

**FINAL Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting**  
**December 2, 2005**  
**Ariel, WA**

**TCC Participants Present: (14)**

Brock Applegate, WDFW  
 Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp  
 Eric Holman, WDFW  
 Mike Iyall, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 LouEllyn Jones, USFW  
 Curt Leigh, WDFW  
 Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD (via teleconference 9:00am – 12:00pm)  
 Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp  
 Colleen McShane, EDAW, Inc.  
 Bob Nelson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
 Tom Macy, RMEF  
 Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp  
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp  
 Mitch Wainwright, US Forest Service

**Calendar:**

December 2, 2005	TCC Meeting	Lacey, WA
December 8, 2005	ACC Meeting	Vancouver, WA
December 12, 2005	TCC Meeting	Longview, WA

<b>Assignments from December 2nd Meeting:</b>	
Naylor – Provide McShane confirmation of names in line three of the first paragraph of ROW Habitats in the Region (3.7.2). <i>...the Merwin-Yale, Swift No. 2 to BPA TAP, Speelyai, Cougar, and Lake lines.</i>	Complete – 12/21/05
McShane – Add additional language in Chapter 2 which builds in flexibility for the TCC.	Complete – 12/21/05
McShane – Add a “place-holder” for revising the standards and guidelines goals & objectives in Chapter 4 for discussion at the next meeting	Complete – 12/5/05
Naylor - Modify text on page 39, Section 3.9.2 and page 9, Section 2.3.3 regarding Unit Management Plans with Colleen’s assistance, if needed, and provide to TCC for review and approval.	Complete – 12/21/05

<b>Issues to revisit from November 9th Meeting:</b>	
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
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<b>WHMP Further Consideration</b>	
>30 acre harvest area.	Agenda item 1/11/06
Disperse harvest areas retaining hiding cover adjacent to all newly harvest areas.	Agenda item 1/11/06
Applegate's (WDFW) forest management strategies.	Agenda item 1/11/06

<b>Assignments from November 9th Meeting:</b>	<b>Status:</b>
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

### **Opening, Review of Agenda, Finalize Meeting Notes**

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:15am. The purpose of the meeting is to continue the review of the draft WHMP Standards and Guidelines document, beginning with section 3.3.1 Riparian Habitat.

Garrett reviewed the Agenda with the TCC and asked if any changes or additional Agenda items. LouEllyn Jones (USFW) requested an addition relating to a land acquisition opportunity. The TCC agreed to add Jones' request to the Agenda after the Meeting Notes review. In addition, the RMEF land acquisition discussion will also be moved from its later time slot to immediately after review of the Draft Meeting Notes.

Eric Holman WDFW requested the addition of discussion regarding his concerns about big game entrapment into Cowlitz PUDs new power canal. The TCC agreed to add this topic immediately after the land acquisition discussions.

Garrett reviewed the Draft 11/9/05 Meeting Notes with the TCC. The Meeting Notes were approved at 9:30am with only additions of completion dates in the Assignments section on pages 1 and 2.

### **RMEF Summary of Activities for Land Acquisition**

Garrett provided an update to the TCC of potential land acquisition opportunities. This discussion is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

## **USFW Summary of Land Acquisition opportunity**

Jones provided a summary to the TCC of a potential land acquisition opportunity. This discussion is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

## **WDFW Concerns regarding Cowlitz PUD construction of new power canal**

Holman expressed to the TCC his concern with the construction/fencing of the new power canal and requested additional data from Cowlitz PUD that there was sufficient consideration given to elk escapement. Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) communicated to the TCC that the maintenance road (she believes it is concrete) is constructed at a low angle down into the canal. The purpose of the road is for maintenance and as an elk escape ramp. If elk get into the area above the fence the access road allows them to get out. Holman said that a diagram of the subject area so the TCC can view the fencing and the road would be very helpful to get their minds around it.

Gritten-MacDonald will discuss the construction details further with their engineers to address Eric's concerns and get back to him at the next TCC meeting on 12/12/05. Gritten-MacDonald will also provide a suitable diagram (plan view and/or picture for the TCC review). She also told the TCC that she will be at the site the week of 12/5/05 at which time she will take pictures while she is there.

Break <10:15am>

Reconvene <10:30am>

## **Continue review of Riparian/Wetland Buffer**

### **3.3.1 Riparian Habitat (Background Information)**

Colleen McShane (EDAW) provided a quick review of WHMP discussions for those not in attendance on 11/9/05.

Modify Table 3-6 (Footnote 1) to read as follows:

- 1 Distance is defined as the slope distance from the high water mark.*

### **3.2.4 Wetland Habitat Goals & Objectives**

Modify Objective e as follows:

*Objective e: Identify and establish buffers to maintain and protect wetland habitat and functions using the following guidelines as a minimum when planning forest management activities: (1) 150 ft as measured from the edge of the hydric vegetation, or height of one site potential tree, whichever is greater, for wetlands  $\geq 1$  acres; and (2) 100 ft as measured from the edge of the hydric vegetation, or height of one site potential tree, whichever is greater, for wetlands  $< 1$  acres. Buffer widths are measured horizontally from the edge of the hydric vegetation. Reduced buffer widths and other management activities would only be allowed for the purpose of meeting specific wildlife habitat objectives.*

### 3.3.4 Riparian Habitat Goals & Objectives

The TCC have agreed to eliminate Objective a in its entirety. The following text will be stricken:

*Objective a: Select and manage riparian deciduous areas at Merwin to increase the cover of hydrophytic shrub species by at least an addition 5% (as determined by the line intercept method) by TY17 to improve habitat for mink and yellow warbler.*

Modify Objective c as follows:

*Objective c: Identify and establish buffers to maintain and protect riparian habitat and functions, using the following guidelines as a minimum when planning forest management activities: (1) 300 ft, or height of 2 site potential trees, whichever is greater for perennial fish-bearing streams; (2) 150 ft, or height of 1 site potential tree, whichever is greater for perennial streams; and (3) 100 ft, or height of 1 site potential tree, whichever is greater for intermittent streams. Buffer widths are measured horizontally. Reduced buffer widths and other management activities would only be allowed for the purpose of meeting specific wildlife habitat objectives.*

Objective d approved without changes.

Brock Applegate (WDFW) recommended the addition of another Objective, which the TCC will review at the next meeting on 12/12/05. Objective e currently reads as follows:

*Objective e: Identify physically and/or ecologically damaged riparian sites and prepare restoration plans within 5 years of WHMP implementation or land acquisition. Restoration plans should incorporate measures to meet applicable objectives for invasive species and public access management (see Section 4.1.4 and 4.3.4).*

Note: McShane and Applegate may massage this text further and present to the TCC for review and approval at the next meeting on 12/12/05.

### 3.4.2 Shrubland Habitat on the WHMP Lands

Modify last sentence in the last paragraph on pg 27 to read as follows: *Grass and forbs in many shrub stands are relatively limited but shrublands may provide browse and some hiding and thermal cover.*

### 3.4.3 Shrubland Habitat Goals and Objectives

Add the following text after Analysis Species:

***Other Species:*** *Black-tailed deer, migratory birds, and raptors*

Modify Objective a as follows:

*Objective a: Within 5 years of WHMP implementation, evaluate all cover typed shrub stands to determine tree composition and size classes, and shrub size and structural characteristics. Where appropriate, manage to prevent conversion to forest and maintain/improve mixture of shrub ages and sizes; re-evaluate stands every 15 years.*

Modify Objective b as follows:

*Objective b: Within 5 years of WHMP implementation, evaluate the designated shrublands identified in the Merwin SOP (PacifiCorp 1998) and determine if and how these areas should continue to be managed as shrublands in the future. Within 8 years, revise management actions where necessary.*

Modify Objective c as follows:

*Objective c: Maintain existing snags and large perch trees, while minimizing excessive shading, in shrublands over the license periods to benefit raptors. When possible, maintain existing large red-cedar trees.*

### **3.5.4 Farmland/Idle Field/Meadow Goals and Objectives**

Modify Objective a to read as follows:

*Objective a: Intensively manage select meadows, farm fields at Saddle Dam Farm, and other designated lands to provide quality forage for wintering elk (November 1-April 30) over the life of the licenses.*

Objective b & c approved without changes.

Modify Objective b to read as follows:

*Objective d: Maintain fruit or soft mast bearing species in shrub patches or hedgerows over the life of the licenses.*

### **3.6.4 Orchards Goals and Objectives**

Modify “Other Species” as follows:

*Other Species: Black bears, black-tailed deer, migratory and upland birds*

Objective a approved without changes.

The TCC have agreed to eliminate Objective b in its entirety. The following text will be stricken:

*Objective b: Protect young orchard trees from big game damage while allowing access by game birds and smaller wildlife for the life of the licenses.*

Objective c approved without changes.

Lunch <12:00pm>

Reconvene <12:45pm>

### **WHMP Discussion – (cont’d)**

### **3.7.2 ROW Habitats in the Region**

Naylor will provide McShane confirmation of names in line three of the first paragraph.

*...the Merwin-Yale, Swift No. 2 to BPA TAP, Speelyai, Cougar, and Lake lines {KN to check names}.*

Curt Leigh (WDFW) requested further discussion relating to the following text in the first paragraph of Section 3.7.2:

*Cowlitz PUDs distribution lines share some common corridors with PacifiCorp's Speelyai line but are not subject to the SA.*

However, Gritten-MacDonald needs to be a party to this discussion, so the TCC agreed to revisit the discussion at the next meeting on 12/12/05.

### **3.7.4 ROW Goals and Objectives**

The Goal was approved without changes.

The TCC have agreed to eliminate Objective a in its entirety. The following text will be stricken:

*Continue to manage existing big game forage areas of the transmission line ROWs in the MWHMA over the life of the licenses.*

Modify Objective b to read as follows:

*Objective b: Manage and develop patches of desirable shrubs in the transmission line ROWs and along ROW edges to break up line-of-sight distances and provide screening/hiding cover for elk and multi-layered habitat structure for birds for the license periods. Evaluate alternative techniques where needed.*

Modify Objective c to read as follows:

*Objective c: Continue to manage existing deer and elk foraging areas on ROW in the MWHMA. Identify and manage other suitable areas within PacifiCorp's transmission line ROWs to provide enhanced forage for elk and deer. Suitable areas should be identified within 5 years of WHMP implementation, with management activities to follow.*

Modify Objective d to read as follows:

*Objective d: Identify and provide screening cover for deer and elk, where needed, along public roads that cross transmission line ROWs.*

Modify Objective e to read as follows:

*Objective e: Schedule mowing in transmission line ROW between August 15 and September 15 to minimize impacts to ground-nesting birds and complete prior to fall rains.*

### **3.8 Unique Habitats on WHMP Lands**

Modify Table 3-8 to add the following under the heading "Unique Habitat Type":

*Rock Talus/Lava Flow*

### 3.8.4 Unique Area/Habitat Goals and Objectives

After Analysis Species add the following new text:

*Other Species: Other species associated with unique areas (i.e., migratory birds)*

Modify Objective a to read as follows:

*Objective a: Protect and maintain existing oak stands and prevent encroachment of conifers and invasive plant species over the life of the licenses.*

Objective b approved without changes.

Modify Objective c to read as follows:

*Objective c: Maintain a record of sensitive sites and unique habitats, as they are identified, through implementation of the WHMP.*

The TCC have agreed to eliminate Objective d in its entirety. The following text will be stricken:

*Protect talus slopes and other areas known to support populations of Larch Mountain salamanders and VanDyke's salamanders over the life of the licenses.*

Objective e approved without changes.

### 3.9.1 Forestlands – (Background Information)

General discussion regarding the use of the term Forestlands. The TCC agreed to table discussion for now and revisit at a later time.

### 3.9.4 Forestland Goals and Objectives

Modify Objective b to read as follows:

Objective b: Over the life of the licenses, maintain or create at least 8 snags ( $\geq 20$  in. dbh), green retention trees ( $\geq 15$  in. dbh) or wildlife reserve trees ( $\geq 15$  in. dbh) per acre if available within the harvest area. Retain larger trees and snags representative of the harvest area. A different number of snags, retention, or reserve trees would be allowed only to meet specific wildlife objectives. To the extent possible, retain or create 4 logs/acre ( $\geq 24$  in. dia and 50 ft long).

Break <2:13pm>

Reconvene <2:30pm>

### WHMP Discussion – (cont'd)

### 3.9.1 Forestlands (Background Information)

The TCC chose to revisit the text in this paragraph and agreed to modify as follows:

*Forestland is a general term for upland areas dominated by trees; it encompasses all forest types, structures, and age classes. In the Pacific Northwest, forestlands west of the Cascade crest are dominated by Douglas-fir. The composition, structure and habitat quality of forestlands for wildlife varies greatly as a consequence of forest succession, disturbance, plant community, and environmental factors (Spies and Franklin 1991). Forestlands are often distinguished by whether or not they are unmanaged or managed. Unmanaged forestlands are not harvested periodically and changes are the result of natural succession and environmental processes; managed forestlands are periodically affected by some type of harvest. For the WHMPs, managed forestlands are periodically subject to timber harvest for purposes of perpetuating enhanced forage for deer and elk, as well as other species that benefit from a variety of successional stages.*

### **3.9.2 Forestland in the Region**

Naylor to modify text on page 39 regarding Unit Management Plans with Colleens assistance, if needed, and provide to TCC for review and approval.

### **2006 Meeting Schedule**

The TCC agreed to meet the second Wednesday of every month in 2006. Changes will be made as needed and as agreed to by the TCC.

### **New Topics/Issues**

None

### **Next Meeting's Agenda**

WHMP Discussion

- Final review of Chapter 4
- Final review of Chapter 1
- Initial/final review of Chapter 2
- Final check/agreement on revision still in track changes in Section 3.1
- Review of wording for new objective e for Riparian

Cowlitz Distribution Line Discussion

New Power Canal Concerns – Cowlitz PUD

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

### **Next Scheduled Meetings**

#### **December 12, 2005**

Cowlitz PUD

961 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Longview, WA 98632

#### **January 09, 2006**

Merwin Hydro Facility

105 Merwin Village Court

Ariel, WA 98603

### **Handouts**

1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. Draft WHMP Goals & Objectives (11-09-05 version for 12-02-05)
3. Draft meeting notes from 11/09/05