

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
February 11, 2009
Ariel, WA

TCC Participants Present: (16)

Ray Croswell, RMEF
 Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp Energy
 David Geroux, WDFW
 Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 LouEllyn Jones, USFWS
 Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy
 David Moore, PacifiCorp Energy
 Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp Energy
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy
 Bob Nelson, RMEF
 Nathan Reynolds, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 Bill Richardson, RMEF
 Mitch Wainwright, US Forest Service
 Alexis Casey, Mason Bruce & Girard (via conference call)
 Tom Tuchman, US Forest Capital
 Cherie Kearney, Columbia Land Trust

Calendar:

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

Assignments from February 11, 2009 Meeting:	Status
Moore: Email an invitation to the TCC to participate in field work specific to the dispersed site monitoring methodology during approximately late March 2009.	Complete – 3/11/09 (tentative date is 4/7/09)

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.	

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

Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting to order at 9:10am. Naylor asked if the TCC attendees had any other additions to the agenda. David Geroux (WDFW) requested the addition of discussion around the Cowlitz PUD Swift 2 Project Works Management Unit Wetland storm damage. Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) indicated that she would provide an update during her WHMP Annual Budget discussion.

Naylor requested a round table introduction for the benefit of guests attending today's meeting.

Ray Crosswell (RMEF) introduced Bill Richardson, the new Lands Project Manager for Oregon and Washington. Richardson has been full time with RMEF since November 2008. His focus is to build on what Ray Crosswell and Bob Nelson have done thus far and to build on the partnership efforts to complete on the ground projects. Richardson has extensive mitigation experience with Bonneville Power Authority and Portland General Electric.

Naylor reviewed the TCC Draft January 14, 2009 meeting notes and asked for any comments and/or additional changes. The TCC meeting notes were approved with changes submitted via email by Mitch Wainwright (USFS) at 9:20am.

Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Review Update

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy) communicated to the TCC attendees that Kim McCune (PacifiCorp Energy) contacted the FERC to inquire on their progress of the WHMP review and approval by the requested date of February 27, 2009. The FERC representative responded that she has several other priorities, but she will see what she can do.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Update

Olson informed the TCC attendees that the FERC is treating the submittal of the SMP as an amendment to the Lewis River license which is not what PacifiCorp intended. Legal counsel for both PacifiCorp and the FERC are discussing the process for FERC approval. No determination has been made as of today's date.

Lewis River Storm Damage

Naylor informed the TCC attendees that PacifiCorp suffered considerable damage due to the rain on snow event in January. The storm damage impacted Merwin and Yale areas for the most part. Little damage was suffered in the area upstream of Swift dam.

Naylor provided photos of the following areas for TCC review which illustrated some but not all of the damaged areas:

- Aerial photos of various land slides; some of which destroyed several sections of the IP Road. There were four (4) slides on the IP road and almost every drainage blew out (most not attributable to land use).
- The new 17 ½-foot Cresap Creek culvert is fine– the bed load passed through the culvert.
- Canyon Creek – Massive land slide produced a huge amount of sediment into the Merwin reservoir and established a massive log debris jam in the creek which will affect recreation (kayakers).
- Siouxon Bridge – debris caught behind the bridge, which requires removal.
- Swift 1 Powerhouse – rock slide destroyed main beams and girders then flowed onto the transformer deck.

In addition the following repair has been under way since the high flow event:

Speelyai Hatchery – A landslide damaged the hatchery water intake system. The system was repaired and operating approximately one week after the event. The spring Chinook were moved to another hatchery during the event and were moved back to Speelyai Hatchery after two weeks. Kokanee were released due to the event, which was approximately one month earlier than scheduled. The domestic water is not operational at this time but will be repaired very soon.

Transmission line across from Swift 1 powerhouse – a land slide crossed over a road and fish-bearing stream destroying the channel. This has caused the stream’s flow to become sheet flow terminating into the down stream pond.

Addressing culvert issues presenting the biggest problems first. Working with WDFW on hydraulic permits as emergency needs.

Snow in the area has limited access to lands. Just last week PacifiCorp was able to access the damaged areas with large equipment for repair.

The Buncombe Hollow Road, on the south side of Merwin, failed in three (3) areas affecting access to WHMP lands. This is a county road and the County considered decommissioning the road, but the county design engineers and geotechnical engineers are finalizing a re-construction plan and will meet with PacifiCorp representatives in February.

Naylor further expressed that the TCC needs to discuss the best course of action for the IP road, (abandonment, etc.) once more concise information is obtained.

Lou Ellyn Jones (USFWS) communicated that when the TCC considers infrastructure planning it would be good to get away from historical climate information and use modeling that looks at predicted climate change as a more proactive approach.

David Moore and Alexis Casey joined

Dispersed Site Monitoring Methodology Comments

David Moore (PacifiCorp Energy) asked the TCC attendees for any additional questions or comments relating to the *Lewis River Dispersed Campsites Program – Dispersed Site Monitoring Methodology, January 2009 (Plan)* as comments are due today, February 11, 2009.

David Geroux (WDFW) believes that additional evaluation of the sites is needed to get a better overall picture of conditions from a habitat impact view. Geroux reviewed and discussed a number of issues/concerns as outlined below, which is more fully described in [Attachment A](#).

- Using the number of trash bags to determine amount of use may be misleading if the users are frequent but responsible in packing their trash out. Noting the condition of existing herbaceous vegetation, the presence of improperly disposed human waste, and soil compaction, which are often indicators of high use at sites, would be useful information for making decisions regarding the future availability of a site.
- To determine the affects that each dispersed sites has to the surrounding habitat, PacifiCorp identified completing an upfront GIS analysis using the vegetation cover typing data at each of the dispersed sites.
- WDFW staff would be willing to take part in any roll deemed acceptable to the consulting group (i.e. assist in site data collection, independent site evaluation, etc.) and would undertake an advisory and assistance role. Moore will email an invitation to the TCC to participate in field work during approximately late March 2009.
- The incorporation of more methods to assess habitat impacts and frequency of use will provide a more dependable and thorough assessment of each dispersed site. For example, noting woody plant species damage, such as exposed roots, and user counts to determine frequency of use and species richness and vigor to assess habitat impacts.
- WDFW agrees with the method for measuring the area of impact, but wanted to know if that was going to be compared to originally dispersed campsite report. Moore explained that this report would be used as the baseline.
- It would be of benefit to note the presence and number of hazard trees at a site. The removal or trimming of hazard trees may be a cost that is too high to incur for a given year, which may require permanent or temporary closure of a site.
- Are we documenting human sanitation needs? Moore replied that PacifiCorp is working under the assumption that human sanitation is a problem at all sites.
- When we do close a site? Is the goal to maintain 92 sites? Moore responded that the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) identifies 30-40 suitable dispersed camp sites. The rest would be day use to leave as they are with the intent to try to maintain the 92 sites.
- Does the closure of the IP road affect PacifiCorp plans for camp sites? Moore replied that yes, it makes it more difficult to access the site. However, it will assist in designating boat-in only access, enhancing the experience for the campers and limiting the ATV access to camp sites.

Moore further stated that a proposal will be made in the Plan as to how to address a re-vegetation plan for any camp sites closed going forward.

David Moore, Alexis Casey and Kendel Emmerson departed

<Break 10:20am>

<Reconvene 10:30am>

PacifiCorp Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) 2009 Annual Plan Review & Discussion

Naylor informed the TCC attendees that PacifiCorp's WHMP 2009 Annual Plan is 90% complete. The 100% draft will be mailed to the TCC the week of February 16, 2009. Emmerson and Naylor provided a brief summary of planned activities that included:

- Completing the Shrubland Initial Evaluation
- Completing the ROW Initial Evaluation
- Conduct timber harvest, road building and reconstruction, and meadow enhancement in Unit 17.
- Completing and initiating goshawk surveys in Unit 17 and 11.
- Begin planning for 2010 timber harvest areas in Unit 11.

Lands update

Naylor and Cherie Kearney (Columbia Land Trust) provided updates of interest in certain lands, however, this discussion is considered confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

Kearney expressed to the TCC attendees that Columbia Land Trust received only positive responses to the media release which was distributed approximately four weeks ago.

The next step is for PacifiCorp and Columbia Land Trust (CLT) to enter into an agreement, of which CLT provided a handout for TCC review titled, *PacifiCorp and Columbia Land Trust Agreement Terms dated February 11, 2009*. The contents of this handout is considered confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

Upon review and discussion of the handout and responses received from CLT the TCC attendees, with the exception of WDFW, agreed to proceed with the agreement between PacifiCorp and CLT.

Geroux expressed to the TCC attendees that CLT and Curt Leigh (WDFW) have a meeting scheduled on Friday, February 12, 2009 to review the document. Geroux will advise Olson if WDFW agrees with proceeding with the agreement.

Discussion took place regarding the need for a TCC subcommittee to assist CLT in developing land acquisition options in the context of the PacifiCorp/CLT agreement. The volunteers for the subcommittee are:

David Geroux, WDFW	Nathan Reynolds, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Bob Nelson, RMEF	Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp Energy

Bob Nelson, Bill Richardson and Ray Crosswell departed

<Lunch 12:30pm>

<Reconvene 12:50pm>

Cowlitz PUD Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) 2009 Annual Plan Review and Discussion

Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) provided pictures for TCC attendee's review of the storm damage specific to the Swift No. 2 Project Works Management Unit Wetland. She informed the TCC attendees that the PUD will be developing a plan to redo the drainage. General discussion took place regarding leaving woody debris in place, what happens with the hydrology with the new soils on the ground from the land slide, and the preferred seed mix to prevent growth of invasive species. The consensus from the TCC attendees is that only re-vegetating the site makes sense (not removing the LWD or soils). A standard pasture mix applied in the spring is suggested for re-seeding. Geroux expressed that the site should be reassessed in late spring or early summer.

In addition, Gritten-MacDonald informed the TCC and provided the following handouts to the TCC attendees for review and discussion:

- Swift No. 2 WHMP 2009 (year 1) Annual Plan, dated February 6, 2009
- Swift No. 2 SHMP Tracking Account as of December 26, 2008
- Cowlitz PUD WHMP 2009 Annual Plan Budget

Gritten-MacDonald presented a cursory overview of the PUD WHMP 2009 Annual Plan and budget for TCC attendees review and comment. TCC comment is requested **on or before Monday, March 2, 2009**.

Geroux communicated that perhaps if any funds are left over at year end that these funds can be allocated to work on the Devil's Backbone area.

New Topics/Issues

None

Next Meeting's Agenda

- Review of 2/11/09 Meeting Notes
- PacifiCorp WHMP 2009 Annual Plan Review & Discussion
- License Update
- Lands Update

Public Comment Opportunity

No public comment was provided.

Next Scheduled Meetings

March 11, 2009	April 8, 2009
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00am – 3:00pm	9:00am – 3:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

Handouts

1. Agenda
2. Draft meeting notes from 1/14/09
3. **Attachment A** – WDFW Comments for Dispersed Site Assessment, dated February 11, 2009

WDFW Comments for Dispersed Site Assessment

Comments regarding the Plan:

As non-motorized recreation is one of the main priorities for our Agency, WDFW requests the opportunity to participate in the initial site evaluations of the 92 dispersed campsites. It is hoped that we can assist to expedite the process and provide valuable information and input. WDFW staff would be willing to take part in any roll deemed acceptable to the consulting group (i.e. assist in site data collection, independent site evaluation, etc.) and would undertake an advisory and assistance role.

The criteria used to measure site occupancy is a good start, but WDFW believes that additional evaluation of the sites is needed to get a better overall picture of conditions from a habitat impact view. The inclusion of noting the condition of existing herbaceous vegetation, the presence of improperly disposed human waste, and soil compaction, which are often indicators of high use at sites, would be useful information for making decisions regarding the future availability of a site. One of the current methods of using refuse collection to assess site use could provide false negatives or false positives for monitoring purposes. A high volume of trash could be left by a previous user that may lead observers to believe there is high use at the site, or users could be disproportionately diligent about refuse removal, potentially leading observers to believe the site receives little use. Although this information is useful in assessing the overall impact from a site, there may be other methods, such as expanding upon the vegetation monitoring and assessment for impact. One potential addition could be noting woody plant species growth patterns that have been stunted or altered due to soil compaction associated with frequently used campsites. The documentation of species richness and vigor could also assist in assessing the sites. The incorporation of more methods that assess habitat impact will provide a more dependable and thorough assessment of each dispersed site.

In addition, it would be of benefit to note the presence and number of hazard trees at a site. The removal or trimming of hazard trees may be a cost that is too high to incur for a given year, which may require permanent or temporary closure of a site. It may also be deemed that making a site “safe” may not be possible due to terrain or other constraints. Providing this information will enable the TCC to make decisions on which sites to harden, shutdown, or make safe. This information will be useful in making decisions regarding future site use potential.

WDFW appreciates the effort placed on ensuring that sensitive habitats are not impacted by dispersed campsites. The areas of focus listed in the plan provide important habitat to a large number of species in the area, and the need to preserve these habitats are of the utmost importance. To expand upon this, WDFW would like to have notes potential impacts to other habitat areas as well. For instance, forage areas in the Lewis River Basin are a limiting factor according to the HEP, so if a site is located in a potential forage area, it should be noted during the site visit. Meadows and shrubland areas are also unique in the basin, so potential impacts to these areas would be a detriment to the overall habitat value in an area that has a dispersed site. Although not classified as a sensitive habitat state wide, these and other habitats are of the utmost importance in this area.

Question regarding the plan:

When a site is closed, regardless of reason, will another site be created elsewhere to replace the decommissioned site, or will the site be removed without replacement?

Does the recent closure of the IP road by landslide change the prioritization or implementation of this plan?

Is there a target number or ratio of overnight to day use dispersed sites?

Is there a rehabilitation plan for heavily impacted sites? Will these sites be rehabilitated with the intent of reopening for camping use in the future or to be returned as habitat?

Can we develop additional methodology that will better assess habitat impacts and amount of use?

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, comments or need clarification, please feel free to contact me using the information provided below.

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