FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
November 9, 2005
Ariel, WA

TCC Participants Present: (10)
Brock Applegate, WDFW
Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp
Eric Holman, WDFW
LouEllyn Jones, USFW
Curt Leigh, WDFW (via teleconference from 9:15am-3:15 pm)
Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp
Colleen McShane, EDAW, Inc.
Mike Mueller, RMEF (via teleconference from 11:00am – 11:30am)
Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp
Mitch Wainwright, US Forest Service

Calendar:

November 9, 2005	TCC Meeting	Merwin
November 10, 2005	ACC Meeting	Merwin
December 2, 2005	TCC Meeting	Lacey, WA
December 12, 2005	TCC Meeting	Longview, WA

Issues to revisit from November 9th Meeting:	
Forestland snags and retention trees.	**Complete 12/2/05**
What can and can't be done in riparian buffers?	**TCC agreed that no additional objective was required to address this issue**
Objective a of 3.3.4, Riparian Habitat Goals and Objectives. TCC may make additional changes.	**TCC chose to delete Objective a on 12/2/05**

WHMP Further Consideration	
>30 acre harvest area.	
Disperse harvest areas retaining hiding cover adjacent to all newly harvest areas.	
Applegate's (WDFW) forest management strategies.	

Assignments from November 9th Meeting:	**Status:**
TCC to determine when to discuss management plans at the unit level.	**Pending**
McShane - Add appropriate text to 3.1.2 relating to mature cover type acreage and present to the TCC for review and approval at the next meeting.	**Complete - 11/18/05**
McShane - Modify Objective e of Wetland Habitat Goals & Objectives to read largely similar to riparian buffer text.	**Complete – 11/18/05**

McShane - Write additional Objective (Objective e) regarding Reservoir Buffer and present to the TCC for review and approval.	**Complete – 11/18/05**

Assignments from October 21st Meeting:	**Status:**
Applegate – Email full citation regarding seeps and small temporal pools to McShane relating to Section 3.2.1.	**Complete – 11/10/05**
McShane – Add additional language to Section 3.2.4 that defines what a "site tree" is.	**Complete - 102/31/05**
Naylor - Create a revised map of Merwin and Yale using USFS guidelines.	**Complete 11-8-05**
McShane - Write draft goals for riparian and wetland buffers.	**Complete 10-31-05**
Naylor – Add in all the percentages when the revised maps area created.	**Complete 11-8-05**

Opening, Review of Agenda, Finalize Meeting Notes

Colleen McShane (EDAW) called the meeting to order at 9:05am. The purpose of the meeting is to continue the review of the draft WHMP Standards and Guidelines document, beginning with section 3.9.1 (Forestlands – Background Information).

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp) reviewed the Agenda and Meeting Notes with the TCC. Garrett indicated that Mike Mueller with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) will be calling in at 11:00am today to provide the update summary of activities for land acquisition. Colleen McShane (EDAW) provided clarification for Brock Applegate (WDFW) what changes were made to Table 3-9 on page five of the Meeting Notes.

The meeting notes were approved at 9:15am with no changes.

WHMP Discussion – (cont'd)

3.9.1 Forestlands (Background Information)

Modify Table 3-9 heading to read as follows: *Area of forestland types in the WMHP outside of buffers that may be actively managed to enhance wildlife habitat management (needs correct numbers)*

3.9.3 Forestland on WHMP Lands

Modify third sentence of the first paragraph to read as follows: *Unit borders are based on topography or logical breaks, such as roads or ownership boundaries.*

3.9.4 Forestland Goals and Objectives

Brock Applegate (WDFW) requested the TCC revisit Objective a. The TCC requires further definition of the term "sustainable." The TCC agreed to remove the word "sustainable" because text (developing and maintaining) other text further in the objective more specifically describes the intent of the word sustainable.

Objective a: At the management unit level, provide a range of alternatives for developing and maintaining a mix of forage and hiding cover for elk, considering activities on adjacent lands, over the life of the licenses.

McShane will draft language relating to PHS snag guidelines for pileated woodpecker into the introduction paragraph of 3.9.3 for TCC review to address concerns of WDFW.

Modify Objective b as follows. However, approval of this Objective will be tabled until further discussion by the TCC on Riparian and Wetland buffers.

Objective b: Over the life of the licenses, maintain or create at least 8 snags (≥ 20 in. dbh), green retention trees (≥ 15 in. dbh) or wildlife reserve trees (≥ 15 in. dbh) per acre if available within the harvest area. Retain larger trees and snags representative of the harvest area. To the extent possible, retain or create 4 logs/acre (≥ 24 in. diaaAnd 50 ft long).

Break <10:20am>
Reconvene <10:30am>

Applegate handed out a document entitled Quick List Strategies for Tree Harvest Activities within the Forestlands (see Attachment 1) as a guide in writing the WHMP. Garrett suggested that Brock's handout should be attached to the meeting notes as a parking lot item. The TCC agreed that the document is a good tool and deserves discussion during the writing of the WHMP. Garrett suggested that TCC participants review the document at a later date and provide comments to Applegate. The TCC agreed to not discuss the document at this time and to stay on task with discussions of the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document.

There was general discussion between TCC attendees regarding management units, connectivity objectives, consideration of other species within management units, "white areas" for big game, structure for meeting Agency goals & objectives, writing the WHMP to provide the clarity needed for Kirk Naylor's (PacifiCorp) successor and a supplemental document to WHMP that covers management unit level plans (i.e., the Annual Plans).

RMEF Summary of Activities for Land Acquisition

Mike Mueller (RMEF) provided an update to the TCC of potential land acquisition opportunities. This discussion is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

WHMP Discussion – (cont'd)

3.9.4 Forestland Goals and Objectives

Modify Objective c to read as follows:

Objective c: At the management unit level, promote forest habitat diversity for wildlife by increasing or maintaining minor native tree species (e.g., cottonwood, big leaf maple, western red cedar) composition where appropriate site conditions exist over the life of the licenses.

3.1.2 Old-growth Habitat in the Region

Applegate requested additional language added relating to mature cover type acreage. McShane will add appropriate text and present to the TCC for review and approval at the next meeting.

3.1.4 Old-growth Habitat Goals and Objectives

Modify Objective d to read as follows:

Objective d: Within 5 years of WHMP implementation, identify and evaluate specific mature conifer stands or other areas that could improve habitat connectivity between old-growth stands or increase number or size of old-growth patches, and develop a schedule to manage/protect these areas as appropriate. Complete identification/ evaluation process within 5 years of the acquisition of Interests in Land.

Lunch <12:10pm>
Reconvene <12:45pm>

Naylor provided the following maps for TCC review:

Merwin – 75 ft. Seasonal Stream Buffer
48% reserved overall (37% - 69% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 10% road buffers
- 14% stream buffers (6% is seasonal)
- 12% shoreline buffers
- 12% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Merwin – 100 ft. Seasonal Stream Buffer
49% reserved overall (39% - 71% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 10% road buffers
- 15% stream buffers (7% is seasonal)
- 13% shoreline buffers
- 12% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Merwin – 150 ft. Seasonal Stream Buffer
52% reserved overall (41% - 76% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 10% road buffers
- 19% stream buffers (11% is seasonal)
- 13% shoreline buffers
- 10% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Merwin – 250 ft. Shoreline Buffer & 300 ft Fish Buffer & 150 ft. Seasonal Buffer
55% reserved overall (45% - 81% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 9% road buffers
- 21% stream buffers (6% is seasonal)
- 16% shoreline buffers
- 9% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Merwin – Unit 2 (Ortho photo) 150 ft Seasonal Stream Buffer
Description: Second Unit past Merwin Dam (269 acres), Marble Creek to west of Kings Landing (private development).

66% reserved and of this percentage:

- 17% road buffers
- 13% stream buffers (6% seasonal)
- 20% shoreline buffers
- 16% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Merwin – Unit 5 (Ortho photo) 150 ft Seasonal Stream Buffer
Description: East of Rock Creek, North side of Hwy 503

46% reserved and of this percentage:

- 16% road buffers
- 29% stream buffers (19% seasonal)
- 0% shoreline buffers
- 1% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Yale – 75 ft Seasonal Stream Buffer
50% reserved overall (43% - 88% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 6% road buffers
- 14% stream buffers (7% seasonal)
- 14% shoreline buffers
- 16% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Yale – 100 ft Seasonal Stream Buffer
52% reserved overall (36% - 88% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 6% road buffers
- 17% stream buffers (9% seasonal)
- 14% shoreline buffers
- 15% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Yale – 150 ft Seasonal Stream Buffer
56% reserved overall (39% - 90% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 6% road buffers
- 21% stream buffers (14% seasonal)
- 14% shoreline buffers
- 15% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Yale – 250 ft Seasonal Stream Buffer & 300 ft Fish Buffer & 150 ft Seasonal
60% reserved overall (45% - 92% by management unit) and of this percentage:

- 6% road buffers
- 24% stream buffers (13% seasonal)
- 16% shoreline buffers
- 14% exclusion and other vegetation (includes old growth, wetlands, agriculture, rock outcrops or talus, meadows, shrub lands, orchards, ROW's and mature conifer stands.)

Break <2:00pm>
Reconvene <2:10pm>

WHMP Discussion – (cont'd)

3.3.4 Riparian Habitat Goals and Objectives

McShane will modify Table 3-6 as follows:

Table 3-6. *USDA-FS riparian buffer standards. [footnote "whichever is greater", and definition of site-potential tree]*

Stream Type	***Recommended USFS Widths [slope-distance as defined from the high-water mark]***
Perennial fish-bearing streams	*300 ft (or height of 2 site potential trees)*
Perennial non-fish-bearing streams	*150ft (or height of 1 site potential tree)*
Intermittent streams	*100 ft (or height of 1 site potential tree)*

The TCC agrees to use USDA-FS guidelines and modify Objective c to read as follows:
Objective c: Identify and establish buffers to maintain and protect riparian habitat and functions, using USDA-FS guidelines as a minimum when planning forest management activities (see Table 3-6). Reduced buffer widths or thinning within the buffer would only be allowed for the purpose of meeting specific wildlife habitat objectives.

3.2.4 Wetland Habitat Goals and Objectives

McShane will modify Objective e below (old text) to read similar to riparian buffer text.

Objective e: *Identify and establish buffers to maintain and protect wetland habitat and functions using USDA-FS guidelines for the GPNF, as a starting point when planning forest management activities (see Table 3-4).*

3.3.4 Riparian Habitat Goals and Objectives

McShane to write additional Objective (Objective e) regarding Reservoir Buffer and present to the TCC for review and approval. The TCC agreed on a Reservoir Buffer width of 200 feet.

Objective a of Section 3.3.4, Riparian Habitat Goals and Objectives. TCC may make additional changes.

Agenda Items for November 9, 2005

- WHMP Discussion, starting with a review of riparian/wetland buffers and then continuing onto the goals and objectives for other habitat types, including Shrublands, Farmland/Idle Field/Meadow, Orchards, transmission line ROWs, and unique habitats, and ending with retention trees in harvest areas if time permits.

- 2006 Meeting schedule

Next Scheduled Meetings

December 2, 2005
US Fish and Wildlife
510 Desmond Drive, SE, Rm. 261
Lacey, WA 98503

December 12, 2005
Cowlitz PUD
961 12th Avenue
Longview, WA 98632

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Handouts
1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. Draft WHMP Goals & Objectives (10-21-05 version for 11-9-05)
3. Draft meeting notes from 10/21/05
4. WDFW Quick List Strategies for Tree Harvest Activities within the Forestlands

11-9-05

Quick List Strategies for Tree Harvest Activities within the Forestlands

Attachment 1

1) Clump and Group Snags (and/or green retention trees) where appropriate (SA Schedule 10.8.2.2).

2) Emphasize retention of hollow trees and western red cedar snags (SA Schedule 10.8.2.2).

3) Do not replace maintaining and creating snags naturally with artificial snag creation (PHS for Snags, 1995 and Management Recommendation for pileated woodpeckers, 2003).

4) In snag-deficient areas, where recommended snag densities do not occur, retain the greatest number of largest diameter snags possible and concentrate on large live-tree retention…"(PHS Management Recommendations for Snags, 1995).

5) Prioritize retention of snags with >40% bark cover (PHS Management Recommendations for Snags, 1995).

6) "If specific snags cannot be retained for safety reasons, pursue topping them to an acceptable height rather than removing them," (PHS Management Recommendation for Snags, 1995). Try buffering with green retention trees if possible.

7) To the extent possible, retain decaying live, defective, and cull trees including those showing signs of decay such as top rot, broken tops, fungal conks, dead branch stubs, or other defects as possible (PHS Management Recommendation for Pileated Woodpecker, 2003, and Vaux's Swift, 2002). Buffer with green retention trees if necessary.

8) Avoid dragging logs or operating heavy machinery across talus and protect talus with a buffer. (PHS Management Recommendations for Van Dyke's and Larch Mountain Salamanders, 1997).

9) Retain trees, snags, and stumps with existing pileated nest cavities and foraging excavations. (PHS Management Recommendations for Pileated Woodpeckers) **(Already agreed upon.)** Buffer with green retention trees if necessary.

10) Restricting timber harvest sites to <30 ac (in SOP for MWHMP, WHMP introduction to Forestlands)

11) Seeding with a grass-legume seed mix to provide forage for grazing elk. It also reduces the potential for erosion and to control the establishment of weeds and other undesirable species; (in SOP for MWHMP, WHMP introduction to Forestlands)

12) Not harvesting old-growth stands, cottonwoods, and cedar (PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD 2004).

13) Apply herbicide only for spot spraying of noxious weeds or other undesirable plants.

14) Leave a mix of hard and soft snags. Buffer with green retention trees if necessary.

15) Retain as many naturally formed stumps as possible.

16) Use leave trees to buffer desirable snags and large trees, when possible.

17) Retain and/or develop snags, down wood and green recruitment trees in a distribution that provides for diversity and species requiring large dead trees for nesting, foraging or roosting (in SOP for MWHMP, WHMP introduction to Forestlands).

18) Prune and thin young stands to increase shrub and herb layers in the understory (in SOP for MWHMP, WHMP introduction to Forestlands).

19) Maintain permanent big game concealment zone buffers along roads (in SOP for MWHMP, WHMP introduction to Forestlands).

20) Protect vegetation and hiding cover along areas of least topographic resistance for deer and elk movement such as saddles and gaps, bands around ridges, seeps, and springs, (Thomas, 1979).