FINAL Meeting Notes

Lewis River License Implementation Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting May 14, 2008 Ariel, WA

TCC Participants Present: (16)

Curt Leigh, WDFW (via teleconference)
David Geroux, WDFW
Eric Holman, WDFW
Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp Energy
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy
Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp Energy
Arianne Poindexter, PacifiCorp Energy
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD (12:15 – 12:45pm)
LouEllyn Jones, USFWS
Ray Croswell, RMEF
Bob Nelson, RMEF
Nathan Reynolds, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Cherie Kearney, Columbia Land Trust Jon Rose, Pope Resources Tom Tuchmann, US Forest Capital John Henshaw, USDA Forest Service

Calendar:

June 11, 2008	TCC Meeting	Lacey, WA
June 12, 2008	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro Facility

Assignments from May 14th Meeting:	Status
Emmerson: Prepare a list of all the WHMP chapters and indicate their status.	Complete - 5/22/08
Add the list to the meeting notes or send to the TCC via email.	
McCune: Add appendices for the Wetland Habitat Management chapter to	Complete - 5/16/08
the webpage.	
Emmerson: Update the Nest Box Program spreadsheet by adding an	Complete – 5/27/08
estimated cost per nest box. The updated spreadsheet will be distributed to	
the TCC members before the June meeting.	
Gritten-MacDonald - provide Cowlitz PUD WHMP schedule to McCune	Complete – 5/19/08
relating to July 2008 release.	

Assignments from April 9th Meeting:	Status
Emmerson: Write an addendum to the raptor chapter for TCC review and	Complete – 5/12/08
comment specifically relating to the SOSEA boundaries to further	
explain/interpret the addition of section 25 (not including Section 26) and a	
more definitive explanation of why. Include map revisions also.	

Emmerson: Research why the minimum 50 percent cover of desirable grasses changed from 60 percent in Section X.5.4 Forage Restoration of the Draft Farmland Chapter.	Changes put in draft that was discussed 5/14.
Emmerson: Determine if 600 ft from cover is consistent with the current SOP language, instead of the 1200 ft stated in the draft Farmland, Meadow, and Idle Areas Chapter.	Changes put in draft that was discussed 5/14.

Assignments from March 12th Meeting:	Status
McCune/Kearney: Set up a combined TCC/ACC meeting in April to discuss land opportunities and interests.	Complete – currently scheduled for July 10th

Assignments from January 9th Meeting:	Status
Naylor/Emmerson: Incorporate the following into the Forest Management	
chapter: WHMP lands that are within the SOSEA should have greater	
spotted owl protection then what is provided in Forest Practices Act and	
timber management actions should increase or improve spotted owl habitat in	
the SOSEA.	

Assignments from September 12, 2007 Meeting:	Status
Naylor/Emmerson: Incorporate the following text into the Forest	In process
Management chapter of the WHMP, "Prior to any harvest, the areas will be	
evaluated (ground truth) to determine whether or not the area qualifies as	
NSO habitat."	

Parking lot items from February 10, 2006 Meeting:	Status
PacifiCorp Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) Budget (annual)	
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 9:03am. A round table introduction was conducted for the benefit of those participating via teleconference. Naylor conducted a review of the agenda for the day and requested if the TCC had any additions to the agenda. No additions were requested. Sherry Kearney, Columbia Land Trust, informed the group that John Henshaw, USDA Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program, would be joining the group at 9:30 a.m. along with Jon Rose, Pope Resources and Tom Tuchmann, US Forest Capital.

Naylor reviewed the TCC Draft April 9, 2008 meeting notes and assignments with the TCC attendees and asked for any comments and/or additional changes.

A blanket statement will be inserted on page 5 after "Geroux informed the TCC attendees that WDFW will be submitting formal comments on or before April 11, 2008." of the April meeting notes stating the following:

"All comments and edits below are suggested and will be discussed further by the TCC."

The meeting notes were approved at 9:20 a.m. with the above-referenced changes.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Update

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy) informed the TCC attendees that the Public Review Draft of the SMP is currently in internal review, but will be released mid-May. The SMP will have an additional document called "Draft Permitting Handbook" which instructs persons step-by-step through issues that need to be addressed when considering the placement new facilities within the Project boundary and along the reservoir shorelines. The SMP and handbook should be released on 5/15/08 to the ACC, TCC, SA Parties and the general public. A public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at the Lewis River Golf Course. Comment letters should be submitted to PacifiCorp Energy before June 21, 2008.

License Issuance Update

During Olson's attendance at the National Hydro Association meeting last month in Washington, D.C., he was able to meet with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to give a status update regarding the Lewis River projects. The FERC indicated that they would try to issue the licenses by June 2008. However, it will more than likely be July or August 2008.

TCC Alternate Designation for WDFW

Brock Applegate, WDFW, has been reassigned to the wind department at WDFW so David Geroux will be acting as the TCC alternate to Curt Leigh. An email was sent to Kim McCune, (PacifiCorp Energy) on February 13, 2008 stating the changes to personnel. It was clarified that Brock would no longer be providing input to the WHMP.

Lands Update Discussion

Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp Energy) and others provided updates relating to interests in certain lands, however, this discussion is considered confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

<Break 11:00 am> <Reconvene 11:15am>

SOSEA Review of Boundary Comments

Emmerson presented the "Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Lands that are classified as Raptor Site Management Chapter Objective I Lands", dated May 12, 2008 (Attachment A) memo to the group. The TCC decided to incorporate the following into the Raptor Management Plan: "Identified as Northern Spotted Owl Management Area Objective I lands in the Appendix x-8 figures and will include the following Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands in: Township 7 North, Range 5 East, Sections 20, 25, 29, and 30 and Township 6 North, Range 4 East, Sections 21, 28, 31, 32, 33 and Wildlife Habitat management Plan lands south of the Lewis River in Sections 31 and 32."

Wetlands Chapter Discussion (specific to WDFW comments)

Emmerson reviewed WDFW's comments with the group. Unless noted below all changes were accepted.

Pg. 5, third paragraph: Emmerson will check the 20 ac (49 ha) math. Hectare number should be lower than 20.

Pg. 8, third bullet: remove apostrophe from "it's"

Pg. 10, first paragraph of X.5.2: Should read as follows: "Vegetation within and adjacent to the wetland plays an important role in preserving the wetland's function and in protecting the wetland from disturbances, as well as providing habitat for wetland associated species, such as pondbreeding native amphibians, wood ducks, mink, yellow warblers, and beavers. Promote and maintain submergent and emergent vegetation within these wetland zones at an open water to cover (subemergent/emergent vegetation) ratio of 25:75 ($\pm 10\%$). Some of the wetlands may not be able to achieve this ratio due to their depth, size, utility/infrastructure management constraints, hydroperiod, etc. Annual inspections will record percent cover for vegetation types, and other relevant information and provide recommendations for management for each of the wetland. The annual inspection forms will be submitted to the Terrestrial Coordination Committee for review in the Annual Report.

Farmland, Idle Fields and Meadows Chapter Discussion: 30-day review document

Geroux reviewed WDFW's edits and comments with the group. Unless noted below all changes were accepted.

X.2.3 Species Association

Page 2: "detections by sight, sound, smell, etc" should replace the word "observation" in the last sentence of the first paragraph.

X. 3 FARM, IDLE FIELDS, AND MEADOWS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Page 4: "but if possible, PacifiCorp should conduct mowing after August 15 or as close to as possible to protect migratory birds and their nests." will be moved to section X.5.1

X.4. INSPECTIONS

Page 6: Remove "PacifiCorp's assessment of the" and move "The annual (insert the word: farmland) inspections will document the cover of invasive species, cover of desirable forage grasses, percent cover of bare ground and moss, the hedgerow's species composition, vigor, and effectiveness in providing food and screening cover, wildlife use, and prescribe specific management actions" to Section X.4.2.

X.4.1 INITIAL INSPECTIONS

Page 6, first paragraph: Remove "These inspection results will be provided to the TCC and the group will...."

Page 6, third paragraph: Remove "PacifiCorp believes...." Move "The TCC will then collaboratively determine...." sentence to the end of the paragraph.

X.4.2 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

Page 7, first paragraph: Add "the dominant" to "A list of the dominant species found at each field..." and add (>10% of cover) to the same sentence.

Page 7, first bullet: Add "for meadows and idle areas" to the end of the phrase.

Page 7, sixth bullet: should read as follows: "Assess the hedgerows and other vegetation for density and actual screening capabilities. Seasonal fruit or mast production should also be noted." Page 7, second paragraph: Move paragraph starting "Farmland forage..." to end of bulleted list and add the last bullet starting "In the farmland..." to the paragraph.

X.5. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Page 8, second sentence: remove "but are not limited to"

Page 8: Move sentence starting "Unless otherwise noted, all...." to the intro of the plan (possible communications section?)

X.5.1 MOWING OR HAY HARVEST

Page 8, second paragraph: Replace "bale" with "removed"

Page 8, second paragraph: Do not delete "mowing will occur following or during the summer semi-dormancy, which is typically August 1 to August 31."

Page 8, second paragraph: Add "when possible" to "The fall mowing should occur between August 15 and August 31, when possible, to address semi-dormancy...."

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (Mowing or Hay Harvest)

Page 9, fourth bullet: Delete "but" and change "should" to "could" from this statement.

Page 9, fifth bullet: Delete fifth bullet

X.5.4 FORAGE RESTORATION

Page 12, third paragraph should read as follows: Meadows and idle areas will be considered for forage restoration when the area is less then 75 percent grass cover or is comprised of 40 percent or greater unwanted grass species (e.g., reed canarygrass [Phalaris arundinacea]).

Soil Testing

Page 12, first paragraph: The heading "Lime Application" should start its own paragraph.

Herbicide Application Treatment

Page 13: Delete "individually" from the last sentence.

X.5.5 ACCESS CONTROL AND DISTURBANCE REDUCTION

Page 15, second paragraph should read as follows: "Access to the Saddle Dam Farm and other sensitive forage areas that fall under the farmlands, idle fields and meadow management will continue to have no public vehicle access from late fall to early spring. During these periods of critical use for forage species (December 1 to May 1), PacifiCorp and their consultants will give consideration to minimizing vehicular access and disturbance. Steps to improve/maintain forage opportunities while reducing off-season disturbance will aid in the utilization of these habitats by elk and other forage species."

Page 16, first paragraph: replace "with gaps that average 10 feet (3m) or less" with "Gaps will be filled as they occur to provide the screening capabilities intended".

Page 16, second paragraph: insert the following "Pruning of the upper canopy sections of the conifers to promote a low bushy growth may be enacted to accelerate screening affects, but pruning in the lower sections should not take place. Placement of shrub species within these screens will also enhance the screening capabilities in these areas, and will provide supplemental forage opportunities for elk.

X.6 SCHEDULE AND ESTIMATED EFFORT

"Completion Date" column indications of "Optional", "As required", and "As needed" will be defined by Kendel Emmerson with footnotes or some other means.

WDFW Nest Box Memo

Geroux introduced the nest box topic regarding WDFW concern that the nest box program would not be continued within the new WHMP and was concerned that this topic had not been discussed with the TCC. Holman and Nelson remember past topics regarding nest box and felt the TCC had decided to not continue the program because of the level of cost and effort. The TCC group decided to renew this discussion at the June TCC meeting.

Emmerson reviewed the current nest box program statistics. Emmerson will add implementation cost per year for this program and an estimated cost per nest box. The updated spreadsheet will be distributed to the TCC members before the June TCC meeting.

Cowlitz PUD Wildlife Habitat Management Plan

Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD, informed the group that one half of the PUD's Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) will be released in July 2008. Gritten-MacDonald will provide a sentence or two to McCune regarding this schedule. The TCC attendees requested that the PUD provide the plan in segments for review.

New topics/issues

Naylor informed the TCC attendees that the Old Growth chapter will be distributed to the TCC prior to the June meeting.

Next Meeting's Agenda

- Review of 5/14/08 Meeting Notes
- Shoreline Management Plan Update
- License Issuance Update
- Old Growth Chapter overview
- Continue the nest box discussion

Public Comment Opportunity

No public comment was provided.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meetings

June 11, 2008	July 9, 2008
USFWS	Cowlitz PUD
Lacey, WA	Longview, WA
9:00am – 3:00pm	9:00am – 3:00pm

Handouts

- 1. Agenda
- 2. Draft meeting notes from 4/09/08
- 3. Attachment A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Lands that are classified as Raptor Site Management Chapter Objective I Lands", dated May 12, 2008.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 12, 2008

TO: Terrestrial Coordination Committee

FROM: Kendel Emmerson

SUBJECT: Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Lands that are classified as Raptor Site

Management Chapter Objective I Lands

The purpose of this memo is to identify the Lewis River Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands that are within the 2.0 miles (3.2 kilometers) of the Siouxon Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area and are classified as objective i lands in the Raptor Site Management Chapter. The following is the Terrestrial Coordination Committee decisions in developing objective i and determining the associated Lewis River Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands:

Terrestrial Coordination Committee Meeting May 30, 2006

The Terrestrial Coordination Committee was provided an unofficial draft map of the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area boundary with a 2.0-mi (3.2-km) buffer and the utility owned lands from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This map was used to facilitate a discussion regarding PacifiCorp Energy and Cowlitz Public Utility District ownership within 2.0 mi (3.2 km) of and within the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed the following version of objective i to the Terrestrial Coordination Committee at this meeting:

"Objective i: Over the life of the licenses, manage at least 50 percent of the Licensees' ownership within a 2.0-mi (3.2-km) buffer outside of the Siouxon Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area, but directly contiguous with land inside the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area, to provide/develop high quality nesting spotted owl habitat, as defined by the Department of Natural Resource's State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (1997)."

The Terrestrial Coordination Committee requested the word "buffer" be removed and clarified that 50 percent means the lowest percentage of lands to manage as quality nesting habitat.

Terrestrial Coordination Committee Meeting June 14, 2006

A more detailed map of the northern spotted owl nest management circles, Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area and the 2.0-mi (3.2-km) buffer, and utility owned lands was

provided by PacifiCorp Energy to the Terrestrial Coordination Committee for review. The Terrestrial Coordination Committee requested that the map be revised to include an additional owl circle west of Yale and to include the lands west of Swift Creek within the 2.0-mi (3.2-km) Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area buffer (i.e., objective i lands) specifically Township 7N, Range 5E, Sections 20, 29 and 30.

Objective i was further modified during this meeting to define and specifically describe the 2.0-mi (3.2-km) Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area buffer:

"Objective i: Over the life of the licenses, manage at least 50 percent of Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands within a 2.0-mi (3.2-km) buffer outside of the Siouxon Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area and directly contiguous with land inside the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area to provide/develop high quality nesting spotted owl habitat, as defined by WAC 222-10-085. Includes Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands in: Township 7 North, Range 5 East, Sections 20, 29, and 30 and Township 6 North, Range 4 East, Sections 21, 28, 31, 32, 33; applies only to Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands in Sections 31 and 32 that are south of the Lewis River."

Terrestrial Coordination Committee Meeting July 12, 2006

The Terrestrial Coordination Committee was provided a map of the Lewis River Utility Ownership and Northern Spotted Owl Lands that included the requested revisions from June 2006 meeting. The primary purpose of this map was to insure the objectives concurred with the Terrestrial Coordination Committee's intensions. General discussion took place regarding spotted owl nesting, roosting, foraging and dispersal habitat; percentage of reservoir within the northern spotted owl circles, and flexibility of the Lewis River Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for future modification as conditions change. This map and the following version of objective i were accepted by the Terrestrial Coordination Committee at this meeting:

"Objective i: Unless separated by a reservoir from the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area, over the life of the licenses, manage at least 50 percent of Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands within a 2.0-mi (3.2-km) buffer outside of the Siouxon Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area to provide/develop high quality nesting spotted owl habitat, as defined by WAC 222-160-085 (1) (a)."

Terrestrial Coordination Committee meeting February 13, 2008

During the Terrestrial Coordination Committee Raptor Site Management Chapter review it was identified that the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area boundary crosses the Swift bypass channel in Township 7 North Range 4 East Section 25 SE ¼ and Section 36 NE ¼. The adjacent Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands are categorized as objective h instead of objective i. No one could recall if this was general oversight or a Terrestrial Coordination Committee decision. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed that the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area 2.0-mi (3.2-km) buffer boundary be extended west of the Skamania and Cowlitz County line to provide dispersal habitat for spotted owls from the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area to the national forest lands north of the Cougar Creek Conservation Covenant.

Terrestrial Coordination Committee Meeting March 12, 2008

The discussion regarding the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area 2.0-mi (3.2-km) buffer boundary to include Section 25 and the eastern half of Section 26 continued at the next meeting. The Terrestrial Coordination Committee agreed on including Section 25. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife preferred to include all lands in the eastern half of Section 26 so that the Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area buffer could extend to the Cougar Creek ownership and provide greater connectivity to National Forest lands to the north. However, PacifiCorp Energy felt that including Section 26 would restrict the elk habitat management opportunities in Unit 21 and would not be a significant increase in northern spotted owl habitat connectivity.

Terrestrial Coordination Committee Meeting April 9, 2008

The Terrestrial Coordination Committee concluded that the 2.0-mi (3.2-km) Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area buffer should be extended to include the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands in Section 25 only. This decision was based on the northeast corner of Section 26 is comprised of upland deciduous vegetation cover type and does not provide northern spotted owl habitat. In addition connectivity from Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area to the National Forest lands is accomplished through the Section 26 riparian buffers and the Cougar Creek Conservation Covenant. The group concluded that PacifiCorp Energy should provide language in the Raptor Site Management Chapter that includes Section 25 lands into objective i lands into the Raptor Site Management chapter.

Raptor Site Management Chapter Addendum

The following language should be added to the draft Raptor Site Management Chapter X.4.3 Best Management Practices Northern Spotted Owl 5th bullet (Page 11):

- Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands that are within 2.0 mi. (3.2 km) of the Siouxon Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area and are not separated by the reservoir will be:
 - O Identified as Northern Spotted Owl Management Area Objective i lands in the Appendix X-8 figures and will include the following Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands in: Township 7 North, Range 5 East, Sections 20, 25, 29, and 30 and Township 6 North, Range 4 East, Sections 21, 28, 31, 32, 33 and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan lands south of the Lewis River in Sections 31 and 32.
 - Managed to at least 50 percent to provide/develop high quality nesting spotted owl habitat, as defined by WAC 222-16-085 (1) (a) (Appendix X-9)





