

LEWIS RIVER TERRESTRIAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

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

Location: Merwin Hydro Control Center & Field Tour
105 Merwin Village Court Ariel, WA 98603

Date: April 13 , 2022

Time: 9:00 AM –2:30 PM

Agenda Items

9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Review and Accept Agenda and 3/9/2022 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Period
9:15 a.m.	Comments on PacifiCorp WHMP 2021 Report and 2022 Plan
9:45 am	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Moss Cave Field Tour➤ Yale and Merwin Fish Passage➤ ROW 8/12 Wetland➤ 2017 WSDOT Rockslide➤ Merwin Trash Rack Project and Merwin Bald Eagle
10:00 a.m.	Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project Mitigation
10:15 a.m.	Safety orientation for Field Tour and Depart for Field Tour
10:30 a.m.	Saddle Dam Remediation Project site visit with Eric Hansen (PacifiCorp) and Jeff Walker (AECOM)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	MU 10 2022 Timber Harvest



2:00 pm.	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
2:30 p.m.	Meeting Adjourn

Please bring lunch, rain gear, and sturdy walking shoes for hiking in the forest. No hard hats needed for this tour. PacifiCorp will have 2 vehicles for transportation of up to 4 additional passengers per vehicle.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 651 404 15#

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
April 13, 2022
Conference Call Only

TCC Representatives Present: (8)

Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp
 Summer Peterman, PacifiCorp
 Erik White, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Eric Holman, WDFW
 Conner England, USFS
 Jeff Garnett, USFWS

Guests: (1)

Sarah Montgomery, Anchor QEA (note-taker for PacifiCorp)

Calendar:

April 13, 2022	TCC Meeting	TEAMS Call Only
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Assignments for April 13, 2022	Status
Emmerson: Consider seeding the timber harvest area in Unit 35 with a woody shrubs seed mix for a comparison study.	In progress
Emmerson and Holman: Coordinate on raptor data sharing.	In progress

Assignments for March 9, 2022	Status
Emmerson: Follow up with City of Woodland and PacifiCorp staff regarding constraints for habitat management on the Johnson Creek and Woodland release ponds parcels.	Complete

Assignments for February 9, 2022	Status
All: Consider having the April TCC meeting in person at Saddle Dam to discuss restoration plans for the seismic remediation project.	In progress. Currently planned for May.
Froberg: Send the TCC-approved elk forage plant mix list to England.	In progress
England: Provide information to Froberg about the USFS-Skamania County interlocal agreement for herbicide treatments outside of (but beneficial to) USFS lands.	In progress
Bendickson: Reset the Teams invites for 2022 meetings.	Completed

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 9:03 am and noted that weather conditions required a delay of the in-person site visit, which will be rescheduled to May. No additions to the agenda were requested. Emmerson reviewed the meeting notes from March 9, 2022. The meeting notes were approved at 9:06 am with minor changes.

Public Comment Period

None

Comments on PacifiCorp WHMP 2021 Report and 2022 Plan

Emmerson said the draft WHMP Annual Report was provided on March 18 for 30-day TCC review and said any changes can be made in-line today or provided via email. Miller said she does not have edits to share today but can provide them by the 18th when comments are due.

Eric Holman said he has reviewed the report and has a few comments on it but has not yet read the plan. On the report, he said his comments are not major. He summarized his comments as follows for discussion:

- Holman noted that the hand-removal of reed canary grass to avoid impacts to red-legged frogs showed great attention to amphibian needs and invasive plant removal.
- Holman noted that the project at the headwaters of Cresap Creek seems like it was well accomplished at a reasonable cost, and he appreciated that it was included in the report.
 - o Emmerson noted some initial plantings in that area were washed out due to more standing water than anticipated. The neighbors are supportive of the project and primarily concerned with security for the home and property.
- Holman noted that he appreciates the attention to shrubland in the report, which provides diversity to forage and multilayer vegetation community for relatively less effort than other work.
- He noted a typo on page 9 (in the table), which Peterman said she will correct.
- He noted that the oak work was well done and at a reasonable cost. There is potential to do more oak work at the Woodland release ponds property if that is added to the WHMP lands and could be covered under the same section of the report in the future.
 - o Emmerson said she discussed the mowing requirements at this parcel with the City of Woodland staff. The City requires that the vegetation on the property be managed and are open to a plan that includes mowing within 100 feet of the road, or a similar approach.
- Holman said the report reflects good work completed in the summer of 2021 regarding timber harvest forest management. He noted that the report says in multiple places that some of the objectives for harvest management could never be met due to buffer and shoreline requirements (such as in Units 10 and 16). The landscape clearly has constraints

that were not recognized when these objectives were written, and he asked whether the TCC should revisit these objectives, so they are achievable and realistic.

- Emmerson agreed that the TCC should revisit these objectives. Unit 10 is unique in that it originally was just Saddle Dam and the area around Saddle Dam, then more forest acreage was added later. Other units have cover forage goals that were determined in 2008 without fully accounting for all landscape variables like slope and buffers.
- Miller asked if these updates can be written up in a revised WHMP. Emmerson said the next WHMP revision is in 2025.
- Holman asked if the 17-year review of the habitat suitability indices for species will also need to be updated, and whether that is something the TCC will do or a third party.
- Emmerson said a consulting firm may be used for this update, because it is a lot of work. The TCC should start these discussions in June and decide what the revision will entail. A review is needed to repeat and compare the habitat suitability indices (HSI) and check whether the management plan is meeting its targets. She said it would likely need to be contracted in 2023. Other updates may need to be made to the elk model, and models for other species, though some analyses may be mandated by license requirements.
- England noted that the westside elk model, which is a nutritional and elk use model, may include PacifiCorp lands. Emmerson said previous work to downsize that model to only 15,000 acres would require too much modification and had issues with analyses around roads. Revisiting potential models will be important to the update though.
- Holman said he appreciated the attention to shrubs in the forestry section (work that increases diversity of understory species) and thought the photos throughout are very helpful, particularly Figure 13.
- England asked if grass seed mixes are reported. Emmerson said the different seed mixes used for different locations are reported in tables in the report and are modified based on elevation and species (pollinators, ungulates, etc.).
- Regarding the high country exclosure study, Holman noted that the 10-year window of the project is finishing soon. The *Rubus* and *Vaccinium* species performed well in that area, and he asked whether those plants can be prioritized over forbs and legumes that did not perform as well. Emmerson said in Unit 39, where a wetland buffer was recently planted, species included willow, cottonwood, Douglas' spirea, vine maple, and others. Shrubs and willows were protected from elk using tubes and will have plant-skydd applied when the weather is dry. This area is not fenced, however, and elk often shelter there due to its topography. Emmerson said she has not seen blackcap raspberry at a native plant nursery but can check if it is available for future plantings. Holman said shrubs are much more expensive to plant compared to grasses and forbs, but the success of the plant might outweigh the planting cost and labor in upkeep. Emmerson said shrub plantings are expensive mainly due to labor, but they can certainly look into the costs and compare them for consideration in future planting efforts.
- On page 60, Holman asked if Emmerson knows why grasses did not perform as well as the forbs in this area. Emmerson said that issue could have been due to bad seed or due to not rototilling the soil first. The soil was not before it was seeded. This better reflects the ground disturbance associated with timber harvest activities. She said logging in general

scarifies the soil but is not quite the same as rototilling. She said the lack of growth in this area is probably due to the growing season. The timing of seeding and rototilling can be adjusted to better suit the growing season. Holman suggested planting shrubs if those changes do not result in an improvement. Emmerson said vine maple seed mix or other woody vegetation mixes could potentially be used here, though it is expensive. She said there is a timber harvest area in Unit 35 where the special seed mix could be used as a comparison.

- Holman asked whether raptor data are sent to WDFW annually, as there is a state database for this information. Emmerson said she does not think it is currently provided to WDFW and asked who to send it to. Holman said he will coordinate with Emmerson on this. Though bald eagles are less of a priority now that they have been delisted, there are still valuable survey data in the reservoir that would be helpful to share.
- On page 43 (Table 23), Miller asked that the actual sprayed area be added to the table, which Emmerson said she will do.
- Miller said she will provide additional comments and edits from WDFW via email.
- Holman commended PacifiCorp on the well written report that summarizes so much great work in a large area and represents engagement with the TCC.

No comments were provided on the WHMP 2022 Plan during the meeting.

Study/Work Product Updates

Moss Cave Field Tour

Emmerson said staff from WDFW, USFS, TNC, and PacifiCorp attended the Moss Cave field tour. She thanked Holman and England for being present to provide input on habitat use. A PacifiCorp lineman and forester were also there. The lineman described PacifiCorp's goal of transitioning to double poles, which have a smaller footprint and less maintenance over time. Overall, she thought it was a very productive field visit and people felt it was a good project. Emmerson said she will be meeting with legal counsel tomorrow, who had previously redlined a large portion of the proposed agreement. She hopes this meeting with the counsel who focuses more on FERC and hydroelectric system issues can focus more on meeting the requirements of the Settlement Agreement and can make progress on the Moss Cave agreement. She said she thinks the funds are available to complete this project. She asked for input from other TCC members on the field visit.

Holman agreed it was a productive site visit. TNC staff seemed pleased with PacifiCorp's approach to managing the habitats and thought it was a good solution. It was helpful to hear PacifiCorp's perspective on maintenance of the utility corridor. Staff seemed comfortable with the timing restrictions too.

Yale and Merwin Fish Passage

Emmerson said TCC members may be aware that NMFS and USFWS decided last fall and winter that salmon and steelhead passage are required at Yale Reservoir and Merwin Reservoir. PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD are preparing a draft fish passage plan to show how these needs will be achieved. From a TCC perspective, Emmerson has received a lot of questions so far about access to certain WHMP lands. She is just starting to track these upcoming projects and their potential impacts to WHMP lands. She shared draft locations of the fish passage facilities and discussed where they might occur at each dam. The construction timeline is passage at Yale Reservoir by June 2026 and Merwin Reservoir by June 2028.

Miller said the ACC will be involved in reviewing the fish passage plans. She clarified some of the confusing terminology in the license – there will be a downstream collector in the Yale forebay, an upstream collector in the Swift tailrace, downstream passage in the Merwin forebay, and upstream passage at the Yale tailrace. In total, this will provide passage through both reservoirs.

Miller said even though these projects are mitigation for fish passage impacts, they will still have impacts to WHMP lands will require mitigation too. Emmerson said she has discussed these upcoming impacts with other PacifiCorp staff and agrees that mitigation can be requested, though the calculations may be quite complicated.

Holman asked what the fish passage facilities will look like and how big they will be from a construction and access standpoint. Miller said most of the facilities will be a “truck and haul” type passage arrangement, similar to the Swift Floating Surface Collector. This requires a sorting and loading area and a truck route around the dams. Downstream passage might be volitional at Merwin. The passage ideas are very conceptual and further details will be available as the plan is developed. Emmerson offered that Chris Karchesky, who is PacifiCorp’s fish passage lead on these projects, can be available to discuss any questions with the TCC. She said this is a developing item for the TCC and she wanted to make everyone aware of it even though few details on WHMP impacts area available at this time.

ROW 8/12 Wetland

Emmerson reminded the TCC about the ROW 8/12 wetland project, which has a failing culvert that needs to be restored and replaced. She assessed the beaver habitat in the area and found that beaver sign is present, but it is old. There is a flat area of the site where water slows down, and a small bench is present. Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) are dependent on having beavers in the drainage to make them work, and it appears they are not present. Even if one were present, it might be hard to retain in the basin. The engineering group is looking at the road fill to see if it is adequate or needs to be replaced. Ideally, a three-foot deep wetland could be created, and large wood placed in order to capture sediment. Overall, PacifiCorp has been making progress on this project and the stream design and will continue providing updates.

2017 WSDOT Rockslide

Emmerson reminded the TCC of a large landslide that occurred in 2017 on Highway 503 at Speelyai Park, which blocked the highway and requirement emergency action. WSDOT had to expand their right-of-way to complete the landslide work and worked with PacifiCorp’s property department to pay for the right-of-way expansion. This required cleaning the rock, making the area stable, and installing monitoring devices. However, they went beyond the legal easement that was agreed to when completing the work. They are paying PacifiCorp for additional impacts to 0.004 acres of WHMP lands. The transaction is complicated but will be paid into the mitigation fund. Miller asked if this is a one-time impact or a permanent take of WHMP lands. Emmerson said WSDOT is keeping the permanently enlarged ROW to mitigation rockslide risks over time. This is a one-time purchase of WHMP lands.

Cougar Creek (WSDOT Project)

Emmerson said she checked in with WSDOT staff, who are still hoping to complete the Cougar Creek fish passage project this year. They have a Programmatic Biological Opinion with USFWS and NMFS that provides ESA coverage for this type of work. They would need an exemption from

USACE, and PacifiCorp would need to provide a land lease. Emmerson said when this project was first discussed with PacifiCorp in the fall, WSDOT staff were surprised to hear about bull trout in the creek which affects the in-water work window. They are considering using an old roadbed for staging materials to reduce impacts to vegetation in the area. Jeff Garnett thanked Emmerson for the update and said he understands that even with Programmatic coverage, USFWS will be notified and need to provide concurrence that the project fits within the Programmatic.

Merwin Trash Rack and Bald Eagle Impacts

Emmerson said the Merwin Dam Trash Rack Project was delayed slightly, so would cause an even greater concern for nest chronology of bald eagles. It is now postponed to September due to these complexities, so no monitoring or bald eagle permits will be needed.

Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project Mitigation

Kendel Emmerson provided an update on the mitigation approach for the Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project.

Tree removal mitigation: Emmerson said she is still working to make sure the map of impacted trees is complete and accurate. She performed a field visit with Joe Berry (Chilton Logging Consulting Forester) and reviewed the impacted trees. They discussed using the stumpage value compared to the intrinsic value. Intrinsic value seems more appropriate in this case because it is the value of the tree if it were never logged. Stumpage takes out the cost of logging the tree. Emmerson shared tables reviewing the total number of trees and approximate values for different mitigation calculation methods.

Miller noted that the value of approximately \$7,000 seems low but she is not familiar with the methods for calculating tree value. Emmerson said reforestation cost would be lower considering forestry seedlings cost approximately 75 cents, or \$3.25 for a 1-gallon plant. Emmerson said when visiting the areas in person, the tree removal will not open up too much area. When looking at both temporary and permanent impacts, the mitigation amounts add up. She said the county would also approve the mitigation strategy of WHMP receiving monetary compensation to use for either further acquisition or mitigation on lands in the Lewis River basin.

Holman asked whether a 3:1 ratio for stumpage should be used instead of 2:1. Emmerson said 3:1 would be consistent with WAC trespass mitigation criteria, which is a defensible approach. But this approach would require using the stumpage value. The value for 3:1 stumpage and 2:1 intrinsic is similar, so it seems that could be appropriate. TCC representatives present suggested that 3:1 mitigation for the stumpage value is more easily understood, and the standard, so should be used unless there is a compelling reason otherwise.

Temporary disturbance impacts: For calculating the temporary disturbance impacts, she added a 500-meter buffer for construction disturbance, and a 300-meter buffer for traffic. She shared the impact memorandum describing these areas. The disturbance impacts account for two to three trucks bringing in rocks and gravel, and the road disturbance area accounts just for increased traffic noise.

Permanent WHMP impacts: Emmerson said the total permanent WHMP impacts total just over 1 acre of various vegetation types. A middle estimate of cost was used from a broker to come up

with these values, totaling \$14,588. Adding buffer impacts and disturbance impacts for multiple years brings the total mitigation to around \$221,000. Miller asked if construction is still planned for one year. Emmerson said Saddle Dam Park is planned to close just after Labor Day in 2023, then logging will commence and be completed by mid-October. Construction would occur throughout the winter. Miller asked if the mitigation can be adjusted after construction if it takes longer than what is proposed. Emmerson said the engineers can address some of these questions at the upcoming site visit.

Holman noted that the per acre per year price seems low and asked if that is the market value divided by the years of habitat disturbance. Emmerson said it is the averaged broker value amount. However, this may not accurately represent its habitat value. She asked whether the TCC should work to come up with an average cost per acre of WHMP lands for mitigation purposes, that can be updated as more projects come up. Holman agreed and said using a low value like this for one project could have compounding effects for mitigation in the future. Emmerson noted that Bill Richardson might have some insight to habitat valuation since Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation often buys habitat. She said another method would be to take all of the dollars used for land acquisition in the WHMP and calculate a cost per acre. Holman said management funds have also been used on these lands that increase the value of it. Emmerson said the TCC should continue evaluating this and she will work on these numbers more.

Holman asked if loss of recreation opportunities has been considered as an impact of construction and potential mitigation. This area will have a multi-year loss of hunting, horseback riding, hiking, or other uses. Emmerson said that argument might be hard to make, because the presence of people affects wildlife use. Parking expansions and improvements at Yale Dam are also being done to compensate Saddle Dam being closed, so it is already mitigated for in a way. Though it is not direct mitigation for recreation impacts (closed areas), the project work is still supporting recreation (increased parking), so Holman said he is comfortable with that approach. TCC representatives present agreed.

Administrative Updates

None

Agenda items for May 11, 2022

- Review April 13, 2022, Meeting Notes
- Site Visit to Saddle Dam and mitigation discussion; 2023 timber harvest areas
- Study/Work Product Updates

Next Scheduled Meeting

May 11, 2022
In Person

Attachments:

- April 13, 2022, Meeting Agenda

Adjourn 11:15 a.m.