

**MEETING SUMMARY  
CUTLER RELICENSING PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
FEBRUARY 13, 2019**

**RIVERWOODS CONFERENCE CENTER  
LOGAN, UTAH**

**Meeting Summary  
Cutler Relicensing Public Workshop  
February 13, 2019**

**Riverwoods Conference Center  
Logan, Utah**

The public workshop was staffed by PacifiCorp representatives and consultants (see Attachment A, Table 1 - Team Members) and was attended by approximately 50 interested individuals and representatives of state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and business and community leaders (see Attachment A, Table 2 - Workshop Attendees).

The opening session (see Attachment A, Agenda) provided an overview of the Cutler Project and the FERC relicensing process, and was followed by a series of breakout sessions focused on the following topics:

1. FERC relicensing process overview and discussion
2. Studies overview and discussion
3. Project operation overview and discussion
4. Collaboration overview and discussion
5. Property maps and specific property questions

Each breakout session was held five times in succession, with participants rotating through every 20 minutes. The breakout sessions provided supplemental information on each of the above topics and provided an opportunity for participants to ask questions and/or provide input. Refer to the Powerpoint slides (Attachment C) for details on information presented during the workshop sessions. Questions, concerns, and information received from attendees is included in the following sections.

**Main Session:  
Cutler Project Overview  
FERC Licensing Process Overview**

**Eve Davies, Relicensing Project Manager, PacifiCorp  
Ben Gaddis, Facilitator, Gaddis Consulting**

The following questions were raised by workshop attendees following the main session. PacifiCorp's responses were as noted.

Q: What are the proposed additional fluctuations?

A: *This is not currently known. PacifiCorp will be conducting studies to determine this.*

Q: Will the project affect the Bear River Canal?

A: *We don't believe so.*

Q: Will the studies be published to PacifiCorp's Cutler Project website?

A: *Yes, in late 2020 and late 2021.*

Q: Why did PacifiCorp decide to not raise the upper limit at Cutler?

A: *A decision on operations had to be made in order to proceed with relicensing. The company is preparing for changes in water use versus changes in power generation.*

Q: What deliverable is due at the end of 2019?

A: *Study Plans*

Q: Do verbal comments count/hold the same weight as written comments?

A: *That is our intention. Please note that FERC comments on documents with public review periods are different and must follow that the agency's protocols.*

Q: Where may we direct additional comments to PacifiCorp by email after today?

A: [cutlerlicense@gmail.com](mailto:cutlerlicense@gmail.com)

In addition, one attendee provided written comments on a form provided during the main session for this purpose (see Attachment B).

**Breakout Session 1:  
FERC Licensing Process**

**Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates  
Nuria Holmes, Kleinschmidt Associates**

No comments were received on the FERC licensing process during this breakout session. Some participants had questions on how to become an intervenor and were provided supplemental information.

## **Breakout Session 2: Studies**

**Eve Davies, PacifiCorp**

The following study topics were raised and discussed during the studies breakout session:

### **Aquatic Resources**

- Fish and freshwater mussels population assessment
- Effect of carp on habitat diversity, water quality, species variation, aquatic vegetation (i.e., Utah Lake)
- Effects and management plans for tamarisk, Russian olive, *Phragmites*, and other species

### **Recreation and Land Use**

- Analysis of pool elevation changes effect to recreation site access
- SR30 widening will alter Project Boundary. No other large-scale changes proposed
- Study current levels of invasive controls → step those up
- Reservoir mapping to promote fishery recreation

### **Hydrologic Modeling/Sedimentation**

- Fall 2019 LiDAR Survey
  - 3- to 4-week process of drawing down reservoir
  - Down 4 ft at Benson Marina
- Characterize existing core sediment in reservoir
- Concern with phosphorus exposure during drawdowns
- Coordinate with DEQ on monitoring sites
- Changes in inflow/flooding during next 30 to 50 year license period (sticky note: in regard to climate change)
- Volume/location of silt and how it affects navigation and storage capacity
- Removal of Wheelon/other dredging – what happens to silt/phosphorus?
- Would dredging improve the system?
- Core sampling for reservoir bottom composition
- Effects of reservoir fluctuations on roads and bridges, spec. effects of repeated wet/dry of toe/earth embankment
- Sediment inputs from Preston down, can they be prevented from reaching Cutler?
- Hydraulic isolation modelling
- Shift from snow driven hydrology to rain driven hydrology
- Evaporation

### **Wetland, Riparian, Shoreline**

- Quantify littoral habitat, characterize emergent and aquatic vegetation, map invasive species. (sticky note: no temporal bug or bird studies? Fluctuations during nesting could be catastrophic)
- Effect of fluctuating levels on existing erosion sites or cause of additional erosion.

- Effects of rate of fluctuation on shoreline stability, vegetation, and existing erosion and stabilization measures.

### **Rare, Threatened, Endangered**

- Ute ladies' -tresses orchid survey
  - Soil types of Mendon population compared to Cutler
  - Roshe Springs soil complex

### **Cultural Resources**

- Cultural Resources Inventory

### **Wildlife and Botanical**

- Analyze wider operating ranges' effect on shoreline aquatic habitat
- Increased level of predators at Project

### **Water Quality**

- Logan landfill effect on water quality in reservoir
- Effects of reservoir level changes on water quality both upstream and downstream of dam, specifically TSS and rate of fluctuation
- Validation of 2013 results for N.D. of phosphorus
- Effects of hydraulic isolation and stagnation on phosphorus release/WQ management

Flip charts from this session are included in Attachment B.

### **Breakout Session #3 Project Operations**

**Connely Baldwin, Jack Kolkman  
& David Eskelsen, PacifiCorp**

During this breakout session, PacifiCorp staff answered attendees' questions about PacifiCorp's operation of the Cutler Project. General questions included:

- How does the Bear River system operate?
- When does high water normally occur?
- What is the normal reservoir elevation and how much lower is being proposed?
- How much would reservoir levels fluctuate and how fast? Would this result in increased sedimentation?
- Is spinning reserve part of proposed operations?
- Is PacifiCorp planning to store more water in order to generate more power?
- Can you tell us more about the removal of Wheelon Dam? What is the reason for removing it?
- Is Cutler Dam safe/stable?
- Will there be a study of decommissioning?

PacifiCorp staff noted there would be few reservoir elevation level changes during summer because irrigation deliveries largely prohibit generation during irrigation season.

Several attendees expressed concern about sediment in the reservoir. One asked whether LiDar data would be made public. In general, workshop attendees said they did not want to see the elevation of the reservoir raised and they were pleased to learn this was not part of proposed operations.

Flip charts from this session are included in Attachment B.

**Breakout Session #4  
Collaboration**

**Ben Gaddis, Gaddis Consulting LLC  
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp**

Participants in this breakout session discussed the collaborative process and were asked what they would like to collaborate on during Cutler Relicensing. Participants primarily expressed interest in collaborating on the study plans. In addition, Bear River Canal Company noted a need for coordination regarding mutual concerns. Issues noted for collaboration included sediment. Interest also was expressed in follow-up workshops and the need to provide multiple ways to collaborate, as missing work for daytime meetings is expensive.

Flip charts from this session are included in Attachment B.



**Breakout Session #5  
Project Maps and Property**

**David Holt & Buffi Morris, PacifiCorp  
Scott Pratt & Bryan Westerberg, PM Vegetation**

Most questions during this breakout session centered around sedimentation and Wheelon Dam. One landowner noted a bank stabilization structure falling into disrepair and a landowner with a commercial hunting operation noted gabions that present a hazard for hunting operations, erosion around irrigation structures, and the need for fence maintenance. Logan city wastewater engineers said they were concerned about preserving their ability to drain wastewater through certain channels. The main general concerns raised during this breakout session were sediment, water flow, and invasive species. A list of specific concerns was compiled and is presented below.

**SPECIFIC CONCERNS RAISED DURING BREAKOUT SESSION 5 - PROPERTY**

LOCATION	PUBLIC CONCERNS RAISED DURING BREAKOUT SESSION	COMMENTS
Clay Slough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culvert under Sam Fellow Rd- drainage issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with county in 2019 to measure elevations of pivot crossings below culvert</li> <li>• Possible ditching below culvert</li> </ul>
Wendy Larson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jersey barrier bank stabilization- structures falling.</li> <li>• <i>Phragmites</i> taking over</li> <li>• Bank erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect fall of 2019 during Cutler drawdown</li> </ul>
Reservoir and Cutler Canyon Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does water level fluctuation affect erosion and sediment movement?</li> </ul>	
Wheelon Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How possible removal of Wheelon Dam will affect sediment movement</li> </ul>	
Cutler Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Phragmites</i> and other invasive species</li> <li>• Bank erosion</li> </ul>	
Swift Slough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will water level fluctuations affect characteristics of Logan City discharge?</li> <li>• Increase in <i>Phragmites</i> effects on Logan City discharge</li> </ul>	
Cutler Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will water level fluctuations spread populations of invasive species like <i>Phragmites</i>?</li> </ul>	

LOCATION	PUBLIC CONCERNS RAISED DURING BREAKOUT SESSION	COMMENTS
South Marsh, Mendon Rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culvert road structure drainage</li> </ul>	
South Marsh Hardman Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hardman lease agreement 30-year exchange of lease again?</li> </ul>	
Bear River Overlook, Bear River Bottoms, Cutler Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russian olive, tamarisk</li> </ul>	
Swift Slough Holmgren Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing water from Logan City causing impacts</li> </ul>	
Below Cutler Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No river access, need canoe-style, walk-in boat ramp to access the Bear River</li> </ul>	
Watterson Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future of farm and grazing leases</li> <li>• Irrigation structure damage</li> <li>• Option to change terms of current grazing leases</li> </ul>	
Watterson Bank Stabilization Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gabion baskets tipping over, safety hazards, rock breaking down and erosion</li> </ul>	
Jeff Watterson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase property next to Olsen and Larson property from PacifiCorp (1-2 acres)</li> </ul>	
PacifiCorp Lands outside of Project, Bear River Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNR wants additional river access outside of project boundaries to help with management of invasive species</li> </ul>	
Spring Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation schedule needed by neighbors</li> </ul>	

In addition, one attendee provided comments on a map handed out during the session for this purpose (see Attachment B).

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Agenda  
Attendees**



## CUTLER PROJECT STAKEHOLDER KICKOFF WORKSHOP

**Date:** February 13, 2019  
**Time:** 1:00-5:15 p.m.  
**Location:** Riverwoods Conference Center  
615 Riverwoods Parkway  
Logan, Utah

### Workshop Purposes

- Provide stakeholders with information about the Cutler Project and the FERC relicensing process.
- Get initial input from stakeholders about interests with respect to the Cutler Project.

### Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
1:15 – 1:30	<b>Workshop introduction and stage setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review workshop purposes, agenda, and tools</li><li>• Introduce Cutler Project team</li></ul>
1:30 – 2:00	<b>Cutler Project overview</b>
2:00 – 2:30	<b>FERC relicensing process overview</b>
2:45 – 5:00	<b>Breakout sessions</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. FERC relicensing process overview and discussion</li><li>2. Studies overview and discussion</li><li>3. Project operation overview and discussion</li><li>4. Collaboration overview and discussion</li><li>5. Property maps and specific property questions</li></ol>
5:00 – 5:15	<b>Workshop closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshop wrap up</li><li>• Next steps</li></ul>
5:15	<b>Adjourn</b>

**TABLE 1. CUTLER RELICENSING TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Rocky Mountain Power/PacifiCorp	Davies, Eve	Relicensing Project Manager
	Olson, Todd	Director of Compliance
	Kolkman, Jack	Plant Manager
	Baldwin, Connely	Water Resources Engineer
	Edwards, Stewart	Engineer
	Eskelsen, Dave	Public Relations
	Holt, David	Property
	Pharis, Devin	Production Manager
	Morris, Buffi	Property/Water Rights
	Anderson, Bryan	Regional Business Manager
	Bruderer, Craig	Regional Business Manager
Gaddis Consulting	Gaddis, Ben	Facilitator
Kleinschmidt Associates	Anderson, Finlay	Strategic Advisor
	Holmes, Nuria	Licensing Manager
	Harper, Matt	GIS Lead
SWCA	Kester, Lindsey	Archaeologist and Project Manager
	Shrier, Frank	Technical Lead
	Epstein, Dave	
	Hugentobler, Miriam	Project Coordinator
PM Vegetation	Pratt, Scott	License Implementation
	Westerberg, Bryan	License Implementation

**TABLE 2. CUTLER RELICENSING WORKSHOP ATTENDEES**

<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
<b>State</b>		
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	Murray, Gabriel	Bear River Watershed Coordinator
Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality	Allred, Mike	Environmental Scientist
Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources	Brunson, Clint	Biologist
	Edwards, Cody	Aquatic Biologist
	Walden, Xaela	Wildlife Biologist
Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands	Coombs, Matt	Sovereign Lands Coordinator
<b>Local/Municipal</b>		
Cache County	Bingham, Jonathan	County Engineer
	Erickson, Dave	Councilmember
Logan City	Al-Imari, Jed	Manager, Streets
	Dickinson, Tom	Asst. City Engineer
	Hamud, Issa	Environmental Director
	Odd, Sam	Staff Engineer
	Young, Bill	City Engineer
<b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>		
Bridgerland Audubon Society	Greene, Jack	Board Member
	Shughart, Hilary	President
National Audubon Society	Malmquist, Max	Saline Lakes Outreach Associate
The Nature Conservancy	Neville, Ann	Utah Northern Mountains Regional Director
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection	Christensen, Jason	Director
	Christensen, Kandis	Administration
<b>Land/Water Conservancy</b>		
Bear River Land Conservancy	Rayfield, Dave	Board Member
Cache Water District	Daug, Nathan	Manager
	Hardman, Jon	Board Member
<b>Irrigation/Canal Companies</b>		
Bear River Canal Company	Holmgren, Charles	President
	Nielson, Trevor	General Manager
<b>Media Representatives</b>		
Cache Daily	Boam, Rod	Reporter
The Herald Journal	Mortensen, Matilyn	Reporter

**CUTLER RELICENSING WORKSHOP ATTENDEES, CONTINUED**

NAME	AFFILIATION
<b>Interested Parties</b>	
Barker, Justin	RedFish Environmental
Bean, Richard	
Conder, Claudia	
de la Hoz, Ernesto	RedFish Environmental
Duffin, Eric	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
Falslev, Scott	
Finlayson, Kurt	
Flygare, Amy	
Flygare, Eric	
Fuller, Katie	
Fuller, Matt	
Gardner, Gaylord	
Holland, John	
Houser, Lance	Franson Civil Engineering
Johnson, Paul	
Larsen, Wendy	
Lohza, Santiago	HW Lochner
Pierce, Max	CRS Engineers
Reese, Rick	
Rood, Ben	CRS Engineers
Skeen, Trace	Rotary Club
Skellhum, Matt	Utah State University
Watterson, Barbara	
Watterson, Jason	Don't Raise Cutler Coalition
Watterson, Jeff	
Watterson, Jim	

**ATTACHMENT B**

**Comment Forms**

**Flip Charts**



## **Comment Forms**



### CUTLER PROJECT STAKEHOLDER KICKOFF WORKSHOP

Please provide any additional comments and questions below. Use the back for additional space or attach additional pages.

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#### FERC RELICENSING COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

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Where & When will the pre application document and other FERC documents be published?  
Who + how are "stakeholders" determined?

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#### STUDIES COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

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Where will the results of these studies be posted?

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#### PROJECT OPERATION COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

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What is the difference between "upper reservoir limit" and "additional Flexibility in tolerance range"?  
How is that different than what they are doing now?

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#### COLLABORATION COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

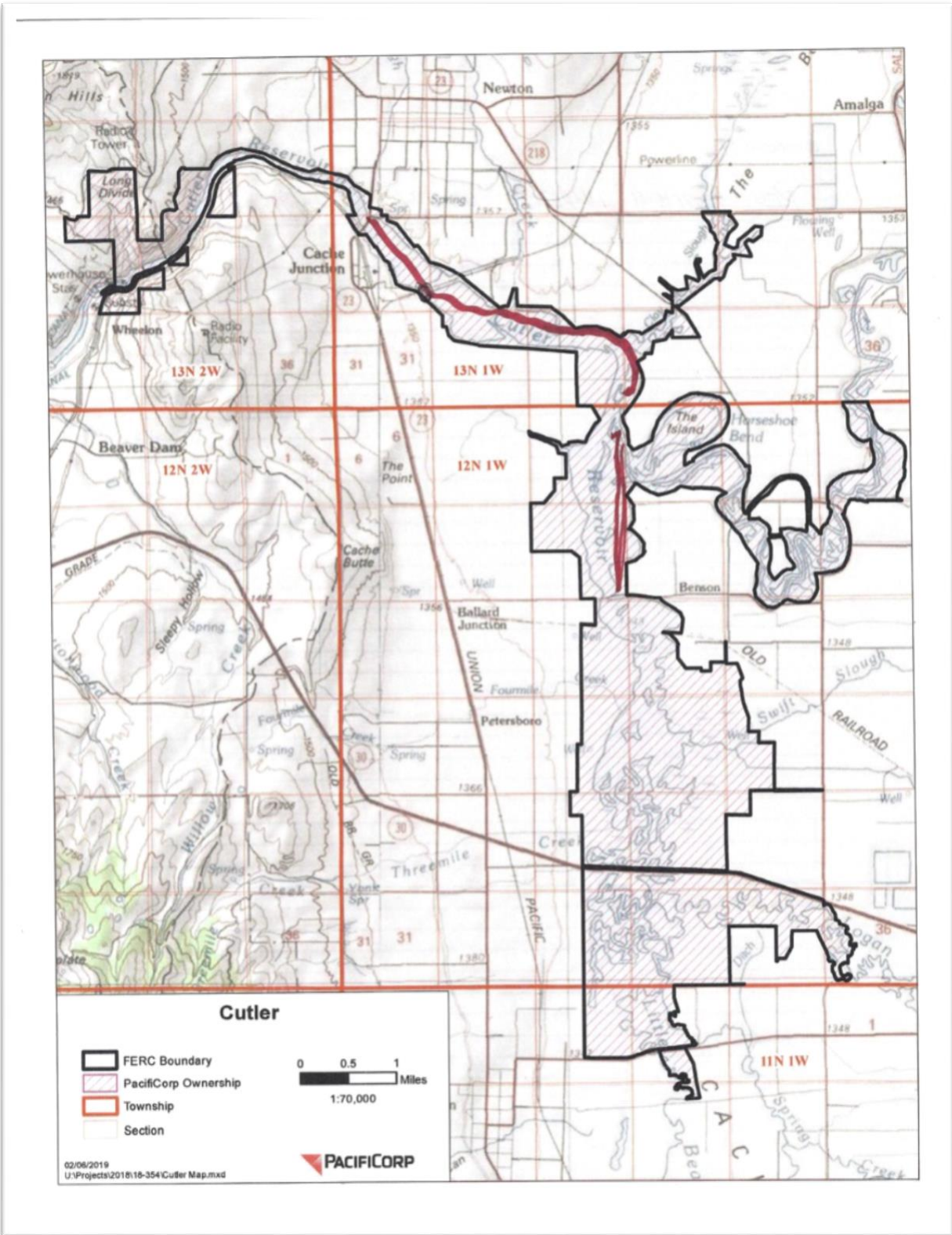
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#### PROPERTY COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

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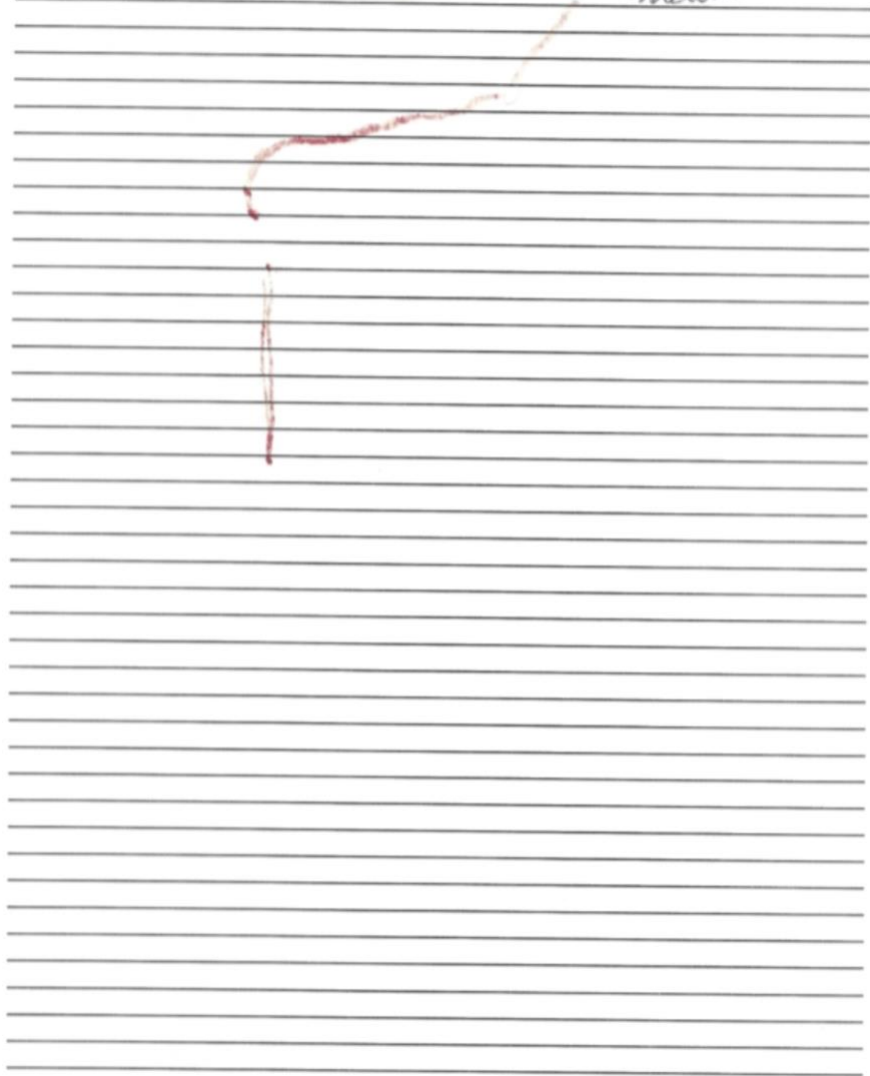
**Form 1. Form provided to attendees during main session for those who prefer to submit comments in writing. One attendee completed this form (see above).**



**Form 2 (front). Form provided for public input during Breakout Session 5 – Project Maps and Property. One person completed this form (above).**

Comments:

RED- SEDIMENT INCREASE MAKING IT SHALLOW



Form 2 (back).

## **Flip Charts**

## AQUATIC RESOURCES

- Fish and freshwater mussels population assess. <sup>ss.</sup>
- Effects of Camp on Habitat diversity, Water Quality, Species Variation, Aquatic Vegetation (i.e. Utah Lake).
- Effects of Management Plans for Tamarisk, Russian Olive, Phragmites, & other species.

## RECREATION & LAND USE

- Analysis of pool level changes effect to recreation site access (using LiDAR data)
- SR30 widening will alter Project boundary; no other large scale changes proposed
- Study current levels of invasive controls  $\Rightarrow$  step those up
- Reservoir <sup>mapping</sup> modeling to promote fishery recreation

## HYDROLOGIC MODELS / SEDIMENTATION

- Fall 2019 LiDAR survey
  - 3 to 4 week process of drawing down reservoir
  - down 4ft @ Benson Marina
- Characterize existing core sediment in reservoir
- Concern w Phosphorus <sup>exposure</sup> during drawdowns
- Coord w DEQ on monitoring sites
- Changes in inflow / flooding during next 30-50 yr license period
- Volume / location of silt & how it affects navigation and storage capacity
- Removal of Wheelon - what happens to silt / phosphorus ~~or~~ other dredging  $\rightarrow$

- Would dredging improve the system?
- Core sampling for reservoir bottom composition
- ~~The~~ Affects of reservoir fluctuations on roads & bridges, spec. effects of repeated wet/dry of toe/earthbank <sup>mont</sup>
- Sediment inputs from Preston down, can they be prevented from reaching Cutler
- Hydrologic Isolat
  - Hydraulic Isolation modeling
  - Shift from Snow driven hydrology to Rain driven "
- Evaporation

### Breakout Session 2 - Studies

## WETLANDS, RIPARIAN, SHORELINE

- Quantify littoral habitat, characterize emergent and aquatic vegetation, map invasive species
- Effect of fluctuating levels on existing erosion sites or cause of additional erosion
- Effects of rate of fluctuation on shoreline stability, vegetation, and existing erosion and stabilization measures.

## RARE, THREATENED, ENDANGERED

- Ute ladies'-tresses orchid survey
  - soil types of Menden pop. compared to Citter
  - Roske Springs soil complex

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Cultural Resource Inventory

## WILDLIFE & BOTANICAL

- Analyze wider operating range's effect on shoreline aquatic habitat
- Increased level of predators at Project

### Breakout Session 2 – Studies, continued.

## WATER QUALITY

- Logan landfill effect on WQ in res.
- Effects of res. land changes on WQ both U/S & D/S of dam, specifically TSS & rate of fluctuation.
- Validation of 2013 results for N.D. of Phosphorus.
- Effects of Hydraulic Isolation & Stagnation on phosphorus release/WQ management.

### Breakout Session 2 – Studies, continued



A - SEDIMENTATION RESTRICTS WATER FLOW THROUGH CUTLER CANYON.  
 ↳ MAKE NAVIGABLE BEFORE 80'S,  
 ↳ STUDY WHAT CAN BE DONE.  
 ↳ LEAVE WHEELON MAY HELP FISA?  
 ↳ REMOVE MAY HELP SEDIMENTATION?  
 ↳ LEAVE HISTORY FOR HISTORIC?

B CONCERNS ABOUT STORE WATER ABOVE NORMAL TO GENERATE.

C SEDIMENT ABOVE BESSA? HELP THAT?

D - CALL TO DOWNSTREAM IRRIGATORS → HANDLED BY COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

E - DREGGE ABOVE DAMS TO PROVIDE MORE STORAGE.

F - MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN RATE FOR BANK STABILIZATION

G - ~~SO~~ GREAT BENEFIT OF HAVING RESERVOIR STAY AT SAME ELEVATION FOR BANK STAB.

H - MERIC FOR LIDAR?

I - ARIAL PHOTO FROM PAST TO TRACK PARASITICS

J - NOVEMBER MOST CREAK MID-NOVEMBER FOR PHOTO OUTFLOW WATER FOR WHEELON → NOT DURABLE DRAWDOWN.

K - FLUX DUE TO VARIABLE OUTFLOW. - ON BANK OR ICE.

L - HOW DOES LIDAR WORK.

M - DATE OF DRAWDOWN.

N - LEVEL OF LIDAR DRAWDOWN

O - LIDAR PUBLIC AVAILABLE

P - IRRIGATION DEMANDS ABOVE CUTLER FOR PUMPS.

Q - ~~PLANS~~ IF CUTLER WAS NOT HERE FROM STUDY POWER NEED OR DECOMMISSIONING

**Breakout Session 3 – Project Operation**

