

LEWIS RIVER TERRESTRIAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: KENDEL EMMERSON
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Location: TEAMS MEETING ONLY

Date: March 9, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Agenda Items

9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review Agenda, 2/9/22 Meeting Notes➤ Review and Accept Agenda and 2/9/2022 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Period
9:15 a.m.	Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project Mitigation
9:45 am	ROW 8/12 Wetland
10:00 a.m.	Potential addition of PacifiCorp Ownership into WHMP lands
10:15 a.m.	Review PacifiCorp WHMP 2021 Report and 2022 Plan
10:45 a.m.	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Moss Cave➤ Confidentiality Agreement Signatures➤ COVID-19 restrictions update
11:00 a.m.	Next Meeting's Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Public Comment Opportunity Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html
11:15 a.m.	Meeting Adjourn



Microsoft Teams meeting

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DRAFT Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting
March 9, 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
 Bill Richardson, RMEF

Guests: (1)

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

Calendar:

March 9, 2022	TCC Meeting	TEAMS Call Only
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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.	In progress

Assignments for February 9, 2022	Status
All: Consider having the April TCC meeting in person at Yale Dam to discuss restoration plans for the seismic remediation project.	In progress
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.	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

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

Parking Lot Items	Status
Emmerson: Contact PacifiCorp’s properties department to discuss further TNC detail and report to the TCC at the next meeting.	Complete; covered under Moss Cave project updates.

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 February 9, 2022. The meeting notes were approved at 9:09 am with no changes. (Emmerson will confirm no further edits are needed from Cowlitz PUD.)

Public Comment Period

None

Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project Mitigation

Kendel Emmerson provided an update on the mitigation approach for the Yale Saddle Dam Seismic Remediation Project. Emmerson shared a spreadsheet showing the trees that are tagged for removal as part of the project, and which are within WHMP lands. The dataset is not complete yet, but today’s discussion focuses on the mitigation approach. In total, there are approximately 96 trees on WHMP lands that may be removed as part of the project, most of which are Douglas fir trees. The spreadsheet includes details for tree size and proposed mitigation approach. She proposed a mitigation ratio of 2:1 for seedlings and saplings, then 3:1 for mature/old growth trees. This approach would result in approximately 180 trees replaced for the 96 removed. In developing this approach, she discussed appropriate replacement ratios with permitting staff and reviewed local agency guidelines (City of Portland and Washington State Department of Transportation) and mocked up what replacement ratios would result from different methods.

Eric Holman asked whether the replacement of the trees is in addition to the mitigation that will be requested to account for the loss of WHMP footprint at the face of the dam. Emmerson said the mitigation is additive—there will be mitigation for the WHMP lands as well as for the individual trees. The WHMP area for mitigation will be about 1.23 acres of permanent impacts, which will be mitigated at around \$11,000 to \$12,000. Monetary replacement for the loss of the trees would also be an option. Holman noted that trees are generally replaced at a 3:1 ratio when trespass occurs. If a monetary mitigation was chosen for the trees, the method would be to calculate the value of the trees and multiply it by three, which could then be added to the WHMP mitigation value. Emmerson said given the loss of the trees around the gate area, 15 to 20 will probably be needed to replace functions around that area. Additional plants will be needed to fill in the hedgerow, but the swale will need to be kept open. She said it is not clear how 180 trees could be planted in the mitigation area, so a monetary approach at least for part of the mitigation may be a good choice. Holman agreed and noted that despite the habitat loss, crowding more trees into an open and sunny part of the habitat that remains is not necessarily the best option. Holman suggested strategic planting to re-establish the screen between the parking area and the gate and discussing with the mill whether any of the trees could be valuable. Other trees could potentially be used as habitat logs. Also, he suggested determining the stumpage value for the trees, either through a field visit or estimates based on the spreadsheet.

Emmerson added that there is significant follow-up work for five to seven years to monitor and maintain the mitigation plantings, and the labor cost should be factored into decisions. Emmerson said a mitigation number needs to be proposed to the county to proceed with permitting, so some planting will need to occur even if it is on other WHMP lands. Peggy Miller suggested mitigating 2:1 for the trees not on WHMP lands, then determining the stumpage value and mitigating monetarily for the trees on WHMP lands, which would meet the requirements of the county permitting process. Emmerson said the county requires that mitigation be conducted for all trees and are most concerned with those in critical areas (e.g., shorelines, wetlands). If stumpage was used for the mitigation strategy, it would be put into a flexible mitigation fund along with the WHMP loss mitigation price. Emmerson will check on whether the county would be okay with mitigating the trees on WHMP lands using a stumpage value.

Bill Richardson emphasized Emmerson's comment on the difficulty of establishing replacement trees and suggested that a ratio of 3:1 is more in line with this level of effort than 2:1. Holman said a ratio of 3:1 would also be consistent with how issues of trespass are approached.

Holman asked about the overall footprint impacts to WHMP lands. He noted that in previous cases, where there is good habitat surrounding an area of WHMP permanent impacts, the habitat is recognized as being impaired by the permanent impacts and asked whether the TCC would be justified in adding a buffer or expanding the area that is permanently affected given the disturbance and ongoing maintenance that will be occurring. Emmerson said that probably is not justified in the swale area but might be near the dam. She can look back at previous work with transmission lines to inform the discussion. The habitats could be agricultural, PacifiCorp facility, meadow, and upland mix. If there is a habitat type conversion, that is also a permanent change and would be reflected with a mitigation ratio. Emmerson said she will check internally on these options and also check whether replacement trees would need to be in Cowlitz County to meet county permitting requirements.

Miller asked if there will or should be mitigation for temporal impacts to WHMP lands. Emmerson said there is potential for that—the TCC could determine that wildlife will not use the project area for multiple years, but the strategy to value that would be more complicated. In a previous project with a quarry, Emmerson said a lease was used to require payment for disturbance if the area needed to be used after the project was completed. Holman said the mitigation approach included determining the acreage that is impacted, and dividing the years impacted out of 50 to represent temporal impacts. Emmerson said an additional item that should be factored into the mitigation is the large area that will be disturbed and reseeded, which could result in many invasive plants in the near-term like scotch broom, thistle, and mustard.

Miller asked if the presence of mustard or other invasives affects wildlife usage. Emmerson said elk often use that area for grazing but not for bedding. So, the invasives affect the amount of forage available, but there are still grasses present throughout the invasives. Then after the few years, the early successional plants phase out and the forage mix more preferred by elk sets in. Miller suggested that if the agricultural category of WHMP lands is intended for use as forage, and the field is not providing good forage due to the presence of invasives for a number of years, that could be interpreted as a temporary impact to WHMP lands.

ROW 8/12 Wetland

Emmerson shared a figure showing the Unit 6 area and described how a culvert on Thomas Creek has some issues with overtopping the road and the road is currently closed to heavy equipment. This year, the pond behind the culvert went dry, where a wetland has emerged in an area of deep fill. The wetland extends back into a forested area right under the transmission line. The part of the wetland away from the road is palustrine emergent with sedges and rushes present. Emmerson said the stream itself is almost entirely on PacifiCorp property and is steep and a flashy system with no anadromous fish present. Beavers have also been an issue. In 2020, the pond went dry, and the culvert was cleaned out. PacifiCorp currently has an engineer working on this to determine next steps. One option is to remove the wetland and make the system a stream with riparian plantings. Trees could not be planted under the transmission line, but willows and shrubs such as red osier dogwood are good options. Emmerson noted that it would be good to keep a wetland present, if possible, but it need not be 9 feet deep as it currently is. She suggested that at best, it could be used as an amphibian pond if it were less than 3 feet deep. Holman agreed that an amphibian pond would be a good feature for this area and many species could likely benefit from this type of habitat. He asked from an engineering perspective, how would it work to have a shallow area that impounds a steep area? Emmerson said the culvert could potentially be installed higher than its current location, and fill could be used to increase the elevation of the pond.

Emmerson noted the road cannot be decommissioned because it is used to service both PacifiCorp's and Cowlitz PUD's transmission lines. Theoretically, these areas are accessible via other routes, but it would not be an ideal approach and large equipment could probably not access important areas, resulting in potential emergency road building in the future. Richardson suggested considering beaver dam analogs to solve the head pressure issue that is causing impoundment. There are many options for beaver dam analogs, and one might be to install hummocks that slow the velocity of water. He said ideally, the area would function more like a stream and less like a pond to solve the impoundment issue. White suggested reviewing the Beaver Dam Analog Guidebook, which might provide an engineering solution to slow water down and increase sediment falling out of the stream to fill the pond. He suggested that sediment transport might not be a solution in this stream because it has not filled yet. Emmerson said the stream gets partially blocked, but she is not aware of sedimentation occurring. Richardson suggested temporarily holding or distributing the water to maintain a wetland feature along with the stream channel. This would reduce head pressure, maintain water, and also let the system function more like a stream. White suggested a series of shallower ponds with more emergent vegetation. Emmerson said reviewing the ponds at Fraser Creek might be helpful to inform the design. Peterman added that sediment was removed around the culvert in 2018, and a beaver deceiver was installed then, which suggests that sediment transport is occurring. Miller suggested considering where the water might go if the area around the culvert is made shallower. White suggested that a series of beaver dam analogs could be more successful than a single analog from a risk perspective. Though installation of analogs could allow for reed canary grass to move in. Emmerson said there is not a significant source of reed canary grass nearby, and the stream upstream and downstream is not good habitat for the invasive species. However, that is an important point to consider and she will keep it in mind. Emmerson asked if TCC representatives have any other ideas or examples of engineering solutions that could be implemented here to please provide to her.

Potential Addition of PacifiCorp Ownership into WHMP Lands

Emmerson said PacifiCorp has an environmental policy to review land that PacifiCorp owns and determine whether it can be included in a conservation plan if it is not currently in a plan. Staff are currently reviewing parcels in the Lewis River basin and found two parcels: the first is an 8.1 acre parcel on the Lewis River just outside of Woodland. This parcel contains a fish release facility and is located next to an RV storage lot. There is a water intake located on the river that supports the fish release facility. Fish are acclimated here then released into the Lewis River. Emmerson shared photos of the parcel and suggested that it might be able to be used as a secondary management area. Conservation activities would be limited at this parcel because it needs to be kept open for security reasons for the fish facility. Dense planting or screening would not be feasible. For fire suppression reasons, the City of Woodland also requests that the field be mowed before Memorial Day. Pollinator mix could potentially be planted here, but mowing would eliminate the flowers. Emmerson said she is not certain on the exact mowing requirements, and a mowing setback of a few hundred feet may be sufficient to meet the City's needs. She noted that one large tree is present on the property, and other large hardwoods are present but have become or are likely to be hazard trees soon. Blackberries are also present. Options to improve habitat include blackberry removal and tree and shrub planting near the river. Miller asked what wildlife value would be gained by including this land in a conservation plan. Elk are not a suitable target species due to the road and urban presence. Emmerson said Savannah sparrows, coyote, deer, and grassland birds may benefit from improvements to habitat on the 8.1-acre parcel. She suggested that it could be a small initial effort to improve the habitat and do some plantings, then minimal long-term maintenance under the WHMP. Holman noted that there is a bald eagle nest on the opposite riverbank. His concerns were similar to Miller's—what habitat value is available here for the level of effort to improve and track the habitat under the WHMP? He envisioned trespass issues at the site in the future due to current and future likely development in the area. He suggested that if the riparian areas could be acquired to the north or south in trade for upland acreage near the road, it would make a lot more sense from a habitat perspective. Emmerson said trading sections of parcels is unlikely to be successful based on the current ownership but suggested that a partnership with the school across the road may be beneficial. She said there are not currently many trespass issues at the site because it is open and people tend to think it is a fish hatchery, though the facility is not occupied much of the year. Emmerson noted compared to the budget gain in accordance with increasing the acreage in the plan, the effort to conserve the property does not seem like a huge concern.

The second parcel is on Johnson Creek, in Cowlitz County. Emmerson showed aerial imagery and photos of the parcel. The parcel provides fishing access to the Lewis River and is adjacent to a WDFW parcel. Fishers appreciate and enjoy this access point and tend to take good care of it. The upper portion of the parcel is dominated by mature, likely old-growth, Western red cedar and the parcel totals 3.5 acres. The primary management action needed at this location is noxious weed removal, particularly English ivy, knotweed, and jewelweed. Emmerson said one plus of adding this parcel to the WHMP is that it would have annual inspections and could result in better habitat. She noted that the road through the parcel is only for landowner access to two homes. Miller asked why this parcel was acquired. Emmerson said it was acquired for fishing access and recreation and may have been bought prior to the Settlement Agreement. The adjacent parcel owned by WDFW was acquired to support activities at Merwin Hatchery, and there is an intake used for the hatchery for the water access right. Currently, there is a small gravel parking lot, trail easement, and trail maintenance that occurs at this site. Miller asked whether the recreation committee would have any issues with the parcel being managed under the WHMP. Emmerson said this would be secondary

WHMP land, and she does not foresee any issues from a recreation management standpoint. Peterman added that little maintenance occurs here besides the toilet, so it may be a good fit for habitat management.

Emmerson said both parcels do not represent logging potential or significant habitat management needs. The discussion is about whether to include them both into the WHMP regardless. Emmerson said she will check with other PacifiCorp staff whether the release pond parcel would have to also be included in the WHMP lands along with the Johnson Creek parcel, or if the TCC could select just the Johnson Creek parcel to include in the WHMP. Miller suggested that it may still be beneficial to include in the release pond parcel because mitigation dollars would be added to account for maintaining it, which could be used for other actions if maintenance does not require much effort. Emmerson agreed and said though both parcels would require significant attention in the first few years of being added to the WHMP, in the long term they may not require significant maintenance actions.

Holman suggested adding individual large trees, such as oaks, to the release ponds parcel that would not significantly restrict the openness that provides security for the release facility. Emmerson said she will check with PacifiCorp staff on what they would be open to allowing on this parcel for habitat. Holman said with some creativity allowed, habitat management could be successful on this parcel even though it differs from the other WHMP lands.

Richardson supported the idea of adding a few oaks to the site and suggested that the school across the street might be interested in learning about pollinators or other aspects of habitat management. Emmerson noted that schools are often restricted for field trips due to the logistics and distance of driving but having a school across the street might make this collaboration easier.

Emmerson called to vote whether to include the Johnson Creek and Woodland release pond parcels into the WHMP as secondary management areas. TCC representatives present voted as follows: WDFW voted yes on Johnson Creek and yes on the Woodland pending any significant constraints on habitat management from the city or PacifiCorp. Richardson voted yes on both. Erik White also voted yes on both. Emmerson voted yes as well.

Emmerson said she will go ahead and include these two parcels in the 2023 plan for now and will follow up with PacifiCorp staff and the City of Woodland on the TCC's feedback regarding habitat management constraints for these two parcels.

Review PacifiCorp WHMP 2021 Report and 2022 Plan

Emmerson said PacifiCorp is still working to finalize the Draft WHMP 2021 Report and 2022 Plan, which will be provided for TCC review next week. She said aside from figures, the plan and report are complete, and she can share the budget and upcoming timber harvest activities planned for 2023.

Emmerson shared the spreadsheet showing projects organized by habitat type with updates for budget and completion. The budget for 2022 is around \$780,000. Emmerson said compared to previous years, more budget is allocated to administrative and trespass items. She said trespass issues have generally been increasing, which results in damage to gates, trees, and other damage. She noted that accounting errors have been updated as well, and any funding for Moss Cave could

come out of either the Lewis River or Swift fund. Holman suggested that because the Swift fund is less flexible, funding for Moss Cave should be acquired from the Swift fund.

Emmerson reviewed upcoming management activities in different units. In Unit 3, commercial thinning harvests are planned, with avoidance of areas with active nests. There is also a railcar bridge needing replacement that may or may not occur before the logging season. The bridge deck needs to be replaced in order for logging equipment to access the area. Funding has been acquired for this replacement work, but the work would be deferred if the deck replacement is delayed. Other logging areas in Unit 3 are planned in an area where a landowner has previously provided much feedback on ongoing activities, so Emmerson anticipates additional feedback on operations this year. If activities in Unit 3 proceed as planned in 2022, the forage goal will be met, and trespass will likely decrease.

In Unit 6, some commercial thinning harvests and a small clearcut are planned. Clean-up of areas due to root rot are also planned, and Emmerson noted that an active eagle nest near the planned thinning could delay activities or decrease the area that is thinned.

In Unit 35, there is not much flat ground, so the planned harvest areas are smaller. Emerson pointed out a wetland that will need to be mapped and buffered before logging occurs. She noted that the market is good right now, so harvesting small areas is less of a concern from an efficiency standpoint. This will increase the forage availability in Unit 35 and make progress towards the forage cover goal. Holman asked whether the planned harvest area in Unit 35 presents an opportunity to do enhanced forage. Emmerson suggested that one of the flatter areas may be suitable, and stream and wetland delineations could inform that. She said Unit 35 could potentially support some big, large meadows because it already has plenty of trees. Holman agreed and noted that the unit contains a good mix of habitats but might benefit from the addition of meadows.

Holman asked what goals are in mind for logging the other two units (3 and 6). Emmerson said overall, the goal is to target variable density to increase the stand openness which will increase the amount of grasses in the stands. She said other considerations are the presence of people nearby, which can flush wildlife. One stand has very large trees and was previously logged in 1986. The other stand had some thinning in 2005 but has very large trees that are probably 80 to 85 years old and 18-inches diameter-at-breast-height. She expects thinning to be very beneficial to both stands.

Holman suggested providing photos and rationale for the thinning to the landowner to ease concerns. He also suggested considering adding a meadow if it is a good fit for the habitat. Emmerson said she believes the permanent cover goal is met for this unit, but more meadows could certainly be added. She suggested a meadow in the area further from McKee meadows. She said the last logistical concern is that it is most efficient to complete all of the activities within a unit at the same time with the logging company to limit mobilization efforts, but the plan could change if the bridge deck is not replaced in time.

Study/Work Product Updates

Moss Cave

Emmerson said redline edits from PacifiCorp's legal team were provided to TNC and WDFW, regarding the agreement for Moss Cave. The next meeting is planned for early April, and then a

site visit will be conducted. From what she has heard from staff at WDFW and TNC, this agreement will likely move forward before June.

Confidentiality Agreement Signatures

Emmerson said she has been reaching out to TCC representatives to make sure confidentiality agreement signatures are in place. Erik White confirmed that the Cowlitz Tribe's current signature on file is sufficient according to their legal review. Emmerson clarified that the purpose of the agreement is to agree to not provide information outside of the TCC meetings regarding any confidential items such as land acquisitions. She said she will continue to work with USFS to obtain the necessary signatures.

COVID-19 Restrictions Update

Emmerson suggested that with COVID-19 mask restrictions being lifted soon, the TCC could meet in person for a field visit in April if desired. Holman said though he is not available on the 13th for a field visit, he said meeting in person is consistent with WDFW's guidelines and the group should not hold up a field visit on his account. Miller agreed and noted that staff can carpool as long as WDFW protocols are followed, including all staff being vaccinated, though not asking about vaccination status. White agreed and said their protocols are similar and staff are encouraged to mask and maintain distance. Richardson said travelling for in-person meetings is also consistent with RMEF guidelines. Emmerson suggested that everyone could carpool from PacifiCorp's headquarters. They could visit the Saddle Dam site, discuss mitigation, and potentially visit the culvert site. Another visit can occur in June to high country areas.

White added that the Cowlitz Tribe has a proposal to do a pilot release for beaver that could potentially occur on PacifiCorp lands if funded. Cowlitz Tribe staff and PacifiCorp staff have been coordinating on spatial data needs to inform the beaver habitat inventory.

Administrative Updates

None

Agenda items for April 13, 2022

- Review March 9, 2022, Meeting Notes
- Site Visit to Saddle Dam and mitigation discussion
- Study/Work Product Updates

Next Scheduled Meeting

April 13, 2022
In Person

Attachments:

- March 9, 2022, Meeting Agenda

Adjourn 11:15 a.m.