

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
June 8, 2005
Lacey, WA

TCC Participants Present: (11)

Brock Applegate, WDFW
 Clifford Casseseka, Yakama Nation
 Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp
 Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 Curt Leigh, WDFW
 Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp
 Colleen McShane, EDAW, Inc.
 Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp
 Bob Nelson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inc.
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp
 Gene Stagner, US Fish & Wildlife

Calendar:

June 23, 2005	TCC Site Visit	Merwin, WA
June 24, 2005	TCC Site Visit	Merwin, WA
July 13, 2005	TCC Meeting	Merwin, WA
July 14, 2005	ACC Meeting	Merwin, WA

Assignments from June 8th Meeting:	Status:
Garrett: Contact appropriate parties to select a date for the initial contact with the landowner relating to potential Yale land acquisition.	In progress – 6/17/05
Naylor: Provide McShane the accurate number of acres relating to lands covered by the WHMP's.	Complete – 6/30/05
Naylor: Provide specific language to McShane regarding an additional land category within the WHMP called "Covenant Lands".	Complete – 6/30/05
Gritten-MacDonald: Provide Naylor the GIS information relating to their conservation easement area (approximately 88 acres).	Complete – 6/9/05
Gritten-MacDonald: Provide Naylor specific language to McShane regarding the PUD conservation easement.	Complete – 6/10/05
Garrett: Rewrite the Land Acquisition Decision-making document to include the requested changes and resubmit the revised draft to the TCC for final review and approval. (30 day TCC review)	Complete – 6/14/05
McCune: Mail copy of Lewis River SA to Mike Mueller (RMEF).	Complete – 6/13/05
Naylor: Provide language for the TCC's consideration at the next meeting regarding enhanced forage and appropriate mosaic.	7/5/05 - In progress

Assignments from May 11th Meeting:	Status:
McCune Add return receipt notification for emails to Gene Stagner (USFW)	Complete – 5/16/05

McCune: Distribute draft meeting notes within (7) seven business days.	Complete – 5/18/05
McCune: Modify confidentiality agreement and redistribute to TCC	Complete – 5/12/05
Garrett: Add Swift and Lewis language to introductory statement.	Complete – 5/25/05
Garrett: Add clarification that there are three (3) different funds to Land Acquisition document and to include when they come available	Complete - 5/24/05
McCune: Naylor and Applegate to set site visit off-line and McCune will inform the TCC.	Complete - 5/25/05
McShane: Report back to the TCC with changes to the Goals & Objectives document one week before the next scheduled meeting on June 8, 2005.	Complete – 5/31/05
TCC: Comments on maps are due to Kirk Naylor on or before May 18, 2005.	Complete

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) provided an update to the TCC regarding the MidAmerican acquisition of PacifiCorp. Olson further communicated that Holly Harwood is now the Director of Licensing and Implementation, whom he now reports to.

Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) asked about Terry Flores role at PacifiCorp. Olson said that she is now responsible for Hydro’s stakeholder relations and governmental affairs.

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp) reviewed the Agenda with the TCC. The TCC did not request any changes to the Agenda.

Garrett reviewed the May 11, 2005 meeting notes with the TCC and requested changes, if any. Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) indicated that she would be adding the TCC site visits of June 23 & 24th to the meeting notes calendar.

Clifford Casseseka (Yakama Nation) had comments regarding buffer zones, which he will discuss further with the TCC later during the meeting.

No additional edits to the May 11, 2005 meeting notes were requested.

Confidentiality Agreement

Olson updated the TCC that Curt Leigh (WDFW) has requested changes. PacifiCorp’s legal is discussing changes with WDFW legal in order to reach an agreement. PacifiCorp will email the revised Confidentiality Agreement to TCC prior to meeting with the intent to finalize the document on July 13, 2005.

Status of Yale Acquisition

Garrett provided an update to the TCC regarding the potential Yale land acquisition and related agreement. This discussion was confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

Garrett indicated that he will contact the involved parties to select a date and arrange for a conference call.

WHMP Goals & Objectives – Standards and Guidelines Document

Colleen McShane (EDAW) asked the TCC if they found the current document reflected the detail they expected or required. Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp) communicated that he was pleased that the document covered intent, and that McShane did a good job.

Bob Nelson (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation) agreed that the format of the document is much better with the inclusion of the introductions and purpose.

The TCC reviewed and requested grammatical and content changes to the WHMP Standard and Guidelines document. Gene Stagner (US Fish & Wildlife) offered to make requested changes electronically during the meeting as the TCC proceeds and email the revised document to McShane.

Naylor will provide McShane the accurate number of acres relating to lands covered by the WHMP's.

Naylor will provide specific language to McShane regarding an additional land category within the WHMP called "Covenant Lands".

Gritten-MacDonald will provide Naylor the GIS information relating to their Conservation Covenant (approximately 88 acres).

Gritten-MacDonald will provide specific language to McShane regarding the PUD conservation Covenant.

The TCC had general discussion on Cresup Bay Recreation Area regarding the intent of "managed exclusively for wildlife", minimizing disturbances, specific timing of periodic access especially for cleaning the reservoir and preparing for the campground for the recreational season. Leigh reminded the group that the Cresup Bay Recreation agreement did not envision uses of the launch during the critical winter season (Nov 1 - April 30) even for reservoir cleaning. To address access needs, Speelyai Boat Ramp was recently lengthened to make it usable at low water levels and avoid out of season disturbances at the Cresup Bay Boat Ramp. Other discussions occurred on the target species for management including evaluation species, analysis species and HEP species. Garrett wanted to focus our management energies on the HEP species considering the evaluation of the program came through HEP species monitoring in year 17. Applegate pushed to expand the target species to include not only HEP species, but Analysis species and species of special status (Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species including Species of Concern). The TCC also discussed evaluating the success of the WHMP relating to habitat quality.

McShane will add additional language to the Cresap Bay Recreation area on page 3 that further clarifies the intent of management in this location.

<Break 10:30am>

<Reconvene 10:45am>

WHMP Goals & Objectives (cont'd)

McShane communicated to the TCC that she would make all requested changes and distribute to the group in “track changes” so the TCC could focus on the changes, thus expediting the review process.

Brock Applegate (WDFW) will also email his electronic changes to McShane for inclusion into the master draft document.

The TCC concluded their review and comments on the WHMP 1.0 Introduction, Overview, Purpose, Intent, Lands covered, Summaries and proceeded to review of 2.0 Goals and Objectives.

McShane will add additional language on page 8 relating to the use of HEP in year 17 of the licenses to evaluate the effectiveness of the WHMPs. As stated in the Settlement Agreement (Section 10.8.4.2), the HEP in year 17 can, and should, include species model updates and new management priorities, as appropriate. In addition, the group discussed adding the analysis species that were studied during relicensing to broaden the species targeted in the WHMP. These species would not be included in the re-evaluation in year 17

Naylor expressed his concern for the potential tradeoffs in the future and HEP modeling. Naylor requested awareness from the TCC of such tradeoffs. In addition, Naylor expressed that the TCC needs to be aware of managing expectations on a case-by-case basis such as root rot, which is rapidly expanding.

Gritten-MacDonald suggested that the TCC may need a plan-wide goal such as disease management.

McShane pointed out that this topic was already included but perhaps it's not in the best place within the document.

Naylor suggested considerable changes to Category 1 of Old Growth Habitat, page 10. As previously stated, McShane will incorporate all changes in a master draft document as provided by TCC attendees and email a revised draft for their review and comment. Applegate also requested minor changes to the same paragraph on page 10.

2.1 Old Growth Habitat Goals & Objectives

The TCC concurred that additional language is required in Objective a, page 11 relating to managing and/or creating high quality habitat for pileated woodpeckers. The TCC will give further thought to this topic and discuss recommended language at the next meeting.

Naylor communicated that we may not be ready for the micro-management level in order to develop specific objectives, as the information has yet to be compiled and shared with the group.

Curt Leigh (WDFW) suggested that the TCC may need to add an “evaluation” objective. Naylor concurred.

McShane will suggest language in Objective a, written as multi-parts to include evaluation components. Leigh suggested to McShane that the additional language may work better as a separate objective.

<Lunch 12:00pm>

<Reconvene 12:30pm>

2.1 Old Growth Habitat Goals & Objectives (cont'd)

The TCC clarified to Casseseka that buffer zones refer only to PacifiCorp lands. McShane will add buffer size ranges to objective b.

2.2 Wetland Habitat

McShane communicated to the TCC that the next version of the Standards & Guidelines will include additional introductory paragraphs for each habitat. The TCC requested a few changes and clarifications, which McShane will incorporate.

Riparian Area Goal

Stagner cautioned the TCC about adding language regarding what the “TCC will do”. The role of the TCC is to decide on what is to be done by the licensees in terms of wildlife management.

Shrublands

Applegate requested adding language relating to the TCC management actions relative to shrubland objectives. Naylor communicated to the TCC that certain areas of shrublands should be visited by the group, as some areas that are managed as shrublands under the Merwin Plan were not mapped as shrublands during relicensing studies because they had more than 10% tree cover.

Stagner indicated that it was important for the TCC to define “shrublands” within the Standards and Guidelines document and how the TCC intends to manage them.

Naylor said that the site visits on June 23rd & 24th are critical for the TCC to view in order to gain a better understanding of shrublands.

McShane suggested that we take the definition then add subcategories to further assist with management objectives.

Casseseka expressed his concern about the habitat value of managed shrubland areas for elk and other wildlife being degraded by nearby development. Olson provided further clarification to

Casseseka that PacifiCorp will provide management plan updates to the TCC on an annual basis, however all parties should share identified changes to neighboring non-PacifiCorp properties.

McShane will modify Objective c to remove cedar and emphasize the reason of the maximum of 3 per acre which is to protect and maintain the shrub stands and structural diversity.

Leigh suggested adding a sentence to clarify that if there is a choice of what trees to leave than leave the cedar as additional perch trees.

Farmland/Field/Meadow Goal

Modify Objective b to read: Manage or develop hedgerows between farm fields and meadows to provide screening/hiding cover for elk for the new license period.

Applegate requested modification to Objective b, which he will email to McShane.

McShane will re-write Objective b to include language relating to hedgerow screening to developing hiding cover.

Orchard Goal

Modify goal to read: Maintain and expand, where appropriate, existing orchard habitat to provide healthy fruit trees to benefit wildlife.

Transmission Line Right-of-Way (ROW)

McShane will add language regarding Cowlitz PUD (Swift 2) ROW line and PacifiCorp's lake portion. Applegate sending his requested changes to McShane via email.

Unique Area/Habitat Goal

Applegate requested a language addition to Objective c relating to protecting plant species which have cultural significance. The TCC suggested a separate objective to address this issue and have the Tribes define the cultural significance.

Garrett suggested McShane include a placeholder as Objective e to address culturally significant plant species and discuss this topic with the Tribes.

Managed Forestland Goal:

Naylor suggested McShane add additional language regarding what constitutes enhanced forage and appropriate mosaic.

Naylor will suggest language for the TCC's consideration at the next meeting.

Leigh suggested adding overarching discussion of broader history of timber management.

Modify Objective c to read as follows: Increase tree species site conditions and local wildlife needs over the life of the licenses.

McShane will add more detail to Objective b, per Leigh's request.

The TCC completed their discussion of the WHMP Standards & Guidelines Document, and will begin their next discussion on July 13th, on the next section called Plan Wide Goals.

Land Acquisition Decision-making Process Document

Garrett reviewed the modifications in the document with the TCC and communicated that he will rewrite the document to include the requested changes and resubmit the revised draft to the TCC for 30-day final review and approval.

Miscellaneous

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2005
Merwin Hydro Facility
Ariel, WA
9:00am – 3:00pm

August 10, 2005 – Merwin Hydro Facility, Ariel, WA
September 14, 2005 – US Fish & Wildlife, Lacey, WA

Agenda Items for July 13, 2005

- Review notes of last meeting (6/8/05)
- Continue discussion of Goals & Objectives
- Confidentiality Agreement
- Status of Land Acquisition Decision-making document

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

Handouts

1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Notes for 5-11-05
3. Draft Land Acquisition Decision-making process
4. Draft WHMP Goals & Objectives