

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
July 13, 2005
Ariel, Washington

TCC Participants Present: (13)

Brock Applegate, WDFW
Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
Mike Iyall, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
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
Lou Ellyn Jones, US Fish & Wildlife
Mitch Wainwright, USDA Forest Service

Calendar:

August 10, 2005	TCC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
August 11, 2005	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
August 15, 2005	TCC Meeting	Lacey, WA
August 22, 2005	TCC Meeting – backup date	Lacey, WA

Assignments from July 13th Meeting:	Status:
McCune: Post final 6/8/05 meeting notes to include modifications	Complete 7/15/05
Olson: Bring in a laptop & projector to assist with document edits during our next TCC meeting scheduled on August 10, 2005.	
McCune - Post the Merwin Raptor Management Plan on the Lewis River website (password protected).	Complete – 7/19/05
McCune – Post the PacifiCorp Bird Management Program on the Lewis River website, to include collision and electrocution program (password protected).	Complete – 7/19/05
Gritten-MacDonald - Present language to TCC relating to avian interactions with electrical equipment.	Complete – 7/18/05
McCune - Post Land Acquisition Decision-making Process Update on the Lewis River website as a final document.	Complete – 7/15/05
McCune - Email TCC Confidentiality Agreement to all Settlement Agreement Parties with an explanation that TCC representatives who will be attending and/or participating in future TCC meetings will be involved from time-to-time in confidential conversations, and in order to participate in such conversations, representatives will need to provide the appropriate	Complete – 7/15/05

signature/authorization within their organizations on the TCC Confidentiality Agreement.	
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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

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp) requested a round table introduction for any new TCC participants. Garrett asked if the TCC wanted additions to the agenda or did they have any comments. Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) requested modification to the Agenda via an earlier email to move all discussion relating to the WHMP Standards and Guidelines document to before noon, if possible. Brock Applegate (WDFW) requested a modification to add discussion relating to the WHMP Standards and Guidelines comment editing process. All modifications were approved by the TCC.

Garrett asked the TCC if any requested modifications to the June 8, 2005 meeting notes. Applegate requested modifications to page three to read as follows:

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.

The TCC adopted the Jun 8, 2005 meeting notes at 9:30am.

WHMP – Editing Process

The edits Colleen McShane (EDAW) added into the document were only those that had been discussed by the TCC. McShane noted she brings those topics not discussed by the TCC before the group for further discussion. McShane also noted that there were many comments and it is possible she may have overlooked the inclusion of some which had already been discussed by the TCC. The TCC requested that notations of clarification within the WHMP document so the TCC knows when comments have or have not been discussed.

Garrett pointed out that our goal is to complete the Standards & Guidelines by the end of August 2005 in order to have sufficient time to draft the WHMP by year end 2005. Garrett suggested to the TCC that creating a subgroup and conducting additional meetings may be a consideration in order to meet our present deadlines. Mike Iyall (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) said we need to work more effectively as a group.

McShane suggested we review the needs again after our progress today then select another meeting date. Iyall suggested the additional meetings be held in Olympia and he would prefer the third week of August.

WHMP – Plan Wide Goals

Invasive Plant Species Goal: McShane asked the TCC if any changes to this portion of the document. Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp) requested that a list of species be included in the Plan, as an Appendix. McShane confirmed that Naylor was talking about the State list (List). In addition, McShane recommended adding the definitions of Class A & B designate. Gene Stagner (US Fish & Wildlife) said we should add a caveat such as, “the List is subject to change” or “as of this date they include”.

Invasive Plant Species Objective A & B: Naylor requested we confine this objective to areas such as Right of Ways (ROW), forage areas and areas designated during licensing. Naylor also said we need an annual plan rather than every three (3) years.

McShane noted that she will be making edits appropriately and presenting all modifications to TCC for review and approval.

Naylor said that PacifiCorp has a significant amount of monitoring to complete, however he would like clarification that only areas of concern will be monitored. Monitoring is happening in all the areas of concern, but not finite monitoring of the entire WHMP area. Naylor also expressed that extensive monitoring and treatment will take place on a regular basis.

Stagner agreed the focus should be on disturbed areas, but some monitoring should occur periodically in non-disturbed areas as weeds may be dispersed via air, etc. In response to Stagner’s concerns, Naylor will address the issue of monitoring noxious weed throughout the WHMP as part of the Annual Plans for habitat management activities.

The TCC discussion suggested that Objective A not be split into two parts, but rather to modify Objective A and B to read as follows:

Objective A - Inventory new infestations of invasive plant species as part of annual plan for habitat management activities.

Objective B – Develop, implement and monitor measures over the life of the license to limit the establishment of invasive plant species in areas disturbed by Project O&M, wildlife habitat management, and recreation-related activities.

Applegate had suggested the word “forest” be changed to read “wildlife habitat”.

Naylor requested McShane include a note that includes the expectations of developing annual plans and the TCC’s role. McShane said that the TCC’s role is included in the Introductory paragraph in the Standards & Guidelines document.

Iyall asked for PacifiCorp/EDAW to use a laptop and projector to assist with edits during our WHMP discussions.

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) said that he will bring in a laptop & projector to assist with edits during our next meeting scheduled on August 10, 2005.

Curt Leigh (WDFW) asked to revisit the Invasive Plant Species Goal for purpose of clarity. Stagner and Iyall asked for the following changes which will add clarity:

Invasive Plant Species Goal - Prevent the establishment and spread of weeds currently listed by the Washington State Noxious Weed control Board and Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania county weed boards and other undesirable invasive plant species as determined by the TCC.

To accommodate the above goals, the TCC will be provided the weeds listed for review, however discussion is needed to determine any additional undesirable and/or invasive plants for management.

Applegate requested the addition of another objective to read as follows:

Objective C - Coordinate with public landowners to control known infestations of invasive non-native plant species on their lands within the Project boundary.

<Break 10:30am>

<Reconvene 10:40am>

Raptor Site Management Goal

Stagner requested the addition of a caveat that there are generic overarching raptor regulations that affect the goal.

Iyall requested the TCC take out the number of feet referenced in the Goal and include it in the Plan.

The TCC agreed to modify the Raptor Site Management Goal to reflect the following, which is exactly as written in Schedule 10.8, subparagraph 2.8 – Raptor Management, of the Lewis River Settlement Agreement:

Provide habitat for and minimize disturbance to raptors, including northern bald eagles, ospreys, accipiters, and owls.

Stagner communicated that he thought all TCC participants should have a copy of the Merwin Raptor Management Plan, preferably electronic. Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will post the Merwin Raptor Management Plan (password protected) on the Lewis River website for TCC participant review.

Leigh requested the addition of language to reflect not only nest sites but to include nesting habitat and other important known and future habitat features (perch sites, etc).

Mitch Wainwright (USDA Forest Service) suggested we separate out what kind of disturbance mentioned in the Goal, such as noise disturbance vs. habitat disturbance.

Iyall requested the TCC identify areas for potential enhancement, which would more likely be an objective rather than a Goal (inventory and identify potential enhancement sites).

The TCC agreed that Raptor Site Management objectives should include:

- Survey habitat use prior to management activity
- Disturbance during management activities
- Identifying and enhancing future habitat
- General survey of raptor use in Project area
- Follow APLIC suggested practices on Project transmission lines

McShane will wordsmith the Raptor Site Management objectives and present them to the TCC at the next meeting on August 10, 2005.

The TCC directed McShane to insert the following language: *PacifiCorp will continue to manage Project electrical, distribution, and transmission facilities according to PacifiCorp's standards & guidelines for avian protection on power lines (APLIC 1994, 1996).*

Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) will present language to TCC relating to avian interactions with electrical equipment.

Public Access Management Goal

TCC agreed that issues to include in the Goal are:

- Reasonable public access for recreation (including hunting)

- Subject to restrictions based on capacity, safety, security, protection of environment and cultural resources
- Hunting acceptable activity

WDFW suggested a new objective as follows:

Identify and close any pioneered roads, trails, and paths used by motorized vehicles. Create and implement a plan to discourage trespass on wildlife lands through the closure of pioneered roads and trails.

The TCC agreed to modify the Goal, Objectives to read as follows: *Protect wildlife and their habitats (i.e. wetlands, riparian areas, and big game winter forage sites) from disturbance while managing access for non-motorized recreation, which includes legal hunting & fishing.*

Objective A – Within 5 years of WHMP implementation or acquisition of new lands, identify roads for closure and type of closure to motorized use by the public.

Objective B – Apply appropriate treatments to protect resources associated with closed roads within 8 years of WHMP implementation and monitor to effectiveness.

Objective C – Monitor the effectiveness and condition of road closure barriers annually and make any necessary repairs or modifications in a timely manner.

Objective D – Coordinate with the TCC and recreation resource manager to monitor dispersed camp sites, identify resource concerns, and determine appropriate management actions.

Objective E - Site pioneering and site creep should be monitored on a schedule consistent with the RRMP over the life of the license.

<Lunch 12:30pm>

<Reconvene 1:05pm>

WHMP – Public Access (cont'd)

The TCC reviewed and approved objectives A – E which McShane created.

Objective F was suggested by the WDFW to read as follows:

Consult with the TCC for the construction and uses of new roads or major improvements to existing roads that may result in increased public access.

WHMP – Coordination Goal

General discussion on whether or not the Coordination Goal is needed as written and the editorial change of moving objective A to the Forestry section.

The topic has been tabled until the next meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2005.

WHMP – Monitoring Goal

The TCC agreed that no changes were necessary to the Goal or Objective A. Object B & C are to be modified as follows:

Objective B – Review, revise, and update the WHMP, as needed, following year 17 to meet the original HEP projections, taking model updates and new management priorities into account, as appropriate.

Objective C – Conduct implementation monitoring for the measures included in each of the habitat programs defined by the WHMP goals. Report results as part of the annual planning process.

Discussion regarding additional TCC Meetings

The TCC selected August 15, 2005 as their next meeting to continue WHMP discussion. In addition, August 22, 2005 was chosen as a back-up date.

Confidentiality Agreement

McCune distributed copies of the TCC Confidentiality Agreement which is considered to be the final version. The document reflects reviews and edits by WDFW's attorney Bill Frymire.

McCune will also send the document to all Settlement Agreement Parties with an explanation that TCC representatives who will be attending and/or participating in future TCC meetings will be involved from time-to-time in confidential conversations, and in order to participate in such conversations, representatives will need to provide the appropriate signature/authorization within their organizations on the TCC Confidentiality Agreement.

Gritten-MacDonald communicated that she will have their attorney review the document.

Olson also asked the TCC to review the document, sign where appropriate and return to PacifiCorp as quickly as possible.

Land Acquisition Strategy

Garrett updated the TCC. This discussion was confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

Land Acquisition Decision-making Process Update

Garrett communicated to the TCC that no additional comments were received within the 30-day review, so the "Land Acquisition Decision-making Process" document is considered to be approved and will be posted on the Lewis River website as a final document.

Miscellaneous

Applegate requested consideration by the TCC to add a migratory bird goal to address the following:

- Minimizing impact
- Timing stipulation

McShane will add the draft goal and objective language proposed by WDFW to the WHMP document. The TCC will review and discuss at the next meeting.

Agenda Items for August 10, 2005

- Review notes of last meeting
- WHMP Discussion

Next Scheduled Meetings

Wednesday, August 10, 2005
Merwin Hydro Facility
9:00am – 3:00pm

Monday, August 15, 2005
US Fish and Wildlife
Lacey, WA
9:30am – 3:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

Handouts

1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Notes for 6-8-05
3. Final Version Confidentiality Agreement
4. Draft Land Acquisition Decision-making Process document
5. Draft WHMP Goals & Objectives