the normal summer operating range.

Pam updated the group on the new Lemolo Resort owners, Jim and Anita Hudson. The resort is being operated as a KOA campground.

Other

Pam asked for a report on a recent fire near Illahee Flats. Steve reported that the fire was started when a tree contacted the transmission line. The tree was a live (i.e., not a snag) tree, but last year's fire removed all of the ground cover and destabilized soils at the base of the tree, which contributed to the tree-fall. This event coupled with a projected high fire danger in 2018 re-emphasizes the need for timely issuance of NTPs. Pacific Power crews will re-inspect the line for green (i.e., live) trees that may have unstable soils at the roots.

Jim asked for an update on his request for USDA-FS to address criteria for requesting diversion of Fish Creek water to Fish Creek forebay for firefighting. Pam mentioned that USDA-FS was working on a statement for RCC review. Jim clarified that continuously diverting a small amount of water (~1 cfs) to keep the forebay watered-up ahead of an emergency may reduce impacts to resources compared to large (>10 cfs) diversions to completely refill a low forebay. The group agreed this may be wise but threshold criteria would have to be identified by USDA-FS to initiate such requests on an as needed basis (e.g., high fire projection models) instead of diverting the small volumes as a de facto, standard operating procedure. Dave noted that standard, annual diversions could require modification or amendment of the license. The group concurred that for now it is more sensible to manage diversion need on an annual basis rather than trying to make it a standard procedure. Pam will reconvene with USDA-FS fire staff and prepare a general statement and thresholds for

requesting proactive diversion, as well as a request for action this year incorporating the methods discussed by the group, for RCC review.

Pam noted that the plan for overflow parking for the Toketee Falls trailhead is with Ranger Tyree and the recreation staff for review. The plan will be distributed to PacifiCorp for review in the near future.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Dave indicated that the focus in Rock Creek this year will be improving fish passage by updating culverts which currently block upstream migration and the installation of a bridge in lieu of a culvert at one site. He noted that Sam Moyers and Kirk Haskett will also be working on habitat mitigation projects for the Prospect Nos. 1, 2, and 4 Hydroelectric Project this year.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Projects for 2019 were finalized and approved by Alice Carlton. Pam will send out a list of funded projects to the RCC. In the future, project proposals will be requested in November, with projects to be implemented in the following year. NGO project proponents need to communicate more with their agency coordinators to prevent overlap of project scopes and locations. Steve inquired about additional information on the program for the annual report. Pam will be making additional efforts to get post-project info (e.g., reports, photos, etc.) from funded projects in the future.

Soda Springs Gravel Augmentation (Plans, Schedule): An additional \$80K was approved for 2019. USDA-FS will continue to procure and stockpile gravels for future installation.

Slide Creek bypass reach and Fish Creek Spawning Habitat Monitoring: The draft report produced by Stillwater Sciences is awaiting comments from USDA-FS prior to finalization.

SA 19.4 FUNDING REVIEW: The Settlement Agreement requires ODFW and PacifiCorp, in consultation with the RCC, to discuss in Year 15 of the New License the need for and level of on-going 19.4 funding. To initiate the process, Dave delivered initial financial accounting data to Steve for review.

NEXT RCC MEETING: August 15, 2018 (Conference call)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None at this time.*

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m. and was followed by a tour of the fish evaluation building and Soda Springs fish habitat improvements.