

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
August 15, 2005
Lacey, Washington

TCC Participants Present: (11)

Brock Applegate, WDFW
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
Mike Iyall, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
LouEllyn Jones, US Fish & Wildlife
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:

August 22, 2005	TCC Meeting	Longview, WA
Sept. 16, 2005	TCC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
October 3, 2005	TCC Meeting	Lacey, WA

Assignments from August 15th Meeting:	Status:
Olson requested TCC to send any signed Confidentiality Agreements to McCune via mail or email at the earliest convenience	On-going
McCune: Email Final Confidentiality Agreement to Mike Iyall	Complete – 7/16/05
Gritten-MacDonald: Confirm acreage in Table 2.3 and inform McShane	
Naylor: Add number of acres PacifiCorp has harvested in Yale and Swift 1 project areas.	In progress

Assignments from August 10th Meeting:	Status:
McCune: Post final 7/13/05 meeting notes.	Complete – 7/16/05
Olson: Confirm the number of Settlement Agreement signatures and report back to McShane.	Complete – 7/15/05

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) reviewed the Agenda with the TCC. Gene Stagner (US Fish & Wildlife) informed the TCC that the US Fish & Wildlife TCC Representative will change to LouEllyn Jones as Stagner is retiring (USFWS provided an email noting such dated August 10, 2005).

Discussion of WHMP Goals & Objectives

Colleen McShane (EDAW) led the TCC in the continued review of the WHMP Standards and Guidelines document. Similar to the August 10, 2005 TCC meeting, the intent of the meeting was to review the draft document on a page by page basis. The following notes do not reflect each specific change made to the document, rather it attempts to record items of discussion and section rewrites.

Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp) provided two wall maps using Merwin WHMP data for 2 different management units to illustrate the change in the extent of land available for management as enhanced elk forage with PHS Buffers & Modifiers compared to existing buffers.

Map 1 – DNR Stream types, PHS Stream Buffers, and other “modifiers”

- 200’ lakeshore buffer
- 200’ buffer on each side of highway (WDFW recommendation in Merwin WHMP)
- 150’ either side of class 4 & 5 streams
- 200’ type 3 streams

Management Unit 5 is 366 total acres; 220 acres are set aside as buffers or other modified acres (wetlands, oaks, old growth, etc.) (60% of land is in a conservation status unavailable for enhanced elk forage)

Management Unit 6 is 850 total acres; 498 acres are set aside as buffers or other modified acres (wetlands, oaks, old growth, etc.) (59% of land is in a conservation status unavailable for enhanced forage)

Map 2 – DNR Stream Types, Forest Practice Rule Buffers and other “modifiers”

- 200’ lakeshore buffer
- 200’ buffer on each side of highway (WDFW recommendation in Merwin WHMP)
- 30’ - 56’ either side of class 4 & 5 streams or greater as determined by biologist
- 200’ type F streams

Management Unit 5 is 366 acres; 176 acres set aside as buffers or other modified acres (wetlands, oaks, old growth, etc.) (48% of land in a conservation status unavailable for enhanced forage).

Management Unit 6 is 850 acres; 431 acres set aside (51% of land in a conservation status unavailable for enhanced forage).

Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp) communicated to the TCC that under current Forest Management practices on PacifiCorp’s Lewis River lands, DNR forest practices are being used as a minimum for determination of buffers. In each case a biologist reviews the current riparian area, considers local ecological processes, how the area might be impacted, and how the area might benefit from management. The difference between these two examples is 8-12% less forage can potentially be developed in a high use elk area using PHS guidance.

Gene Stagner (US Fish & Wildlife) requested that we manage by exception. Brock Applegate (WDFW) requested clarification that anything equal to or less than PHS standards will be reviewed and approved by the TCC on an annual basis.

Colleen McShane (EDAW) will put together buffer language similar to wetland buffers and add a third objective (Objective c) to Section 2.3.4.

Applegate requested the addition of language to the Riparian Habitat section 2.3.4 similar to “*protect existing large snags*” – *Objective D*.

Stagner suggested an addition that reflects consideration of ACC when the need for consultation is appropriate to avoid overlapping concerns. McShane will add language to the introduction portion that may meet Stagner’s concerns of crossover and TCC will review.

2.4.2 Shrubland Habitat on the WHMP Lands

McShane will modify last sentence to add clarity relating to thermal and hiding cover.

2.4.3 Shrubland Habitat Goals and Objectives

Objective c – modify as follows:

Maintain existing large perch trees and snags in shrublands (maximum of $\approx 3/ac$) over the license periods to benefit raptors. When possible, maintain existing large red-cedar trees.

<Break 11:00am>

<Reconvene 11:10am>

2.5.1 Farmland/Idle Field/Meadow

TCC approved the addition of the following text:

Despite some ecological limitations, there are substantial opportunities for enhancing wildlife habitat and species diversity on agricultural lands and reducing potential ecological traps. In particular, old fields and field edges, if managed correctly, can provide forage for deer and elk as well as grassland birds. Wide shelterbelts and hedgerows that include seed and fruit producing plants, as well as a mixture of canopy layers, can provide nesting and foraging habitat for a wide variety of game birds and passerine species. Crop mix, planting configuration, tillage practices, harvest timing, and the timing and use of herbicides and pesticides can also be manipulated to improve wildlife habitat value (Edge 2001).

2.5.3 Farmland/Idle Field/Meadow Habitat Goals and Objectives

Objective b – modify as follows:

Manage and develop hedgerows or shrub patches in and between farm fields and meadows 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 create visual buffers, as needed.

Objective c – modify as follows:

Manage select meadows and old fields over the license periods to prevent shrub/tree encroachment, and maintain a diverse composition and structure of desirable grasses and forbs for birds e.g. Savannah sparrows, and mammals.

2.6.3 Orchard Habitat on WHMP Lands

Modify first paragraph to read as follows:

There are 7.0 non contiguous acres of orchard on the WMHP lands, including 2.7 acres in the vicinity of the Merwin Project and 4.3 acres associated with the Yale Project. Orchards on WHMP lands occur at 8 old homestead locations, which encompass 227 fruit trees, and 13 transmission rights-of-way sites, which include a total of 90 trees. Apple and crab apples are the primary species, and trees range in age from saplings to >70 years old (PacifiCorp 1998).

2.6.4 Orchard Goals and Objectives

Add the following text:

Other Species: Bears and migratory upland birds

Objective a – modify as follows:

Replace dead fruit trees, as needed, and maintain existing orchards over the license periods.

<Lunch 12:00pm>

<Reconvene 12:40pm>

2.7.2 ROW Habitats in the Region

Modify the following sentence to read as follows:

Cowlitz PUD owns a 0.9-mi. section of transmission line from the Cowlitz-Skamania county line to the Swift No. 2 substation. Todd and Diana were directed to make sure that this wording is correct.

Olson made note to the TCC that it was important for PacifiCorp to coordinate with the PUD so management of WHMP lands under PUD distribution lines do not conflict with PUD maintenance and operation of these lines.

Kirk will check on the transmission line naming conventions. Is it the Swift No. 2 BAP or the Speelyai line?

2.7.4 ROW Goals and Objectives

Modify the goal to read as follows:

While allowing for the safe transmission of electricity, promote the establishment and maintenance of desirable vegetation in transmission line ROWs to provide habitat for wintering deer and elk and a diverse mix of shrub and other early-successional habitats. Includes PacifiCorp owned lands on the Swift 1 – Swift 2; 230 kV ROW, the Swift 2 – BPA Tap (west of Yale and North of Merwin), and portions of the Merwin – Yale; 115 kV ROW on PacifiCorp property.

Objective a – modify to read similar to the following:

Within the first 5 years of the WHMP continue to manage existing forage areas in the transmission line ROWs in the Merwin WHMP area to provide enhanced grazing forage for big game over the life of the licenses.

McShane to modify Objective c for clarity and submit language to the TCC for approval.

In addition, McShane will add an Objective d relating to “identify and provide screening” and she will add an Objective e regarding “Mowing ROW beginning August 15 to September 15.

<Break 2:00pm>

<Reconvene 2:15pm>

2.8.3 Unique Habitats on WHMP Lands

Table 2.3 – McShane to add footnote of clarification relating to oak stands.

Gritten-MacDonald to confirm acreage in Table 2.3 and inform McShane.

2.8.4 Unique Area/Habitat Goals and Objectives

Modify the goal to read as follows:

Protect existing unique habitats, but not limited to, oak stands, cliffs, talus, and caves, as well as areas of culturally sensitive plant species identified as important to the Tribes.

McShane to modify Objective c and present to the TCC for review and approval.

<Break 2:00pm>

<Reconvene 2:15pm>

2.9 Managed Forestlands

The TCC agreed to strike the word “Managed” in each heading of section 2.9.

Table 2.4

McShane indicated that the numbers/table will be revised. Kirk and Diana to provide acreages (*Acreages are still being evaluated by each utility. Unable to confirm acreages at this meeting*).

Naylor to add number of acres PacifiCorp has harvested in Yale and Swift 1 project areas.

2.9.3 Forestland on WHMP

McShane to modify language to add clarity regarding how forestlands are defined.

2.9.4 Forestland Goals and Objectives

Modify the goal as follows:

Promote forestland species composition and structures that benefit wildlife and provide an appropriate mosaic of big game hiding cover and forage

Agenda Items for September 16, 2005

- Continue WHMP Discussion

Next Scheduled Meetings

Wednesday, September 14, 2005 (CANCELLED)

Friday, September 16, 2005

Merwin Hydro Facility

Ariel, WA

9:00am – 3:00pm

Monday, October 3, 2005

US Fish & Wildlife

Lacey, WA

9:00am – 3:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

Handouts

1. Final Meeting Agenda
2. Draft WHMP Goals & Objectives
3. PHS & FP Stream Type Maps