

# LEWIS RIVER TERRESTRIAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

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

Date: Wednesday July 13, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## Agenda Items

9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Review and Accept Agenda and 6/8/2022 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Period
9:15 a.m.	Cover:forage Model review
9:30 a.m.	Moss Cave Fair Market Value and Appraisal
10:00 a.m.	Safety orientation for Field Tour and Depart for Field Tour
10:30 a.m.	MU 2 2020 Commercial Thin
11:15 a.m.	600C2 culvert replacement and ROW 8/12 wetland
12:00 p.m.	Arrive at MU 6 timber harvests areas and lunch
12:15 p.m.	MU 6 proposed 2022 timber harvest areas. This will include 5 small commercial thin and harvest areas.
2:15 p.m.	MU 3 proposed 2022 timber harvest area off Wilkinson Road.



2:30 pm.	Next Meeting's Agenda Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: <a href="https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html">https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html</a>
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. Warning some of the locations we will be visiting are known to have poison oak.**

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

#### **Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

#### **Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 563-275-5003,,84290684# United States, Davenport](#)

Phone Conference ID: 842 906 84#

**Final Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting**  
**July 13, 2022**  
**Merwin Hydro Control Center & Field Visit**

**TCC Representatives Present: (4)**

Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp  
Summer Peterman, PacifiCorp  
Peggy Miller, WDFW  
Bill Richardson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

**Guests: (1)**

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

**Calendar:**

July 13, 2022	TCC Meeting	Teams Call and Field Visit
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<b>Assignments for July 13, 2022</b>	<b>Status</b>
Emmerson and Peterman: Clarify the definition of old growth connectivity in the cover:forage model because it could affect how raptor data are reported.	<b>In progress</b>

<b>Assignments for May 11, 2022</b>	<b>Status</b>
Emmerson: Make a tracking sheet for 10.3.3 funding disbursements and include it in the 2022 TCC Annual Report.	<b>In progress</b>

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

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

<b>Assignments for January 13, 2021</b>	<b>Status</b>
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.	<b>In progress</b>

Kendel Emmerson (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. No additions to the agenda were requested. Emmerson reviewed the meeting notes from June 8, 2022. The meeting notes were approved at 9:07 am with minor revisions.

## **Public Comment Period**

None

## **Cover:forage Model Review**

Emmerson shared the revised Cover:Forage model and showed the units that have no cover or forage because they are completely within a Northern spotted owl (“NSO”) or riparian buffer (“R”) habitat restriction area. Most of these are small units around Swift Reservoir. Emmerson said the shoreline buffer in this area, as well as access, makes it extremely difficult and unlikely to log.

There are three units with very limited to no access in Unit 13, Unit 23, and Unit 29. In Unit 13, is an area with no access that includes a steep cliff and is approximately 80% conifer cover. This area has mature forest but has not been field verified and may include old growth trees. The updated model calls this area “old growth connectivity.” In Unit 23, there is an area that used to have access and was previously logged. It has old growth and connects to old growth, so is similarly called “old growth connectivity.” The culvert that previously provided access to this area has been removed due to the Department of Natural Resources RMAP program. There is no intention to regain access in this area even though it theoretically could be made accessible in the future due to the road. In Unit 29, a road is present that could be used to access this area, but Emmerson said she has not visited this area or considered it for cover:forage because it is so disconnected from other WHMP lands. This area has been added to the “old growth connectivity” habitat type, even though it is not as mature as the two areas previously mentioned. Though it is not particularly high quality habitat now, it could grow to become mature forest. The surrounding areas are Rayonier timber areas and private camping properties, further emphasizing the low quality of surrounding habitats. This area does not have a cover:forage goal due to the surrounding poor quality habitat – it would not be a good use of TCC funds to focus on cover:forage goals in this area.

Summer Peterman confirmed that “old growth connectivity” is a new habitat type in the model (see row 51). Emmerson said yes, and reviewed the definition with the TCC. Peterman and Emmerson will clarify the definition of old growth connectivity because it could affect how raptor data are reported.

## **Moss Cave Fair Market Value and Appraisal**

This portion is considered confidential and is not available for public review.

## **Field Visit: MU2 2020 Commercial Thin**

Emmerson provided a figure of the site showing the areas of commercial thinning.

During the field visit, the TCC visited the John Prine (200234CT) harvest unit. This area has a minimum canopy cover of 30% and was seeded with grasses. Emmerson noted that one of the logging strategies was to make one wood pile to burn, which cost more, but reduced the fire risk and was able to be managed by an excavator. Overall, this area saw good seed take. “Strips” of the forest were logged to provide equipment access up the slope and scarify the soil. TCC representatives observed fresh elk sign and evidence that elk have been bedding down in the area. Emmerson noted that a clear cut will likely occur in the flat area of MU2 in approximately 15-20 years.



**Field Visit: 600C2 Culvert Replacement and ROW 8/12 Wetland**

The TCC visited the failed culvert and met with PacifiCorp engineer (Zach). This is not a fish-bearing stream. They discussed the plan to fill in the area behind the failed culvert to make a shallow wetland. This area is not a high priority for duck habitat, so a shallow (one to three feet deep) wetland feature was chosen to encourage amphibian habitat. The culvert will stay as a perched culvert, but a larger pipe will be installed. The roadbed will also be raised and extended by a few feet. Rip rap will be installed to protect against scour in this flashy system. The TCC discussed the structure that will be installed and construction sequencing. The culvert will be at a slightly higher elevation than previous in order to regulate water elevation. Habitat disturbance will not extend upstream into the forested area, and there will be no decrease in overall stream or pond size.

The culvert is being replaced (instead of full removal with road decommissioning) because the road services two transmission lines, and an alternate route, such as through the forest slightly upstream, would still require a culvert and significant habitat disturbance.

Emmerson also noted that cultural resources requirements have already been cleared at this area, and the FERC notice that is required for ground disturbance within the project limits has been sent. She noted that PacifiCorp is working internally to better understand the FERC requirements about these types of notifications. For instance, any new roads represent significant ground disturbance and would require a notification. However, a culvert replacement within an existing road footprint and well outside of the operational limits of the project may not rise to the level of requiring a notification. One high priority near-term item is for the reed canary patches to be sprayed before construction starts this fall. The FPA application was submitted last week and should be received by August 15. The modifications to the wetland are covered under the Forest Practices Act because of the road repair, and there are no needed approvals or permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The TCC plans to visit this site again after construction is completed and may visit during seeding or wetland planting.

**Field Visit: MU6 Proposed Timber Harvest Area (Five Small Commercial Thin and Harvest Areas)**

Emmerson provided a figure of the site showing previous harvest areas from the late 1980s and the proposed areas for thinning, plus area that will be clearcut due to laminated root rot. MU6 also has one bald eagle nest, so those restrictions are shown on the map as well. Emmerson noted the road is within the bald eagle nest buffer area, so no work will occur here until after September.

Another figure shows the leave trees that have been chosen within the clearcut area. Emmerson said it was challenging to determine which trees should be left to control the laminated root rot. She said these trees will likely die, so it is important not to select leave trees next to the road. During site visits, the stream types were also confirmed and/or updated in order determine final stream buffer requirements. Miller asked if the laminated root rot extends into the buffer zone, which Emmerson confirmed. She added that the original harvest in this area was also targeted to manage laminated root rot, so it has been an issue in this area for a long time. Miller asked if it would be worth the effort to selectively harvest root-rot infected trees in the riparian buffer. Emmerson said if equipment can access the area, and the area is also within the Forest Practices

Act buffer (which is narrower than the WHMP buffers), then harvesting trees would require more planning and documentation. However, this is an option.

In the field, the TCC visited the Billy the Kid proposed timber harvest area. This is a planned thinning to 50% where a previous clearcut was completed in 1989. Emmerson noted that there has been exceptional regrowth in this area since the last logging cycle. This area has had many issues with ATV trespassing because it so flat.. Timber harvest activities will likely occur in late summer due to the bald eagle restrictions for other timber harvest areas. . PacifiCorp is aware of one potential new osprey nest and are monitoring that area. Mowing will also occur along the road with some minor road expansion/maintenance so that a box truck can access the Speelyai pumphouse. Cedar and pine will be planted in the area where root rot is present.

The TCC also drove past the Wild Bill, Butch Cassidy, Doc Holliday, DB Cooper, and Jesse James timber harvest areas. Perennial streams were observed and the TCC discussed how Douglas fir leave trees are only present away from the road, because they are likely infected and have the potential to fall. Leave trees in these areas also include bigleaf maple, willow, and cascara. The stands will be replanted with Western red cedar, pine, and some Western hemlock. Emmerson noted that some minor road improvements will also be completed (fixing a slump in the road). Some younger areas of trees are also included in the thinning plan because they are affected by root rot.

#### **Field Visit: MU3 Proposed Timber Harvest (Wilkinson Road)**

Emmerson provided a figure of the site showing areas that are overdue for thinning. She noted that the riparian buffers extend into the timber harvest boundary, but there is a topographical break. She said the buffer area does not contribute substantially to the riparian habitat in the area. She noted that osprey nests in the area are not currently occupied, so there are no timing restrictions, and there is also an interested landowner in the area who occasionally engages with PacifiCorp.

The TCC visited Unit 3 and went to an area that was logged in 1988. The area has been pre-commercially thinned since then. The TCC walked to the stream buffer. This area will be thinned to 30 to 50%, and small trees will be the targets for removal.

The TCC also visited McKee meadows, which was logged in 2017. Shrubs and large conifers were left in this area, and it was reseeded with hemlock and cedar. There is one eagle nest tree present in this area, and Emmerson noted that she found a deceased juvenile eagle at the site in 2021 (which was disposed of according to federal guidelines).

#### **Administrative**

Bill Richardson noted that he will begin transitioning his role on the TCC to a different staff person (likely in the fall) and he will update the TCC on this process and any needed changes to the distribution lists.

#### **Agenda items for August 10, 2022**

- Review July 13, 2022, Meeting Notes
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Future HEP Revisions
- Moss Cave Update

- Eagle Island Restoration Project Field Tour

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

August 10, 2022
Merwin Hydro Control and Field Visit

**Attachments:**

- July 13, 2022, Meeting Agenda
- Figures from field visit

*Adjourn Conference Call 10:00 a.m.*

*Field visit conducted 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*



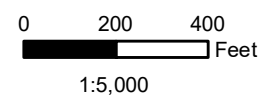
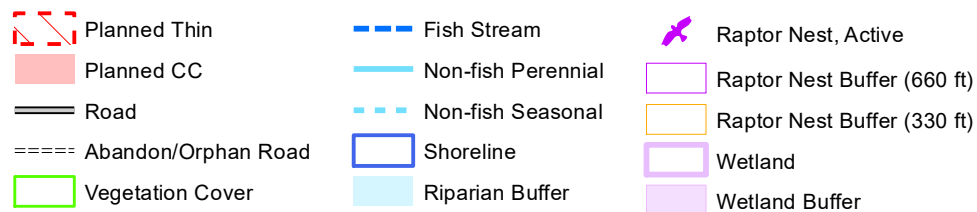






## WHMP - Unit 3

### Planned Harvests

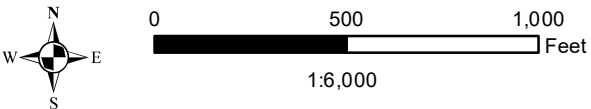
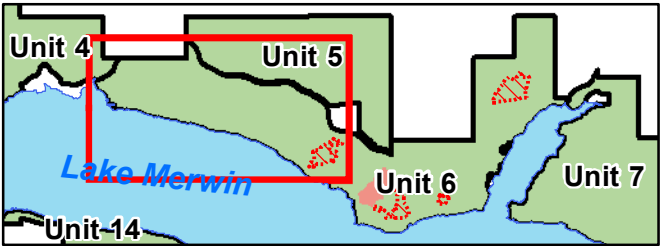






**WHMP - Unit 6**  
**Planned Harvests**

- |  |                     |  |                    |  |                             |
|--|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|
|  | Planned Thin        |  | Fish Stream        |  | Raptor Nest, Active         |
|  | Planned CC          |  | Non-fish Perennial |  | Raptor Nest Buffer (660 ft) |
|  | Road                |  | Non-fish Seasonal  |  | Raptor Nest Buffer (330 ft) |
|  | Abandon/Orphan Road |  | Shoreline          |  | Wetland                     |
|  | Vegetation Cover    |  | Riparian Buffer    |  | Wetland Buffer              |



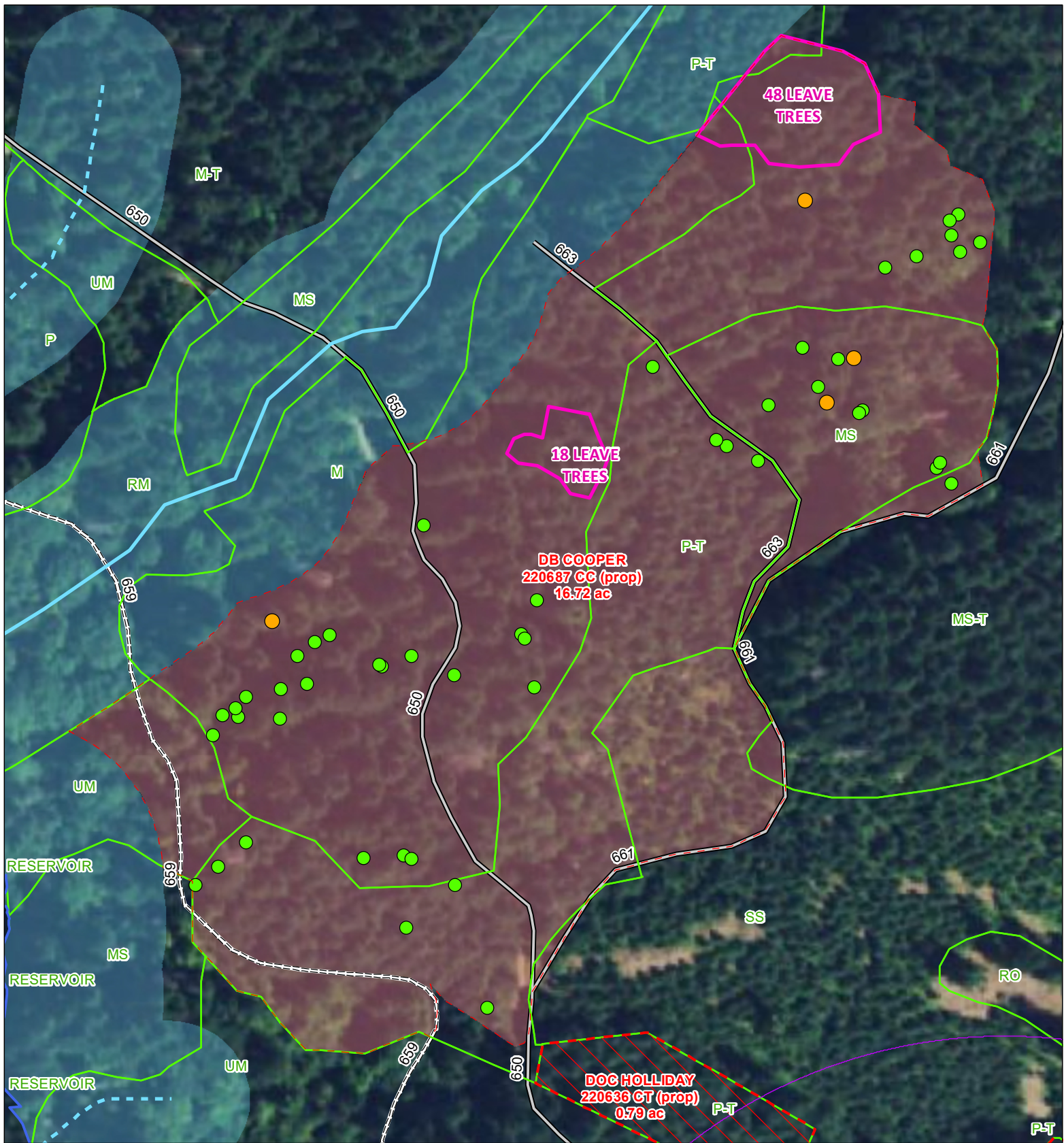












## WHMP - Unit 6

### Planned Harvest

- Planned CC
- Planned Thin
- Vegetation Cover
- Leave Tree (49)
- Snag (4)
- Special Management Area (66 leave trees)

- Non-fish Perennial
- Non-fish Seasonal
- Shoreline
- Riparian Buffer
- Raptor Nest Buffer (660 ft)
- Road
- Abandon/Orphan Road

Harvest Area	Leave Tree	Snag
DB COOPER 220687 CC (prop)	115	4



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Feet  
1:2,000

