

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
January 14, 2009
Conference Call

TCC Participants Present: (13)

Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp Energy
 David Geroux, WDFW
 Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 Eric Holman, WDFW
 LouEllyn Jones, USFWS
 Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy
 David Moore, PacifiCorp Energy
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy
 Bob Nelson, RMEF
 Nathan Reynolds, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 Mitch Wainwright, US Forest Service

Jonathon Belmont, Mason Bruce & Girard
 Alexis Casey, Mason Bruce & Girard

Calendar:

February 11, 2009	TCC Meeting	Merwin Hydro Facility
February 12, 2009	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro Facility

Assignments from January 14, 2009 Meeting:	Status
McCune: Distribute Columbia Land Trust media release to the TCC.	Complete – 1/14/09
McCune: Provide Cherie Kearney, Columbia Land Trust contact information to David Geroux, WDFW.	Complete – 1/14/09
Naylor/Emmerson: Provide pictures of the high flow damage at the February TCC meeting.	Complete – 2/11/09
Moore: Add the time of year and species in the survey protocol section of the Lewis River Dispersed Campsites Program - Dispersed Site Monitoring Methodology document and mention the size of the drift wood potential and the number of pieces.	

Assignments from December 10th Meeting:	Status
Reynolds: Submit recommended text to PacifiCorp and Peter Carr (EDAW) regarding Pg 11-6: para 1: ethnobotanical comments	Complete – 12/12/08

Parking lot items from February 10, 2006 Meeting:	Status
PacifiCorp Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) Budget (annual)	Pending
Conservation Agreement – what is wanted?	Ongoing – 4/28/06

Review of Agenda and Finalize Meeting Notes

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Olson asked if the TCC had any other additions to the agenda. Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) requested the addition of providing an update on the Swift 2 Project Works Management Unit Wetland.

Olson reviewed the TCC Draft December 10, 2008 meeting notes and asked for any comments and/or additional changes. David Geroux (WDFW) informed the TCC attendees that he objected to the deletion of text below which he added to the meeting notes as additional clarification. The TCC attendees all agreed that the edits submitted via email by Cowlitz PUD and WDFW will remain in the meeting notes to include the text indicated below:

WDFW continues to object to the strategies and management options as they are laid out in the current plan. The management of the Devil's Backbone Unit, outside of the conservation covenant area, lists management strategies and types that are not in line with the Standards and Guidelines Document, which is the driver for the development of WHMP's. WDFW maintains that the Devil's Backbone Unit is an early to mid-successional forest and should be managed accordingly. Old Growth management is already addressed in the conservation covenant area.

The meeting notes were approved with changes at 9:15am.

Kendel Emmerson (PacifiCorp Energy) communicated that she recalls the assignment indicated below had been addressed at a previous TCC meeting. The TCC attendees today agreed that the parking lot item below will be addressed as part of the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Annual Report. The parking lot item can be removed from future meeting notes.

Parking lot items from June 11, 2008 Meeting:	Status
Review and discussion of occupancy and productivity of Wood Duck Nest Box and Kestrel Nest Box Program. Should this program be discontinued?	Discuss and address as part of the WHMP annual report – 1/14/09

License Update

Olson communicated to the TCC that the visit with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) last month went very well. PacifiCorp spoke about how they meet compliance objectives and described the tool used for project-by-project commitments and agreements. Olson also spoke to the status of implementation of the Lewis River Settlement Agreement. Olson also raised the question about the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan and that PacifiCorp needed to get things going on the ground in 2009 without delay but needed the FERCs approval. In response the FERC requested the Utilities indicate a date when approval of the WHMP is needed. Olson indicated that in the company's submission of the WHMP in late December, the cover letter requested that the FERC complete their approval of the plan by February 27, 2009. The FERC also requested the Utilities contact the FERC a few weeks before the requested deadline date as a reminder and request of review and approval status. The FERC also encouraged the Utilities to call if they have questions. Very few Utilities ever call them regularly.

Gritten-MacDonald expressed that the FERC was impressed by PacifiCorp's compliance management system and complimented them as such.

Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) Update

Gritten-MacDonald informed the TCC attendees that hard copies of Cowlitz PUD's WHMP have been mailed to all those who have requested copies. Any TCC participants who wish to have a hard copy should contact Gritten-MacDonald.

McCune informed the TCC attendees that hard copies of PacifiCorp's WHMP have been mailed to all those who have requested copies. Any TCC participants who wish to have a hard copy should contact McCune.

Lands update

Olson informed the TCC attendees that Columbia Land Trust released a media release ([Attachment A](#)) noting its intent to work with Pope Resources. Kimberly McCune (PacifiCorp Energy) will email the release to the TCC after today's meeting. Olson referenced a particular piece in the release that speaks to the Utilities working with Pope Resources as follows:

The Land Trust is cooperating with PacifiCorp, Cowlitz Public Utility District, and the multi-stakeholder Lewis River Terrestrial Coordinating Committee to use funds the committee manages. The funds are dedicated for purchasing habitat land or easements as mitigation for Lewis River hydroelectric projects. The committee will make a decision on funding once the details of the acquisition are available. The Land Trust is also pursuing funding through Forest Legacy Fund (through the Washington Department of Natural Resources), which is dedicated to acquiring development rights to protect working forest land.

Mitch Wainwright (US Forest Service) communicated that the release was also published in the Columbian newspaper today.

Geroux expressed that Curt Leigh (WDFW) would like a call from Cherie Kearney (CLT) but as of yet she has not contacted him. McCune will provide Kearney's contact information to Geroux for his use.

Nathan Reynolds joined

High Flow Event Update

Olson informed the TCC attendees that the high flow event last week created numerous land slides on wildlife lands. Considerable damage to the Swift 1 powerhouse was suffered thus limiting full operation. Large sections of the IP road are gone or covered in mud and snow. Thirteen land slides have been discovered at last count. The Speelyai Hatchery water supply diversion was damaged; however, the WDFW hatchery personnel did a great job with removing fish from the hatchery and transporting to the Lewis River or Merwin hatcheries. Mud has inundated the diversion and the bank is being eroded away. It is not known what the long term prediction is at this point. For the WHMP lands, Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp) is still assessing the slide damage,

washouts, debris, etc. Kendel Emmerson (PacifiCorp) indicated that much of the damage to WHMP lands was at Merwin.

PacifiCorp will provide pictures of the high flow damage at the February TCC meeting.

Gritten-MacDonald provided a picture of the Swift No. 2 Project Works Management Unit Wetland from January 9, 2009 (**Attachment B**) for TCC review. The PUD has also discovered a number of land slides and debris & mud in the canal. The project works wetland also suffered two land slides, the water delivery system was damaged and the slide blocked the east/west drainage ditch. They are also experiencing limited operations as the Swift 2 powerhouse was damaged.

**David Moore, Jonathon Belmont and Alexis Casey joined
Todd Olson departed**

Lewis River Dispersed Shoreline Sites

David Moore (PacifiCorp) informed the TCC attendees that in accordance with the Lewis River Settlement Agreement requirements (SA 11.2.1.1, 11.2.2.1 and 11.2.3.1) and based upon criteria already outlined in the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) the *Lewis River Dispersed Campsites Program - Dispersed Site Monitoring Methodology, January 2009* document was made available electronically to the TCC on January 13, 2009 for a 30-day review and comment period. The document can be located on the Lewis River website at the following link: <http://www.pacificorp.com/Article/Article85122.html>. **Comments are due on or before February 11, 2009.**

Moore communicated to the TCC attendees that there are approximately 92 known dispersed recreation sites located along the shorelines of Merwin, Yale and Swift reservoirs. Moore indicated that field work is planned in the next month or two in a three-part process in order to complete the study:

- Part One – GIS analysis of sensitive resource areas affecting various sites, if any.
- Part Two – Use of Mason, Bruce& Girard (Consultant) GPS data collection tool to collect data in the field.
- Part Three – Complete analysis on what data was discovered. June 2009 is the target date for the draft analysis.

Moore further stated that the FERC reviewed the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) and indicated that it is adequate with the 92 recreation sites. If any of the sites are closed, approval from the FERC is required.

Mitch Wainwright (USDA Forest Service) expressed that the Forest Service input early in the relicensing process was to maintain eight sites on FS land in the Drift Creek arm, and close the sites that are at the upper end of the cove . Wainwright's concern is regarding the 10-11 sites on National Forest lands in the Drift Creek arm. He wanted to know if the 92 mapped sites to be maintained also included the sites that the FS wants to close, and if closure of the sites is in the plan?

In addition, Wainwright would like to see the time of year and species referenced in the survey protocol section. There is also reference to drift wood potential and the number of pieces although there is not mention of the size which should be included in the document.

Moore informed the TCC attendees that the deal killers are proximity to wetlands, cultural sites and sensitive habitat species. If no presence of the above is discovered the site monitoring will continue to maintain the foot print.

LouEllyn Jones departed

Moore said that PacifiCorp intends to assess all sites so that over time, PacifiCorp can see how closing a site is hopefully benefiting/restoring a particular site and if this management action is effective.

New Topics/Issues

None

Next Meeting's Agenda

- Review of 1/14/09 Meeting Notes
- Dispersed Site Monitoring Methodology Comments
- PacifiCorp WHMP 2009 Annual Plan Review & Discussion
- Cowlitz PUD WHMP 2009 Annual Plan Review & Discussion
- License Update
- Review Storm Damage

Public Comment Opportunity

No public comment was provided.

Next Scheduled Meetings

February 11, 2009	March 11, 2009
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00am – 3:00pm	9:00am – 3:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 10:10am

Handouts

1. Agenda
2. Draft meeting notes from 12/10/08
3. **Attachment A** – Columbia Land Trust and Pope Resources find solutions to keep working forestland and habitat protected at Swift Reservoir media release, dated January 13, 2009
4. **Attachment B** - Swift No. 2 Project Works Management Unit Wetland photo on January 9, 2009



January 13, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

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Cherie Kearney, Forestry Initiative Manager, Columbia Land Trust
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**Forestry and Conservation for Mount St. Helens
Columbia Land Trust and Pope Resources find solutions to keep working
forestland and habitat protected at Swift Reservoir**

Vancouver, WA – A regional nonprofit and one of Washington’s oldest timberland owners are collaborating to protect 20,000 acres of forest from development pressure. The forest property is on the southern flanks of Mount St. Helens surrounding Swift Reservoir in Skamania County. Columbia Land Trust and Pope Resources (www.orm.com) have entered into an agreement that provides a framework for the Land Trust to purchase development rights or fee ownership of most of Pope’s St. Helens Tree Farm.

The Pope land and the surrounding forests are highly prized by local residents for jobs and conservation attributes. The land is also beloved by people from Portland and Southwest Washington because of its proximity to the volcano, abundant recreational opportunities, and rich habitat for wildlife such as elk, spotted owl, and endangered bull trout. Due to this popularity, privately-owned forests in the area started to sprout high-end housing developments that have sweeping views of the mountain and lake.

The Swift Reservoir area was the subject of an intense debate during Skamania County’s recent comprehensive planning process. Environmental groups such as the Gifford Pinchot Task Force and other conservation stakeholders sought to limit further development in this remote forest, while developers lobbied for development rights. During this public debate, Pope subdivided its 24,000-acre tree farm into 20-acre lots in a defensive move to minimize the impact of the proposed zoning for large-scale timber that would eliminate development potential.

With input from Skamania County leaders, planners, and conservationists, the Land Trust and Pope agreed to a process whereby the majority of the Pope-owned forestland is conserved through purchases of development rights and fee ownership. Through this agreement, Pope would retain a

portion (15 percent) of the land for other possible uses, including economic development. The Land Trust is cooperating with PacifiCorp, Cowlitz Public Utility District, and the multi-stakeholder Lewis River Terrestrial Coordinating Committee to use funds the committee manages. The funds are dedicated for purchasing habitat land or easements as mitigation for Lewis River hydroelectric projects. The committee will make a decision on funding once the details of the acquisition are available. The Land Trust is also pursuing funding through Forest Legacy Fund (through the Washington Department of Natural Resources), which is dedicated to acquiring development rights to protect working forest land.

Skamania County is a rural county with a population of just over 10,000. Most of its land base is in public ownership. This Pope forestland represents the largest private ownership in the county. County leaders are in favor of seeing privately-managed forests stay in production, providing forestry and mill jobs and tax revenues. They also have expressed a desire to facilitate planned and thoughtful development on remaining privately-owned land to provide a broader base of tax revenue and economic stimulation.

Jon Rose, president of Olympic Property Group, Pope's wholly owned real estate subsidiary, says, "In the past, the way we achieved a balance of economic and environmental interests was through difficult public and court battles. This project aims to achieve a sustainable balance among natural resource conservation, working forests, local jobs, and tax revenue for the county through collaboration rather than confrontation. Our collaboration with the Land Trust could conserve up to 85 percent of Pope's land in working forest – forever. Reserving the remaining 15 percent for other possible uses allows for economic diversification in a county with little privately-owned lands."

Columbia Land Trust is undertaking this project as part of its strategic Working Forest Initiative. Based on the Land Trust's mission to conserve signature landscapes and work with landowners and communities, this forestry initiative is dedicated to protecting large-scale working forestlands that are under threat of conversion by development.

"At this stage, land conservation necessarily involves saving resource-based landscapes for local communities, local economies, and nature," says Land Trust forestry initiative manager Cherie Kearney, "We've seen 75% of the nation's private forests change hands in the last decade, and those same trends are happening here in the Northwest, where our forest economy is part of our identity. We have to find balanced solutions that prevent critically important forests from being lost forever."

Columbia Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving signature landscapes and vital habitat together with the landowners and communities of the Columbia River region. The Land Trust conserves lands in both Oregon and Washington, from the east side of the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean. For more information contact Columbia Land Trust at (360) 696-0131, (503) 224-3601, or www.columbialandtrust.org.

The Land Trust has retained US Forest Capital, LLC as their advisor on the Working Forest Initiative and forest transactions. US Forest Capital is a Portland, OR based company that helps clients develop business opportunities and purchase and sell forest properties that have high conservation values. (www.usforestcapital.com)

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