

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
May 30, 2006
Conference Call

TCC Participants Present: (14)

Brock Applegate, WDFW
 Joe Buchanan, WDFW
 Joe Hiss, USFWS
 Eric Holman, WDFW
 Mike Iyall, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 LouEllyn Jones, USFWS
 Curt Leigh, WDFW
 Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 Tom Macy, RMEF
 Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy
 Colleen McShane, EDAW, Inc.
 Bob Nelson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp Energy
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy

Calendar:

June 8, 2006	ACC Meeting	WDFW – Vancouver
June 14, 2006	TCC Meeting to include Devil’s Backbone site visit	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from May 30th Meeting:		
McCune: Mail final Conservation Easement 4/28/06 Meeting Notes to Eric Holman.		Complete – 5/31/06
McCune: Distribute modified Lewis River Wildlife Management Lands maps to TCC for review and approval.		Complete – 6/14/06
McShane: Add WDFW requested objectives (h – k), with suggested edits in raptor section of WHMP S&G document for TCC review and approval.		Complete – 6/4/06
McShane: Add objective in WHMP S&G document, Public Access section which addresses the topic of number nineteen in WDFW’s Considerations for Tree Harvest Activities - Maintain permanent, big game concealment zone buffers along public roads		Complete – 6/4/06
McShane: Add text at the end of the WHMP S&G document to include the Considerations for Tree Harvest Activities.		Complete – 6/4/06
Naylor: Make changes to Considerations for Tree Harvest Activities document (Attachment B) and submit to TCC for review and approval.		Pending
Hiss: Revise draft PacifiCorp Energy lands and proposed owl management areas map to include Cowlitz PUD for the administrative record.		Complete – 6/14/06

Assignments from April 28th Meeting:	
Applegate: Provide the TCC, prior to the next meeting, suggested clarification to the Washington DNR reference in the raptor section of the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document.	Complete – 5/26/06
Gritten-MacDonald: Provide the TCC with topographic or cover type maps of Devils Backbone divided up into management units before the site visit.	Complete – 6/2/06
Gritten-MacDonald: Email or provide CD of Devils Backbone topographic or cover type maps to Kimberly McCune (PacifiCorp Energy).	Complete – 6/2/06
McCune: Post Devils Backbone topographic or cover type maps on the Lewis River website for the TCC review.	Complete – 6/2/06
McCune: Provide contact information for John Clapp to Tom Macy (RMEF)	Complete – 4/28/06
Gritten-MacDonald: Confirm Devils Backbone site visit date of Wednesday, June 14, 2006.	Confirmed – 5/30/06

Assignments from March 20th Meeting:	
Naylor: Modify the Lewis River Wildlife Management Lands maps and present back to the TCC for review and approval.	Complete – 6/14/06
Wainwright: Email the USFW definitions of the spotted owl suitable habitat to the TCC.	Complete – 3/24/06
McShane: Add “Old-Growth” definition to 3.1.3 Old-Growth Habitat on WHMP Lands (page 15) of the WHMP S&G document.	Complete – 4/28/06
Naylor: Provide detailed maps for TCC discussion regarding conservation easements.	Complete – 4/28/06
McShane: Modify Table 3-8 to include size classes for each cover-type.	Complete – 4/28/06

Parking lot items from February 10th Meeting:	
Exhibit B – Settlement Agreement Maps (exclusion vs. secondary)	Complete – changes were made per TCC 4/28/06
PacifiCorp WHMP Budget (annual)	
Conservation Agreement – what is wanted?	Ongoing – 4/28/06

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 BiOp
Spotted owl – Modifications needed to Section 4.2.4 Objectives h & i	Complete – 1/11/06
Applegate: Guidelines for Tree Harvest Activities, TCC Approval	Complete – 5/30/06

Opening, Review of Agenda, Finalize Meeting Notes

Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Naylor reviewed the Agenda with the TCC and asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda. The TCC agreed that the Agenda would be modified to include discussion on spotted owl issues.

Naylor asked the TCC if they have any changes to the Draft 4/28/06 Meeting Notes. Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) informed the TCC that they can expect to receive an agenda for the 6/14/06 Devil's Backbone site visit the week of June 5th to include a cover type map in accordance with the assignments from April 28, 2006. In addition, Gritten-MacDonald requested the third sentence of the last paragraph on page 3 be modified to read as follows:

Because the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document has taken so long to complete Cowlitz PUD has requested their WHMP consultant to cease work until the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document is complete.

Curt Leigh (WDFW) requested the following assignment from March 20th modified to read, "pending". Kimberly McCune (PacifiCorp Energy) will distribute hard copies of the modified map via US mail or email for review and final approval.

Assignments from March 20 Meeting:	
Naylor: Modify the Lewis River Wildlife Management Lands maps and present back to the TCC for review and approval.	Complete - 6/14/06

The TCC 4/28/06 Meeting Notes were approved at 9:20am with the above-requested changes.

Naylor asked the TCC if they have any changes to the Draft 4/28/06 Conservation Easement Meeting Notes. The discussion on the Conservation Easement meeting notes is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing. The TCC approved the Conservation Easement Meeting Notes without any changes at 9:30am.

Spotted Owl Discussion

Joe Hiss (USFWS) reviewed a USFWS prepared and unofficial draft map of PacifiCorp Energy lands and proposed owl management areas to facilitate today's spotted owl discussion. (**Attachment A**), which McCune distributed to the TCC via email shortly after the meeting began.

General discussion took place regarding SOSEA boundaries, PacifiCorp Energy ownership encompassed by SOSEA and parcels within the 2 mile buffer but not in the SOSEA.

Gritten-MacDonald reminded Hiss that the ESA consultation is on the Lewis River Settlement Agreement (the action) which includes not only PacifiCorp Energy ownership and operations, but also Cowlitz PUD. As such the Biological Opinions need to cover Cowlitz PUD properties and operations as well. She requested that if the USFWS was going to use the map in the BO, please revise the map to include Cowlitz PUD for the administrative record. Hiss noted that from

a terrestrial standpoint, Cowlitz PUD is a bit different as it was his understanding that they were not planning any actions on spotted owl lands.

WDFW provided the following objectives for TCC review and approval. USFWS communicated to the TCC that they have not yet reviewed and approved the edits provided by WDFW.

Objective h: *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) within the Licensees' ownership in each management circle. All mature and old-growth conifer trees (> 21 in. dbh) within Spotted Owl Management Circles will be retained.*

Objective i: *Over the life of the licenses, manage at least 50 percent of the Licensees' ownership within a 2-mile (3.2 km) buffer outside of the Siouxon SOSEA, but directly contiguous with land inside the SOSEA, to provide/develop high quality nesting spotted owl habitat, as defined by the DNR's STL HCP (1997).*

Colleen McShane (EDAW) will edit Objective i and remove the word, "buffer". Naylor requested clarification of the term "at least 50 percent". PacifiCorp Energy's interpretation is that 50 percent is the floor, but if it made sense to increase the percentage it would be brought back to the TCC for approval. WDFW clarified that 50 percent is at least but PacifiCorp Energy planning is not locked into a specific percentage beyond that.

Objective j: *Manage WHMP lands within the SOSEA by the Forest Practices Act, especially by the WAC 222-16-080 and WAC 222-10-041.*

Objective k: *Within suitable SO Habitat (Forest Practices Definition; WAC 222-16-085 ([1][b][i]): Young Forest Marginal) within the SOSEA, existing habitat features that are present along the proposed trail (trees, snags, and LWD) are considered critical habitat (state). LWD that impedes movement on the trail may be removed from the trail surface but left on site.*

McShane will word-smith Objective K then PacifiCorp Energy will review the new language with their legal counsel and schedule a conference call with Mitch Wainwright (USFS), Joe Hiss (USFWS) and Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp Energy) regarding what is considered a hazardous structure.

McShane will include the new revisions and objectives in the next draft of the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document for final approval of the spotted owl section at the next regularly scheduled TCC meeting.

Break <10:25am>

Reconvene <10:35am>

Spotted Owl Discussion (cont'd)

Hiss suggested language for Objective k for further TCC review as follows:

Manage standing live and dead trees along trails to maintain an agreed upon level of safety. Manage down wood on the trail to keep trails clear and safe but leave 1 down wood in the forest adjacent to the trails. Colleen: can you please review this and edit where McShane will word smith objective k and submit to the TCC review at the next regularly schedule meeting.

Conservation Easement Discussion - updates

The discussion on Conservation Easement updates is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing. Meeting notes for this portion of the meeting will be distributed only in hard copy to TCC members who have signed the Confidentiality Agreement.

WDFW Considerations for Tree Harvest Activities Discussion

Naylor suggested reviewing the list of tree harvest strategies/considerations with the TCC for clarification. Naylor communicated clarification and requested further discussion relating to the items outlined below. See [Attachment B](#) for a complete list of the Considerations.

3. Modification pending

6. PacifiCorp does not suggest topping if there are safety concerns.

12. PacifiCorp proposes “No harvesting of cedar not greater than 100 years”. May have to thin to manage those stands. PacifiCorp Energy suggests adding language to allow the management of young cedar stands.

13. Spot spraying specifically applies to forestry. No aerial application of herbicide.

19. There was some discussion that there should be a new objective in the S&G document related to establishing and maintaining buffers along open or roads.. There may need to be further discussion on this strategy/consideration. Add the word “open”. Big game concealment refers to as managed in the past.

Leigh suggested that similar language as in number nineteen be added into the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document, Public Access section. McShane will create an objective for TCC review.

21. Modification pending.

22. A bulldozer is an appropriate choice in many situations when considering slopes. PacifiCorp Energy will use appropriate equipment for the appropriate job.

23. PacifiCorp Energy will not be eliminating road ditches.

Leigh communicated to the TCC that he would like to see these Considerations as an Appendix in the WHMP S&G document. McShane will add text at the end of the Section 3.9.4 to include these Considerations for Tree Harvest Activities.

New topics/issues

Curt Leigh mentioned that there was nothing in the forestland objectives that included creating and managing permanent elk forage plots. This would involve converting existing forest stands to meadows/field by removing trees and stumps and growing grasses and forbs.

Naylor and Olsen reminded the group that Objective a states that a range of alternatives will be evaluated for developing and maintaining a mix of forage and hiding cover for elk. One of the alternatives could be developing permanent forage plots.

Diana asked, "When is an approval an approval"? WDFW submitted requested changes to the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document after the document was approved by the TCC on 4/28/06. Leigh will get back to the TCC in one week regarding this document.

Leigh communicated the following to PacifiCorp Energy on June 2, 2006: "It is accurate to say that the TCC discussions have addressed WDFW's issues."

Next Meeting's Agenda

- Visit Cowlitz PUD wildlife lands
- Review spotted owl maps
- Review requested modifications in the WHMP Standards & Guidelines document
- Review and approve draft 5/30/06 meeting notes
- Discuss Objective K

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 pm

Next Scheduled Meetings

June 14, 2006

Merwin Hydro Facility
Devils Backbone site visit (9:00am – 3:00pm)
TCC meeting (3:00pm – 5:00pm)
Ariel, WA

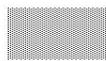
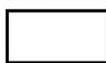
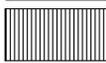
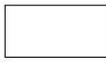
July 12, 2006

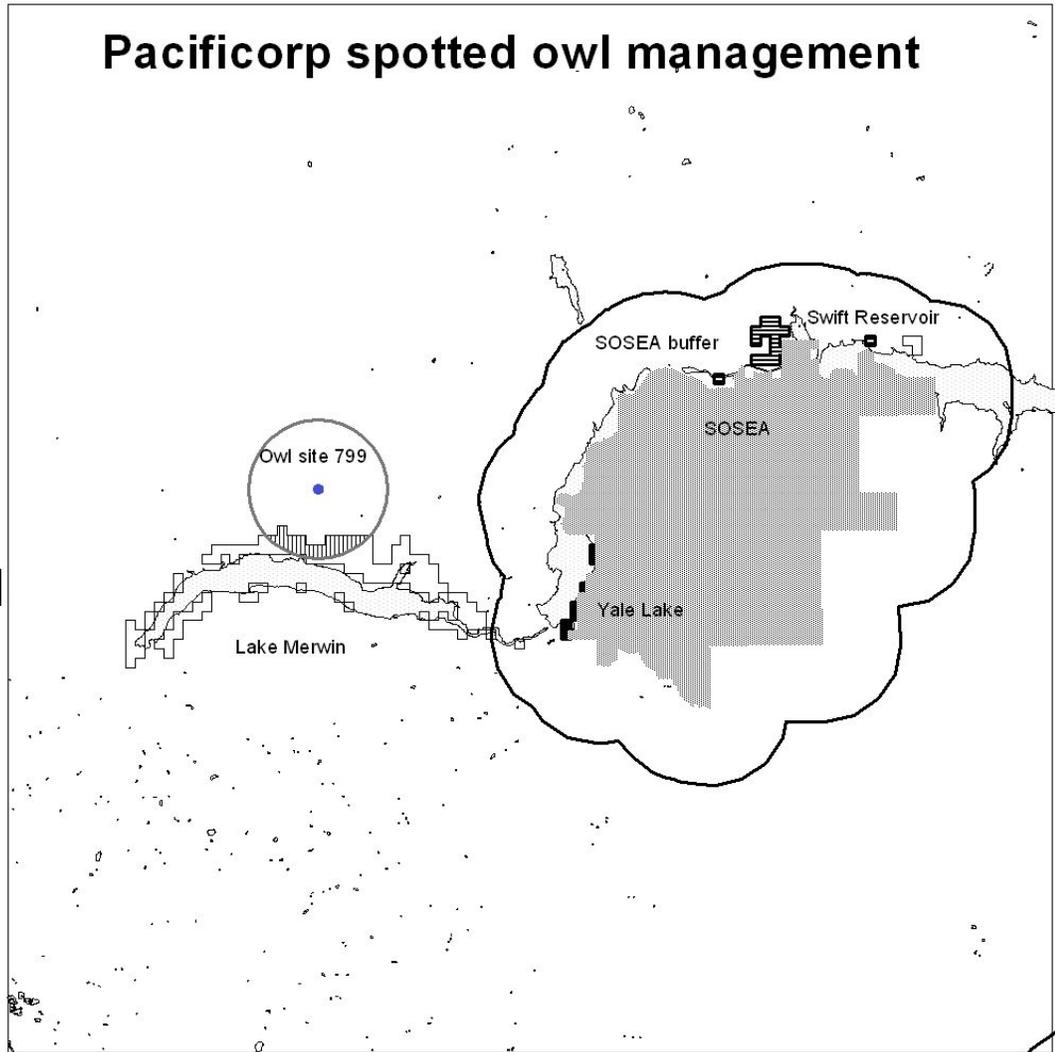
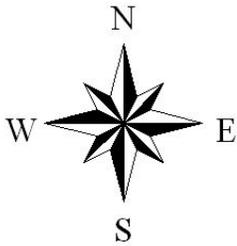
Location TBD

Handouts

1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. PacifiCorp Spotted Owl Management Map, as provided by USFWS
3. Draft meeting notes from 4/28/06
4. Draft Conservation Easement meeting notes from 4/28/06 (**CONFIDENTIAL**)
5. Considerations for Tree Harvest Activities, as provided by WDFW

Pacificorp spotted owl management

-  SOSEA
-  SOSEA Buffer
-  Owl circle
-  Case H
-  Case I
-  Case J
-  Pacificorp land
-  Lakes
-  Owl 799.shp



Attachment B

Considerations for Tree Harvest Activities

- 1) Clump and Group Snags (and/or green retention trees) where appropriate (SA Schedule 10.8.2.2, PacifiCorp et al. 2004).
- 2) Emphasize retention of hollow trees and western red cedar snags (SA Schedule 10.8.2.2, PacifiCorp et al. 2004).
- 3) **Do not replace natural snag creation and retention with artificial snag creation (WDFW 1995 and Lewis and Azerrad 2004).**
- 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...”(WDFW 1995).
- 5) Prioritize retention of snags with >40% bark cover (WDFW 1995).
- 6) **“If specific snags cannot be retained for safety reasons, pursue topping them to an acceptable height rather than removing them,” (WDFW 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 (Lewis and Azerrad 2004 and Lewis et al. 2004). Buffer with green retention trees if necessary.
- 8) Avoid dragging logs or operating heavy machinery across talus and protect talus with a buffer. (Nordstrom and Milner 1997¹ and Nordstrom and Milner 1997²).
- 9) Retain trees, snags, and stumps with existing pileated nest cavities and foraging excavations. (Lewis and Azerrad 2004) **(Already agreed to by PacifiCorp)** Buffer with green retention trees if necessary.
- 10) Restrict timber Harvest Areas to less than 30 ac (PacifiCorp 1998, WHMP introduction to Forestlands, EDAW 2006).
- 11) Seed with a grass-legume seed mix to provide forage for grazing elk. Seeding also reduces the potential for erosion and controls the establishment of weeds and other undesirable species, (PacifiCorp 1998, WHMP introduction to Forestlands, EDAW 2006).
- 12) **No harvesting of old-growth stands, cottonwoods, and cedar (PacifiCorp et al. 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 and/or roosting (PacifiCorp 1998, WHMP introduction to Forestlands, EDAW 2006).
- 18) Prune and thin young stands to increase shrub and herb layers in the understory (PacifiCorp 1998, WHMP introduction to Forestlands, EDAW 2006).
- 19) Maintain permanent, big game concealment zone buffers along public roads (PacifiCorp 1998, WHMP introduction to Forestlands, EDAW 2006).**
- 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).
- 21) Disperse harvest areas by retaining hiding cover adjacent to all newly created harvest areas.**
- 22) Use an excavator instead of a bulldozer, if creating new roads for forest management is necessary, (Dodge 2006).**
- 23) Eliminate road ditches, funnel water off the roadway onto the forest floor, and disconnect the road network from water channels and streams, when possible, (Dodge 2006).**

Literature Cited

- Dodge, J. 2006. "Road rules benefit forests, foresters alike." The Olympian: February 20, 2006. [Online]. Available <http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060220/NEWS05/60220012&Se archID=73238467506176>
- EDAW, 2006. Lewis River Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Standards & Guidelines Document, Version from 02/10/06 for 03/20/06. Prepared for PacifiCorp, Portland, OR and Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Longview, WA. Draft. 65pp.
- Lewis, J. C., and J. M. Azerrad. 2004. Pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). In E. M. Larsen, J. M. Azerrad, and N. Nordstrom, editors. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds [Online]. Available <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/piwo.pdf>
- Lewis, J. C., M. Whalen, and R. L. Milner. 2004. Vaux's swift (*Chaeturi vauxi*). In E. M. Larsen, J. M. Azerrad, and N. Nordstrom, editors. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds [Online]. Available <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/vasw.pdf>.
- Nordstrom, N., and R. Milner 1997¹. Dunn's and Van Dyke's Salamanders. Pages 1-1 to 1-16 in E. M. Larsen, ed. Management recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume III: Amphibians and Reptiles. Wash. Dept. Fish and Wildl., Olympia.
- Nordstrom, N., and R. Milner 1997². Larch Mountain Salamander. Pages 3-1 to 3-8 in E. M. Larsen, ed. Management recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume III: Amphibians and Reptiles. Wash. Dept. Fish and Wildl., Olympia.
- PacifiCorp, Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, Cowlitz County, Cowlitz-Skamania Fire District No. 7, North Country Emergency Medical Service, City of Woodland, Woodland Chamber of Commerce, Lewis River Community Council, Lewis River Citizens At-Large, American Rivers, Fish First, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and the Native Fish Society. 2004. Settlement Agreement Concerning the Relicensing of the Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects, FERC Project Nos. 935, 2071, 2111, and 2213, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania Counties, Washington. November 30, 2004.
- PacifiCorp. 1998. Merwin wildlife habitat management plan, standard operating procedures. Pacific Power and Light. Portland, Oregon. July 1998.

Thomas, J.W. ed. 1979. Wildlife habitats in managed forests: the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington. USDA Forest Serv. Agr. Hndbk. N. 533.

WDFW (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). 2004. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds. May 2004. Available at URL = <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/birdrecs.htm>.

WDFW (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). 1995. Priority Habitat Management Recommendations: Snags. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA. 137pp.