

**FINAL Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC) Meeting**  
**August 10, 2011**  
**MEETING AT MERWIN HCC**

**TCC Participants Present: (15)**

Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz County PUD  
 Bob Nelson, RMEF  
 Ray Crosswell, RMEF  
 Bill Richardson, RMEF  
 Eric Holman, WDFW  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW  
 LouEllyn Jones, USFWS  
 Nathan Reynolds, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Kirk Naylor, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Sabrina Hickerson, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Lou Dreissen, BPA  
 Mike Johns, BPA  
 Mark Korsness, BPA  
 Nancy Wittpenn, BPA

**Calendar:**

September 13, 2011	TCC Meeting at Merwin HCC	HCC
October 12, 2011	TCC Meeting at Merwin HCC	HCC

<b>Assignments from January 13, 2010 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
Naylor: Create a land acquisition spreadsheet to include type designations for the TCC review and approval as necessary.	<b>Pending</b>

<b>Parking lot items from February 10, 2006 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
Conservation Agreement – what is wanted?	<b>Ongoing – 4/28/06</b>

<b>Parking lot items from April 13, 2011 Meeting</b>	<b>Status</b>
Naylor: Provide TCC with Riparian Management Plan for review.	<b>Pending</b>
Discuss the revising the Annual Plan and Report to meet TCC and FERC needs while reducing overall cost to write and produce – <i>To discuss at September / October meetings.</i>	<b>Pending</b>

<b>Assignments from August 10, 2011 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
PacifiCorp: Develop buffers and layers for BPA transmission alternatives and prepare assessment per mitigation strategy.	<b>Pending</b>
PacifiCorp: Distribute Draft Old-growth Initial Evaluation Report.	<b>Complete 8/17/11</b>

## **Review of Agenda and Finalize Meeting Notes**

Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting called to order 9:14am.

The agenda was promptly reviewed. Peggy Miller (WDFW) wanted to know the status of the Shoreline Management Plan dock requests. Naylor advised that a response has been drafted that included the TCC and ACC comments and is under management review. It will likely be sent out next week.

No other questions were raised and no changes were requested. The agenda was accepted at 9:17 a.m.

The meeting notes were reviewed next. Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz County PUD) asked if anyone had an updated status of the Canal Bridge. Naylor reported that Will Shallenberger (PacifiCorp Energy) e-mailed the Forest Service yesterday and they advised that they are closing the bridge two days next week and the week after. Shallenberger is responding back to them to advise that more notice is required before the bridge is closed in this manner.

On page five of the notes Miller pointed out that the notes say Nathan made a comment but it was actually her. No other changes were made and the notes were accepted at 9:23 a.m.

## **Lands Update (Confidential)**

### **Unit 28 Proposed Timber Harvest**

Naylor reminded the group that Unit 28 is the land by Swift school. The proposed harvest straddles the PacifiCorp and Cowlitz Indian Tribe's lands. A cultural resource assessment has been done by a consultant hired by PacifiCorp. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe has reviewed the report and provided edits and a member of the Tribe provided input into the report. The report was recently sent to the Yakama Nation for their review prior to sending it to the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).

Evidence suggests that there is a historic trail in the area that was used by the Native Americans and later as a Forest Service road. There is no definitive way to say the harvest is exactly where the trail was. Nathan Reynolds (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) states that the forestry to be conducted will be using a "light foot" method so impacts will not be an issue. He states that the report does a good job documenting the situation and any possible issues. Reynolds said he can provide a copy of the report or answer questions for anyone interested.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) rejected the Forest Practices Application (FPA) because Naylor scanned a signature instead of sending in an original. He will resubmit. Additionally the DNR may want a Interdisciplinary Team to review the FPA on sight because the FPA was filed as an Alternate Plan. An Alternate Plan was required because the proposed plan

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects Settlement Agreement  
Terrestrial Coordination Committee (TCC)  
Meeting Agenda**

**Date & Time:**           Wednesday, August 10, 2011  
                                  **9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Place:**                    **Merwin Hydro Facility  
105 Merwin Village Court  
Ariel, WA 98603**

**Contacts:**              **Kirk Naylor: (503) 813-6619; cell (503) 866-8750  
Lore Boles (HCC): (360) 225-4412**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Discussion Item</b>
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Preview Agenda</li><li>➤ Review, comment and adopt notes of 07/13/11 meeting</li></ul>
9:15 a.m.	➤ Lands Update
9:45 a.m.	➤ Project Status (Unit 28 harvest, 33 broadcast burn)
10:15 a.m.	➤ Preview of Old Growth Stands Initial Inspections
10:45 a.m.	➤ BPA update - Goshawk Surveys
11:00 a.m.	➤ BPA Pre-meeting Discussion
12:00 p.m.	➤ Meeting with BPA
1:30 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
1:45 p.m.	➤ BPA Post-meeting Discussion
3:00 p.m.	<i>Adjourn</i>

**To attend a Voice Conference:**

Call 503-813-5600 (toll free #800-503-3360), follow the instructions provided and enter Meeting ID: **661919** and password: **661919** when prompted.

**NOTE:** Voice conference will only be available for morning discussion prior to field visit.

**Please bring your lunch!**

*We will not be breaking for lunch, nor will one be provided for you.*

intends to thin and release the understory without the traditional re-stocking of the required minimum number of trees.

### **Unit 33 Proposed Broadcast Burn**

Naylor has had difficulties finding the appropriate party to conduct the burn of Unit 33. Originally he started with the Forest Service but there has not been any follow-up. DNR, as the regulatory authority for burn permits stated they could do it, but are lacking in experience. The DNR conservation crew can do the fireline, but not the actual burn. Skamania County Volunteer Fire Department is also available, but lacking in experience. They can, however, provide collapsible reservoirs and haul water for mop-up following the fire and as a preventative measure.

His next step is to discuss with Mitch Wainwright to check with his supervisors again, though there might be issues with insurance to cover this activity. Grayback Consulting Firm is another option.

Naylor's contingency plan will be to scarify as usual and not replant. Based on the neighboring areas (although higher elevation), it appears that the huckleberry and other shrubs come back naturally.

From a permitting perspective, DNR is wrestling with the idea of our proposal to not replant with trees. This has required submitting an Alternate Plan again to explain the proposal for developing this area as forage rather than a plantation. The intent is also to replant minimally with grass, heavier on legumes (use 10-12 lbs/ac rather than 20 lbs/ac as is done on our other harvest sites). On the positive side, the DNR requested we plant additional trees along the existing minimal riparian buffers. Because the WHMP requires 150 foot buffers along perennial streams that's a non-issue.

At the end of next week contractors will begin machine piling the slash on the rest of the unit (that isn't proposed for burning) and beginning some of the fire trail lines along the proposed burn area. The machine piled slash will be burned later this Fall or early winter and the ground will be seeded.

Naylor will place the order for the grass seed. Naylor requested any suggestions from the group in regards to the mix? He will send out a proposed mix to the TCC as soon as he can.

The shrubs will take a few years to naturally regenerate. Reynolds said that shrubs would likely come from root stock, so he asked that Naylor be mindful of not overtopping with too much grass. Reynolds thinks that vaccinium grows most vigorously in the third year post-burn. Holman asked if it would be possible to craft a grass mix to fizzle out in a few years to not interfere with vaccinium? Emmerson said that early growing grasses would not be ideal because of the snow. Holman questioned even planting with any grass at all. Naylor defended that there is so little grass/forb component currently; it might be a good idea to have some. He does agree not to use sod-forming grasses and increase legumes in the mix.

Naylor was concerned about inoculating the legumes – he felt that one of the reasons he hasn't seen as much legume response in past seedings is that the sowing occurred too long after the inoculant was applied to the legume. Typically sowing has to happen within the first 36 to 48

hours in order for germination to happen. Because of this, he is thinking of doing grass and legume seeding separately, scheduled according to the weather, in order to ensure the inoculation happens, though this will cost more.

Naylor will email out the seed mix to everyone for comment.

### **Old-Growth Stand Report**

Emmerson has completed the old-growth stand report. She advised that the original vegetation cover type mapping that was originally done in 2001 identified some stands that were not actually old-growth and missed some areas that were.

Criteria used were based on the vegetation cover typing:

- Greater than 70% of canopy coverage is composed of conifer;
- Average conifer diameter at breast height (dbh) greater than or equal to 26 inches (in.) (66 centimeter [cm]);
- At least 4 snags/ac (10 snags/ha) greater than or equal to 20 in. (51 cm) dbh and 20 feet (ft) (6 meters [m]) tall.

The initial studies done in 2001 yielded 164 acres with 15 stands of old-growth. This was mostly done via aerial photos and there are some inaccuracies. Emmerson's evaluations resulted in reclassifying most of these stands and remapping the vegetation cover type based on what was actually on the ground. She downgraded half of what was originally typed as old-growth into mature or mid-successional. However, there is still more cover type mapping that needs to be done and there has been additional old-growth identified during some of these activities, so it is likely that the 82 acres she identified is not the full extent of the old-growth on PacifiCorp lands. Additionally, much of the terrain on which the old-growth stands exist is steep and difficult to access at best.

Emmerson displayed maps of the old-growth stands on the overhead to demonstrate the differences between the aerial studies done in 2001 and what she found on the ground. Please refer to the Old-Growth report for details.

There were some difficulties in classification. Some stands were not homogenous, but had multiple trees with a variety of diameters in them. Additionally, some old-growth stands did not have snags but did have other features. Emmerson observed that the stand above Cougar Creek is a very old stand that is dominated with large hemlock and cedar instead of Douglas-fir.

Jones asked to discuss the BiOp because so much of it was based on vegetation cover type mapping originally done during relicensing and it sounds like much of that has changed since Naylor and Emmerson have been out on the ground. Naylor agreed. He hopes to be done remapping in the next three years and then have a discussion about how to refine management practices at that point.

The next objective will be to assess specific mature stands to determine what connectivity they have with old-growth on PacifiCorp or other lands. Once connectivity has been mapped, the TCC can decide if they want to manage these stands to become old-growth or harvest (thin) them.

Reynolds pointed out that downgrading the old-growth just meant an expansion of mature stands that could be managed to old-growth. Richardson commented that this refinement of the scale is very beneficial and will lend itself to more effective management of the lands. Reynolds agreed. Also, classifying Eagle Cliff to a large rock outcrop instead of several rock outcrops and small old-growth areas is a more accurate assessment and helpful since that is the dominant feature of that landscape.

### **Goshawk Surveys**

BPA has contracted surveyors for the Goshawk surveys and it is the same contractors that have worked with PacifiCorp before so they know the land and are familiar with the areas. Emmerson advised that the pole conifer on Saddle Mountain was not considered to be suitable Goshawk habitat because the canopy is so tight their wingspan would not fit. Instead, they are going to look at the pockets of habitat around the wetland and this should be done by August 15, 2011. The first round has already been completed with nothing found.

### **BPA Visit (Confidential)**

*< 12:07 p.m. Lou Dreissen (BPA), Mike Johns (BPA), Mark Korsness (BPA), and Nancy Wittpenn (BPA) all attended >*

*< 2:11 p.m. Lou Dreissen (BPA), Mike Johns (BPA), Mark Korsness (BPA), and Nancy Wittpenn (BPA) all departed >*

### **Next Meeting's Agenda**

- Review of 8/10/11 Meeting Notes
- Updates on land transactions
- BPA Mitigation

### **Public Comment Opportunity**

No public comment was provided.

### **Next Scheduled Meetings**

September 14, 2011	October 12, 2011
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00am – 3:00pm	9:00am – 3:00pm

## **Handouts**

- 7/13/11 Meeting Notes
- 8/10/11 Agenda
- BPA Mitigation Summary
- ODFW & WDFW Mitigation Plans
- Mitigation Formula Handout