

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: Wednesday May 10, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Agenda Items

9:00 a.m.	Welcome, <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review and Accept Agenda➤ Review and Accept 4/12/2023 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Period
9:15 a.m.	PacifiCorp Lewis River Annual Plan and Report Review
9:45 a.m.	Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Saddle Dam Remediation Project Update➤ Bald Eagle/Osprey flight summary
10:00 a.m.	Safety orientation for Field Tour and Depart for Field Tour
11:00 a.m.	Eagle Cliff Management Unit 28 lunch and 2023 timber harvest review
12:30 p.m.	Management Unit 24 Wetland Restoration
1:30 p.m.	Management Unit 26 road realignment
2:30 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
3:00 p.m.	Return to Merwin Hydro Control Center and Meeting Adjourn.



Please bring lunch, rain gear, and sturdy waterproof shoes for exploring wetland. Hard hats will be needed for this tour. PacifiCorp will have 2 vehicles for transportation of up to 4 additional passengers per vehicle.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 246 011 674 732

Passcode: QeCZoX

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 563-275-5003,,3376467#](#) United States, Davenport

Phone Conference ID: 337 646 7#

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
May 10, 2023
Conference Call/In Person

TCC Representatives Present: (6)

Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp
 Summer Peterman, PacifiCorp
 Amanda Farrar, Cowlitz PUD (virtual only)
 Erik White, Cowlitz Tribe
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Eric Holman, WDFW

Guests: (1)

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

Calendar:

May 10, 2023	TCC Meeting	In Person/Teams Call
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Assignments for May 10, 2023	Status

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

Assignments for March 8, 2023	Status
Emmerson: Provide the Cougar Creek culvert project permit package to the TCC.	Complete
Emmerson: Revise and redistribute the Saddle Dam Mitigation Memo for TCC final approval.	Complete
Emmerson: Provide contact information for Clark County noxious weed control staff to Amanda Farrar.	Complete

Assignments for February 8, 2023	Status
Emmerson: Finalize and distribute the final Cresap Campground Mitigation Memo.	Complete

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
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Assignments for December 14, 2022	Status
Emmerson: Update the tree tally information and finalize the Saddle Dam Mitigation Memo.	Complete.
Emmerson: Send the Moss Cave appraisal to the TCC members by request.	Complete
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.	Complete

Assignments for December 8, 2021	Status
Emmerson: Discuss potential WHMP disturbance impacts with permitting staff for the Cougar Creek highway project.	Complete

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 9:07 am. All attendees introduced themselves and their positions. Emmerson reviewed the April 12, 2023, with Peggy Miller (WDFW) provided revisions and no further comments were received.

Emmerson provided the following updates from last month's discussions.

The Moss Cave Land acquisition meeting was reschedule to May 16.

The ash deposit at Swift Log Yard will be transported to a private landowner's tree farm. Eric Holman asked if the landowner could be asked for anecdotal results in future years, Emmerson said potentially. Summer Peterman said a good test may be to add some of the ash to Pioneer Meadow in Management Unit (MU) 26 because the site has a lot of moss, and then managers could monitor the difference between tilling and not tilling in the ash.

Emmerson asked if any TCC representatives would like more time to review the notes; no additional time was requested.

The TCC approved the April 12, 2023 meeting notes.

There have been some organizational changes at PacifiCorp Hydro Licensing and Compliance Department. Emmerson is now the Lands Resource manager, and Erik Lesko the Aquatics

Manager. Both will still report to Todd Olson, who will remain as the Hydro Compliance Director. He will continue to focus on fish passage and some of the larger hydro generation projects.

Public Comment Period

None.

PacifiCorp Lewis River Annual Plan and Report Update

Emmerson opened the report for review. Comments and questions were discussed, as follows.

Peggy Miller asked if the 50/50 cover/forage ratio is applied to all managed lands, or by Management Unit. Emmerson replied that the ratio only applies to each management unit and is meant to be more of a guideline. Issues such as disease need to be considered, and it may not always be possible for each site to meet the cover:forage goal. Emmerson said that whenever she visits a timber harvest, the first thing she does is evaluate whether the site meets the cover/forage goal. Eric Holman said that buffers between timber harvests used to be smaller, and there was more clear direction to do more active timber harvest. The TCC prefers more delicate forestry, as that provides better wildlife habitat, and there has been an inherent conflict in play since before the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan's (WHMP's) current form. It would be better to identify and adjust for more realistic and appropriate ratios on a case-by-case basis. It isn't feasible or beneficial to turn half of the landscape into meadows. Emmerson replied that Unit 28 (that we will be visiting during today's site visits) will not achieve the 50/50 cover/forage ratio because PacifiCorp doesn't want elk crossing on the bridge or the river to be near Northwoods, so it will not achieve the cover:forage goal. Miller said that when the plan is revised, it would be better to apply the cover/forage ratio to units that are manageable lands, and that the ratio should not be applied to lands that are not manageable, and units with other concerns should be flagged. Holman asked if setting aside the buffer as a preserve would be inherently hard on species that require early succession habitat, such as elk and songbirds.. Holman said that institutional knowledge in natural resources management is important, and that it would be beneficial to document their choices and decisions so that the future managers understand the story. Erik White agreed that if a ratio can't be met in a certain unit, they could potentially change a different unit's ratio to meet that overall percentage, and not use hard and fast buffers. He would also like to talk about timber harvest planning more going forward. Emmerson said that some buffers have changed because those streams don't exist anymore or where not identified correctly.

Miller wanted to clarify that the Swift Canal Ponds managed by Cowlitz PUD discussed in the plan are different from PacifiCorp ponds, or if they are the same ponds with dual needs. Amanda Farrar and Emmerson clarified that they are completely different sets of ponds. The PacifiCorp ponds are south of the canal and east of the bridge.

Holman asked why there wasn't any follow through on the cherry tree planting detailed in the report? Emmerson replied that the cherry trees weren't available from the Washington Conservation District.

Holman mentioned that there was pre-commercial thinning planned for 2022 that never materialized, and asked if that would be happening in 2023? Emmerson said that it would. Holman then asked if there was deciduous planting planned for MU 6? Emmerson said that there was root

rot in that unit so they planted cedar and pine trees, although deciduous trees could be added. Holman said that it would be good to blend in more deciduous trees to that unit.

Project Updates

Saddle Dam Remediation

The Saddle Dam Remediation project has been postponed to 2024.

Bald Eagle/Osprey Flight Summary

The bald eagle/osprey flight was completed on April 30th, which was a little later than planned due to weather. There was not a lot of activity or occupied nest on Swift Reservoir, Emmerson believes that was weather related. Near the Swift Canal Bridge there is a new bald eagle nest, and at the confluence of the Columbia and Lewis River there is a several new nest. It looks like an eagle colony. They expect to see more nesting on the next flight, and that the eagles are late this year. The nest near Merwin Dam is not occupied, which is odd. There was a pair of eagles near Buncombe Hollow that seem tied to one area, but no signs of nest. Emmerson was concerned that the helicopter was beginning to harass the birds, so Emmerson made a note to monitor that area in June to see if there is a nest. Miller asked if the nest near where the eagle mortality was discovered was occupied, and Emmerson said that the nest is occupied by a bald eagle, so the eagle that died was from somewhere else. Miller asked if there is still a nest across from the Woodland Release Ponds and Emmerson said that yes it is and the nest at Speelyai Bay are the most steadfast.

Conference Call Adjourned at 9:54 am

Field Tour

Eagle Cliff Management Unit 28 / 2023 Timber Harvest Review

Joe Berry, the forestry consultant from Chilton Logging, met with the group for a tour through Unit 28. It was noted that the percent cover in this unit was 95%. There is a lot of use of this area, but not a lot of forage space. Joe described how there would ideally only be one access point, but that there will be two short spurs (one to the south end and one to the north end) to avoid removing bigger, older trees such as cedars, that they would like to keep. The shoreline of Swift Reservoir has a 200-foot buffer, but in this location the buffer was changed to 300 feet because it is more riparian habitat than reservoir. The river width was expanded because there were willow sandbars that weren't being accounted for in the imagery. The first location within the unit visited had a lot of moss on the ground, some vine maple and huckleberry, but not many preferred forage species. Emmerson mentioned that it was likely that "No Hunting" signs would need to be placed, but that that would draw attention to the site and let people know that it is there. Holman mentioned that he doesn't approve of area closures unless it is necessary, and Peterman said that there wouldn't be a closure, but that people should be cautioned that there is a recreation area ahead, and Holman agreed. Joe discussed how there were some bigger trees in this location, and that it is a narrow area restricted by slope. Emmerson said that this location could become permanent forage. Miller asked if the bigger trees would be taken down, and Emmerson said that though this would be a permanent meadow, there are some good trees to keep, so not all would be taken down. Across the road, in timber harvest area 112801CT, pine was planted in the understory and the grasses are doing well where the ground was scarified, and huckleberry is doing well. It is hoped that this

timber harvest area could have the same results on a smaller scale. Nearer to the road, Emmerson noted that rootwads could potentially be used to close off the access points, and that they could also potentially try to save some dogwoods and cottonwoods.

After parking on the road and exiting the cars to enter the site from a different location, it was discussed that there is a 100-foot buffer from the road. Joe does not believe that the soil in this area is very good, and that the tree locations are probably natural. It was agreed that snags could safely be left in place for habitat. Emmerson discovered a plant vining up a fir tree, and it was agreed that it was likely honeysuckle, which is beneficial. Holman said that there is a good, diverse shrub component within this location already, and that opening it up would be nice, but it would be best to use a light touch, since many of the desired understory species are already in this space.

Cougar Pit Ash Deposit

Post lunch, the group observed the ash deposit at the Swift Reservoir shoreline and walked through the site. When discussing how to deal with future logs and woody debris deposited on the shoreline, Emmerson noted that rotted logs are better for wildlife habitat, and it would not be possible to sort logs by species in order to turn them into hog fuel (a type of coarse mulch). If the logs were to be turned into firewood, PacifiCorp would have to rely on people to clear the firewood out quickly, which likely isn't feasible. They are working on permits for emergency repairs for the site, likely to happen in September of this year. All the ash will be removed, and the site will be regraded to slope away from the shoreline. The theory is that the ash is forming an impermeable layer, so once that is removed, the water will then be able to percolate down through the ground again, and the shoreline will stop eroding. The parking lot will also be regraded so that all sheet flow moves away from the reservoir. The site was very mucky last December due to the ash accumulation, making all work operationally difficult.

Management Unit 24 Wetland Restoration

The group walked on a dry, emergency canal spillway to reach the wetland complex. Peterman would like the whole complex boundary to be determined, because it is larger than what is currently being managed. At the first stop at the bottom of the slope, Peterman noted how that whole location used to be invasive blackberry. This is Year 5 after being treated. The site will be treated again this year, then moving forward every three years, because it is very expensive and labor intensive. Dead blackberry canes were never removed, but the elk crushed stems down, so they are no longer visible. There has been a die-off of mature red alders, so there is a planting plan for the site. Wild strawberry has seeded as a part of the natural succession of the area. Shrubs such as cascara, rose, and cottonwoods were planted and flagged, and once they leaf out, they will receive a treatment of Plantskydd to protect from elk. The water has receded at least a foot since previous site visits in early April.

Management Unit 25 Road Realignment

(This site was not visited today due to time constraints.)

Administrative

The June 14 meeting will occur at the Merwin Hydro Control building and a full day of site visits.

Agenda items for June 14, 2023

- Review May 10, 2023, Meeting Notes
- Project updates
- Site visits Management Unit 20 2023 Timber harvest areas.

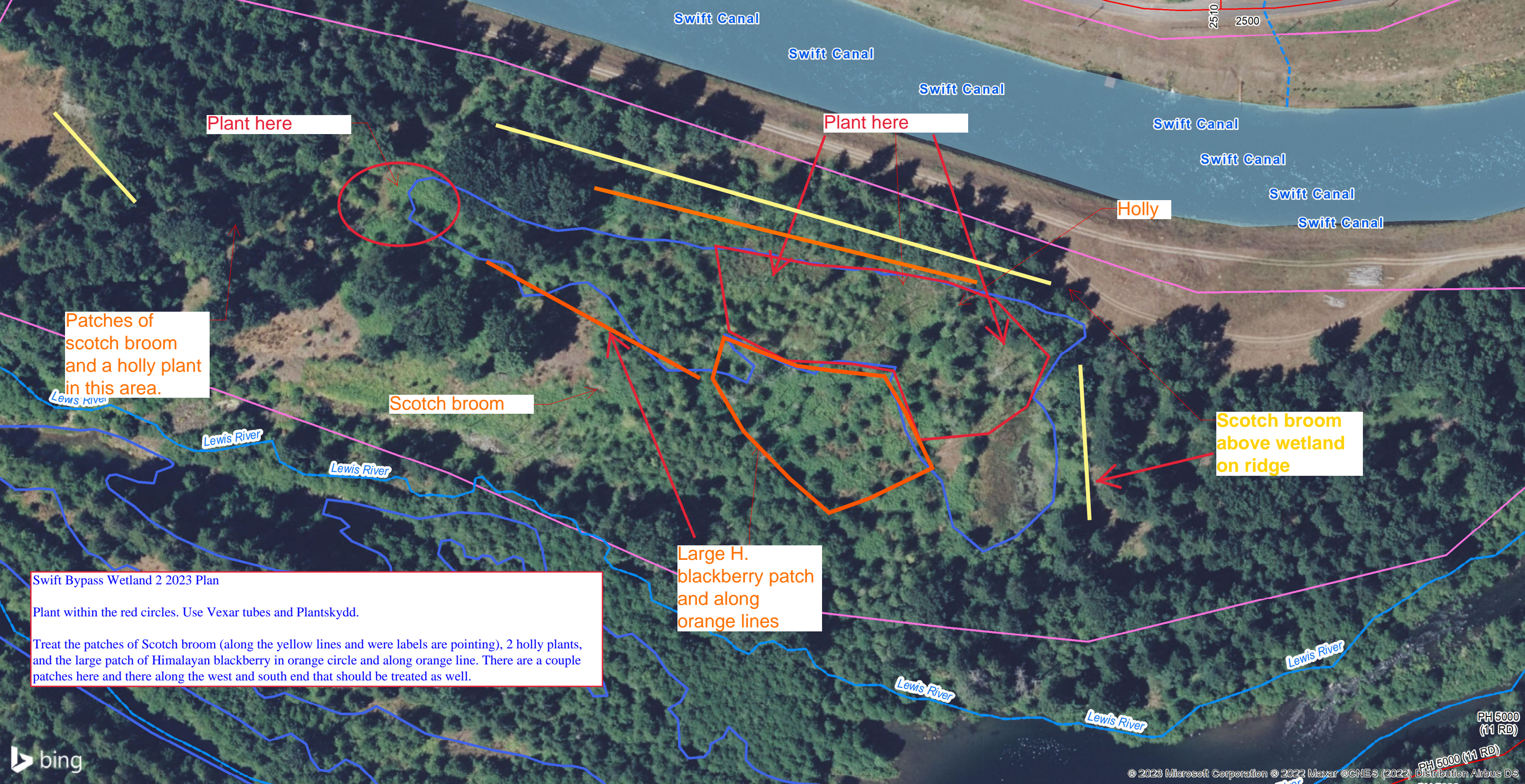
Next Scheduled Meeting

June 14, 2023
Merwin Hydro Control/Teams

Attachments:

- Unit 28 Timber Harvest Area Map
- Swift Bypass Wetland 2

Field Tour Adjourned at 3:00 pm.



Swift Canal

Swift Canal

Swift Canal

Swift Canal

Swift Canal

Swift Canal

Swift Canal

Plant here

Plant here

Holly

Patches of scotch broom and a holly plant in this area.

Scotch broom

Scotch broom above wetland on ridge

Large H. blackberry patch and along orange lines

Swift Bypass Wetland 2 2023 Plan
Plant within the red circles. Use Vexar tubes and Plantskydd.
Treat the patches of Scotch broom (along the yellow lines and were labels are pointing), 2 holly plants, and the large patch of Himalayan blackberry in orange circle and along orange line. There are a couple patches here and there along the west and south end that should be treated as well.

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Lewis River

Lewis River

Lewis River

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Lewis River

PH 5000 (11 RD)

PH 5000 (11 RD)