

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects  
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC)  
Meeting Agenda**

**Date & Time:**           Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
                                  **9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Place:**                    **Merwin Hydro Control Center**  
                                  **105 Merwin Village Court**  
                                  **Ariel, WA 98603**

**Contacts:**               **Kirk Naylor: (503) 813-6619; cell (503) 866-8750**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Discussion Item</b>
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review Agenda &amp; 3/9/16 Meeting Notes</li> <li>➤ Comment &amp; accept Agenda &amp; 3/9/16 Meeting Notes</li> </ul>
9:15 a.m.	Accipiter Survey Map – Unit 14
9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Next Meeting’s Agenda</li> <li>➤ Public Comment Opportunity</li> </ul> Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: <a href="http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro.html">http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro.html</a>
9:30 a.m.	Safety <sup>1</sup> orientation for tour
10:00 a.m.	Depart for tour and plan to return to HCC by 3:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unit 8 Proposed 2016 Harvest Sites</li> <li>○ 2015 Completed Forest Management/Unit 5</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 – 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b><i>Return to HCC and Adjourn</i></b>

<sup>1</sup> Please bring rain gear and sturdy walking shoes for hiking in the forest. PacifiCorp will have 2 vehicles for transportation of up to 4 additional passengers.

**Please bring your lunch**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting**  
**April 13, 2016**  
**Merwin Hydro Control Center & Field Tour**  
**Ariel, WA**

**TCC Participants Present: (9)**

Ray Crosswell, RMEF  
 Bill Richardson, RMEF  
 Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp  
 Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp  
 Kim McCune, PacifiCorp  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW  
 Eric Holman, WDFW  
 Erik White, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD (conference)

**Calendar:**

May 11, 2016	TCC Meeting	Cancelled
June 8, 2016	TCC Meeting	HCC

<b>Assignments from March 9, 2016</b>	<b>Status</b>
McCune: Add the Fisher CCAA conservation measures in in 2016 WHMP Annual Report and in year 17 re-write (incorporate into Best Management Practices).	
WDFW: In regards to 10.3.3 Matching Funds Eagle Island Project the TCC would like a 1-2-page progress report of project status with photos after the grant term expires (12-31-2017).	<b>Pending</b>

<b>Parking Lot Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
Naylor: Review the SA/WHMP budget(s) as well as determine status and opportunity for coordination with John Cook (NCASI) and Lisa Shipley (Washington State University) doing the black-tail study and report back to the TCC.	<b>Remove from parking lot and revisit another time.</b>

**Review of Agenda and Finalize Meeting Notes**

Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Naylor reviewed the agenda and asked the TCC if there were any changes/additions. Naylor indicated that the following items will be added to the agenda:

- Larch Mountain Salamander Survey – Yale Rock Project
- Land Acquisition Update

Naylor reviewed the March 9, 2016 meeting notes and assignments. The meeting notes were approved at 9:20 a.m. without change.



### **Larch Mountain Salamander Survey – Yale Rock Project**

Emmerson informed the TCC attendees that three (3) Larch Mountain Salamanders were found along the newly constructed Yale dam drill access road. All three were found in the margins of habitat and fill slope (below the road). No salamanders were found in the cut slope (above the road), but other invertebrates and possible moss spores were observed so over time this rock should provide Larch Mountain salamander habitat as well. One more survey will be conducted by PacifiCorp's consultant, Mason Bruce Girard (MB&G), this Spring. The surveys were being paid from remaining funds in the project not WHMP dollars.

Emmerson will bring pictures to the next TCC meeting.

### **Unit 7 – Proposed 2016 Harvest Sites**

Naylor provided comprehensive review and tour of Management Unit 7 which is located on the Merwin project and is one of the larger management units at 526.5 acres and has a current Cover:Forage ratio of approximately 70:30.

The cover forage ratio could be considered as high as 72% cover depending on the relative value of the upland-mixed stands as cover. The WHMP proposed managing the unit at approximately a 50:50 C:F ratio. Management of the unit has emphasized improved elk forage, maintaining old growth habitat and protecting several osprey nest sites and one bald eagle nesting territory. The most recent forest harvest in the management unit was in 2005. Permanent forage is provided on approximately 4.3 acres of transmission ROW on the northern extent of the management unit, near the hatchery at the mouth of Speelyai Creek. Managing a minimum 5% of the area in permanent forage would require a total of 12.9 acres and is currently not being met. The area is currently lacking sufficient improved forage to meet plan objectives.

There are three separate forest harvests planned in Management Unit 7. Two of these are specifically planned for wildlife habitat enhancement and a third is proposed to remove a small stand of trees heavily infected with disease that impacts safety to facilities at the Speelyai Fish hatchery and to the Speelyai transmission line.



**Proposed harvest area showing an Upland Mixed vegetation cover type and dense sword fern understory.**



**Proposed harvest area in mid-successional conifer (thinned in 1995).**

The third proposed forest management action in Unit 7 isn't really a forest harvest as much as it would be a rehabilitation of an old shrubland area from the Merwin Management Plan. The area isn't currently considered a shrubland under the current WHMP and is instead identified as a Young Upland Mixed vegetation cover type. There are approximately 4.0 acres that are being considered for a removal of alder and some conifer to develop a permanent forage area that would be bordered by a well-developed shrub-riparian buffer.



**A Riparian buffer adjacent an old shrubland and Road No. 700.**

The core of the old shrubland has a mix of regenerating red alders, sapling Douglas-fir as well as shrubs. The intent would be to create more open permanent grass-forb forage in the center of the shrubland type while retaining as much shrub as possible to get the benefit of both permanent forage types.



**Core of proposed management is to remove the regenerating alder and fir to open and develop a mixed grass/shrub permanent forage area.**

## **2015 Completed Forest Management – Unit 5**

The TCC toured the 2015 Unit 5 management areas that completed approximately 16 acres of an even aged harvest and an adjacent 29-year-old stand that was commercially thinned to maintain forage in an area favored by elk over the past 25 years. The commercial thin was originally planted in 1987 and has been successfully maintained to provide better tree spacing and enhanced understory stand composition and structure. Naylor pointed out that spacing of the retained trees was variable to account for the riparian buffers that were lightly thinned versus the rest of the stand. Despite some harvest concerns about retained defective trees and landings that weren't prepped to standard practices due to the heavy rains at the end of the harvest, the commercial thin was largely a success and should develop a better understory in the next 5-10 years.



**Unit 5 pre-harvest with a sample of retention trees flagged.**



**Unit 5 post-harvest photo in approx. the same location.**

Five aggregate retention areas totaling 2.9 acres of representative trees with an abundant shrub understory were retained within the original boundary of the clear-cut harvest area. The retention areas were based on the TCC request during the pre-harvest planning. The total harvest area was then 16.4 acres excluding the retention areas. Developing an additional permanent grass/forb forage area on up to 1.5 acres was a goal of this entry but a suitable site wasn't identified because of the retention areas. Despite some minor blow-down of retention trees from the aggregate stands the TCC noted the grass/legume forage was sprouting and that a small herd of elk was observed in the clear-cut. The access road for the clear-cut was intentionally left without surface rock so that the road would provide additional forage. Future access along the road would be dry-weather access only but provides excellent additional forage.





**Unit 5 post-harvest commercial thin; note the retention of LWD.**



**From within the Unit 5 post-harvest commercial thin looking into the adjacent clear-cut harvest.**

## **Land Acquisition Update**

Confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

<3:00 p.m. meeting adjourned>

**Agenda items for June 8, 2016**

- Review April 13, 2016 Meeting Notes
- Provide photos of the Yale drill access road
- Site visit to 2015 timber harvests in Unit 35

**Next Scheduled Meetings**

June 8, 2016
Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA

**Attachments:**

- April 13, 2016 Meeting Agenda