

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
February 10, 2006
Lacey, WA

TCC Participants Present: (12)

Brock Applegate, WDFW
Eric Holman, WDFW
Mike Iyall, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
LouEllyn Jones, USFW
Curt Leigh, WDFW
Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
Tom Macy, Rock Mountain Elk Foundation
Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp
Colleen McShane, EDAW, Inc.
Bob Nelson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp
Mitch Wainwright, US Forest Service

Calendar:

March 9, 2006	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
March 20, 2006	TCC Meeting	Longview, WA

Assignments from February 10 Meeting:		
McCune: Modify March TCC meeting to March 20, 2006 and reserve Cowlitz PUD conference room, if possible.		Complete – 2/13/06

Parking lot items from February 10th Meeting:		
Exhibit B – Settlement Agreement Maps (exclusion vs. secondary)		
Jones: Further discussion regarding Monitoring (species vs. habitat)		
PacifiCorp WHMP Budget (annual)		
Conservation Agreement – what is wanted?		

Assignments from January 9th Meeting:		
Applegate: Provide PHS Spotted Owl circles to Kirk Naylor		Complete – 3/20/06
Naylor & McShane: Fix all acreages including those in Section 1.3		Complete – 3/20/06
Jones: Send McShane a link to additional text relating to Section 4.2.3 Raptor Sites on WHMP Lands.		Complete – 1/11/06
McShane: Add language in section 2.3.3 Annual Plans relating to Unit Management Plans and present to the TCC for review and approval.		Complete – 1/11/06
McShane: Add additional “budget” language in section 2.3.2 Annual Reports section present to the TCC for review and approval.		Complete – 1/11/06
McShane: Add additional HCP summary text and Bald Eagle text, if delisted,		Complete – 1/11/06

in Section 4.2.1 and present to the TCC for review and approval at the next meeting on 2/10/06.	
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Parking lot items from January 9th Meeting:	
Footnote: Mass wasting	
Naylor: Section 4.2.4 – Further mapping activity and check effects of new objective for raptors	Pending
Spotted owl – Modifications needed to Section 4.2.4 Objectives h & i	Complete – 1/11/06

Opening, Review of Agenda, Finalize Meeting Notes

Colleen McShane (EDAW) called the meeting to order at 9:15am. McShane reviewed the Agenda with the TCC and asked if any changes or additional Agenda items. McShane requested the TCC if they have any changes to the Draft 1/9/06 Meeting Notes. Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) requested a change on page 8. There was general discussion regarding the need and intent for the following language:

Should an event or circumstance occur that is not covered by the WHMPs, the Licensees will work with the TCC to develop an acceptable solution consistent with the WHMPs and SA.

Gritten-MacDonald proposed that this language not be included. The TCC prefer the language remain but in an edited form as follows:

Should an event or circumstance occur that affects terrestrial resources and that is not covered by the WHMPs, the Licensees will work with the TCC to develop an acceptable solution consistent with the WHMPs and SA. That solution will not increase the financial obligations of the licensees as defined by the SA, unless agreed to by the licensees on whose land it occurs.

The TCC approved the 1/9/06 Meeting Notes at 9:35am with the requested change.

WHMP Discussion (30-day review document)

Gritten-MacDonald communicated to the TCC that she was unable to review the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document within the 30-day review period due to resource constraints at Cowlitz PUD and the present workload. Gritten-MacDonald further communicated that she does not expect there to be any issues with the document, however she will still require the additional time for review and comment. An extension to March 15, 2006 was requested.

Mike Iyall (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) suggested we move forward with the proviso that we will revisit the document if Cowlitz PUD has considerable comments to address. Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp) expressed concern to completing the WHMP without the approval of the Standards & Guidelines document in its final form.

The TCC agreed that Cowlitz PUD and PacifiCorp will move ahead with writing the WHMP while offering all TCC participants an extension to provide comments by close of business March 15, 2006. Due to the approved extension, it was further decided that the next TCC

meeting would take place on Monday, March 20, 2006. Longview, WA is the first choice for location, if available, followed by the Merwin Hydro Facility as the second choice.

WHMP S&G Document Discussion

1.0 Introduction (Section 1.5)

Modify to read as follows:

A review of the terrestrial resource studies/inventories conducted during relicensing that will assist in the development of the WHMPs.

1.2 Purpose and Intent of the WHMPs and Standards and Guidelines

It was noted that the first official meeting of the TCC was a conference call held on January 24, 2005 (per SA Section 14.2). A subsequent TCC meeting was then held on February 18th. These first few meetings primarily dealt with ground rules, organization etc. in preparation of the standards and guidelines. The first facilitated meeting of the TCC was held March 9, 2005. The sentence indicating the utilities and the TCC “first met” to discuss the standards and guidelines on March 9th will be modified to indicate the additional meetings.

1.3 Lands Covered by the WHMPs

Modify the fourth sentence of the first paragraph to read as follows:

Wetlands and riparian forests are comparatively limited in the Project vicinity.

2.3.3 Annual Plans

Remove the following last sentence:

Annual Plans for PacifiCorp’s WHMP will be based, in part, on the long-term Unit Management Plans prepared to guide activities in forestlands being managed to provide enhanced forage for elk (see Section 3.9.4 of this document).

2.4 Compliance with Federal and State Regulations and Coordination with Other Plans

Modify third paragraph to read as follows:

Should an event or circumstance occur that affects terrestrial resources and that is not covered by the WHMPs, the Licensees will work with the TCC to develop an acceptable solution consistent with the WHMPs and SA. That solution will not increase the financial obligations of the licensees as defined by the SA, unless agreed to by the licensees on whose land it occurs.

Break <10:15am>

Reconvene <10:30am>

WHMP S&G Document Discussion (cont'd)

3.0 Wildlife Habitat Goals and Objectives

In the third paragraph modify the text as follows:

Terrestrial management objectives within the Cougar/Panamaker, Swift Creek Arm, and Devil's Backbone Conservation Covenant areas include noxious plant management, road maintenance and closures, and/or as-yet undefined actions to protect bull trout habitat (SA Schedule 10.8 Sec. 2.14). All of the plan-wide programs and associated goals and objectives are presented in Chapter 4 of this document.

Modify the first sentence of the fourth paragraph on pg 11 to read as follows:

The intent of the objectives is to guide the development of the WHMPs to address the habitat requirements of all the evaluation species included in the HEP and other species.

Remove the second to the last sentence of the eighth paragraph:

The goals and objectives that do not apply the Cowlitz PUD WHMP are indicated with an asterisk (); an asterisk next to the goal indicates that neither the goal nor its associated objectives apply.*

3.1.1 Old-Growth Forest Habitat - Background Information

Modify the first sentence of the third paragraph to read as follows:

One factor to note is that all of the ecological definitions of old-growth were developed in the late 1980s-1990s.

3.1.4 Old-growth Habitat Goals and Objectives

Modify the first sentence of Objective a to read as follows:

*Within 5 years of WHMP implementation, evaluate **existing** old-growth stands (based on maps in PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD 2004) to determine the number of snags and trees (≥ 20 in. [50 cm] dbh), and develop a schedule to create snags where needed and appropriate to improve habitat for pileated woodpeckers.*

3.2.4 Wetland Habitat Goals and Objectives

Remove asterisk from entire document. Gritten-MacDonald communicated to the TCC that she reserves the right to review all objectives with an asterisk and provide further comment before Cowlitz PUD approval of the removal of asterisks referenced within the WHMP S&G document.

Modify Objective d to remove the word, “created”.

3.3.1 Riparian Habitat – Background Information

Add additional riparian zone language, as provided by Brock Applegate (WDFW) and or Colleen McShane (EDAW) as indicated below (further review and approval of this text may be required):

The terms riparian habitat, riparian area, riparian ecosystem, and riparian corridor are typically used interchangeably in the literature and are used to refer to the functionally distinct area adjacent to streams (Knutson and Naef 1997) and lakes. Riparian habitat starts at the ordinary high water line of a stream or river and includes that portion of the adjacent terrestrial landscape that influences the aquatic habitat by providing shade, nutrients, woody material, insects, or habitat for riparian-associated species (Knutson and Naef 1997). Riparian habitat also encompasses floodplains and channel migration zones because these areas influence and are influenced by high water events. Riparian areas can include wetlands as well as upland plant communities that directly influence streams. Other relevant riparian concepts include:

- *Riparian vegetation, which refers specifically to plant communities that are adapted to wet conditions, as distinct from uplands, and that occur immediately adjacent to aquatic systems (Knutson and Naef 1997).*
- *Riparian buffer and riparian zone, which refer to administrative or management areas associated with riparian habitat and may include a larger area to buffer, deflect, or attenuate effects from surrounding land management activities on aquatic systems (Knutson and Naef 1997).*

In the second paragraph modify the second to the last sentence to read as follows:

Riparian habitat also encompasses floodplains and channel migration zones because these areas influence and are influenced by high water events.

3.3.4 Riparian habitat Goals and Objectives

Modify the second to the last sentence of the first paragraph of Objective a as follows:

Buffers will be larger for streams showing evidence of mass wasting or erosion (see Table 3-5).

3.5.2 Agricultural Habitat in the Region

Modify the last sentence of the first paragraph to read as follows:

Agricultural lands also typically support a large number of common and exotic species, both plant and wildlife, due to the high levels of disturbance associated with these habitats.

3.5.4 Farmland/Idle Field/Meadow Habitat Goals and Objectives

Add the following text before Objective a:

Other Species: Black-tailed deer

3.6.4 Orchard Habitat Goals and Objectives

Modify the Goal to read as follows:

Maintain existing orchard habitat, and expand, where appropriate, to provide healthy fruit trees to benefit wildlife and forage for elk.

Add Objective c to read as follows:

Maintain elk forage in orchards including mowing in under story outside the nesting season.

3.7.4 ROW Habitat Goals and Objectives

Modify Objective a to read as follows:

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 to provide security cover and reduce line-of-sight, where needed.

Modify Objective b to read as follows:

Continue to manage existing deer and elk foraging areas, where appropriate, 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. Enhanced forage is defined as a mix of grasses and forbs that are considered preferred forage species by elk and deer. Suitable areas should be identified within 5 years of WHMP implementation, with management activities to follow.

3.8.3 Unique habitats on WHMP Lands

Modify the first paragraph to read as follows:

*Unique habitats found in the Lewis River Project area include oak stands, cliffs, caves, and talus slopes (Table 3-7). By far the most common of the unique habitat types found on WHMP lands consists of a large area of talus, old lava flow, and riprap located at the upper end of the Yale Project lands and encompassing part of the Swift No. 1 and Swift No. 2 Projects. This area is characterized by large, moss-covered rocks and is the only place in the valley that supports lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), which is intermixed with Douglas-fir and a diverse shrub layer of manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*), kinikinik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), oceanspray*

(Holodiscus discolor), and *ceanothus* (*Ceanothus sanguineus*) (PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD 2004). Although not mapped as such, the face of Yale Dam consists primarily of rock talus on the downstream side of an earthfill dam. Oak stands are limited to the Merwin Project lands, while exposed rock areas are found at both Merwin and Swift (PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD 2004).

Modify Table 3-7 as follows:

Table 3-7. Area (ac) of unique habitats on WHMP lands¹.

Unique Habitat Type	Merwin	Yale	Swift No. 1	Swift No. 2	Total
Exposed Rock	1.7		3.7		5.4
Rock Talus	0.4				0.4
Lodgepole Pine		110	4.3	16.8	131.1
Oak Woodland ²	8.0				8.0

¹ Caves were mapped as points and cliffs as linear features, so there are no associated areas for these habitats.
² Oaks occur as individual trees or in small patches; acreage is non-contiguous.

3.9.3 Forestland on WHMP Lands

Modify the section entitled “Mature Conifer” to read as follows:

***Mature Conifer** stands provide high quality habitat for both the black-capped chickadee (HSI= 0.70-0.91) and pileated woodpecker (HSI=0.80-1.0) (PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD 2004). High tree canopy cover was the most limiting factor for the chickadee. The average size of snags > 20 in. (50 cm) dbh limited pileated woodpecker habitat quality in mature stands at all Projects; the number of snags > 20 in. (50 cm) dbh was also problematic at Yale.*

3.9.4 Forestland Habitat Goals and Objectives

Modify Objective a to read as follows:

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. Revise Unit Management Plans for WHMP lands associated with the Merwin Project and create new plans for WMHP lands at the Yale and Swift No. 1 Projects.

Lunch <12:05pm>
 Reconvene <1:00pm>

WHMP S&G Document Discussion (cont’d)

4.1.3 Invasive Plant Species on WHMP Lands

Modify the second paragraph to read as follows:

*PacifiCorp has an active program of weed control and routinely treats infestations of Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry in the MWHMA, as well as Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum**

cuspidatum), which so far has a very restricted distribution in the Project area. It was found downstream of Merwin Dam during the 2000-2001 surveys and has since been documented on the Yale Project at the mouth of Cougar Creek.

4.2.2 Raptors in the Region

Modify the next-to last sentence of the first paragraph to read as follows:

Osprey populations have also grown; spotted owls, however, are thought to be declining in Washington (Courtney et al. 2004) by about 7.5 percent annually (Anthony et al. 2004).

4.2.4 Raptor Site Management Goals and Objectives

Modify Objective d to read as follows:

Conduct 2 annual aerial surveys of WHMP lands to determine bald eagle nest site occupancy and productivity and osprey nest site occupancy (PacifiCorp obligation only).

Modify Objective h to read as follows:

Manage lands that are > 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Siouxon SOSEA and within Spotted Owl Management Circles (Status 1-3) to maintain at least 50 percent submature habitat or better, as defined by the DNR's STL HCP (1997). All mature and old-growth conifer trees (> 21 in. dbh) within Spotted Owl Management Circles will be retained.

Land Acquisition Update – USFWS and RMEF

Biology meeting on 1/17/06 identified resources of value and areas of protection. LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) provided a handout which illustrated a GIS exercise which identified highest priority of areas of interest.

There was a request for further discussion about the TCC providing matching funds relating to land acquisition and conservation easements.

Land acquisition discussions are confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

New Topics/Issues

TCC agreed to establish a subgroup to specifically address the goals of the TCC relating to conservation easement criteria and land acquisition.

Next Meeting's Agenda

- Review of notes/comments relating to the WHMP Standards and Guidelines document
- Tree Harvest Activities within the Forestlands
- Land Acquisition Subgroup Discussion

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Next Scheduled Meetings

March 20, 2006

Cowlitz County PUD
961 12th Avenue, Longview, WA
Longview, WA

April 12, 2006

Location TBD

Handouts

1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. Lewis River WHMP Standards & Guidelines Document/30-day review version
3. Draft meeting notes from 1/9/06
4. Exhibit B – WHMP Draft Maps