

# LEWIS RIVER TERRESTRIAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: KENDEL EMMERSON  
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Location: Online Teams Meeting

Date: Wednesday September 14, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

## Agenda Items

9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Review and Accept Agenda and 8/10/2022 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Period
9:15 a.m.	10.8.4 Habitat Evaluation Procedures Sample Size and HEP models
9:45 a.m.	Lewis River Conservation Plan
10:15 a.m.	Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cowlitz PUD Beaver control</li><li>- Moss Cave Appraisal</li><li>- Logging updates</li><li>- 600C2 culvert update</li></ul>
10:45 a.m.	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>
11:00 p.m.	<b>Meeting Adjourn</b>



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Meeting Notes  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting**  
**September 14, 2022**  
**Conference Call**

**TCC Representatives Present: (5)**

Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp  
 Summer Peterman, PacifiCorp  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW  
 Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD  
 Erik White, Cowlitz Tribe

**Guests: (1)**

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

**Calendar:**

September 14, 2022	TCC Meeting	Teams Call
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<b>Assignments for September 14, 2022</b>	<b>Status</b>
All: Review the Draft Lewis River Conservation Plan, and Miller, consider seeking input from WDFW's oak specialist on the plan.	<b>In progress</b>

<b>Assignments for September 14, 2022</b>	<b>Status</b>
Emmerson: Check with WDFW staff on status of elk and pond breeding amphibian models.	<b>In progress</b>

<b>Assignments for August 10, 2022</b>	<b>Status</b>
Emmerson: Make a folder for HEP materials on the TCC website. <a href="https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/wildlife-recreation-shoreline.html">https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/wildlife-recreation-shoreline.html</a> scroll down to 10.8.4 Habitat Evaluation Procedures.	<b>Complete.</b>
Emmerson: Check whether public access will be closed during the Speelyai Park expansion project; consider providing a separate access point to hunters.	<b>In progress</b>

<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>Completed</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, Peterman, and Holman: Coordinate on raptor data sharing.	<b>In progress</b>
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<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 9:01 am. No additions to the agenda were requested. Emmerson reviewed the meeting notes from August 10, 2022. The meeting notes were approved at 9:08 am with minor revisions.

**Public Comment Period**

None.

Emmerson noted that John Clapp sent a nice note to her about how he appreciates the habitat work that is being done in the Lewis River basin. She thanked him and offered a tour of any projects he is interested in learning more about.

**10.8.4 Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP)**

Emmerson shared an update on the HEP process. She said PacifiCorp is still working to review the available GIS data to better understand what is missing and what decisions may be needed. The previous analysis was completed by a consulting firm, so not all of the analytical files are necessarily available as part of what was delivered for the project. One question that has already come up is the sampling frequency. In the original survey, 309 sample plots were completed. The basin was separated into different sampling units, including Eagle Island, Merwin, Swift, the Swift Bypass, Yale, and a few subunits within. Plots were distributed within the units at a frequency that appears to be partly but not entirely based on the total acreage of the unit (e.g. 35% of the plots were in the Merwin area, while 50% of the acreage is in the Merwin area). The other factor in plot distribution appears to be habitat types. Emmerson said she has not yet determined the location of the plots, though this is less important than understanding the frequency and distribution within the habitat types and areas. She also noted that she does not have the GIS data for the sampled polygons but she expects this can be digitized based on the habitat features. In addition, since more land is now owned and managed in the Swift area, this will also be factored into the updated procedures.

Regarding the HEP models, Emmerson said she has reviewed the models and found that all of the models from USFWS are up to date. She asked Peggy Miller and Eric Holman to check within WDFW on the status of the elk model and pond-breeding amphibian models. She said she understands that the models were revised slightly to better fit the Lewis basin, but she is having

trouble understanding how to apply the elk model to the basin because there is not a text document describing how it works.

She said she is starting a living document that can be updated regularly to help with reporting. This will include acronyms, definitions, and other helpful pieces of information.

Emmerson shared the data forms that were used for the previous HEP evaluation (the USFWS vegetation plots), which are line-intercept vegetation transects. She said she is planning a field visit with Summer Peterman to implement the sampling protocols and will share the results at the October TCC meeting. During the previous HEP evaluation, 309 plots were completed.

Accounting for the additional area for Swift, approximately 350 plots would be needed in the new evaluation. Assuming each plots takes about two hours, Emmerson estimated the sampling will cost at least \$70,000, or closer to \$100,000, plus data analysis. Miller asked how this will be funded. Emmerson said it will come out of a management budget, not the WHMP. She said she will begin the funding conversations with PacifiCorp soon to discuss disbursement needs.

Emmerson said she set up an area on the TCC website for HEP materials:

<https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/wildlife-recreation-shoreline.html>

### **Lewis River Conservation Plan**

Summer Peterman shared the Draft Lewis River Wildlife Conservation Plan, which will be provided to the TCC soon for a 30-day review. The plan is not a Settlement Agreement requirement, but it was requested internally from PacifiCorp to ensure project lands are being managed for habitat.

She reviewed the contents of the plan with the TCC. Its purpose is to describe how the secondary management areas at the Woodland Release Ponds and Johnson Creek habitat areas will be managed, as they are not part of the WHMP. The plan describes the habitat types at each location including species associations and management plans. The Johnson Creek habitat area near the fishing access will be managed as old growth because it will never be logged. This area came into PacifiCorp's ownership in 1998. Its main use is fishing access and its secondary use is habitat. It is adjacent to private residences, which is clearly marked on site. Invasive species management is also needed at this site.

The Woodland Release Ponds are a place where fish hold in ponds after being trucked downriver. Here, they acclimate to the river water then exit for the river through a chute. Miller added that fish are also counted at this location, to measure survival from transport, which is an important criterion for smolt survival. Miller said the text Peterman provided in this section is consistent with the Settlement Agreement. Peterman said this location will be managed for riparian habitat along the river. There is also an area proposed for oak planting. The remaining areas of the site will be managed for pollinators, which PacifiCorp has recently been implementing along rights-of-way. Raptor management is also a consideration in the plan. Peterman noted that the City of Woodland did not provide approval not to mow the area. Therefore, she included lower growing species like forbs that are unlikely to need mowing. Within five years of implementing the plan, the soil will also be tested and fertilized, and cultural clearance will be obtained to plow and seed the area. Emmerson asked if a grass composition on average less than 12 inches would meet the City's requirements. Peterman clarified that the City will require mowing if someone complains about the

height, so there is not a specific height that can be referenced. She said she is considering fall growing grasses and has been reaching out for potential solutions.

Peterman discussed the section describing agency consultation. PacifiCorp plans to send the plan to the TCC as well as any interested agencies for review. The City of Woodland will be included. Their feedback will be included in the plan. The TCC discussed whether the plan needs to be provided to agencies for review, because it is not a Settlement Agreement requirement. Emmerson said she will check if there are any agencies who do not participate on the TCC who might have a stake in reviewing the plan. Miller asked what their nexus would be to providing input on the plan. Emmerson said while this plan is different from the WHMP and is not a Settlement Agreement requirement, PacifiCorp's process is generally to seek input from agencies. In this case, the TCC can serve that capacity. In other areas, technical committees like the TCC have not been set up so plans would be provided directly to agencies. Miller noted that some other areas of WDFW may have an interest in the plan. For example, the shoreline management group might have an interest in the riparian areas at the release ponds, and anything requiring SEPA approval would need a separate review. Miller also noted that a Priority Habitats and Species document is available for white oak, so there may be a specialist at WDFW who would be interested in reviewing that aspect of the plan.

## **Project Updates**

### *Cowlitz PUD Beaver Control*

Amanda Froberg provided an update to the TCC on beaver activity in the Swift Dam Bypass Canal. She said beaver activity caused an issue with measuring seepage due to high water levels, which became a dam safety concern. It was necessary to trap and relocate the beaver. Froberg said she worked with Erik White (Cowlitz Tribe) and Danny Craig (USDA) for this effort, which occurred from August 22 to September 9. Seven beavers were live-trapped using a suitcase trap, and then were transported to a holding facility. White and Craig relocated the beavers to a location in the upper Lewis River watershed at approximately 4,000 feet elevation. White noted that the beaver were in good condition and recovered well from the handling stress. Three releases were completed, and during the second release, he observed that beavers had been foraging near the release site, which is a positive indication. Froberg thanked White and Craig for their expertise and assistance in the relocation effort. She said the next steps are for Cowlitz PUD to remove the lodge and dams to increase water flow through the bypass. She said she will be following any HPA regulations related to this. Emmerson said if the dam is less than a year old, no HPA is needed for the work. She suggested acquiring an HPA to remove the dams, then if future issues occur, remove them immediately to avoid needing an HPA. Miller also suggested that Froberg review the dam maintenance HPA to see if beaver dam removal is covered.

### *Moss Cave Appraisal - CONFIDENTIAL*

### *Logging Updates*

Emmerson provided an update on recent logging activity. She said logging is currently occurring in Unit 6; Unit 3 was completed; Wilkinson Road is next. Currently, PacifiCorp has a good lumber price when taking wood to the mill in Carson, Washington, through September. It's possible that the Wilkinson Road planned logging would be postponed to 2023 depending on mill availability and prices. Emmerson noted that Weyerhaeuser millworkers are on strike, which could affect the

industry. Scarification is also running late, so grass seed will be spread in the spring. It is also possible that some scarification will be delayed to the spring because there is better seed take immediately following scarification. Emmerson noted delays due to fire danger and raptor issues.

Emmerson said she ordered forage seed mixes and found vine maple and nootka rose at a good price or the high country timber harvest areas. .

#### *600C2 Culvert Update*

Emmerson said work started last Friday on the culvert replacement project. Emmerson visited the site on Monday. She noted that two large trees adjacent to the culvert were able to be protected. Wood is being brought in from Swift Reservoir. Overall, so far the project has been progressing well. She noted the culvert was very deteriorated in the middle. It's likely that the middle portion of the culvert dates to the 1950s, and another piece was added on to it later. It's likely the project will be complete by next Wednesday. Emmerson said she ordered a wetland plant mix to spread in the area. She also saw a Pacific giant salamander, which she took upstream, and noted good amphibian potential in the area.

#### **Administrative**

None.

#### **Agenda items for October 12, 2022**

- Review September 14, 2022, Meeting Notes
- HEP Updates
- IP Trail
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Field visit to trail projects and adjacent logging areas

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

October 12, 2022
Merwin Hydro Control/Teams

#### **Attachments:**

- September 14, 2022, Meeting Agenda
- *[See HEP Materials on PacifiCorp website]*

*Adjourn Meeting 9:53 a.m.*