

LEWIS RIVER TERRESTRIAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: KENDEL EMMERSON
503-813-6040; CELL 509-774-8102

Location: Online Teams Meeting

Date: Wednesday April 12, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Agenda Items

9:00 a.m.	Welcome, <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review and Accept Agenda➤ Review and Accept 3/8/2023 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Period
9:15 a.m.	WSDOT Cougar Creek Project
9:30 a.m.	PacifiCorp Lewis River Annual Plan and Report Update
10:00 a.m.	Cowlitz PUD Lewis River Annual Plan and Report Update
10:15 a.m.	Moss Cave Land Acquisition Update (Confidential)
10:30 a.m.	Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Saddle Dam Remediation Project Update➤ Great Blue Heron March Survey➤ WDFW Bat and Bridge Survey Results➤ Cresap Campground Project progress
10:45 a.m.	Next Meeting's Agenda Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html
11:00 a.m.	Meeting adjourns



Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 337 646 7#

Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
April 12, 2023
Conference Call

TCC Representatives Present: (6)

Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp
 Summer Peterman, PacifiCorp
 Amanda Farrar, Cowlitz PUD
 Erik White, Cowlitz Tribe
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Tyanna Blaschak, USFS

Guests: (2)

Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA (note-taker for PacifiCorp)
 Molly Van Dam, Anchor QEA (note-taker for PacifiCorp)

Calendar:

April 12, 2023	TCC Meeting	Teams Call
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Assignments for April 12, 2023	Status
Emmerson: Distribute draft BMPs for accessing the Cougar Creek Project site for 7-day TCC review	In progress
Peterman: Distribute the PacifiCorp Annual Plan and Report	In progress
Emmerson: Share a plan for stockpiling and use of the ash deposit with the TCC following coordination with DOE.	In progress

Assignments for March 8, 2023	Status
Emmerson: Provide the Cougar Creek culvert project permit package to the TCC.	In progress
Emmerson: Provide contact information for Clark County noxious weed control staff to Amanda Farrar.	In progress

Assignments for February 8, 2023	Status
Emmerson: Finalize and distribute the final Cresap Campground Mitigation Memo.	In progress
Peterman: Conduct additional public trail use observations near proposed Saddle Dam (MU10) trail location before and after parks open in 2023 for comparison with early 2023 data.	In progress

Assignments for December 14, 2022	Status
Emmerson: Send the Moss Cave appraisal to the TCC members by request.	In progress
Miller and Peterman: Coordinate on WDFW's oak specialist providing feedback on the proposed plantings at Woodland Release Ponds site.	In progress

Assignments for May 11, 2022	Status
Emmerson: Make a tracking sheet for 10.3.3 funding disbursements and include it in the 2022 TCC Annual Report.	In progress
Assignments for December 8, 2021	Status
Emmerson: Discuss potential WHMP disturbance impacts with permitting staff for the Cougar Creek highway project.	In progress
Assignments for January 13, 2021	Status
Emmerson: Provide a list of past timber harvest areas that have been within the WHMP buffer, associated TCC meeting notes, and reference to the WHMP language.	In Progress

Kendel Emmerson (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. All attendees introduced themselves and their positions.

Emmerson reviewed the March 8, 2023, notes. Edits were received from Summer Peterman. Emmerson asked if any TCC representatives would like more time to review the notes; no additional time was requested, and the notes were accepted as revised.

The TCC approved the March 8, 2023, meeting notes.

Public Comment Period

None.

WSDOT Cougar Creek Project

Emmerson said that their contact at WSDOT has not been responsive to requests to explain how they will be accessing the creek, so Emmerson will direct them on how they may create access to the site. Cultural resources still need to be consulted. There cannot be any removal of trees greater than 8 inches dbh. There is a need for equipment to be able to access the creek to scoop out the gravel bar, but much of the work can be done from the highway. The access path should allow access for equipment without removing any large trees. Some shrubs such as salmonberry and vine maple may be removed, which will grow back easily after any disturbance. All invasive blackberry will be removed from the project area, and the site will need to be replanted with a native riparian mix which will hopefully include some shrubs.

Emmerson showed some pictures of the creek within the project area. She said, following completion of the project, she would like to replant a barren area with cedar trees that is illegally used as a camping site. The contractor must ensure that all vehicle access to the creek bed is blocked after the project is complete, including maintaining the ecology blocks that currently block ATVs from driving into the creek, although foot traffic is allowed.

Miller asked how long the project will take, and Emmerson responded that it will take a couple of weeks, currently timed for June. The highway is threatened by erosion. Miller said it will be important that the undercut bank shown in the photo isn't used for access because that would cause more erosion. Emmerson said that the equipment will be accessing the opposite bank where the

photos were taken; where the access path leads to a bank there is a more gradual slope and less erosion. TCC members agreed with the approach. Emmerson stated she would draft some best management practices (BMPs) for accessing the creek and distribute them for a 7-day review by the TCC. Once reviewed by the TCC, they will be included with the permitting package being developed by the Properties department.

PacifiCorp Lewis River Annual Plan and Report Update

Peterman said PacifiCorp is formatting the documents and they will be provided to the TCC within a few days for review.

Emmerson said the authorized budget allocation for management actions is now available. The forestry budget has been reduced due to some carryover on the burning and scarification task. Emmerson has directed crews they can only work on the top two priorities for forestry: pre-commercial thinning (PCT) and invasives management. They have been working on some long-term invasive plant projects, including ivy removal at Merwin Park. *Vinca* is also a main focus. These invasives appear to be spread from bird transport, and not necessarily humans discarding yard waste or brush.

Peterman reported on the following updates that will be in the Annual Plan:

- Rocky Mountain elk monitoring plots have been implemented for the past ten years, and enclosures will be removed at the end of this year. A final report on the Rocky Mountain elk monitoring can be expected next year, included in the 2023 Annual Report.
- 2023 is also the last year of the oak site testing in Unit 5 (5-1 and 5-2), so that final report will also be in the 2023 Annual Report. A tour of that site may be scheduled for 2023.
- Orchards, meadows and farmlands are all on the five-year survey schedule, and all will be surveyed this year. Shrublands 4-6b and 4-6d will be surveyed, and blackberry trails will be cut back in 3-2b. These shrublands are looking great, and current management strategies should continue. Oak sites that will be surveyed this year include 22a, 22b, 23b, and 26b in Unit 6.
- In the fall of 2021, there was a dieback of an oak stand, and the cause is unknown. Possible causes include the June 2021 heat dome as well as Scotch broom was treated adjacent to the site, but it was spot sprayed, and the contractor does not believe that the oak trees would have been affected by it. Peterman will speak to an oak specialist to identify the problem and will discuss whether the area will be replanted. Miller asked if this is where conifers were removed, and if that could have affected the understory. Peterman said that yes, but that the conifers were limbed and not otherwise damaged, which is what was usually done for oak sites. That type of conifer removal was intended to encourage growth, which has occurred in Unit 5.
- Unit 6 has a shaded oak site, trees were removed on the north side of the highway, which will be surveyed this year to see how the site is doing.
- This year the TCC can potentially tour Management Unit 24 to review how the past several years of blackberry treatment has improved the site, and to see the trees that have been planted this year. Elk are active in the area and continue to keep vegetation broken up. Emmerson said that Management Unit 24 is south of Swift Canal, so it is more difficult to access compared to sites near the highway but agreed that the site could be visited.
- GIS data of some wetlands will be updated this year, as activities such as beaver dams change the terrain.

The annual plan will be reviewed in the next TCC meeting, and any questions from the group can be addressed.

Cowlitz PUD Lewis River Annual Plan and Report Update

Amanda Farrar reviewed the plan for the TCC last month, it was distributed on March 9, and she requested review and comments by April 10. Some emails were bounced back, so Farrar resent them by March 22. She received comments from Peggy Miller before the deadline. One of Miller's comments suggested assigning the 5.8 acre elk forage meadow its own habitat category similar to Management Units 10 and 11, or a separate Site Management Plan (such as DBMU-2 Unit #1), rather than including actions within the mid-successional conifer forest MU-2. Farrar said she would support that request but asked if it's acceptable to acknowledge the comment and show those changes in next year's plan. Miller said that would be acceptable and Erik White agreed.

No other comments were received thus far, and Farrar plans to finalize and file the plan by April 30, 2023.

Moss Cave Acquisition

Moss Cave Acquisition – Due to confidential information details of this portion of the meeting have been omitted from these meeting notes.

Project Updates

Saddle Dam Remediation

Emmerson said the memo from PacifiCorp to FERC was finalized on March 30. FERC has to approve all of the designs and there will be a meeting at the end of April. FERC is asking for more modeling and information. This may delay the project implementation from January 2024 to January 2025. PacifiCorp's mitigation approach is not likely to change. Emmerson will update the TCC in the next meeting.

Great Blue Heron Survey

In March, Peterman said their contractor observed a total of four birds. There is a lot of activity but has not been any nesting yet. There are two good nests, and one nest has fallen down; all had adult birds in them. It appears that a small colony is forming on Beaver Bay, although this won't affect the work on Beaver Bay Campground. Great blue herons have a good tolerance of noise, and hopefully the colony will not be disturbed by camping or wetland work. A colony management plan may need to be written this year; WDFW's Priority Habitats and Species guidelines meet the needs, but something more formal will be considered.

WDFW Bat and Bridge Survey Results

Emmerson said participated in a survey of bridges for bat activity, which also included Eric Holman and Allison Leopold. All PacifiCorp bridges that could be accessed safely and not blocked were observed. The survey was completed in USFS areas near SR 503. Some activity was observed, especially in crevices with rough surfaces, which is what bats prefer. Emmerson said they learned that if there are spiderwebs, bats are not likely active in that location. Bat guano can be distinguished from mouse feces because guano is shiny from the insects in it, and when placed on gloved fingers, guano will smear and mouse feces will roll. On Canal Bridge, there was a grim

discovery of seven bats that died after being stuck in hot tar. The bridge was resurfaced several years ago but the bat carcasses didn't look that old, so there will be discussions with WDFW about how this could have happened. One theory is that the tar heated up in the summer and dripped down, then the bats got stuck when coming back to roost at night. USFS is taking this seriously and is trying to determine how to resolve the problem.

Cresap Campground Project Update

The project started last week but has been progressing slowly due to very wet conditions. Emmerson provided a grass seed mix without wetland species because it is a drier upland site.

Eagle Mortality in Merwin Reservoir

An angler found a dead adult eagle in Merwin Reservoir. When that happens, USFWS must be contacted, and the eagle must be located. In this case, it will be sent to the Eagle repository. There is an intact nest in McKee Meadow where activity has not been observed this year, but it may have been an adult from that nest, which means the nest probably will not be occupied this year. Emmerson will visit the nest next week to check for activity. The eagle appeared healthy and intact, so it is unknown how it died.

Variable Leaf Milfoil

This summer there will be a coordinated effort to survey for milfoil, especially in the larger wetlands such as Fraser Pond. On May 5, Peterman and Emmerson will be meeting with noxious weed specialists at Merwin Reservoir. Emmerson will meet with DOE to discuss permitting options for milfoil control because Merwin Reservoir is such a large body of water. Hopefully signage about preventing the spread of milfoil will be provided by agencies like WDFW, DOE, and USACE to post at sites like Camper's Hideaway. They have found a contractor who can treat the milfoil, but they are waiting to see how big the infestation is to plan for it.

Ash Deposit

Logs and wood debris tend to collect within Swift Reservoir. Some of those logs are used in aquatic and forest habitat restoration, some go to mills, and a lot is burned. For at least the last twenty years, they have been burned in a 2-acre area near the boat ramp, and several feet of ash has now accumulated. A formerly excavated pit, the "Cougar Pit", will be used for ash storage because it is below ground and away from streams. This year the ash has become compacted and impermeable, and that is causing some erosion in the bank that needs to be resolved this year. Some ash will be transported and spread in the meadows. Chilton Logging will be reaching out to local private landowner with a gravel pit that may be filled to determine if that is an option. There are over 100 truckloads that need to be hauled out. Emmerson said she plans to meet with Anne Baxter, as DOE were interested to understand the problem, though no permit would be required. PacifiCorp would like to move the ash next week before campers begin to come in.

Miller asked if soil in the meadows has been tested before the ash is distributed. Emmerson said that the meadows are still under snow and currently inaccessible, but that the ash may be stockpiled until the snow melts. Miller then asked what would happen if the soil testing showed that it shouldn't be placed in the meadows. Emmerson said only about 2 or 3 truckloads have been allocated for the meadows, and that amount could be stockpiled in the log yard and then move it when they are ready to do so, because it would be expensive to move twice.

Miller said that in the plan outlined in last month's notes, Bill Richardson and Eric Holman had the most comments, and because they are not here today, she is hesitant to speak for them and approve of the activity. Emmerson said that she would share Anne Baxter's response to the TCC, and at the same time ask for Richardson and Holman to approve of the plans.

Emmerson said to address the erosion, they will regrade the bank to move the water in a different direction away from the ash pit and correct the drainage issues. PacifiCorp are working on the necessary permits. The Cougar Pit has existed for 20 years, and erosion has never occurred before, but it seems that now the ash has become impermeable. Swift Reservoir has a drawdown in September, and there will be a work window after Labor Day to correct this.

Administrative

The May 10 meeting will occur at the Merwin Hydro Control building and a full day of site visits.

Agenda items for May 10, 2023

- Review April 12, 2023, Meeting Notes
- Comments on the Annual Plan and Report
- Project updates
- Site visits to the 2023 timber harvest areas, Unit 26 Moss Cave Road realignment, and upper basin areas.

Next Scheduled Meeting

May 10, 2023
Merwin Hydro Control/Teams

Attachments:

- Cougar Creek site photos
- Oak site photo (S1000229)

Adjourn Meeting 9:58 a.m.



Clearing/grubbing/
excavation to seat
rock and logs as
indicated below

SR530 Spur

Culvert inlet

Excavate gravel
bar (~20 yd³)

3-man
boulders/rocks,
voids filled
with well-
graded
aggregate

Embayment and Repair Area (looking upstream)



Embankment and Repair Area (Looking downstream)



Culvert (Looking downstream)



Gravel bar



Gravel bar (Looking upstream)



Upstream reach





