

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
July 12, 2006
Woodland, WA

TCC Participants Present: (11)

Brock Applegate, WDFW
 Clifford Casseseka, Yakama Nation
 Joe Hiss, USFWS
 Eric Holman, WDFW
 Mike Iyall, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 Curt Leigh, WDFW (via teleconference)
 Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy
 Bob Nelson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp Energy
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy
 Mitch Wainwright, USDA Forest Service

Calendar:

July 13, 2006	ACC Meeting	Woodland City Hall
August 9, 2006	TCC Meeting	Woodland City Hall
August 10, 2006	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from July 12th Meeting:		
McCune: Mail copy of Merwin WHMP to Eric Holman		Complete – 7/12/06
Olson: Invite Skamania County representative (Karen Witherspoon) to the September TCC meeting.		Pending

Assignments from June 14th Meeting:		
Naylor: Add the additional owl circle West of the Yale to the map, and revise lands west of Swift Creek and within the 2-mile buffer. Present the revised version to the TCC for review (specifically Township 7N, Range 5E, Sections 20, 29 & 30).		Complete – 6/22/06
Naylor: Email revised version of Consideration for Tree Harvest Activities document to TCC for review and approval.		Complete – 6/16/06
McCune: Scan and email the Objective k documents to the TCC for review.		Complete – 6/15/06
McCune: Request citations for documents from Mitch Wainwright (USDA Forest Service) and email to Colleen McShane (EDAW).		Complete – 6/15/06

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
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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 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

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Olson requested a round table introduction of each attendee so the teleconference callers knew who was in attendance. Olson also reviewed the Agenda with the TCC and asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda. The TCC did not have any requested changes.

Olson asked the TCC if they had any changes to the Draft 6/14/06 Meeting Notes. Brock Applegate (WDFW) pointed out that the time the meeting adjourned is incorrect and should read 4:45pm.

The TCC 6/14/06 Meeting Notes were approved at 9:15am with the above-requested change.

Olson communicated to the TCC that time permitting Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp Energy) would provide a review and update of the Merwin WHMP 2004/2005 Report, which was mailed to the Services on 7/11/06.

Olson also informed the TCC that the transfer of the Swift Creek School property to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe is complete as of 6/29/06. He further communicated that there is no loss of lands under the Lewis River WHMP program, only a change of ownership at this specific site. The area outside of the school yard will be managed under the WHMP.

Lands Update and Discussion

Olson provided an update of PacifiCorp’s land acquisition activity. This portion of the meeting notes is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

WHMP Discussion - Section 4.2.4, Raptor Site Management Goal and Objectives

Naylor provided a full scale Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) map, and a smaller version for the TCC review to insure the Objectives concur with the intentions of the TCC. General discussion took place regarding spotted owl nesting, roosting, foraging and dispersal habitat; percentage of reservoir within the NSO circles, and flexibility of the Lewis River WHMP for future modification as conditions change.

Upon review and discussion of Objectives h, i & j the TCC approved these Objectives to read as follows:

Objective h: *Unless separated by a reservoir from the nest site center, manage WHMP lands, > 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 WAC 222-16-085 (1) (a), within the Licensees' ownership in each management circle. In addition, all conifer trees > 21 in. dbh within Spotted Owl Management Circles will be retained unless otherwise determined by the TCC.*

Objective i: *Unless separated by a reservoir from the SOSEA, over the life of the licenses, manage at least 50 percent of WHMP lands within a 2-mile (3.2 km) buffer outside of the Siouxon SOSEA to provide/develop high quality nesting spotted owl habitat, as defined by WAC 222-160-085 (1) (a).*

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

Final Review of Exhibit D – Consideration for Tree Harvest Activities

Upon review and discussion of Exhibit D – Consideration for Tree Harvest Activities the TCC approved the following modifications:

3. Do not replace natural snag creation and retention with artificial snag creation (WDFW 1995 and Lewis and Azerrad 2004). Where forest management is conducted, the intent is to maintain the largest snags (> 20") up to the objective of 8 snags per acre. Where there are in excess of 8 snags per acre, smaller snags or those that are of advanced decay and less than 15' tall would not be prioritized for retention. Consideration however should be given to the decay class of snags to provide an appropriate mix of both hard and soft snags where achievable and desirable. While the objective is "at least" 8 snags per acre, it may not be possible to retain all snags and still achieve other wildlife habitat objectives.

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. Topping dead trees (snags) is not recommended due to safety concerns. PacifiCorp biologist and hazard tree contractor should evaluate location, tree size (> 20" dbh), height and decay in determining retention options for wildlife and safety issues. While considering safety concerns, retain a high-cut stump to improve woodpecker foraging and to increase future LWD.

12. No harvesting of old-growth stands, cottonwoods, and cedar (PacifiCorp et al. 2004). The intent is to retain large (> 20" dbh cedar trees) but recognize that cedar have been planted since 1986 and these trees may need to be thinned or managed to meet other objectives. Therefore, harvesting cedar greater than approximately 75 years of age (age of previously harvested areas through next license period) would not be conducted.

13. No aerial spraying of herbicides.

19. Maintain permanent, big game concealment zone buffers (hiding cover) along roads open to the public (PacifiCorp 1998, WHMP introduction to Forestlands, EDAW 2006). See objective 'g' in Public Access Management Goal and Objectives.

20. Where desirable, 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. Practices will include not clear-cut harvesting adjacent to another clear-cut harvest until hiding cover is reached or approximately 10 years.

22. Use best management practices (BMP's) such as channeling water off the roadway onto the forest floor, and disconnect the road network from water channels and streams, when possible, (Dodge 2006).

<Break 10:40am>

<Reconvene: 10:50am>

Joe Hiss (USFWS) agreed that the Northern Spotted Owl objectives as created and approved by the TCC would provide the protection needed to assure that the action (FERC licensing of the Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects) is not likely to adversely affect the Northern Spotted Owl.

Lands Update and Discussion (cont'd)

Applegate requested additional discussion and update of PacifiCorp's land acquisition activity. This portion of the meeting notes is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing

Next Meeting's Agenda

- Land acquisition update
- Possible field trip to review potential acquisition sites and certain Merwin WHMP lands

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

Next Scheduled Meetings

August 9, 2006

Woodland City Hall, Council Chambers
Woodland, WA

September 13, 2006

Merwin Hydro Facility
Ariel, WA

Handouts

1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. Draft meeting notes from 6/14/06
3. Revised NSO Territory Buffer & SOSEA, as provided by PacifiCorp Energy
4. Revised Lewis River Wildlife Management Land Maps, as provided by PacifiCorp Energy
5. Revised Consideration for Tree Harvest Activities
6. Suggested changes to Objectives fro Raptor Site Management Objectives h & i, as submitted by PacifiCorp Energy and WDFW