

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 11, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 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.	Guest Presenter Daren Hauswald Eagle Island Update and 10.3.3 Funding Request
9:45 a.m.	Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project Mitigation
10:15 am	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Moss Cave Update➤ MU 3 timber harvest survey revisions and bald eagle survey results➤ FERC letter of approval for extending report submittal time
10:30 a.m.	Safety orientation for Field Tour and Depart for Field Tour
10:45 a.m.	MU 3 proposed 2022 harvest areas on the west side of Management Unit. <i>Joe Berry Chilton Logging Consulting Forester will join us.</i>
11:45 p.m.	Depart MU 3
12:15 p.m.	Arrive Saddle Dam Park. Lunch on site.

12:30 p.m.	Saddle Dam Remediation Project site visit with Eric Hansen (PacifiCorp) and Jeff Walker (AECOM)
1:30 p.m.	Depart Saddle Dam Park and 3 options depending on time and interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extend time at Saddle Dam for further evaluation of impacts ➤ MU 10 2021 timber harvest areas ➤ MU 3 timber 2022 proposed harvest areas with bald eagle restrictions on east side of management unit.
2:30 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
3:00 p.m.	Return to Merwin Hydro Control Center and 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
Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

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Phone Conference ID: 190 139 123#

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
May 11, 2022
Merwin Hydro Control Center & Field Visit

TCC Representatives Present: (8)

Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp
 Summer Peterman, PacifiCorp
 Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
 Erik White, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Eric Holman, WDFW
 Jeff Garnett, USFWS

Guests: (2)

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

Calendar:

May 11, 2022	TCC Meeting	TEAMS Call Only
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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
Emmerson: Account for loss of WHMP land acreage through the life of the license in next round of Saddle Dam mitigation calculations.	In progress
Holman: Regarding potential 10.3.3 project opportunities, stay in touch with the WDFW private lands biologist and connect her to the TCC if there is further interest.	In progress
All: Consider a site visit to the Eagle Island Restoration Project in August.	In progress

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 December 8, 2021	Status
Emmerson: Discuss potential WHMP disturbance impacts with permitting staff for the Cougar Creek highway project.	In progress (project deferred to 2023)

Assignments for January 13, 2021	Status
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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
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Kendel Emmerson (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. No additions to the agenda were requested. Emmerson reviewed the meeting notes from April 13, 2022. The meeting notes were approved at 9:07 am with minor changes.

Public Comment Period

None

Eagle Island Update and 10.3.3 Funding Request

Kendel Emmerson introduced Daren Hauswald (WDFW) to the TCC. Hauswald provided an update on the Eagle Island Restoration Project (see attached slides) and a proposal for funding additional work in 2022 that the TCC is requested to approve. A summary of the key points from the presentation and questions and comments are as follows:

- Hauswald introduced the project and reviewed activities that occurred in 2021, including spraying areas of scotch broom (over 100 acres), mowing open areas, and removing live scotch broom along the banks. Knotweed was treated in multiple locations, and a few purple loosestrife and meadow knapweed plants were found and treated. Hauswald provided a recommendation to the landowners near the northern part of the channel to discuss weed management with Cowlitz County, as there are some noxious weeds present in the lawns in this area.
 - o Eric Holman asked if the 100-acre area that was sprayed has been treated previously. Hauswald said yes, it was previously treated by aerial spraying.
- Hauswald showed areas where removal and treatment occurred in 2021 (slides 3-4). The areas that were mowed with the mini-excavator (yellow lines) likely will not need to be sprayed again. The knotweed treatment areas are not necessarily entirely knotweed—they are generally comprised of small to medium size patches within the polygons shown. He noted that in some of the DNR aquatic lands area of the island, additional work has occurred to treat knotweed, where it is growing mixed with willows and providing a source of knotweed for the island. He said most of the other areas of the island shown in the aerial imagery have been treated in the past and new mature knotweed is not being found in those areas, so the treatment involves targeting any sick plants that regenerate or small plants that appear. He noted that some of the treatment work is also performed by kayak. Private property owners have allowed access for WDFW to launch and stage equipment, where an easement was previously provided to WDFW.
 - o Emmerson asked if there is a stream channel between the northern and southern sections of the island. Hauswald confirmed there is a channel present at high flows. He noted that the Cowlitz Tribe has a restoration project in that area too.
 - o Holman asked if the access/easement is for the public or only WDFW. Hauswald confirmed it is only for WDFW access to the project site.
- Hauswald provided a summary table of 2021 expenditures for the project (slide 5). The expenditures were about what was expected for the year, and he explained the different costs, additional crews, and herbicide costs.
- He reviewed the 2022 planned activities (slides 6-10), which include spot spraying areas for scotch broom, mowing any remaining large stands of scotch broom and the Himalayan

blackberry areas on the western half of the island, as well as treating knotweed, purple loosestrife, and knapweed infestations.

- Hauswald reviewed the request for additional 10.3.3 funding: \$9,300 is requested to hire a weed crew. Combined with existing funds of \$700, this makes \$10,000 available for approximately 200 labor hours of weed work, which is a significant help in August to complete the necessary field work. WDFW's match will likely be similar to 2021 (\$12,536).
- Emmerson asked if he has observed any increases or changes in wildlife use of the island. Hauswald said that deer and alligator lizards are frequently observed. Mourning doves roost in the trees on the island. TCC representatives present discussed eagle and osprey nests in the area—Holman noted a heron and egret rookery near the Woodland Bottoms Water Access Site, and Emmerson said nesting ducks are also present in the same area. Multiple eagle nests are also present nearby.
- Holman asked if there is a tracking list of 10.3.3 funds that have been allocated to the Eagle Island Project. Hauswald said previous requests have occurred in 2016 (around \$12,000), 2021 (around \$28,000), and this request in 2022 is for \$9,300.
- Amanda Froberg asked how long he anticipates requesting funding for the project. Hauswald said the request will probably decrease over time, and estimated \$5,000 to \$10,000 every two years, which combines with WDFW's match.

TCC representatives present reviewed the 10.3.3 funding limits, which are no more than \$500,000 over a 10-year period, and no single annual request over \$100,000. The 10-year period is consecutive, so if a project extends for more than 10 years, the initial years of funding stop counting to the cumulative limit after 10 years. And, any project can propose a source of matching funds at 50%. Peggy Miller asked if any other projects have been awarded funding. Froberg noted one of the forestry enhancement projects was allocated \$13,000 for restoration work.

Emmerson said she will set up a tracker so the TCC can better track the expenditures of this fund over time to various projects. Miller suggested including the table in the annual report in 2022, which Emmerson agreed to. Holman noted that the intent of the program was to support public projects, so the TCC representatives should keep aware of any public entities that might be interested in the funding opportunity, though the 50% required match can be a barrier. Miller reminded the TCC representatives that the funds also only apply to projects that are not otherwise required by law. Holman reminded the group that 10.3.3 funds are also available for acquisition projects. Emmerson suggested discussing acquisition opportunities with USFS. Emmerson and Holman discussed whether private land owners might be interested in applying for these funds. Their private lands biologist has a role in enhancing habitats and completing acquisitions, so she may be interested in discussing 10.3.3 funding if there was a situation where matching funds were available. Holman said he will stay in touch with WDFW private lands biologist and if she is interested, potentially invite her to a future TCC meeting.

Froberg asked Hauswald if the Lewis River bypass reach is within his region for management. Hauswald said no, his area only includes wildlife properties, not access sites. Froberg noted there is a riparian area with good habitat across from the bypass reach that is becoming overgrown with Himalayan blackberry. Holman said that area is owned by DNR, and he suggested reaching out to one of their area foresters or district managers. Not only is DNR interested in general stewardship of the land, but they have a responsibility to address noxious weeds. He also suggested a local fish

enhancement group might be interested in riparian area restoration. Emmerson said she will provide a contact at DNR to Froberg and suggested discussing this area with Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Manager.

TCC representatives present voted on allocating \$9,300 to the Eagle Island Restoration Project for noxious weed removal in 2022 as follows: Cowlitz PUD (Froberg), PacifiCorp (Emmerson), USFWS (Garnett), and Cowlitz Tribe (White) voted to approve the funding. WDFW (Miller/Holman) recused themselves from the vote. The funding was approved.

Hauswald said he will follow up with Emmerson with an official letter for the request. He offered a site visit to the TCC in August and noted that the Hydraulic Project Approval allows for walking across the stream multiple times as long as the stream is passable. TCC representatives thanked Hauswald for his work on the project and the presentation. They will consider a site visit in August.

Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project Mitigation

Emmerson provided an update on the possible mitigation options for the Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project. She checked with Bill Richardson for suggestions on how to value habitat compared to real estate values and he suggested looking at acquisition amounts. She shared a table, Lewis River Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Acquisitions, summarizing six acquisitions from 2009 to 2020 with their costs per acre (average of \$4,688). She had previously come up with a cost estimate of \$212 per acre per year for temporary impacts in the area around the quarry. She noted the project has much larger temporary impacts than permanent impacts, and shared summary tables showing the permanent and temporary impact costs for each vegetation cover type, totaling \$208,782. Holman asked if the loss of funds to manage the lost WHMP habitat is considered. Emmerson said Saddle Dam includes both excluded and secondary lands, and the permanent impacts should be transitioned to excluded lands after the project. She agreed with Holman—accounting for the 1.23 acres of permanently lost WHMP lands through the end of the license would also need to be included.

Emmerson showed the areas where trees are proposed for removal. She reminded the TCC that Chilton Logging did a timber cruise in the area, and PacifiCorp and their consultant staff are still working to finalize the final tree impact numbers. Holman asked what feedback Emmerson would like from the TCC on these areas. Emmerson said any input about where to add plants (and what type) compared to using the mitigation dollars for other projects would be helpful. Miller asked how long the boat ramp will be closed. Emmerson said the boat ramp will be closed to the public for all of 2024 (mostly for safety reasons related to truck traffic), and hopefully open again in time for 2025. Miller noted that PacifiCorp is working on a habitat preparation plan which includes planting fish from the trucks at the boat ramp, and she suggested further coordination to make sure the boat ramp is accessible.

Holman asked if Emmerson is looking for feedback on the tentative mitigation total. Emmerson said at this stage, she is more concerned with the calculation for the mitigation than the total, as the amounts will still change as the project impacts are finalized.

Study/Work Product Updates

Moss Cave Field Tour

Emmerson said she had a meeting yesterday with PacifiCorp's new legal counsel and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to discuss the Moss Cave project. Emmerson said the project appears to be moving in a positive direction, and PacifiCorp is working through some internal concerns about the conservation easement. She said one complicated aspect of the agreement is that TNC would like to enter into a draft purchase sale agreement, which requires advancing appraisals and the purchase price before the conservation easement is finalized. She said it may not be completed in 2022 but she expects it could be finalized in 2023. Miller asked whether it will be added to the WHMP lands and be open to the public. Emmerson said she had assumed it will be open to the public, as it is surrounded by WHMP and public land. However, TNC does not allow hunting on their properties so that is a minor difference between the surrounding lands. Miller asked whether the agreement (once finalized) should be advertised to the public or whether it is better not to explicitly advertise it because of the bat caves. Holman suggested advertising that a parcel was bought through coordination between PacifiCorp, TNC, and WDFW without saying exactly where it is. Emmerson said this will be a topic for when the agreement is closer to being finalized.

MU 3 Timber Harvest Survey Revisions and Bald Eagle Survey Results

Emmerson shared a figure showing Unit 3 of the WHMP. Emmerson said today's field visit will include looking at the west portion of Unit 3. There is a large forested area that will be commercially thinned. She noted two previous osprey nests in the area that are being monitored. If the nests are occupied, appropriate buffers will be added, or the activities will be postponed until after fledging.

The second cut includes an area near a bald eagle nest in one of the residual trees from another harvest area. Logging in this area will not start until September 1. Variable density thinning will occur, with 30-50% density planned for outside the 660-foot buffer, 50% density between 660 feet and 330 feet, and no logging within the 330-foot buffer. Emmerson noted the buffers are set according to the most recent USFWS guidance, which differs from what is written in the WHMP. Emmerson noted that a landowner nearby is aware of the proposed activities and interested in the operations. He was opposed to logging in the meadow area and requested additional information about it. She said due to the later start, it is likely that the operation will not be completed and seeded in 2022.

The third area (clearcut 220336) shown on the figure is potentially old growth. She said there is a patch of dead trees, however, and the stand appears to have a type of root rot, which the TCC will discuss further during the field visit.

FERC Letter of Approval for Extending Report Submittal Time

Emmerson said PacifiCorp received FERC's letter approving the extension of the annual reporting submittal date to June 30. She noted that the reports are being reviewed through the ACC, and comments are due soon to Todd Olson.

Administrative Updates

Emmerson said PacifiCorp hired a new hydropower coordinator, and Beth Bendickson will be the permanent coordinator for Lewis River projects. PacifiCorp is still working to reassign workloads.

A safety briefing was held for the site visits.

Field Visit: MU3 proposed 2022 harvest areas on the west side of Management Unit

Joe Berry (consulting forester) from Chilton Logging joined the TCC for a tour of the MU3 proposed harvest area.

Emmerson and Berry showed the TCC the old rail car bridge that will be replaced for equipment to access the logging area. A few trees adjacent to the bridge will also be removed to accommodate the construction and can be left on site above the ordinary high-water mark. The bridge abutments need to be expanded, but there is no in-water work.

At MU3 harvest area 220336, the TCC walked the harvest area, discussed the proposed harvest plan, and reviewed the stand with root rot. Emmerson noted that some of the trees within the harvest area are mature leave trees from previous logging operations, and these are included in the harvest areas so that they are not double counted. (The previous timber harvest boundary should have included the areas with leave trees associated with that harvest.) At the stand with root rot, Emmerson shared that there was no harvest data available on this stand, but it was likely thinned prior to 1998. Logging of old growth is not allowed as part of the plan, but treating for dying trees is allowed. Berry described the root rot, which is assumed to be a type of *Armillaria* (a sample has been sent in for confirmation testing.) He said the *Armillaria* will likely keep spreading slowly throughout this stand, and trees like alder, maple, and cedar are more resistant to it. One option is to cut a swath of trees around the stand at a distance where all the diseased trees cannot make a “bridge” to healthy trees outside of the isolated stand. However, this method is flawed in that it is hard to know where to draw the line around the stand. Both Miller and Holman favored leaving the stand as is, since the trees are not dying particularly quickly, and it will mimic natural processes and open up meadow habitat. Emmerson said the trees may all have the disease while only some are symptomatic. She said she will monitor more trees dying in this area due to *Armillaria* and will provide updates to the TCC.

In the second area they visited in MU3, Berry described the overall harvest methods for the stand. It will be thinned up to 30% variable density, with consideration to not take so many trees that remaining ones are subject to windfall, and to maintain a random distribution of leaving trees. Emmerson noted that PacifiCorp maintains management over the commercial logging and controls this through landing specifications. She noted the biggest trees in this stand are approximately 80 years old.

Field Visit: Saddle Dam Remediation Project

Eric Hansen (PacifiCorp) and Jeff Walker (AECOM) joined the TCC for a field review of the proposed Saddle Dam Remediation Project. Eric Hansen described the seismic need for the project and overall design approach. The proposed swale is designed so that it can be monitored for seepage. He said the project will likely go out for bid and could potentially be contracted through PacifiCorp’s Master Services Agreement (MSA). There is still some uncertainty in the project schedule due to design review by FERC experts, and the second year of the project will likely include all of the restoration elements. At the drainage swale area, Jeff Walker reviewed some of the trees that will be removed and how the swale was designed to not violate any needs of the WHMP lands. In the area that will be thinned, TCC representatives generally agreed that shrubs would be preferred to replanting trees in this area.

Jeff Walker described the proposed truck access routes and options, which could total up to 32 trips a day for the year of construction. The TCC looked at the location of the old gate, which will be replaced by a new gate. Overall, one of the design goals was to confine work as close to the dam as possible, to avoid wetland buffer and potential cultural resource impacts. For areas where temporary roads will be constructed, geotextile fabric will be laid down to better protect the ground.

The group walked the top of the dam and discussed how the surface of the dam will largely stay the same (drivable rock) but will have rock on both sides of the dam instead of grass on the downstream side. Emmerson pointed out the pedestrian bridge over a small stream which is anticipated to be dry during June. There are no proposed changes to the pedestrian bridge or stream, though she noted that the area could be a good trail option in the future. Eric Hansen described how photo-monitoring and monthly reports will be used to track project progress with FERC.

Photos from the top of Saddle Dam





Field Visit: Management Unit 10 2021 timber harvest areas

The TCC visited MU10 and reviewed timber harvest areas that were completed in 2021. The group stopped and discussed harvest at various areas of MU10. In the Buckskin harvest zone, Emmerson described how leave trees were widely available and there was good diversity of species (cedar, dogwoods, alders, bigleaf maple). 10% of the slash piles were left in place as habitat for small mammals and reptiles. There were minor issues with trespass (ATVs) in this area that were resolved; and many members of the community enjoy walking through the area. In the Pinto harvest zone, Emmerson pointed out trees that were marked to become snags and described how the harvest areas were intentionally sheltered by geographic features. In the Palomino harvest area, Emmerson said the leave trees appear in good condition; grass has taken well to the open areas; and there were deciduous trees and shrub thickets in the lower parts of the harvest area. Wildlife including elk, deer, great horned owls, and bears have been observed in this area.

Agenda items for June 8, 2022

- Review May 11, 2022 Meeting Notes
- Study/Work Product Updates

Next Scheduled Meeting

June 8, 2022

In Person

Attachments:

- May 11, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Eagle Island Restoration Project Presentation

Adjourn Meeting and Conference Call 10:30 a.m.

Field visit conducted 10:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Eagle Island Restoration

PacifiCorps TCC Meeting

May 11th, 2022



2021 Habitat Activities

- Controlled scotch broom on 100 acres of Eagle Island.
- Mowed Scotch Broom along 1 mile of riverbank
- Treated all known stands of knotweed on Eagle Island and other WDFW properties in the Lewis River Watershed
- Treated a small amount of purple loosestrife and meadow knapweed



2021 Scotch Broom Removal

- Red Polygon= ~100 acres
- Yellow lines=~1 mile



Knotweed
Treatments
on Eagle
Island



2021 10.3.3 Expenditures & Match



Activity	WDFW Expenditures	PacifiCorps Expenditures
Purchase of mini excavator and mower	\$57,846	\$16,000
Scotch broom and knotweed control activities	\$11,278 (WDFW Employees' Salaries and Benefits)	\$9,277 (Weed Crew)
Herbicides	\$1,258 (minimum amount spent)	\$2,000
Total	\$70,382	\$27,277



2022 Planned Habitat Activities

- Spot spray 100 acres for scotch broom
- Mow remaining large stands of scotch broom, and himalayan blackberry thickets along western half of the island
- Treat all knotweed, purple loosestrife, and knapweed infestations





Blackberry Mowing Areas for 2022 |

Knotweed Treatments Planned for 2022

- Treat all known stands on Eagle Island, and WDFW properties on Cedar and Johnson Creeks





June 2016



May 2022



Request for Additional 10.3.3 Funding

- \$9,300 to hire a weed crew to help treat scotch broom and knotweed on Eagle Island
- WDFW match will come from Wildlife Area Staff salaries/benefits, and the purchase of herbicides for control work.
- WDFW's 2021 Match= \$12,536 (Likely to be very similar in 2022)



Questions