

## **REC 5 Appendix 2**

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*Trail Feasibility Study*

**REC 5 APPENDIX 2**

**TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects  
FERC Nos. 2111, 2213, 2071, and 935**

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### ATTACHMENT 1:

Public Comments Received Regarding Draft Trail Feasibility Study and Meeting Notes from Recreation Resource Group, Terrestrial Resource Group and READ Meetings

### ATTACHMENT 2:

Comments and Responses on Draft Report

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Interagency Committee on Recreation made the original request for this study through the Lewis River collaborative relicensing process. The study request outlined a feasibility investigation for the development of a non-motorized, multi-use “spine” trail extending from Merwin Park at the west end of Lake Merwin to Eagle Cliff Park at the east end of Swift Reservoir and connections to other regional and local trails. Specific trail routing objectives are listed in Section 2.0 (Methodology) of this report.

The study request was reviewed and approved by the Lewis River Relicensing Recreation Resource Group and Steering Committee within the collaborative framework of the Alternative Relicensing Process being conducted by PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD. Once the proposed Trail Feasibility Study Plan was approved, it became a component of the Recreation Capacity and Suitability Analysis Study Plan. The Recreation Capacity and Suitability Analysis is one of seven interrelated recreation studies that are part of PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD’s studies of the 4 Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects (Project).

**The completion of this study does not commit the Project licensees to the construction of this trail. Rather, the study is intended to investigate the feasibility of a trail or trail segments that can be considered later in the relicensing process along with other potential recreation enhancements.**

A draft of this report was used as a discussion paper within the relicensing framework to gather detailed information and initial responses about the potential constraints and impacts of various routes. The draft report presented results of the desktop analysis and field reconnaissance components of this study. Physical analyses of alternative trail routes and a map of the most feasible trail corridor were presented in the draft report. This final report presents an update of the draft report, incorporating results from additional field analysis and comments received from public agencies, project biologists, and local residents. All of the written comments received, as well as meeting notes from Recreation Resource Group and Terrestrial Resource Group and READ relicensing meetings, are provided in Attachment 1. This final report also includes a schematic plan for the trail system including trailhead locations, trail classifications, cost estimates for trail development, operations and maintenance, and an assessment of the anticipated number and type of trail users.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the desktop analysis and field reconnaissance components of the Trail Feasibility Study are described below. The following overall objectives guided the alignment of the most feasible trail opportunities depicted in this report:

- Identify a feasible “spine” trail along the length of the Project from Merwin Park to Eagle Cliff Park;
- Minimize crossing of private land;
- Maximize potential for linkage to other published trails provided or proposed by other agencies/entities (Clark County, USFS, etc.);
- Maximize potential for linkage of existing and proposed recreation sites along the reservoirs;
- Avoid ecologically or environmentally sensitive areas; and
- Provide opportunity for a variety of user experiences, such as viewing vegetation changes, exposure to various environments, and access to water bodies and natural features.

Existing non-motorized trails in the vicinity of the Project were identified and analyzed for their potential to be linked with a potential non-motorized “spine” trail. Trail maps from the USFS, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Clark County were reviewed for this purpose, along with other trail routes (existing and potential) previously identified in the Yale Recreation Resources Final Technical Report (PacifiCorp 1999).

Opportunities and constraints to trail development were assessed using a series of available data layers contained in PacifiCorp’s geographic information system (GIS) database. Opportunities included relatively flat slopes, PacifiCorp-owned land, existing company roads, and linkage to recreation sites and other trails on Project lands. Constraints included steep slopes, private land, and ecologically or environmentally sensitive areas. A potential trail route map was then prepared showing where a “spine” trail might be constructed and linked with other nearby trails.

Potentially viable trail segments were then preliminarily field checked by vehicle and/or foot to better understand the lay of the land and to observe potential trail constraints and opportunities. Based on this field check, the potential trail route map was updated. The next step involved field reconnaissance to more specifically locate a likely trail route on the ground. Global positioning system (GPS) readings were taken along this route, and notes were taken about the trail corridor for later use in cost estimating. The GPS data were entered into a GIS database. This layer was overlaid with other data layers in

PacifiCorp's GIS database and adjusted according to field reconnaissance, resulting in a schematic layout of potentially viable trail segments.

These potentially viable trail segments were reviewed by the relicensing Recreation, Cultural, and Terrestrial Resource Groups. Following this review and identification of additional resource constraints or opportunities, these potential trail segments were modified to reflect comments from public agencies, project biologists, and local residents. Two additional field checks were conducted to assess alternative trail alignments around sensitive wildlife habitat areas and to identify potential trailhead locations.

Overall, a total of 16 potential trail segments were evaluated. These segments ranged from very long—stretching for nearly 20 miles over the length of an entire reservoir—to very short segments less than 0.5 miles long. An alternatives matrix was developed to summarize details of each potential trail route considered and highlight the pros and cons of each. Finally, 5 trail segments were selected as the most feasible. The remaining 11 trail segments initially examined were eliminated from further consideration largely due to property ownership, project operations, and wildlife management issues.

After the 5 most feasible trail segments were finalized, the anticipated number and type of users were assessed. This assessment was done using projected recreation demand data and current recreation visitation to the Project area. Finally, construction, operation, and maintenance costs were estimated using data gathered from a number of sources including USFS, Means Cost Estimating Data (R.S. Means, Inc. 1996), other trail plans, and discussions with other trail providers.

### 3.0 RESULTS

The results of this report are presented in 2 sections:

- Summary of the Most Feasible Trail Segments
- Other Potential Trail Routes Considered

#### 3.1 SUMMARY OF THE MOST FEASIBLE TRAIL SEGMENTS

This study resulted in the siting and assessment of a potential trail system comprised of 5 trail segments, totaling approximately 38.3 miles. In addition to the trails themselves, potential sites for support facilities, such as trailheads, were located. Figure 3.1-1 (sheets 1 through 3) shows the approximate location of each of the 5 most feasible trail segments. These maps provide a visual guide for understanding the description of the most feasible trail segments presented below. The potential segments are shown in the context of other artificial and natural features in the Project area, such as roads, PacifiCorp, state and federal property ownership, streams, and topography.

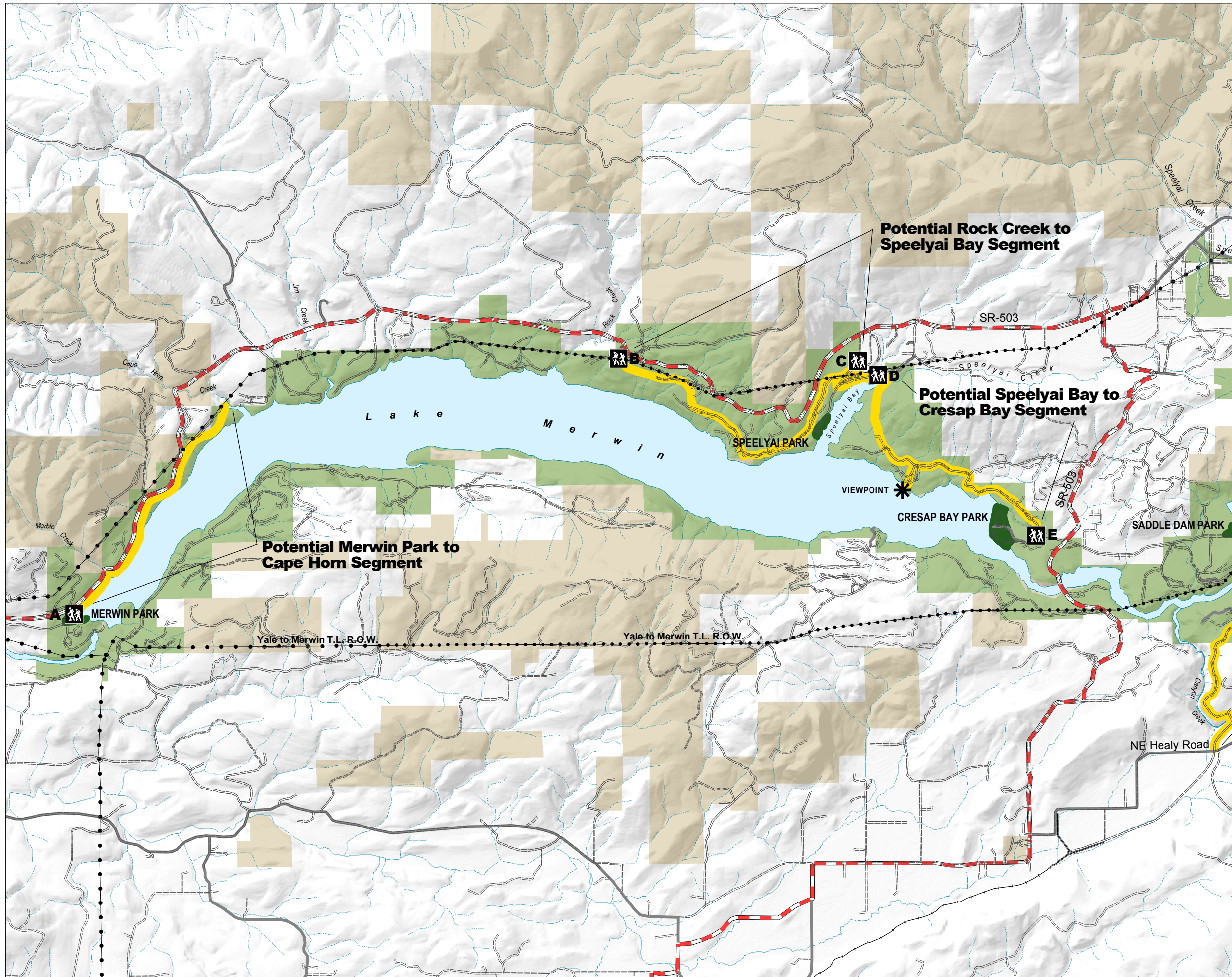
##### 3.1.1 Trail Segment Descriptions

The original objective to identify a single “spine” trail along the length of the Project from Merwin Park to Eagle Cliff Park was not realized; however, 5 shorter trail segments were identified as both physically and biologically feasible. Three of these segments are along Lake Merwin, one is along Yale Lake, and one is along Swift Reservoir. Presented below is a summary of the 5 trail segments identified as most feasible. Each of the following summaries contains a description of the physical alignment of the feasible segment. In addition, identified resource constraints/conflicts and additional information needs are listed at the end of each trail segment summary. An overview of the location and length of each trail segment is provided in Table 3.1-1.

















**Table 3.1-1. Overview of location and length of 5 most feasible trail segments.**

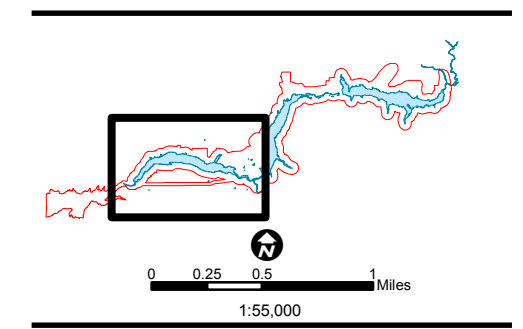
Trail Segment	Reservoir	Total Length	Percent of Total Trail System
Segment 1: Merwin Park to Cape Horn Creek	Lake Merwin	2.1 miles	5.5%
Segment 2: Rock Creek to Speelyai Bay	Lake Merwin	3.4 miles	8.9%
Segment 3: Speelyai Bay to Cresap Bay	Lake Merwin	3.0 miles	7.8%
Segment 4: Yale IP Road to West End of Swift Reservoir	Yale Lake	10.3 miles	26.9%
Segment 5: West End of Swift Reservoir to Eagle Cliff Park	Swift Reservoir	19.5 miles	50.9%
Total Trail all trail segments		38.3 miles	100%





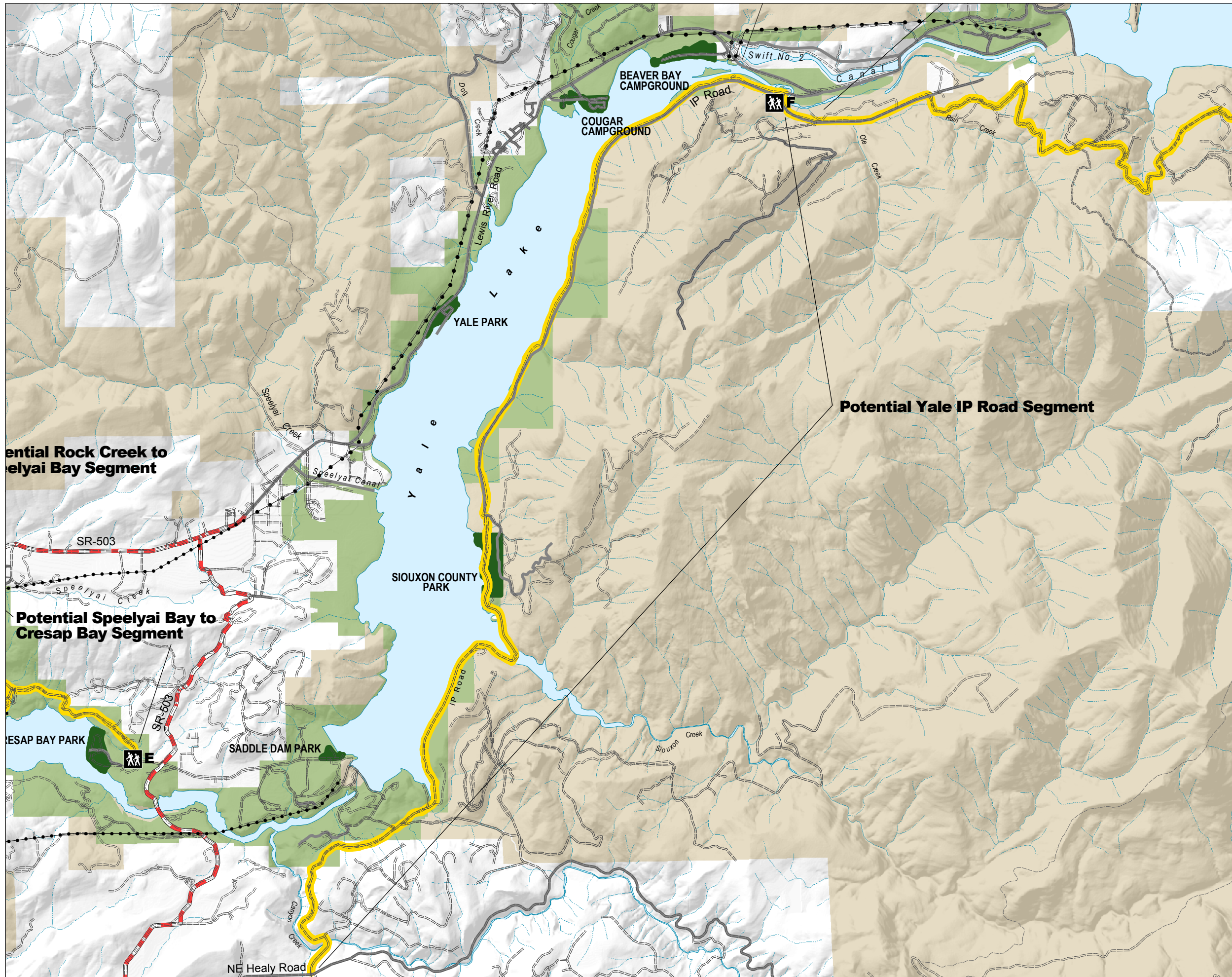
**Legend**

-  **B** Potential Trailhead
-  Existing Recreation Site
-  Potential Recreation Trail
- Road**
-  Primary
-  Secondary
-  Light Duty
-  Unimproved
-  Trail
-  Railroad
-  Powerline
- Stream**
-  Perennial
-  Intermittent
-  Ephemeral
-  Open Water
-  Land Owned by PacifiCorp
-  Land Owned by State or Federal Agencies



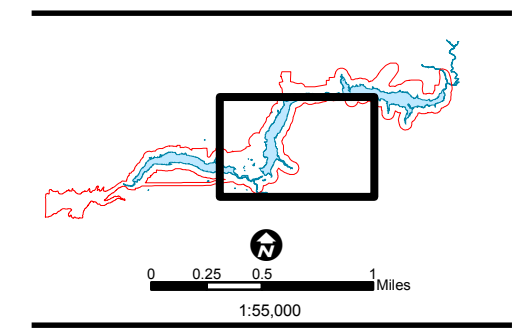
**Lewis River  
Hydroelectric Project**

**FIGURE 3.1.1 (1 of 3)**  
Lewis River Trail  
Feasibility Study



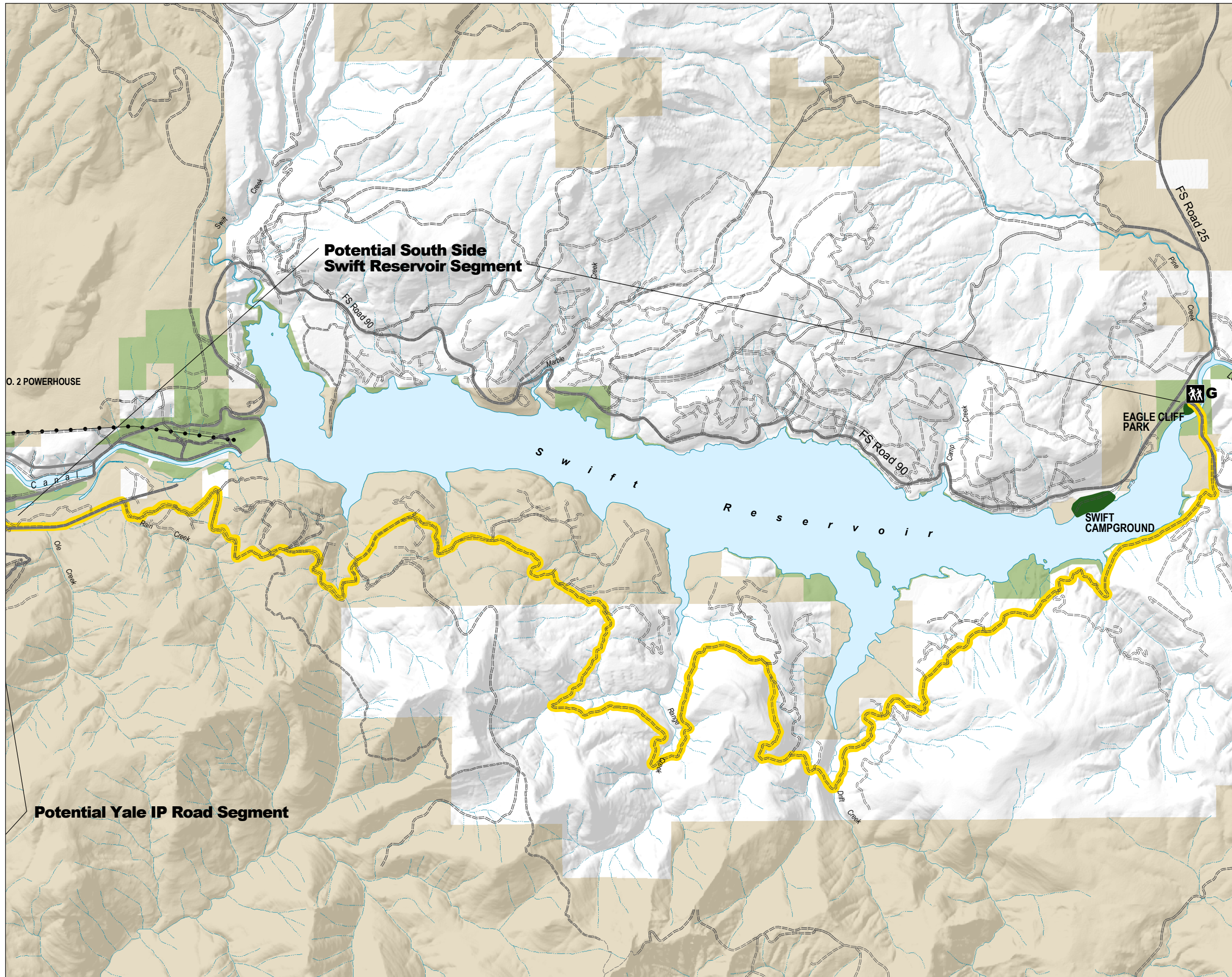
**Legend**

- B** Potential Trailhead
- Existing Recreation Site
- Potential Recreation Trail
- Road**
  - Primary
  - Secondary
  - Light Duty
  - Unimproved
  - Trail
  - Railroad
  - Powerline
- Stream**
  - Perennial
  - Intermittent
  - Ephemeral
- Open Water
- Land Owned by PacifiCorp
- Land Owned by State or Federal Agencies



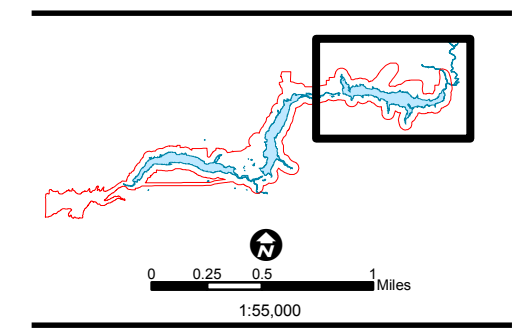
**Lewis River  
Hydroelectric Project**

**FIGURE 3.1.1 (2 of 3)**  
Lewis River Trail  
Feasibility Study



**Legend**

- B** Potential Trailhead
- Existing Recreation Site
- Potential Recreation Trail
- Road**
- Primary
- Secondary
- Light Duty
- Unimproved
- Trail
- Railroad
- Powerline
- Stream**
- Perennial
- Intermittent
- Ephemeral
- Open Water
- Land Owned by PacifiCorp
- Land Owned by State or Federal Agencies



**Lewis River  
Hydroelectric Project**

**FIGURE 3.1.1 (3 of 3)**  
Lewis River Trail  
Feasibility Study

### Segment 1: Merwin Park to Cape Horn Creek

Trail Segment 1 begins at the northeast corner of Merwin Park on Lake Merwin, crosses Marble Creek, and continues east to Cape Horn Creek. Merwin Park has adequate parking, modern restroom facilities, and is close to major transportation corridors (I-5 and SR 503). The park would serve as a trailhead/rest stop for Segment 1.

For this segment, there are 3 development options. Option A is to simply focus on the renovation of the existing Marble Creek Trail (0.5 mile). Option B is to provide a fully accessible trail from Merwin Park to Marble Creek (0.5 mile). Option C is to develop the trail all the way to Cape Horn Creek (2.1 Miles) without providing an accessible trail surface.

The existing Marble Creek Trail goes east from Merwin Park. There is a trail sign and a gate at the start of the trail. This existing trail – an old roadbed – follows the shoreline to a viewing platform at Marble Creek. The viewing platform and associated chain-link fence are dilapidated; both need replacement or removal. If the platform is rebuilt, a location farther south would provide a better view of the falls at Marble Creek. It is anticipated that the trail to Marble Creek would be a short (0.5 mile) and fully accessible trail providing pedestrian and bicycle access to the viewing location at Marble Creek.

At Marble Creek, there is an opportunity to build a spur trail up the hill, cross SR 503 and access the upper Marble Creek Falls. This a difficult area to traverse, and crossing SR 503 may not meet pedestrian safety standards as it is in the middle of a curve at this location. A safety study will be required, and property issues north of SR 503 would need to be resolved. Preserving access or views of the upper falls is mentioned in the Cowlitz County Comprehensive Plan.

Continuing the trail east from Marble Creek toward Cape Horn Creek would require a pedestrian crossing of Marble Creek and the construction of approximately 1.6 miles of new trail.

*Resource Issues:* No issues identified.

*Land Ownership Issues:* The trail segment stays on PacifiCorp land from Merwin Park to Cape Horn Creek. Land ownership in this area needs to be researched north of SR 503 to establish a spur from the trail going up the hill and crossing SR 503 to access the upper Marble Creek Falls.

*Other Issues/Constraints:* No issues identified.

### Segment 2: Rock Creek to Speelyai Bay

This 3.4-mile trail segment begins at an existing PacifiCorp transmission line and forest access road (Company road) just east of the SR 503 Rock Creek Bridge. This trail segment can use existing company roads all the way to Speelyai Bay if 0.5 mile of new trail is constructed near the mid-point to provide a connection between the two roads.

This stretch of potential new trail was scouted, and grades in the area are favorable for trail construction.

Suitable areas exist at both ends of this trail segment for the development of trailheads. At the west end, flat ground is available just inside the existing gate. At the east end, flat ground is also available a short distance inside the existing gate. The east end gate is along the road that goes to Speelyai Hatchery and Park. This trail segment, because of its short length, could be served by one trailhead at either end.

From the proposed eastern terminus, public roads can be followed all the way to the Speelyai Fish Hatchery and Speelyai Park; however, it is recommended that the trail stay off these roads as much as possible due to high summer volumes of vehicle and trailer traffic. A connection from the east trailhead location to Speelyai Hatchery was also scouted and, while quite steep, a trail could be sited that keeps trail users off of the public roads.

*Resource Issues:* On the Merwin Project, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) currently requires 1,500-foot buffers for raptor nest sites during their active period. There are currently several active osprey nest sites that are within or close to this distance of the potential trail route; however, the trail could be sited to avoid wildlife disturbance. The impact of a hiking trail near these nests has not been assessed yet, but there is high variability among pairs to human disturbance. The current Merwin Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (MWHMP) requires “protection of the nest site and eliminating disturbance during the nesting period (1 April through 31 July for osprey)” if active nests are found near management activities. The guideline was established based on logging activities, but the state has always indicated "any disturbance" must be eliminated.

The general location of the potential alignment crosses two areas identified as old-growth reserves in the current MWHMP. Larger habitat areas such as these likely support nesting raptors; otherwise, these old-growth sites can be good areas for recreational trail use. These areas can often offer escape cover for the wildlife while still allowing the visitor an opportunity to experience this particular habitat. Many wildlife disturbance issues can be mitigated through seasonal use restrictions in areas of sensitivity or by maintaining adequate distance from sensitive areas.

The MWMP requires development of snags (dead trees) for wildlife habitat. There may be liabilities that PacifiCorp’s Risk Management Department needs to address when it comes to expanding recreation opportunities near snags. Currently, the MWMP requires that PacifiCorp develop 2 snags/acre on lands managed for wildlife. New objectives proposed in the state Priority Habitats and Species Guidelines (PHS) call for 5 snags/acre. There are no recognized state guidelines for setbacks of snags from recreation trails. Most agencies that manage trails perform yearly reviews for hazard trees along trail routes and remove trees that are an immediate danger. As part of the MWHMP, snags are purposely located away from roads; therefore, the trail alignment in Segment 2 should not conflict with snags where it is utilizing existing roads.

*Land Ownership Issues:* No issues identified.

*Trail Segments Requiring Clarification and Decision-Making:* No issues identified.

*Other Issues/Constraints:* No issues identified.

### Segment 3: Speelyai Bay to Cresap Bay

This 3-mile trail connects the Speelyai Fish Hatchery and Cresap Bay Campground. Starting from the west end, the trail travels east along the hatchery parking lot to Speelyai Creek. To cross Speelyai Creek, the trail would require a new footbridge. An alternative to footbridge construction is to incorporate a pedestrian crossing in the possible future reconstruction of the Speelyai Creek diversion structure that directs water from the creek to the fish hatchery. This could be an opportunity to provide pedestrian access across the creek without introducing a new structure. Once across Speelyai Creek, the trail may then stay at a low elevation for a short distance. A natural break in the step topography provides an opportunity for the trail to climb to higher flat terrain. The higher trail then follows along the ridge above the east side of Speelyai Bay. This route connects to a PacifiCorp access road in the Ham Flat area. A short spur trail to the shoreline would provide access to a viewpoint along Lake Merwin. The road connects to the Cresap Bay Nature Trail and Cresap Bay Campground and Day Use Area.

Trailheads can be located just west of the Speelyai Fish Hatchery on the north side of the road. A trailhead can be located along a PacifiCorp road off the entrance road to Cresap Bay Campground and Day Use Area. This trailhead could also serve the Cresap Bay Nature Trail.

*Resource Issues:* There are 4 active osprey nests along this trail segment. Physical limitations due to steep topography and proximity of the shoreline make it difficult to avoid disturbance for at least one of these sites; however, the exact trail alignment could likely avoid the other 3 nest sites. [Note: See discussion for Segment 2 regarding osprey nest disturbance.]

Well-used game trails may indicate that, due to surrounding disturbance and topographical constraints, these corridors are well-used by several wildlife species that may not adapt to additional human-induced disturbance. The exact alignment of the trail could run parallel to this game trail yet be offset to minimize direct conflict with wildlife use. (The game will likely use the new trail.)

*Land Ownership Issues:* No issues identified.

*Trail Segments Requiring Clarification and Decision-Making:* Variations of this trail segment may be possible; specifically, extension and links to the Cresap Bay Nature Trail could be considered.

*Other Issues/Constraints:* No issues identified.

#### Segment 4: Yale IP Road to West End of Swift Reservoir

Physically, Segment 4 could be straightforward to implement since it follows the existing 10.3-mile Yale IP Road alignment. The Yale IP Road is a one-lane, well-established road, mostly paved, that closely follows the south and east shoreline of Yale Lake. Overall, the pavement surface is in rough but serviceable condition due to its age and lack of maintenance. The road grade is less than 5 percent in all sections. There are 2 surfacing options for segment 4. Option 1 would be to just clean and repair the existing surface, including filling in potholes. Option 2 would be to surface the entire trail width (10 feet) in a 2 inch asphalt wearing course.

There are several feasible options for trailhead locations at the west. One option would be to locate a trailhead approximately 1.3 miles inside the west gate on PacifiCorp land. The west gate is at the intersection of NE Healy Road and the Yale IP Road. Another option would be to acquire land at that same intersection; however, an exact trailhead location was not specified in this area due to easement, ownership, and access rights issues. The Yale IP Road cannot be connected to Saddle Dam Park via Yale Dam because of security issues associated with public access across the dam.

From the intersection with NE Healey Road, the trail travels across a concrete decked steel truss bridge crossing Canyon Creek. Shortly after Canyon Creek, traveling east, the road intersects a road leading to Yale Dam. A second bridge crossing, another concrete decked steel truss bridge, is at the Siouxon Creek arm of Yale Lake. After the Siouxon Bridge, a short segment of the road is buried under a landslide. Farther along the Yale IP Road is an intersection with a Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) road. The DNR road is a significant source of unauthorized motorized use in this section. Farther east, directly across the reservoir from Yale Park, the roadbed is washed out because of a plugged culvert.

At the west end of the Yale IP Road, a concrete bridge crosses the Lewis River Bypass Reach and connects directly with SR 503/FR 90. Just before this bridge, an existing gravel road heads east toward the south side of Swift Reservoir allowing access to state and private timber lands on the south side of Swift Reservoir. A trailhead could be located at or near this intersection.

*Resource Issues:* There is a bald eagle nest near the Yale IP Road just south of Siouxon Creek, and there are 3 known osprey nest sites near the potential route. Other wildlife resources include a wetland area frequented by a number of species known to be sensitive to disturbance and additional osprey activity areas. In addition, equestrians attempting to water their horses may impact several sensitive stream areas along the road corridor. Because of the unrestricted access to this road, this road receives a substantial amount of unauthorized motorized recreation use, including small four wheelers, during all parts of the year. Conversion of the road to non-motorized recreation use would change the nature of recreational activity and likely reduce the intensity of recreation activity on the road. Nonetheless, investigation into seasonal use restrictions to minimize wildlife disturbance may be appropriate.

*Land Ownership Issues:* The majority of the land adjacent to and underlying the road is owned by PacifiCorp and the DNR. In addition, many overlaying easements complicate ownership and access rights along the road. Condition of the bridges and required retrofitting for public recreation use is another issue needing further research.

*Other Issues/Constraints:* There are some areas of rock fall along the Yale IP Road. Rock fall and landslide areas would require evaluation to determine the risks, if any, to trail users. Ongoing maintenance of the roadbed, culverts, bridges, and control of motorized access from DNR lands are other issues that would need to be resolved. Both bridges need retrofitting with guardrails for fall protection.

PacifiCorp has attempted to limit ongoing public motorized use of all of its lands, including the Yale IP Road, through various means; however, several roads currently provide motorized access to the Yale IP Road. Gating in several locations has not been effective at limiting general motorized use. Restrictions to motor vehicle use would have to be strongly enforced through additional gates and increased security patrol if recreational use were to occur. Such enforcement could reduce the existing visitor misuse and trespass along the road and shoreline.

It is anticipated that the DNR will continue to use the Yale IP Road for timber harvesting activities. The potential for conflicting uses – between trail users and logging trucks – is expected to be minimal since logging is largely a weekday activity while recreation occurs largely on weekends. Nonetheless, signage notifying trail users of logging activity, in addition to occasional trail closures, may be appropriate.

#### Segment 5: West End of Swift Reservoir to Eagle Cliff Park

The most feasible segment along Swift Reservoir follows 19.5 miles of existing roads under the control of the State of Washington and Plum Creek Timber. While one of the overall objectives guiding the alignment of the most feasible trail opportunities was to minimize crossing of private land, extreme topographic constraints coupled with a narrow corridor between FR 90 and the reservoir shoreline effectively preclude locating a trail along the north side of Swift Reservoir. Trail Segment 5, therefore, is located along the south side of Swift Reservoir. Although the trail segment crosses substantial private land, all of this land is under the ownership of a single entity; therefore, trail siting is potentially more feasible than if there were several individual owners. It should be noted, however, that any potential trail segment that is located on private land is less feasible than those potential trail segments located on Company lands.

From near the Yale IP Road bridge, a well-established logging road connects to the east end of the Yale IP Road. This gravel road is approximately 15 feet wide, fairly level, and generally smooth, except for some potholes. The road meanders through timberlands, mostly along ridge tops, and provides excellent views of Swift Reservoir, Mount St. Helens, and Mount Adams. This road is 0.5 to 1 mile from the reservoir shoreline, except at Range Creek where a spur from the main road comes within approximately 1/8 mile of the shoreline. If the spur road to Range Creek is not taken, the main road continues to a washed out section just west of Drift Creek. After this washout, the road/trail route



continues to a second washed out section of Drift Creek. Both of these washouts were crossed on foot by the trail scouting team.

To the east of the Drift Creek washout, the road/trail route continues (still 0.5 to 1 mile from the shoreline) until the last (unnamed) drainage where it follows the ridge just above the reservoir. At this point, the area between the road and reservoir is a sheer cliff, although there are other points along the road from which a lower trail (along shoreline or at least closer to it) could branch off. This is particularly true along Drift Creek and Range Creek, although resource issues are a concern due to old-growth designations and an eagle nest on a ridge near Drift Creek.

The logging road continues and joins FR 90 before it crosses the Lewis River at the east end of Swift Reservoir. Before FR 90 reaches the Lewis River crossing, a residential development on leased DNR land, Northwoods, is between the road and the reservoir. There is also some commercial development in the area including a hamburger stand and small convenience store. FR 90 crosses the Lewis River at a roadway bridge with a pedestrian walkway. Eagle Cliff Park is just on the north side of this crossing. Eagle Cliff could be used as an eastern trailhead. A connection to the Lewis River Trail, 2.5 miles away from Eagle Cliff Park, was not scouted, however, a future connection may be feasible.

The trail scouting team was unable to locate any sign of an old trail that reportedly extends along the south shore of Swift Reservoir. A personal interview was conducted with John Plesha (pers. comm., J. Plesha, USFS, December, 2001). J. Plesha was a USFS employee who laid out the original Swift trail with a representative from Pacific Power and Light (PP&L). This trail started at Mitchel Point to the west and traversed to the east at a high elevation above the reservoir. This trail was not a shoreline trail. From the verbal description of the trail alignment, it is likely that the construction of the existing gravel road obliterated large sections of it.

*Resource Issues:* There are 2 active eagle nest sites along this segment. One nest, near Drift Creek, is 250 meters away from the potential trail segment; however, the trail could use a road farther upslope. The other nest, near Swift Dam, is approximately 600 meters away from the potential trail segment; however, it is downslope and not within line of sight. In addition, there is a block of old-growth habitat in the vicinity of Drift Creek. Both existing road alignments stay clear of the existing old-growth on the USFS lands. This alignment would provide escape cover and/or adequate physical separation for wildlife while allowing recreational visitors to experience and enjoy the habitat. Other resource issues have not been identified at this time.

*Land Ownership Issues:* This segment has no PacifiCorp-owned land, except at Eagle Cliff Park; most of the area is owned by Plum Creek Timber and the DNR. It is unknown how either entity would view the use of their road system for recreation purposes.

*Trail Segments Requiring Clarification and Decision-Making:* Before further planning efforts occur, it is necessary to coordinate with Plum Creek and Washington State DNR to determine their views on using these roads for recreation purposes.

*Other Issues/Constraints:* PacifiCorp needs to further investigate easements for recreation use on timber roads and washout areas.

### 3.1.2 Trail Classifications

After the 5 most feasible trail segments were identified, a classification system was developed for the trail network to better reflect existing conditions within the trail corridor and better estimate costs for trail development and maintenance. The classification system includes 4 trail types: New Trail, Existing Company Gravel Maintenance Roads, Maintained Gravel Logging Roads (Not PacifiCorp), and Yale IP Road. Each proposed trail type, except for the New Trail, follows existing roads. The existing conditions, ownership, and management responsibilities of the existing roads proposed for trail use differ; therefore, the trails based on existing roads are grouped into 3 categories: Existing Company Gravel Maintenance Roads, Maintained Gravel Logging Roads, and Yale IP Road. The length in each of the 5 trail segments and percent of the total trail system of each trail type is shown in Table 3.1-2.

**Table 3.1-2 Length in each of the 5 trail segments and percent of the total trail system of each trail type.**

Trail Segment	Trail Type A New Trail	Trail Type B Company Maintenance Road	Trail Type C Maintained Logging Road	Trail Type D Yale IP Road	Bridges Required	Total Length per Segment
Segment 1	1.6 miles	0.5 mile (abandoned road)			Marble Creek Crossing	2.1 miles
Segment 2	0.5 mile	2.9 miles				3.4 miles
Segment 3	0.8 mile	2.2 miles			Speelyai Creek Crossing	3.0 miles
Segment 4				10.3 miles	Two existing steel truss bridges need guardrails	10.3 miles
	0.5 miles		19 miles		Crossings needed at Drift Creek and creek west of Drift Creek	19.5 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.4 miles (9 percent)</b>	<b>5.6 miles (14 percent)</b>	<b>19 miles (50 percent)</b>	<b>10.3 miles (27 percent)</b>		<b>38.3 miles (100 percent)</b>

Besides the trail itself, there are other facilities and design features that would increase the quality and user enjoyment of the trail. In addition to the trail classifications, general design guidelines and trail facilities considered for the system include:

- **Clear Zones:** An appropriate vertical and horizontal clearance on each side of and above the trail which is free from protruding objects, such as trees and overgrown vegetation, should be maintained.
- **Slope:** In flat areas, the trail should be cross-sloped or crowned at approximately 2 percent.

- Drainage: Techniques used to move and keep water off the trail should be used (may only be required for Trail Type A [New Trail]; other trail types may utilize existing drainage devices).
- Fencing/Guard railings: Fencing and/or guard railings should be installed on bridges along the Yale IP Road to increase public safety.
- Signage: Signage should be placed to increase the visibility, ease of navigation, and safety of trails. Directional, regulatory, cautionary, and interpretive signage may be installed along trails, at trailheads, and along nearby roadways.
- Gates: Gates should be installed at each terminus of each trail segment, unless existing gates are found to be sufficient. Gates are intended to control vehicular access and provide seasonal restrictions, as needed.

A brief discussion of each trail type is provided below.

#### Trail Type A: New Trail

Type A Trails comprise approximately 9 percent (3.4 miles) of the total trail system. The function of this trail type is to provide connections between existing Company roads (see Trail Type B, below) as well as short spur trails to reach trailheads. Type A Trails would be 5 feet wide with a surface of native materials.

#### Trail Type B: Existing Company Maintenance Roads

Type B Trails comprise approximately 14 percent (5.6 miles) of the total system. Existing Company Maintenance Roads are currently maintained by PacifiCorp for routine access to transmission facilities and management of forest lands. These roads have a gravel surface and gradual slopes. In addition, routing a trail utilizing these roads would minimize additional disturbance in sensitive habitat areas. No trail-related improvements are anticipated for Type B Trails; that is, the existing road corridor and surface are sufficient for trail use. However, additional operation and maintenance costs (e.g., increased security and litter patrol), as well as trail signage, would be needed.

#### Trail Type C: Maintained Gravel Logging Roads

Type C Trails comprise the majority of the total trail system along Swift Reservoir. Approximately 19.0 miles (50 percent) of Type C Trail are proposed. These gravel logging roads are maintained by the state and private logging companies on the south side of Swift Reservoir. No additional development or improvements are anticipated for these segments other than increased security and litter patrols and the development of some Type A trails sections for connections to trailheads.

#### Trail Type D: Yale IP Road

Trail Type D anticipates the use of the existing Yale IP Road alignment for recreational trail use. Type D Trails comprise approximately 10.3 miles (27 percent) of the total trail

system. The existing Yale IP Road alignment is a one-lane, well-established road, mostly paved, that closely follows the south and east shoreline of Yale Lake. Overall, the pavement surface is rough; however, the road grade is less than 5 percent in all sections. Maintenance of the existing surface is needed. Two surface options are proposed: (1) clearing the road surface of debris and accumulated organic matter and filling and sealing potholes, and (2) clearing the road surface as in Option 1 but then sealing the entire road surface with a 2-inch asphalt wearing course. [Note: In Option 2, it is assumed that the existing roadbed will serve as a base course.] These 2 options could be implemented as part of a phased trail development plan, with Option A being implemented first and Option B following as need and financial resources are better established. Another option is to obliterate the existing pavement and convert the road surface to compacted gravel. This may be a cheaper option initially but it reduces the accessibility of this trail and the types of use.

### 3.1.3 Trailheads

Trailheads refer to specific areas designed as primary means of accessing a trail segment. Trailheads could be placed at each terminus of the 5 trail segments, with the exception of Segment 1, which would have only one trailhead. The exact size and specific facilities of each trailhead would vary depending on its location; however, it is anticipated that each trailhead would have a vault toilet, gravel parking area, trash receptacles, benches, and informational signage. This study sited approximate locations for 7 potential trailheads. Several of the potential trailheads are located in or near existing recreation facilities. These include Merwin Park, Speelyai Bay Park, Cresap Bay Campground and Day Use Area, and Eagle Cliff Park. Additional trail access points (minor connections between the trail and nearby recreation facilities) may be identified in the future. Figure 3.1-1 (sheets 1 through 3) shows the approximate location of each of the 7 potential trailheads.

### 3.1.4 Trail Cost Estimate

Trail construction costs can vary due to a number of factors, including local conditions, trail type, and trail facilities. This cost estimate, therefore, is intended as a general guide for the purpose of preliminary cost analysis. More detailed cost estimates should be completed before trail development is initiated. While this cost estimate is a general guideline that applies to all 4 trail types, estimates for each specific trail type vary according to the widths and surfaces described in Section 3.1.2, Trail Classifications.

In addition to construction of the trail itself, there are several costs associated with the development of a trail system. Costs for facilities/furnishings, signage, and trailheads were estimated for each trail segment. Operation and maintenance (O&M) costs were also estimated. Estimated costs were determined using data gathered from a number of sources including the USFS, R.S. Means cost estimating data (R.S. Means Company, Inc. 1996), other trail plans, and discussions with other trail providers. A summary of estimated construction, operation, and maintenance costs for each trail segment is provided in Table 3.1-4.

**Table 3.1-4. Estimated cost for development of 5 trail segments.**

Item	Estimated Construction and Development Cost	Estimated Annual Operation and Maintenance Cost
<b>Segment 1 Option A (Merwin Park to Marble Creek)</b>		
Trail Type B (0.5 mile)	\$1,500	
Facilities/furnishings	\$1,500	
Signage	\$5,000	
Segment 1 Subtotal	\$8,000	\$1,000
<b>Segment 1 Option B (Merwin Park to Marble Creek fully accessible)</b>		
Fully accessible 5' wide trail	\$107,580	
Facilities/furnishings	\$1,500	
Signage	\$5,000	
Segment 1 Option B Subtotal	\$114,080	\$1,000
<b>Segment 1 Option C (Merwin Park to Cape Horn Creek)</b>		
Trail Type B (0.5 mile)	\$1,500	
Trail Type A (1.6 miles)	\$80,000	
Facilities/furnishings	\$3,000	
Footbridge	\$30,000	
Signage	\$5,000	
Segment 1 Option C Subtotal	\$119,500	\$3,500
<b>Segment 2 (Rock Creek to Speelyai Bay)</b>		
Trail Type A (0.5 mile)	\$25,000	
Trail Type B (2.9 miles)	\$8,700	
Facilities/furnishings	\$3,000	
Signage	\$5,000	
Segment 2 Subtotal	\$41,700	\$5,100
<b>Segment 3 (Speelyai Bay to Cresap Bay)</b>		
Trail Type A (0.8 mile)	\$40,000	
Trail Type B (2.2 miles)	\$6,600	
Facilities/furnishings	\$3,000	
Footbridge	\$30,000	
Signage	\$5,000	
Trailheads (This segment could have 1 or 2 trailheads)	\$100,000	
Segment 3 Subtotal	\$184,600	\$4,500
<b>Segment 4 Option A (Yale IP Road to West End of Swift Reservoir)</b>		
Trail Type C (10.3 miles; cleaning and repair only)	\$35,000	
Facilities/furnishings	\$6,000	
Bridge survey, repair, and safety upgrades	Not estimated	
Signage	\$5,000	
Trailheads (2)	\$100,000	
Easement Clarification and Property Acquisition, if needed	Not estimated	
Segment 4 Option A Subtotal	\$146,000	\$15,500
<b>Segment 4 Option B (Yale IP Road to West End of Swift Reservoir)</b>		
Trail Type C (10.3 miles; 10' wide, 2" asphalt wearing course only)	\$265,000	
Facilities/furnishings	\$6,000	
Bridge survey, repair, and safety upgrades	Not estimated	
Signage	\$5,000	
Trailheads (2)	\$100,000	
Easement Clarification and Property Acquisition, if needed	Not estimated	
Segment 4 Option B Subtotal	\$376,000	\$15,500

**Table 3.1-4. Estimated cost for development of 5 trail segments (cont.)**

Item	Estimated Construction and Development Cost	Estimated Annual Operation and Maintenance Cost
<b>Segment 5 (West End of Swift Reservoir to Eagle Cliff Park)</b>		
Trail Type A (0.5 mile)	\$25,000	
Trail Type D (19.0 miles)	\$57,000	
Facilities/furnishings	\$6,000	
Creek crossings (2)	Not estimated	
Signage	\$5,000	
Trailheads (2)	\$100,000	
Easement Clarification and Property Acquisition, if needed	Not estimated	
Segment 5 Subtotal	\$193,000	\$29,250
<b>Total Estimated Construction and Development Costs</b> (low to high range depending on options selected)	<b>\$573,300 to \$914,800</b>	
<b>Total Estimated Annual Operation and Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>\$75,350</b>	

### 3.1.5 Estimated Type and Number of Trail Users

#### Type of Users

It is anticipated that the type of trail users along each trail segment would be determined largely by the proximity of other recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds and day use areas) and the length of the trail segment. The 3 trail segments along Lake Merwin would likely be used by recreation visitors already in the project area. Trail users along these segments would likely be pedestrians since these segments are relatively short (0.5 to 3.4 miles). Segment 1 (Merwin Park to Marble Creek), since it is very short and almost completely flat, would most likely be used exclusively by pedestrians and may have the highest use by persons with disabilities. Segment 4 (Yale IP Road) would likely be used for bicycling and horseback riding based on historical use patterns of the Yale IP Road.

In addition, pedestrian use would likely be focused near the ends with people walking a distance out and back from a trailhead. The west end currently receives a fair amount of pedestrian use by local residents who park by the west gate. It is anticipated that the users of Segment 4 would be evenly split between recreation visitors already in the project area; local residents from the surrounding area, including Clark County; and those that visit the area from the nearby Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington metropolitan area just to use the trail. Segment 5 (Swift Reservoir) would likely be used exclusively by mountain bicyclists. Its length is ideal for a substantial mountain bike ride; in addition, this segment could potentially be connected to the Lewis River Trail (managed by the USFS), which is already a very popular destination for mountain bicycling. Due to its remote location relative to most recreation facilities in the project area, Segment 5 would probably receive most of its use from recreationists visiting the area just to use the trail.

## Number of Users

The potential number of trail users was estimated by analyzing data from 2 sources. These include an analysis of future recreation demand and current recreation visitation in the Project area.

## Projected Recreation Demand

A regional and future recreation demand analysis completed for the project provided an assessment of the demand for all recreation activities occurring in the project area (EDAW, Inc. 2001). Recreation activity demand data are primarily from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation Planning (IAC) SCORP document for Region 2, as identified in *Washington Outdoors: Assessment and Policy Plan (1990-1995)* (IAC 1990). In addition to this document, the IAC conducted limited demand surveys in 1990 and 1994 to determine participation in and growth of the most popular outdoor recreation activities statewide. These surveys indicate 2 significant trends: (1) continued popularity of trail-based linear opportunities such as walking, bicycling, and hiking; and (2) ongoing demand for water-based access and opportunities (IAC 1995). Both of these trends are particularly relevant to the Lewis River Projects and indicate a strong demand for trail-based opportunities along the water's edge.

While demand is expected to increase for all recreation activities in the project area, the highest percentage increases are for such activities as visiting interpretive displays (3.12 percent), on-road bicycle riding (2.98 percent), outdoor photography (2.94 percent), day hiking (2.73 percent), and nature study and wildlife observation (2.67 percent) (IAC 1990). These data are significant because each of these activities is commonly provided along linear recreation trail facilities.

In addition to SCORP data, existing demand-related data were gathered through visitor surveys conducted as part of the recreation demand analysis completed for the project (EDAW, Inc. 2001). Surveys asked for visitors' most common activities while in the project area and the primary activity they engaged in while on their trip. Survey results indicated that, among all visitors, hiking is one of the most common activities in the project area. Over a third (35 percent) of visitors to the project reservoirs and almost two-thirds (61 percent) of area residents indicated that they had hiked in the project area on a recent trip. Visitors and area residents also indicated participating in mountain/road biking and horseback riding.

Overall, general demand data obtained from the most recent SCORP document and demand-related data collected through visitor surveys indicate that participation in hiking is growing at a rapid percentage each year, and demand for hiking and other trail-based activities appears to be relatively high, both regionally and in the project area. Furthermore, while there are no demand data specific to accessible trail facilities, this study identified the potential for the development of at least one fully accessible trail segment that would provide new recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in trail use.

Another component of future recreational demand projections is current population data for the surrounding service area, as well as forecasts for changes in population of these areas. Regional population trends indicate that the population will continue to grow at a rapid and steady pace for the next 20 years. Trends in regional population growth will be centered in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. This area accounts for two thirds (66 percent) of the peak season visitors to the study area (EDAW, Inc. 2001). It is important to note that the population of areas where visitors to the Project area live is expected to grow at a higher rate than other areas of Washington and Oregon. Thus, it can be expected that demand for the various recreational activities and associated facilities in the area may be somewhat higher than indicated in the SCORP data reported above.

### Current Recreation Visitation to the Project Area

Ten percent of the current total visitation to the project area is thought to be a good estimate for the annual number of potential trail users (pers. comm., J. Eychaner, IAC, January 11, 2002). In 2000, 559,059 people visited the project area; therefore, approximately 56,000 can be used as a preliminary estimate for the number of annual trail users. This number, however, may vary greatly depending on at least 2 factors. One factor is the projected increase in recreation demand, especially for trail-related activities. The other factor is the increased visitation to the project area that a substantial trail system may induce. It is important to note that many of these potential trail users may already be in the project area; therefore, they may not represent new recreation visitors. Overall, it is difficult to estimate the number of trail users based on current total visitation to the project area; however, 56,000 is a reasonable preliminary estimate.

## **3.2 OTHER POTENTIAL TRAIL ROUTES CONSIDERED**

Several other potential trail routes were considered in this study. Each of these trail routes is described in detail in Table 3.2-1, Potential Lewis River Trail Route Alternatives Analysis. Table 3.2-1 describes each potential trail route according to a number of variables, and highlights the 5 most feasible trail segments.



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**Table 3.2-1. Potential Lewis River Trail Route Alternatives Analysis<sup>1</sup>**

Trail Segment North Trail Segments Considered	Reservoir	Estimated Length (in miles)	Land Ownership (miles/% total)	Linkage Opportunities	Trail Experience	Topography	Environmental Factors	Opportunities for Support Facilities	Comments/Conclusions
<p><b>N1</b> Not Feasible</p> <p>Merwin Park to Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area</p> <p>This trail route begins at the northeast corner of Merwin Park and terminates at Cresap Bay Campground. At the end of the Marble Creek Trail, new trail is required to reach SR 503 near Cape Horn Creek. The trail would have to use the highway shoulder until PacifiCorp land is reached near Dubois Road. From this point, the trail could stay on PacifiCorp lands, but 3 major stream crossings and conflicts with the Woodland Park Community make this stretch difficult.</p>	Merwin	14.6	PC: 13.25/91 Private: 1.35/9  (PC = PacifiCorp)	Some short trails within campsites	Shoreline and forest trail; largely mix of upland vegetation; water views and access	Some major constraints crossing drainages; trail would have to follow grade between road and shoreline	Old growth and riparian designations; conflicts in some areas with MWMP (elk foraging, wetland and meadow habitats, osprey nest sites).	Merwin Park (PC) Woodland Park (PC/residential) Speelyai Park (PC) Speelyai Fish Hatchery Speelyai Canal (PC) Saddle Dam Park (PC) Cresap Bay Campground (PC)	<p><b>PRO:</b> Almost continuous PC land ownership; provides extensive access to recreation sites; alignment allows for variety of trail experiences, water views and potential water access.</p> <p><b>CON:</b> Extensive concerns regarding wildlife disturbance; expensive route due to several creek and stream crossings; significant opposition from residents at Woodland Park; shoulder of SR 503 may have to be utilized to maintain continuity of trail.</p>
<p><b>N2</b> Potentially Feasible Trail Segment 1</p> <p>Merwin Park to Marble Creek Falls</p> <p>This existing Marble Creek Trail – an old roadbed – follows the shoreline to a viewing platform at Marble Creek.</p>	Merwin	0.5	PC: 0.5/100	Merwin Park Marble Creek Falls	Trail along old roadbed; water views; “destination trail” (to viewing platform at falls); shaded by mature upland vegetation	Flat	None identified	Merwin Park (PC)	<p><b>PRO:</b> Continuous PC land ownership; provides additional recreation opportunities at Merwin Park; existing recreation facility can be utilized for trailhead; existing trail/roadbed presents economical trail alternative.</p> <p><b>CON:</b> None identified.</p>
<p><b>N2A</b> Potentially Feasible Trail Segment 1A</p> <p>Merwin Park to Cape Horn Creek</p> <p>This extends the Most Feasible Trail Segment 1 past Marble Creek and terminates at the mouth of Cape Horn Creek near the reservoir shoreline.</p>	Merwin	2.1	PC: 2.1/100	Merwin Park Marble Creek Falls Cape Horn Creek	Trail along old roadbed to Marble Creek; old roadbed continues for a short distance past Marble Creek, after that new trail construction is needed to the mouth of Cape Horn Creek. Proposed trail travels through areas of mature deciduous and coniferous trees.	First section of trail to Marble Creek is flat from Marble Creek the trail slopes down to the reservoir. The new trail will have more slope as it climbs away from the reservoir and traverses the north slope above Lake Merwin.	Once the trail crosses Marble Creek users may be in conflict with old-growth and riparian designations.	Merwin Park (PC)	<p><b>PRO:</b> Continuous PC land ownership; provides additional recreation opportunities at Merwin Park; existing recreation facility can be utilized for trailhead; existing trail/roadbed presents economical trail alternative.</p> <p><b>CON:</b> Concerns over wildlife disturbance in the sections of new trail construction.</p>
<p><b>N3</b> Potentially Feasible Trail Segment 2</p> <p>Rock Creek to Speelyai Bay</p> <p>This trail begins at a potential trailhead off SR 503 just east of the Rock Creek Bridge. The potential trail follows mostly PacifiCorp roads and requires a short section of new trail. The terminus is on the entrance road to Speelyai Bay just off SR 503.</p>	Merwin	3.0	PC: 3.4/100	Speelyai Park Speelyai Hatchery	T-line access roads are fairly open and cleared of overhead vegetation; forest access roads are shaded by mature vegetation; more enclosed; some water views	Largely flat with some segments of moderate slopes, especially in section of new trail	Conflicts in some areas with MWHMP (elk foraging, wetland and meadow habitats, osprey nest sites).	Speelyai Park (PC)	<p><b>PRO:</b> Continuous PC land ownership; most potential wildlife disturbance could be avoided; provides linkage opportunity to Speelyai Park and Speelyai Hatchery.</p> <p><b>CON:</b> Some conflicts with MWHMP (wetlands, meadows, snags, nest sites); short segment of trail may be on entrance road to Speelyai Bay Park.</p>
<p><b>N4</b> Potentially Feasible Trail Segment 3</p> <p>Speelyai Bay to Cresap Bay</p> <p>This trail could begin at the Speelyai Bay Hatchery then cross Speelyai Creek and use a combination of new trail and existing PacifiCorp management roads to reach Cresap Bay Park.</p>	Merwin	3.4	PC: 3.0/100	Speelyai Park Cresap Bay Campground Day Use Area (PC) Cresap Bay Nature Trail	Forest access roads are shaded/enclosed by mature vegetation; new trail section follows a high ridgeline; some water views and limited potential water access	Moderate slopes along section of new trail; existing road largely flat	Some conflicts in some areas with MWHMP, osprey nest sites and created snags.	Speelyai Park (PC) Cresap Bay Campground/ Day Use Area (PC)	<p><b>PRO:</b> Continuous PC land ownership; provides linkage opportunity to Speelyai Park, Speelyai Hatchery, and Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area (including nature trail); interpretive opportunity at hatchery.</p> <p><b>CON:</b> Potential unavoidable conflicts with nest sites; interaction with hatchery not yet assessed; footbridge needed at hatchery (may be installed as part of new hatchery diversion structure).</p>
<p><b>N5</b> Not Feasible</p> <p>Merwin Park to Swift Dam – Transmission Line Route</p> <p>This trail route travels along a transmission line easement from Merwin Park to the Swift Dam. The trail experience along this route includes extremely challenging topography, a straight alignment, and aesthetic/visual impact from the adjacent towers and overhead wires. This trail segment would</p>	Merwin to Swift	21.45	PC: 12.65/60 State: 1.5/7 Other: 7.3/34	None	100’ wide, cleared transmission line easement	Some segments are extremely steep	None identified	None	<p><b>PRO:</b> Provides very long trail route; may connect to existing equestrian routes; existing right-of-way may be economical trail alternative.</p> <p><b>CON:</b> Several road crossings present safety issues; easement crosses a significant amount of private property and owners may not be willing to allow recreation use of easement; trail experience likely boring due to straight alignment, lack of views and aesthetic/visual impact of adjacent towers and overhead wires; public safety and vandalism are concerns due to transmission towers; extreme slopes and stream crossings.</p>

**Table 3.2-1. Potential Lewis River Trail Route Alternatives Analysis<sup>1</sup>**

Trail Segment North Trail Segments Considered	Reservoir	Estimated Length (in miles)	Land Ownership (miles/% total)	Linkage Opportunities	Trail Experience	Topography	Environmental Factors	Opportunities for Support Facilities	Comments/Conclusions
also likely require crossing large blocks of privately owned and state-owned land.									
<b>N6 Option C</b> Potentially Feasible Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area to Saddle Dam Park  This trail route is an option for connecting the Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area with Saddle Dam Park. This trail route could stay largely on PacifiCorp-owned land along the shoreline of Yale Lake, or follow the Frazier Road right-of-way, then utilize existing PacifiCorp roads to Saddle Dam Park.	Merwin to Yale	3.7	PC: 2.55/69 Other: 1.15/31	Fishing access trails Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area Saddle Dam Park	Roadway or shoreline trail following Frazier Road and PC road to Saddle Dam Park	No constraints except near the Saddle Dam	None identified	Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area (PC) Saddle Dam Park (PC)	<b>PRO:</b> Potential for alignment to stay on PC-owned land and use some Company lands in some locations.  <b>CON:</b> If Frazier Road is used this may produce a conflict with recreation traffic going to Saddle Dam Park; road crossing of SR 503 Spur presents safety issues.
<b>N7</b> Not Feasible Saddle Dam Park to west end of Swift Reservoir. This trail route extends from Saddle Dam Park to Swift Dam. The route could use the existing trail that starts at Saddle Dam Park and goes to Speelyai Canal. From Speelyai Canal, the trail would have to use the shoulder of SR 503 until PacifiCorp property near Yale Park is reached. Some areas between SR 503 and the reservoir are very narrow and steep and may preclude the use of Company lands. Company lands east of the town of Cougar could be used. Trail alignment would probably have to use SR 503 through the town of Cougar then return to Company lands near Cougar Park. The trail could stay on Company lands to Beaver Bay. Connections east from Beaver Bay are difficult.	Yale	8.5	Private development through town of Cougar and east of Speelyai Canal. Trail may not have to cross any private lands but it would have to use the shoulder of SR 503 for extend lengths.	Town of Cougar Saddle Dam to Speelyai Canal Trail Kalama Horse Camp Shoreline trail segments at Beaver Bay and Cougar Park	Roadway or shoreline trail passing through a town center, residential areas and several recreation sites; largely upland vegetation; water views and access	No constraints except in spots where corridor between road and shoreline narrows and may become impassable	Wetland complex at Beaver Bay	Cougar Park/Camp (PC) Yale Park (PC) Saddle Dam Park (PC) Beaver Bay Campground/Day Use Area (PC)	<b>PRO:</b> Almost continuous PC land ownership; provides linkage to town of Cougar, several recreation sites and 2 existing trails; potential mix of trail types may provide variety of experience; alignment provides water views and potential water access; may improve pedestrian/bicycle safety in and around the town of Cougar.  <b>CON:</b> Corridor very narrow in points (near Yale Park, for example) which would make alignment difficult; segment of trail may be on shoulder of SR 503.
<b>N8</b> Not Feasible Swift Dam to Eagle Cliff Park  Trail alignment would stay between FS 90 and the reservoir shoreline.	Swift	10.75 (trail study stops at Eagle Cliff Park; potential for trail extension to Curly Creek trailhead additional 2.5 miles)	PC: 4.25/40 Private: 4.5/42 Public: 2/18	USFS Trail 233 & 239 to north on western end USFS Trail 31 to east along Lewis River	Road < 1,000' from shoreline along most of reservoir; mix of upland and riparian vegetation; mix of road right-of-way and shoreline routes, both provide shoreline proximity/water view	Steep cross slope along most of reservoir and steep canyons at drainage crossings that cannot be crossed at lower levels	Osprey nest east of FR 90 (FS special site 1093); some riparian vegetation; Eagle Cliff Park area has flooded in the past	Pine Creek Information Center (USFS) Swift Camp/Day Use Area (PC) Eagle Cliff Park (PC) Potential north shore boat launch site (PC) Swift Overlook (DNR)	<b>PRO:</b> Potential mix of trail types may provide variety of experience; alignment provides water views, connections between several recreation facilities and potential access to USFS trails.  <b>CON:</b> Topographic constraints (cross slope) and narrow corridor between road and shoreline limit trail alignment alternatives; extremely steep crossings at several drainages; minimal right-of-way along FR 90 limits trail alignment alternatives; private residential developments present gap in potential trail alignment.
<b>South Trail Segments Considered</b>									
<b>S1</b> Not Feasible West end of Lake Merwin to east end of Lake Merwin  This trail segment travels on the south side of Lake Merwin, starting at the west on Buncombe Hollow Road. Extreme slopes along the shoreline would preclude water access along this route. The route becomes difficult at the end of Buncombe Hollow Road as areas of residential development on private land must be crossed and could cause trail user/residential conflicts. This trail segment would also likely require crossing state-owned land. The DNR has generally been reluctant to block motorized access to their lands; however, they are currently reviewing their public access program and	Merwin	10.5	PC: 8.5/80 State: 1.0/10 Private: 1.0/10	Some short trails on east end Amboy Mt. (proposed/Clark Co.)	Roadway trail along Buncombe Creek Road; largely mix of upland vegetation; water views	Extreme slopes in most areas between road and shoreline	No constraints identified		<b>PRO:</b> Substantial PC land ownership (although it doesn't connect to the park); existing trail/roadbed presents economical trail alternative; proposed Clark County trail route; provides linkage opportunity for Clark County proposed trail at Mt. Amboy.  <b>CON:</b> Extreme slopes likely preclude shoreline trail; direct access to south shoreline is limited or unavailable due to steep slopes; no facilities beyond trailhead; private residential development (Camper's Hide-a-Way) would be difficult to cross; linkage to existing trails unlikely due to slope constraints; potential user conflicts along Buncombe Hollow Road.

**Table 3.2-1. Potential Lewis River Trail Route Alternatives Analysis<sup>1</sup>**

Trail Segment North Trail Segments Considered	Reservoir	Estimated Length (in miles)	Land Ownership (miles/% total)	Linkage Opportunities	Trail Experience	Topography	Environmental Factors	Opportunities for Support Facilities	Comments/Conclusions
may be supportive of trail use.									
<b>S2 Not Feasible</b> West end of Lake Merwin to east end of Lake Merwin – Transmission Line  This trail segment travels along a transmission line easement from the west end of Lake Merwin to the east end of Lake Merwin. The trail experience along this route includes extremely challenging topography, a straight alignment, and aesthetic/visual impact from the adjacent towers and overhead wires. Due to the presence of the transmission towers, public safety and vandalism are concerns. This trail segment would also likely require crossing large blocks of private and state-owned land. The DNR has generally been reluctant to block motorized access to their lands; however, they are currently reviewing their public access program and may be supportive of trail use.	Merwin	10.5	PC: 3.0/29 State: 4.5/42 Private: 3.0/29	Link to proposed trails in Clark Co. Bikeways and Trails Plan	100' wide cleared transmission line easement	Some areas of steep slopes limit trail potential	No constraints identified		<b>PRO:</b> Proposed Clark County trail route; avoids extreme topographic constraints of shoreline route. <b>CON:</b> Very little PC land ownership; no facilities; trail experience likely boring due to straight alignment; some areas of steep slopes; lack of views; aesthetic/visual impact of adjacent towers and overhead wires; public safety and vandalism concerns due to transmission towers.
<b>S3 Option A Not Feasible</b> Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area to IP Road  This trail segment is an option for connecting the Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area with IP Road using existing roads or road rights-of-way to access Canyon Creek Bridge. This circuitous route to reach IP Road includes minimal PacifiCorp-owned land.	Merwin to Yale	8.25	PC: 1.65/20 Private: 6.6/80	IP Road Trail (proposed/Clark Co.)	Using existing roads or road rights-of-way to access IP Road at Canyon Creek Bridge	No constraints along roads	No constraints identified	Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area (PC)	<b>PRO:</b> May be inexpensive trail alternative if existing roadways are utilized with no/limited improvements. <b>CON:</b> Minimal PC land ownership; circuitous route to reach IP Road trail alignment; public road crossings present safety hazards; narrow "pinch point" across Yale Bridge; users must travel along shoulder of local roads.
<b>S4 Option B Not Feasible</b> Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area to IP Road  This trail segment is an option for connecting the Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area with IP Road. This route follows PacifiCorp-owned land to the west side of Canyon Creek, then turns south to access IP Road across private land and road rights-of-way.	Merwin to Yale	5.25	PC: 2.25/43 Private: 2.95/57	IP Road Trail (proposed/Clark Co.)	Trail follows PC-owned land to west side of Canyon Creek and then turns south, accessing IP Road across private land	Extreme slopes along Canyon Creek	Raptor nests	Cresap Bay Campground/Day Use Area (PC)	<b>PRO:</b> Some PC land ownership; utilizes existing PC road. <b>CON:</b> Feasibility of new trail along west side of Canyon Creek could be difficult due to private ownership and extreme topographic constraints; crossing of existing narrow Yale Bridge.
<b>S5 Potentially Feasible Trail Segment 4</b> Yale IP Road to west end of Swift Reservoir  This trail segment along Yale Lake follows the Yale IP Road. The road is a one-lane, level, and mostly paved road. The road closely follows the south and east shoreline of Yale Lake.	Yale	10.3	PC: 7.75/55 Public: 6.55/45	Siouxon Creek Trail (proposed/Clark Co.) Yale IP Road Trail (proposed/Clark Co.)	Roadway trail (Yale IP Road) through mixed stands of upland vegetation; Clark Co. Comprehensive Park Plan proposes that the Yale IP Road be converted to a non-motorized multi-use trail	No constraints	Much of area is elk winter range management area; soil instability on southeast end; landslide and rock fall areas	Siouxon County Park site (Clark Co.) (undeveloped) Proposed trail rest stops at north and south ends of Yale Lake (Clark Co.)	<b>PRO:</b> Almost continuous PC land ownership although broken by federal, state, and county parcels; provides linkage opportunity to park sites and trails proposed by Clark County; existing roadbed may provide economical trail development alternative; increased enforcement due to trail development may eliminate unauthorized motorized use and reduce wildlife disturbance from present conditions. <b>CON:</b> Wildlife disturbance issues (stream crossings, nest sites, wetland areas); bank stability and rock-fall potential need to be assessed; easement for recreation use of road unclear and user conflicts (unauthorized motorized use, logging activity). Ownership on west end is disputed; two steel truss bridges make connections along the trail and the condition, ownership and safety retrofit needed for recreation use of these bridges have not been addressed or estimated.

**Table 3.2-1. Potential Lewis River Trail Route Alternatives Analysis<sup>1</sup>**

Trail Segment North Trail Segments Considered	Reservoir	Estimated Length (in miles)	Land Ownership (miles/% total)	Linkage Opportunities	Trail Experience	Topography	Environmental Factors	Opportunities for Support Facilities	Comments/Conclusions
<b>S6 Potentially Feasible Trail Segment 5</b> West end of Swift Reservoir to Eagle Cliff Park  Traveling east from the west end of Swift Reservoir, this trail segment follows an existing, well-established logging road that can be accessed at the east end of IP Road, just before crossing the bypass reach (south of the Swift No. 2 power canal). This gravel road is approximately 15 feet wide, fairly level, and smooth except for potholes.	Swift	19.5	PC: .25/2  State and Private: 19/98	Mitchell Peak Trail  McClellan Mt. (no ex. trail)  USFS Trail 31 to east along Lewis River	Old-growth forest around Drift Creek cove; otherwise, much of area has been clearcut; ridge alignment provides good views of Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams	Steep slopes along western end of reservoir limit shoreline trail potential; some shoreline trail potential on east end; proposed alignment follows ridgeline and provides flat trail with steep sides	Eagle nest at Drift Creek in direct sight from trail but greater than 800 meters; some existing road washouts; Eagle Cliff Park area subject to flooding; USFS old growth habitat block at Drift Creek	Eagle Cliff Park (PC)	<p><b>PRO:</b> Extensive existing road network provides opportunities for trail development and drainage crossings; traffic volume is very light on most roads; provides additional recreation opportunities at Eagle Cliff Park; existing recreation facility can be utilized for trailhead; existing trail/roadbed presents economical trail alternative.</p> <p><b>CON:</b> Eagle nest at southwest corner of Drift Creek cove (trail would need to be routed 800 meters from nest); old-growth habitat at Drift Creek; little or no PC land ownership; Plum Creek position on recreation use of timber lands unknown; no utilities or existing facilities beyond trailhead; would have to cross FR 90 bridge.</p>

Trail segments are presented according to their location along the 3 reservoirs, either on the north (includes the west side of Yale Lake) or the south (includes the east side of Yale Lake).

**Key to Matrix Variables.**

Matrix Variable	Description
Trail segment	An alphanumeric reference, where N indicates north of the reservoir and S indicates south of the reservoir.
Reservoir	The name of the reservoir along which the trail segment travels.
Length	The length of the trail segment in miles.
Land ownership	A primary objective of the trail feasibility study was to determine whether a trail could be routed exclusively on PacifiCorp (PC) lands and rights-of-way. Ownership information is provided by length of trail segment (in miles and as a percentage of the total length).
Linkage opportunities	Existing non-motorized trails in the vicinity of the project were identified and analyzed for the potential to be linked with the proposed non-motorized "spine" trail. Linkage to communities was also considered.
Trail experience	The experience of the trail user is predicted, in terms of views, water access, and immediate environment (such as roadway, vegetation or shoreline).
Topography	Topographic information highlighting areas of constraint due to steep slopes or soil instability.
Environmental factors	Wildlife habitat areas or other natural or cultural resources that may be sensitive to human impacts.
Opportunities for support facilities	Existing or proposed (recreation) facilities that may provide sites for trailheads or other trail information, interpretive facilities or other support facilities (such as restrooms, benches and parking).
Comments/Conclusions	A summary of each of the preceding columns suggesting why/why not the trail alignment is recommended.

<sup>1</sup> The 5 most feasible trail segments are shaded.

#### 4.0 REFERENCES

- EDAW, Inc. 2001. Recreation Demand Analysis. Lewis River Hydroelectric Project, PacifiCorp, Inc. and Cowlitz County PUD, Portland, Oregon.
- R.S. Means Company, Inc. 1996. Site Work and Landscape Cost Data. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Edition, 1997. R.S. Means Company, Inc. Kingston, Massachusetts.

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

Public Comments Received Regarding Draft Trail Feasibility Study and  
Meeting Notes from Recreation Resource Group, Terrestrial Resource  
Group, and READ Meetings

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State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 800 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 111' Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

**MEMO**

**TO:** Recreation Resources Group

**FROM:** WDFW

**DATE:** April 2001

**SUBJECT:** Comments on the Draft Trail Feasibility Study Summary Report

Unresolved resource conflicts exist over the entire trail route including but not limited to seasonal disturbance concerns for migrating and nesting birds, migrating and resident big game species and wetland / riparian habitat disturbance. The following states our concerns, to date, regarding the proposed "spine" trail.

**Merwin route**

- A number of references are made in the feasibility study to sighting the trail along "well-used game trails" especially along the Merwin route. These game trails are utilized by a number of wildlife species and usually indicate a route that, due to surrounding disturbance or un-navigable topography, become a wildlife corridor that may be unable to adapt to additional human pressures. More investigation of alternate routes is necessary along sections that directly conflict with high wildlife use.
- A number of stream crossings and potential impacts to wetland-associated species along this route are also of concern – the northeast Merwin area presently supports a diversity of species that are sensitive to disturbance (pileated woodpecker, osprey, bald eagle, waterfowl spp.) which is precisely the reason they occur in these less-developed parcels.
- WDFW proposed an alternative along the ROW, south of Merwin Reservoir. This route is evidently also supported by Clark County. The main argument against investigating this route further seems to involve the unsatisfactory aesthetic experience that exists along the powerline corridor and the potential for vandalism of transformers. It appears that the Merwin portion of the proposed trail cannot be situated such that it will not conflict seriously with one or more parties.

**Yale / IP road route**

- The issue of whether access along the IP road is supported by DNR and other easement-holders is yet to be formally resolved. WDFW would like written assurance that sighting a trail along this route is supported by all concerned entities.

- The southern end of Yale at the beginning of the proposed IP route is of particular concern regarding the potential for wildlife disturbance. A wetland area frequented by a number of species known to be sensitive to disturbance<sup>1</sup> and several eagle and osprey roost areas and nests occurs along this section. In addition, as the IP road route continues north along Yale, several stream crossings occur as well as a number of additional osprey activity areas. Although the trail itself is mostly-paved and well armored, it must be expected that riders will need to water their horses at points along this route. The streams are much more accessible than the reservoir, potentially impacting these sensitive areas. More investigation into seasonal-use restrictions and potential impact assessment is warranted.
- During an April 5, 2001 visit by WDFW along the proposed IP road route, a common loon and an osprey were flushed 2.5 miles south of the IP bridge. Near this same point a recent rockslide covered the entire road highlighting the need for more in-depth assessment of bank stability along this route.

#### Swift route

- There are fewer wildlife concerns regarding the proposed route along Swift Reservoir until the route nears Drift Creek. An active eagle nest and fragile old growth habitat in this vicinity is not conducive to trail activity. Alternatives need to be explored that will route trail users along the margins of old growth blocks instead of through the interior. This option would provide more protection against disturbance while still affording trail users a wildlife experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this process.

---

<sup>1</sup> EDAW, 1998. TIES and priority species observations in Final Technical Report for Terrestrial Resources Yale Hydroelectric Project #2071, PacifiCorp, Portland, OR.

8207 56<sup>th</sup> St. CL W  
University Place, WA 98467  
April 11, 2001

Pacificorp  
825 NE Multnomah Ste. 1500  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Stenberg,

First of all, we would like to thank you for the time and consideration taken to notify us of the developments in and around Lake Merwin. We appreciate your time spent with Gordon Eddington as well. Our personal rights and personal property are worth considering.

We **STRONGLY** oppose Plan #1, Fig.3.1-1, of the potential Lewis River Spine Trail Route involving private property on Lake Merwin. We own private property in the Woodland Park Community, a small, but cherished, irreplaceable cabin we have taken care of, repaired, and re-repaired for the past 40 plus years. Two years ago we spent over ten thousand dollars on a new roof and foundation, plus hours of our own labor redoing the floor and inside ceiling. Our cabin is not JUST a "cabin to the west of Rock Creek" that would "likely have to be removed to allow trail access through this area". It is an integral part of our lives, that we have worked hard to have and maintain. We have done everything asked of us by Pacificorp, ie, building bulkheads, maintaining roads, building gates, making fire protection for "their land", preserving old growth and any natural growth, protecting Class 1 streams, and protecting shoreline for "their water conservation and power". We pay personal property taxes every year on "our" personal property. We do not pay taxes on Pacificorps property that can be easily "removed to physically route a trail." It would not be inexpensive for Pacificorp to "remove" our cabin. We **OPPOSE** the trail at this location and in ANY private property location.

We **OPPOSE** the trail coming anywhere near the Woodland Park Community. Approximately 35 years ago the area had a public campground and boat launching. It was because of problems those public areas created for private property owners that the community became private. There is no way to preserve privacy to any of the cabins and owners in the development. High fences and screens will not keep people out and away from vandalizing, disturbing, and ruining the community. The fences and screens only deprive and alter the expense and years of care for the wildlife in the area, the elk and deer herds, and fish population. A trail in this area would be best served away from

private property, where people can enjoy the outdoors without walking by cabins and invading the lake shore around the perimeter of the lake. Lake Merwin has several public sites, allowing for the enjoyment of the natural resource without further taking away from the beauty. The public is able to enjoy that pristine beauty from the water and shores by boat and other trails and campsites.

Thank you again for assessing all sides of this proposition. Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at Merwin Headquarters. This letter is to be our proxy voice. Please put it into the minutes of that meeting for our objections to be noted and heard.

Sincerely,



Gary and Denise Shaw.

#### OBJECTIONS:

1. Crossing/destruction of private property. You mention two, possibly three cabins would be affected. That is severe, but by far an underestimation of the cabins affected in Woodland Park
2. Effects of ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas, Class 1 creeks, such as Rock Creek due to building a bridge large enough to handle a 4x4 wheel maintenance vehicle and strong enough to withstand the historically changing Winter runoff effects of that creek.
3. Lake Merwin already has several accessible public areas, adding more will only ruin the existing natural resources.
4. Privacy of the Woodland Park Community will be violate.

Mark Stenberg  
825 NE Multnomah Suite 1500  
Portland, OR 97232

March 30, 2000

Mark,

Thanks for taking the time on March 22 to meet with me and listen to our concerns about building a foot trail along Woodland Park Community on Lake Merwin. As you know, building the trail as recommended by the surveyor would require tearing down two family cabins and building a trail within a few feet of two others. The cabin on site #20 is owned by the Shaw and Tutthill families and is one of the cabins threatened by this proposal. The loss of the cabin would be absolutely devastating to our families. Three generations from both families have fond memories of the times at the cabin on Lake Merwin, and a fourth is about to build their own. Having it torn down for a foot trail would be very difficult for us all to accept. We sincerely hope that PacifiCorp can sympathize with our concern and reject this part of the proposal.

Whether the cabins are spared or not, there are still other concerns to be considered.

- Environmental

There is a prominent raptor nest two or three hundred feet south of the transmission lines, just north of the road near the site of the old community gate. This nest would force the trail to be located at least 1500 feet to the north. There are other raptor nests located to the east of Rock Creek as well.

The presence of a trail would cause great disruption to the elk habitat and migration routes PacifiCorp has spent considerable time, money, and effort to develop.

- Homeowner issues

Routing the trail so close to the Woodland Park Community would seriously degrade the value and living experience of the remaining cabins. Trail users would invade the privacy of the Woodland Park Community to gain access to the lake. Vandalism, theft, and nuisance trespassing would likely occur. Building the trail as proposed would also completely isolate the Taziler family cabin on the peninsula east of Rock Creek, making it an especially easy target. Although intended as a trail for non-motorized use, we are also concerned that motorcycle and ATV riders would eventually find their way onto the trail and into the community.

Given the many concerns, obstacles and great expense required, we don't believe that building the proposed trail segment along Lake Merwin is feasible or in the best interest of all parties involved. We appreciate your attention to our concerns and the opportunity to incorporate them into the discussion, and look forward to your presentation of the preferred alternative design on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Gordon Eddington  
Joanne Tutthill Eddington  
1550 SE Norma Road  
Milwaukie, OR 97267

To: Mr. Mark Soenberg  
PacifiCorp  
325 N. E. Multnomah  
Portland, OR. 97232

From: Tom and Jocelyn Tutthill  
5845 S W Thomas Court  
Portland, OR 97221

Subject: Woodland Park Homeowners and Cabin site #20

Date: March 27, 2001

Dear Mark,

We want to thank you for the time you have spent with our son-in-law, Gordon Eddington, concerning the Lewis River relicensing collaborative process re: trail routing feasibility study.

We attended the January 30, 2001 meeting at Merwin Headquarters and were shocked at the possibility that our cabin on site #20 in the Woodland Park Community would be torn down to physically route a trail and provide enough fencing and screening necessary to assure the privacy of the Woodland Park Community.

We as a homeowner for the past 30 years and all of us in the Woodland Park Community, as renters, have worked hard to accommodate requests of us by PacificCorp. We moved the gate to the top of the hill to protect the wildlife habitat. We installed a substantial fire prevention system with hydrants throughout the area. We have maintained the roads and completely rebuilt the lake bulkhead which surrounds the Woodland Park Rd. turnaround. It is hard for us to understand why there are such drastic plans being considered to encroach upon our vacation cabins and the environs.

We felt that most attendees at the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting were understanding of our plight. Please save the sanctity of the entire Woodland Park community by directing your attention to other sites for a walking and horse trail, and especially consider our cabin as an important part of our family and our future generations.

Sincerely,

Tom Tutthill  
Jocelyn Tutthill  
Tom and Jocelyn Tutthill

Stenberg, Mark

---

From: Fabbrofoun@aol.com  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2001 8:03 PM  
To: mark.stenberg@pacificorp.com  
Subject: Proposed Horse Trail

Mark,

I am a member of the Wa. Trail Riders Assoc. I read in the latest newsletter that PacificCorp is studying the idea of a trail from Merwin Dam to Eagle Cliff Park.

As an avid outdoorsman and horse trail rider, I am extremely interested in what PacificCorp has in mind. Any plan that is proposed should without question include the opportunity to use horses. Horse owners in S.W. Wa continue increase in numbers each year. The amount of revenue contributed to the local economy is substantial and increasing as well. This contribution is not only in the form of direct expenses related to owning horses, such as tack, feed, veterinary services, trailers, vehicles, etc., but also for personal property taxes, fuel taxes, and a variety of building materials for barns and fencing. Needless to say, horse owners contribute substantially to the economy.

To continue to support the growth of this business, increased opportunities to additional areas to ride and enjoy the outdoors needs to grow as well.

I would like to be kept informed of PacificCorp's plans to develop this proposed trail and would appreciate being included on any mailings or e-mail publications the Company may establish.

Thank you in advance.

Dick Fabbro  
30401 N.E. Timmen Rd.  
Ridgefield, Wa. 98642

# CITY OF VANCOUVER

Post Office Box 1995 · Vancouver, Washington 98668-1995



March 29, 2001

Mark Stenberg  
PacifiCorp  
825 N.E. Multnomah, Suite 1500  
Portland, OR 97232

**SUBJECT:** Comments: Draft Trail Feasibility Study Summary Report, Lewis River Hydroelectric System – Relicensing Process, Dated January 21, 2001

Dear Mark,

The following are our initial comments regarding the draft trail feasibility study:


- 1) The plan should be considered, reviewed and commented on concurrent with recommendations for other potential improvements in the area, especially recreational facilities.
- 2) While the plan methodology states that the potential trail alignments should consider maximizing the potential for linkages to existing and proposed trails, and existing and proposed recreational facilities, the report does not detail existing trails, nor does it specify proposed trails or recreation facilities to which linkages would/could be created. The current Clark County Regional Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan does specifically identify a number of future recreational facilities to be located in the area. We would be happy to review these future projects with you so that they can be fully considered in the feasibility study.
- 3) The study should include a detailed analysis of the types of "experience" that the trail segments are likely to create. Is the system envisioned to provide day hike opportunities, day mountain biking, day equestrian, backpacking/bikepacking/horsepacking accommodations (rustic camping)? What about handicapped access/accommodations?
- 4) The methodology should also consider future land use patterns that are likely to occur over the next 50 years. This should include an assessment of all potential land uses and how these changes may impact the feasibility of trail development and potential impact on trail experiences once they are in place. The analysis should also include an assessment of the transportation impacts of growth (i.e., assessment of adequacy of current road system to accommodate future road demand).
- 5) The analysis should include an assessment of the current demand for trails, including detail regarding types of trails needed/wanted, as well as an assessment of likely local and regional trail demands over the next 50 years.
- 6) The report should include a detailed, unbiased narrative of the alternative routing proposals – similar to the detailed description of the "preferred" routes.
- 7) The analysis for preferred routing for segment #2 – Yale Lake should include an assessment of the impacts to wildlife.



- 8) Analysis for "preferred" segment #2 - Yale Lake should include an analysis of potential conflicts with other uses - existing and proposed - i.e., logging, unauthorized motor vehicles, etc.
- 9) The study should include an implementation section detailing likely scenarios, to include partnership opportunities, grant potential, etc.

We appreciate the work that has gone into the trail feasibility study and the opportunity to review it at this stage in the process. These comments are submitted in an effort to ensure that the study is complete and gives full consideration to all the elements that may impact the trail and recreational components of the relicensing agreement.

Sincerely,



Jeroen J. Kok  
Regional Parks Planner

Cc: Larry Smith, Director, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department  
Del Schleichert, Assistant Director, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department  
Kelly Puntoney, Regional Trails Planner, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department  
Pete Capell PE, Director, Clark County Public Works  
Jim Eychaner, IAC, P.O. Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
RECREATION RESOURCE GROUP**

**January 30, 2001**

**Merwin Headquarters  
Ariel, WA  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary  
Final – April 25, 2001**

**Attendees: (21)**

Liana Aker, WDFW

Ilene Black, FD #7, NCEMS, LRCC

Heidi Cobbs, Citizen

Richie Downs, Citizen

Chuck Everett, EDAW

Jim Eychaner, Washington IAC

Dean Fewkes, Citizen

Don Harman, PacifiCorp

Jane Hills, PacifiCorp

John Hooson, PacifiCorp

Darlene Johnson, City of Woodland, Woodland  
Chamber of Commerce

Rick Johnson, FD #10, DNR Adv Comm, BCH,  
WTRA

Andrea Kloewer, Citizen

Jeroen Kok, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Rec. Svcs

Dave Leonhardt, PacifiCorp

Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD

Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker

Jim Nieland, USFS

Mariah Reese, Citizen

Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp

**Calendar:**

February 7	Steering Committee	Merwin, WA ?
February 22	Aquatics Resource Group	Lacey, WA
March 15	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA
March 28	SocioEconomic Resource Group	Merwin, WA
April 25	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
May 17	Cultural Resource Group	Olympia, WA
July 19	Cultural Resource Group	Toppenish, WA
Sept 20, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Seattle, WA
Nov 15, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA

<b>Assignments from Jan 30 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>J. Hills:</b> Break down positive public comments received.	
<b>J. Hills:</b> Add PacifiCorp's name, address and telephone number to this season's comment card.	
<b>M. Stenberg/C. Everett:</b> Create a meeting plan for the year to address public and evening meetings.	
<b>J. Hooson:</b> Research ownership of the reservoirs water surface and underlying lands.	

<b>C. Everett:</b> Synthesize unique differences of each reservoir for comparison data for visioning; status quo conditions.	
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Send out “fresh” visioning matrix.	Completed.
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Set up an evening meeting in Yale for RRG and SRG.	Completed May 3, 2001 at Yale School.

**Summary of Actions:**

1. Reviewed and approved the agenda. New items will come under agenda item #3. The notes of Feb. 23, 2000 and Oct. 24, 2000 were approved.
2. The group reviewed visitor count results for 2000. Total visitation, camping/day use collectively = 559,000 visitors in 2000 (excludes dispersed use).
3. Customer comments received in 2000 were discussed. Comment cards were available in day use facilities, campgrounds and sent to people using the reservation system. About 3500 reservations were taken for campsites in the 2000 recreation season. The database indicates that these reservations were made by 1000 individuals. Approximately 300 annual day-use passes were sold in each of the past 2 years.
4. The one outstanding permit for the planned work at Saddle Dam Park should be to PacifiCorp by the end of February. The USFWS has finished their review and now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has another two to three weeks of processing before PacifiCorp sees the permit.
5. PacifiCorp has entered into a 3 year contract with Thousand Trails Management Services. They will manage all developed day use areas and campgrounds previously operated by PacifiCorp. There will be no change in the fee schedule.
6. The 10,000 Years Institute has submitted a study proposal to the ARG. They represent several conservation groups. The current study proposal is based on a Lake Tahoe study of PAH pollution in the water.
7. A combined evening meeting in Yale to update the local citizens on the RRG and SRG progress was proposed.
8. The Trail Routing Feasibility study was requested by the state of Washington InterAgency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC). The overall objective of this study is to investigate the feasibility of a non-motorized, multi-use “spine” trail extending from Merwin Park at the west end of Lake Merwin to Eagle Cliff Park at the east end of Swift Reservoir.
9. In a past RRG meeting, it was requested that the IAC, EDAW, PacifiCorp put together a “strawman” vision matrix to be used for discussion purposes. The result is Handout #3. There are not a lot of details in these alternatives. This group wanted to get all the issues out on the table now for discussion purposes. This matrix is based more on intuitive/gut feel than it is on hard data at this point.
10. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> at Merwin Headquarters.

**Agenda Item 1: Introductions (Pre-Meeting Handout #1)**

Reviewed and approved the agenda. New items will come under agenda item #3. The notes of Feb. 23, 2000 and Oct. 24, 2000 were approved.

## **Agenda Item 2: Review of Year 2000 Recreation Season: Various Topics**

### **Vehicle Counts**

Total visitation, camping/day use collectively = 559,000

Day use visitors = 502,600

Campground visitors = 56,400

Campsites occupied = 16,600.

These figures do not include dispersed undeveloped camping or day use sites. This factor can be estimated as a percentage of dispersed camping. M. Stenberg will bring a comparison graph next time so the RRG can see the 2000 counts compared with previous years.

### **Public Comments**

Customers that called in for reservations were asked to send in comments. Cards were available in developed day use facilities and campgrounds.

PacifiCorp received 39 negative comment cards or letters:

- 8 for no closure of camping at Saddle Dam
- 3 concerned about PWC/jetski use
- 1 golden pass use
- 8 maintenance issues
- 1 overnight parking
- 2 against caretakers
- 1 damage to a car
- 1 transfer of fees
- 13 negative comments about fees

There were 26 positive comments about fees and the resulting increase in security and enforcement of the no-alcohol policy.

EDAW felt that there were not a lot of negative comments given the large number of visitors. H. Cobb, however, reported that she felt that there were no places at any of the parks where people can go to complain or to make a comment. It was almost at the very end of the season that staff were telling the public that they had comment cards available. Before that, there was apparently no place to go or call (no telephone number). PacifiCorp should inform visitors of a telephone number where they can call to make comments or a place where they can go to provide written comment. The comment cards are apparently available at each caretaker unit and at each fee booth. Staff are supposed to have them as well. They have been instructed to give out a card when they receive a complaint.

### **Reservation System Data and Rules**

A total of 3,500 total reservations were taken in the 2000 recreation season. These reservations were made by 1,000 customers. When someone calls in, they are allowed to make 2 reservations per telephone call. They have to hang up and call back before they make additional requests. During the first month, the reservation line is extremely busy. There is only one line and one person handling it. At the start of the day, all messages are returned in sequential order, before additional calls are taken. After the initial rush, requests slow down until school lets out, then it picks up again.

### **Passes**

Approximately 300 passes were sold in each of the last 2 years. Last year, 200 discounted passes (local resident or senior citizen) were sold.

### **Facility Improvements Planned**

The permit for the boat ramp improvement work required in the 1999 Yale License Application at Saddle Dam Park should be to PacifiCorp by the end of the month. This project will provide improved boater access. The entry gates will close at dusk. Saddle Dam Park will follow the same day use area policies as the other day use parks.

There are two feasibility studies that have been requested by PacifiCorp's hydro management. They want to look at the possibility of developing a new deep-water boat launch at Swift Reservoir and deepening/extending the existing Speelyai Bay Park boat launch. These projects are still quite a ways out in years before visitors may use the new boat launches, assuming they are feasible.

### **Recreation Management at PacifiCorp Developed Recreation Facilities**

PacifiCorp has entered a 3-year contract with Thousand Trails Management Services. They will be managing all of PacifiCorp's developed day use areas and campgrounds. There will be no change in the fee schedule.

The primary reason for the management change is that PacifiCorp's primary business is the generation and distribution of power. To enable PacifiCorp's managers to focus on their primary business, PacifiCorp explored various options for the management of the Project's developed recreation facilities. The primary business of Thousand Trails Management Services is recreation management. They have 30 years of experience. They come with a very experienced team and approach. They will have more people on the ground. PacifiCorp usually has 26, while they will have 42 in the summer. PacifiCorp will keep their security contracts as before. PacifiCorp's goals with this arrangement are to maintain the highest quality of customer service, maintain costs, and keep the levels of facility and grounds maintenance equal to or higher than customers expectations. PacifiCorp campgrounds will not become Thousand Trail membership campgrounds. PacifiCorp will continue to operate the reservation system. The funding for this is a little less costly, and it will be funded through the fee process. This will help keep fees from going up.

**While the fee structure is set in the contract for the next three years, it is still important to have fee discussions. That input will be in our vision that will go forward in the relicensing process.**

Question: What is the hiring process? Is Thousand Trails bringing their own personnel?

Answer: Anyone who has worked for PacifiCorp in past recreation seasons, and left in good standing, will be eligible to re-apply. Thousand Trails will do the interview and hiring process. People can call PacifiCorp for more information.

Question: Will there be a check and balance system between PacifiCorp and Thousand Trails? Answer: J. Hills from PacifiCorp will be in the Project area working with them. Thousand Trails will provide occupancy reports, bank statements, and comment cards to PacifiCorp weekly. PacifiCorp will randomly send out questionnaires. PacifiCorp will also set up the comment card system with them. If there is an operational, maintenance issue, etc., they will respond. Monthly, PacifiCorp will get copies of the cards and the replies. PacifiCorp's address can be on the card also. If people call into PacifiCorp's Portland office, they will get a comment card. J. Hills will be putting a facility checklist together also. She will run through the facilities weekly to check. There are quite a few checks and balances in the contract. We have to trust that Thousand Trails will get

PacifiCorp the comment cards. She will be out there 2 days a week, or so, looking for these items.

Thousand Trails is not involved with the management of dispersed camping or day use activities at this time. They will get detailed training on wildlife, safety, first aid, etc. from PacifiCorp. The Monday before the Project's parks and campgrounds open, all agency representatives will be invited to an interface meeting. If WDFW wants something covered, that will be the day/place to do it. PacifiCorp is also considering additional training on bull trout protection, possibly including cards with pictures of bull trout on them and the regulations for easier identification. These cards could possibly be handed out to the public.

Thousand Trails will not have citation authority. PacifiCorp's contracted security company does not as well. However, PacifiCorp's security company can eject people from the parks and campgrounds. If they cannot handle a situation, and then they are instructed to call the local Sheriff's Dept. Thousand Trails employees will have radios in order to call in for emergencies, etc.

### **10,000 Years Institute Proposal to Study PAHs**

This group has submitted a study proposal to the ARG. They represent several conservation groups. The current study proposal is based on a Lake Tahoe study of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the water body. PAHs are toxic to fish/reproduction cycles at various levels. It is known that 2-stroke motors used on some boats and most personal watercraft (PWC or jetskis) dump some of their fuel into the water. Two-stroke engines are not very efficient when run at higher speed. This results in increased unspent fuel being released. The manner in which PWCs are operated – at high speed for sustained periods of time – causes them to release a high amount of unspent fuel when compared to other 2-stroke marine engine applications. The 10,000 Years Institute proposes looking at areas surrounding the 4 boat launches on Yale Lake, taking 5 samples each, and coming up with a composite test result. Yale Lake and its boat launches were selected as the study area because it has the most boating activity and PWC use in the Project area. The Aquatics Resource Group (ARG) has approved this study as a water quality study. The study will next go to the Steering Committee for approval before implementation as a Water Quality study request.

J. Eychaner (IAC) objected to study, as he feels it singles out boating. The data gathered now will be useless as the Environmental Protection Agency has already issued rules to require boating and PWC manufacturers to reduce marine propulsion emissions. There is still some question as to the best use of these data. PacifiCorp could limit boating/PWC use, but that raises a whole different set of questions. J. Eychaner felt that it was very important that the ARG and the Steering Committee should be aware of the changing regulations and the new generation of cleaner engines used by boats and PWC. *[Note: J. Eychaner did not make the following statements. Not sure who did]:* Major manufactures of PWC, including Yamaha and Honda, are already voluntarily complying with the new 2006 federal mandate for cleaner engines. As a result, the need for this study may be a moot issue. The Steering Committee has not yet approved this study. If they say no, it won't be done.

### **Yale Area Meeting/Evening Meetings**

A meeting in Yale and an evening meeting have been suggested. J. Eychaner feels day meetings should cover the FERC relicensing process, and evening meetings would be

valuable for recreation management, fees, community input, etc. I. Black agrees with J. Eychaner, noting there is a definite difference in the study group meetings and a public meeting. Input from the public meetings could then be brought to the RRG for consideration. She did not see how a study group could become a public meeting. PacifiCorp said comments from public meetings should go to the work groups and Steering Committee for consideration, with follow-on public workshops as needed.

M. Reese feels that to truly have community input, better meeting notification needs to be done. She suggested posting flyers at businesses, or doing something similar to what the Little League is currently doing for sign-ups. It was recognized that getting notices out is one of the on-going difficulties. PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD are trying to do a better job of putting notices in the local papers, etc. Unfortunately in this process, meetings do get cancelled. Notifying people of that is difficult. M. Reese said the only person that needs to be at a meeting is the person taking notes. Input can still be received, so there is no reason to cancel meetings. D. Fewkes agreed, saying there should be a more thorough effort to avoid cancellations.

It was suggested to post meeting cancellations on the website, and maybe provide a telephone number to call to find out the status of meetings. Cowlitz PUD only has two computer operators that take care of the website and all of their computers, but they will check into it.

PacifiCorp will look into this and set up a proposed meeting schedule for the year. Cowlitz PUD suggested a combined socioeconomic and recreation meeting in Yale in the coming months.

#### **Fee Committee**

PacifiCorp is very aware of fee-related concerns that have been expressed by the public. The desire for continued discussion of this issue will be included in the yearly meeting plan that M. Stenberg and C. Everett will be preparing. (See above)

#### **Agenda Item 3: Draft Trail Feasibility Routing Study (Handout # 1)**

The Washington Inter-Agency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC) requested this study. The IAC put together the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The current SCORP was done in 1994-1995 and was good through the 2000 calendar year. The public told the IAC, on a statewide basis, that activities that are most popular require or should have trails to support them. The most popular setting that the public desires is next to water. So today's discussion on the trail feasibility study is a result of the public's strong demand for trails in a shoreline setting.

C. Everett (EDAW) said that the focus of today discussion is on the results of the study- what are the most feasible trail alignments, opportunities and constraints for a spine trail from Merwin Park on Lake Merwin to Eagle Cliff Park on Swift Reservoir. This study was not intended to dictate where a trail would specifically go. Rather, it is intended to show: what side of the reservoir a trail is most suited, what needs to be considered if a trail is constructed, how difficult or easy a trail could be constructed in any given segment, what are the best corridors to consider, what siting options are possible in difficult areas, etc. If the spine trail is to go forward as a relicensing enhancement measure, a more detailed construction-level analysis will be required. With that in mind, EDAW and PacifiCorp have developed this feasibility study of a spine trail from the West End of Lake Merwin to the East End of Swift Reservoir.

C. Everett then did a walk-through of Handout #1. Below are excerpts from that handout. Notes during the meeting are in Italics.

The overall objective of this study is to investigate the feasibility of a non-motorized, multi-use “spine” trail extending from Merwin Park at the west end of Lake Merwin to Eagle Cliff Park at the east end of Swift Reservoir.

**It was noted that the completion of this feasibility study does not commit the Project licensees to the construction of this trail. Rather, the study is intended to investigate the feasibility of the trail, or trail segments, that can be considered later in the relicensing process along with other potential recreation or other resource enhancements.**

*M. Stenberg of PacifiCorp, an EDAW trail planner, and an EDAW biologist either walked or drove all of the segments included in the draft report. GPS readings were taken in several locations along with extensive field notes to help fine tune the alignment and to develop cost estimates once resource group input has been received.*

The study included a desktop analysis of various data and several days of field reconnaissance. The methodology for the desktop analysis and field reconnaissance components of the trail feasibility study are described below.

The following overall goals or objectives guided the alignment of the most feasible trail corridor depicted in this report:

- Identify a feasible “spine” trail along the length of the projects from Merwin Park to Eagle Cliff Park;
- Minimize crossing of other private lands; (*land not owned by PacifiCorp*)
- Maximize potential for linkage to other published trails provided or proposed by other agencies/entities (Clark County, USFS, etc.); (*trail plans*)
- Maximize potential for linkage of existing and proposed recreation sites along the reservoirs;
- Avoid ecologically or environmentally sensitive areas; (*wetlands, riparian zones, nest sites, etc.*) and
- Provide the opportunity for a variety of user experiences, such as vegetation changes and exposure and access to water bodies and natural features. (*Views, water’s edge*)

A trail scouting team conducted field reconnaissance during the week of October 2-6, 2000. Representatives from EDAW, Inc. and PacifiCorp, field checked potential trail routes by vehicle and/or foot to physically locate a feasible non-motorized trail corridor, observing opportunities and constraints that were not revealed in the desktop analysis or preliminary field visit. GPS readings were taken along this route where needed/possible and field notes were prepared about the trail corridor for later use in cost estimating.

The study used three segments relating to the three reservoirs:

Segment 1: Lake Merwin – Merwin Park to Cresap Bay on Lake Merwin

Segment 2: Yale Lake – Yale IP Road to West End of Swift Reservoir

Segment 3: Swift Reservoir – West End of Swift Reservoir to Eagle Cliff Park



*EDAW walked the group through the draft maps for each segment, pointing out areas of crossings, “existing” trails/roads, etc., areas that were more difficult for trail siting or “pinch points”, and places where new trails/bridges/segments would need to be added.*

*The first “pinch point” is in the Merwin segment, just west of Cape Horn Creek. After following a T-Line access road, the trail would reach Highway 503. A new trail would have to be built across private lands or on the SR 503 right of way.*

*A second “pinch point” is the Woodland Park Road and area at Rock Creek. Steep topography and an old growth designation area puts the most feasible trail route in potential conflict with at least two leased cabin sites.*

Four options were identified if a connection from Cresap Bay to the most feasible trail route (Yale IP Road) for the Yale Lake trail segment is pursued. There are pros and cons to each of these options. These options are depicted in Figure 3.1-1 (Sheet 4) and include:

- Option A – Route the trail to the north from Cresap Bay until it intersects with SR 503 and use SR 503 and the Yale Bride and other roads to access the west terminus of the Yale IP Road.
- Option B – Cross the Yale Bridge as in Option A and explore new trail options on PacifiCorp and private lands to reach the Canyon Creek Bridge on the Yale IP Road.
- Option C – Direct trail users along Frasier Road to Saddle Dam Park and across Yale Dam to access the Yale IP Road. *Safety and security issues.*
- Option D – Terminate this trail segment at the Cresap Bay Day Use Area, and resume at Saddle Dam Park or the western terminus of the Yale IP Road, resulting in a trail gap. *New trailhead area, not on company lands.*

*Below is the meeting discussion after the trail study presentation.*

Question: What is the trail width? Answer: The IAC envisions a multi use trail. No one is proposing a 12-foot wide paved facility. What this would be is a facility that takes advantage of existing ROWs, etc. If a trail standard needs to be chosen, the USFS standard is 38” wide, dirt surface, for 2-way traffic. This standard seems appropriate for this study.

Question: Are all things taken into consideration related to equestrian, bikes use, soil, gradients, etc.? Answer: Multiple users were considered. Various resource data were also considered as available including GIS map data coverages, etc. Grades or slope generally dictates where the trail corridor was sited (which side of the reservoir, near the shoreline or away from the shoreline, etc.). Trails are assumed to be available for equestrian use. Well over 60% of the trails are on PacifiCorp-owned timber and T-line access roads in the Lake Merwin Segment. PacifiCorp will be developing a road management plan over the next 10 yrs. which could incorporate trail use. J. Eychaner said what is being proposed is not unlike a green dot system used as a management tool by USFS or WDFW on a complicated road system to signify the lowest impact to wildlife, etc.

Looking at the IP road corridor and Canyon Creek areas, most of the lands that may provide trail access are managed by Washington DNR. DNR has generally been reluctant to block access to their lands. However, there is a current change in the Commission that manages public lands and they are currently looking at their public access program. If the IP road is used as part of the ultimate trail corridor, discussions with officials at DNR

should occur regarding non-motorized use of the IP road that will continue to be used for timber hauling on occasion. However, this should not preclude use of the IP road as a trail (PacifiCorp's vision). Use of the IP road by motor vehicles would need to be strongly enforced, except for occasional timber hauls. Restricting use of this road in the area of the trail along Yale Lake will not be easy and new gates and enforcement would be needed. However, such a restriction would provide other benefits and would eliminate current visitor misuse and trespass along the road and shoreline. The DNR does plan to log a portion of this trail corridor so they plan to repair the washout along Yale Lake in 2001.

Question: With the long length of the trail without turnaround trail loops, you have to figure that dispersed camping may take place. Are there any plans for development of campsites along the trail? Answer: We have not gotten to that level of detail yet since that was not the purpose of this study. The trail corridor does provide linkage with several campgrounds, however, further discussion is needed on this topic. It was noted that a lot of the local population prefers camping in unimproved areas.

**This is the first time the RRG has seen the draft feasibility report. The draft report will also need to go to the TRG and other resource groups. A 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the report will need to be prepared as comments are received. The trails feasibility study will be placed on the agenda at the next RRG meeting.**

Question: PacifiCorp lands have been mentioned as being private lands. Is that the reservoirs too (under the water surface)? Answer: There are ownership's that extend under the reservoirs. PacifiCorp's property department will research this topic further.

Question: Along the IP road, is there a PacifiCorp right of way or easement along the entire eastern/southern shoreline? Answer: PacifiCorp has a lot of property on that side. The IP road crosses PacifiCorp land and DNR land. There are numerous easements, etc. along this corridor. PacifiCorp has tried stopping ongoing general public motorized use of its lands through various means, but cannot always stop access due to multiple access routes into the areas. Use of the IP road used to be a lot worse. Gating it in several locations has improved it some.

The IAC would like to acknowledge how responsive PacifiCorp has been on this issue. This is an excellent piece of work by EDAW.

Question: What is PacifiCorp's commitment to establishing these trails? Answer: As we start working on the vision and the Draft Recreation Plan (RRMP), the entire trail or components of the trail, could end up in the list of proposed enhancements. Ultimately, this potential trail along with other proposed recreation improvements will be coordinated with the other resource groups as a settlement package that will be submitted to the FERC.

There is also a potential trail linkage or extension with the upstream USFS-managed Lewis River Trail. This existing trail above the Project area could potentially be extended down to Eagle Cliff Park, a distance of about 2.5 miles. This possible extension did not appear to be difficult.

There will need to be further discussion into which potential trail segment(s) would possibly get the highest level of use and why; and further consideration of trailheads and

rest stops, the adequacy of parking and possible impact on existing reservoir recreation sites, dispersed and developed overnight camping sites, and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

### **Fees**

This was D. Fewkes first chance to address the RRG. To summarize, he is concerned about fees being charged for basic access to Project recreation facilities and the reservoir shorelines. The potential trails being discussed are significant improvements and a lot of things PacifiCorp has done have been significant improvements. What appears to have happened is that fees have been charged for all access points to the Project shorelines and facilities. When the dams were built, PacifiCorp stopped the free-flowing river. In return, PacifiCorp promised free basic access to the reservoirs including boating access. If PacifiCorp wants to collect fees for access to Project recreation facilities, so be it. However, the RRG and PacifiCorp should carefully consider differentiating between free basic access to the reservoir shorelines and use of undeveloped primitive lands, versus access to improved developed recreation facilities. D. Fewkes introduced information at the last Socio-economics Resource Group who is now reviewing this information. D. Fewkes feels that a violation of the Project license conditions has been made by PacifiCorp with the introduction of fees to access all developed recreation facilities. D. Fewkes feels that PacifiCorp should keep areas open for basic access without collecting fees. Basic free access, as defined by D. Fewkes, is free access to the reservoir shorelines and boat launches.

### **Agenda Item 4: Review of the Draft Lewis River Recreation Vision (Handout #3)**

In a past recreation meeting, it was requested that EDAW, PacifiCorp and the IAC put together a “strawman” vision matrix. The result is Handout #3. There are not a lot of details in these alternatives; however, this group tried to get all the bigger, broader visions out on the table now. This first cut of the draft vision is based more on intuitive feeling/professional opinion than it is on hard data at this point since the Recreation Needs Analysis has not been completed yet. But, the draft vision matrix is a good start to stimulate discussion. What is needed now are opinions on what the RRG would like to see. Later, this vision will be compared to the Recreation Needs Analysis results that will be based more on hard data such as survey results and user counts. It is known that recreation pressures and demand will increase over the term of the new license. However, the RRG’s opinion on recreation resources in the Project area at this time is also valid as a starting point for discussions. RRG members should develop a vision in their own minds about what the future should look like in the Project area. This vision will help the RRG identify where future demand for camping, for example, may be accommodated, or if it should not be accommodated because of various factors. Also, what should the desired experience be for visitors to the Project area?

J. Nieland felt that it is a bit premature to identify a preferred alternative. This should be developed out of RRG discussions by considering a number of factors. He would like to see this column taken off the matrix. D. Johnson liked having the preferred alternative shown at this point because it was good for discussion purposes. M. Stenberg did not want people outside of the RRG to get alarmed or to jump to conclusions. So, before letting this matrix out to the public, he wanted to review it within the RRG group more. Once it is fine-tuned, it could be circulated to a broader audience. M. Stenberg would be glad to present it to other groups at a later date.

A. Kloewer would like to see current use figures for each of the management areas/reservoirs for comparison with the vision statements. These numbers are available in the Recreation Demand Analysis report that will be included in the 2000 Technical Report. Presenting this information graphically and showing trends would also be helpful.

D. MacDonald with Cowlitz PUD thanked M. Stenberg, C. Everett, and J. Eychaner for doing a lot of work and doing a very good job in this initial visioning exercise. Having said that, she asked that as this process moves forward, additional attention needs to be focused on physical geography and safety, particularly in the Swift 2 and bypass reach management areas. She wants to make sure that an attractive nuisance is not created.

I. Black commented that the RRG needs to consider a 30-50 year timeframe that is very difficult if not impossible. Perhaps Scottish Power may decide they want a resort of some type. That would be of interest to the locals as far as economics and jobs. Even though, it may be repulsive to some of us. She reminded the RRG of the existing community action plan that says that development should be focused in one area and not scattered up and down valley.

M. Reese said she thinks that the fee program should be a separate issue. She doesn't see a vision for free local access.

J. Eychaner said that these are the types of comments that are valuable to the visioning process. This process will result in the development of a recreation vision for the Project area. To address conditions in the future which is often difficult, the IAC typically proposes that recreation resources be restudied on a 6 year reporting cycle to FERC, consistent with FERC's Form 80 reporting requirement. The vision can be revisited during periodic points in time.

M. Stenberg commented that a revised draft vision matrix will be sent out.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Next meeting**

The next RRG meeting is schedule for April 25<sup>th</sup> at Merwin Headquarters. Tentative agenda items include comments received to date on the Draft Trail Feasibility Study, the draft vision matrix, the upcoming 2000 Technical report, RRG meeting plans for the remainder of the year, and the Draft Recreation Capacity and Suitability Analysis and associated GIS mapping.

D. Fewkes suggested running paid advertising for the meeting.

#### **Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. Draft Trail Feasibility Study Summary Report
2. Letter from J. Clapp to PacifiCorp
3. Draft Lewis River Vision and Alternatives

Pre-meeting Handout #1: Agenda

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS**  
**Trail Routing Public Meeting**

**January 30, 2001**

**Merwin Headquarters**  
**Ariel, WA**  
**6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary**  
**Final – April 25, 2001**

**Attendees: (24)**

Jim Anderson, Back Country Horsemen (BCH), Skamania Co. Saddle Club	Jerry Kuhnhausen, WTRA
Arnie Alfonso, Washington Trail Riders Assoc. (WTRA)	Dale Lubhers, WTRA
MW “Red” Castle, Citizen	Loren McGovern, BCH
John Clapp, Citizen	Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker
Gary Collins, BCH, WTRA	Denny Robinson, Woodland Park Homeowner
Suzanne Davey, WTRA	Judy Smith, WTRA, BCH
Pam Evans, WTRA	Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Ron Harding, WTRA	Barbara Thomas, WTRA, BCH
Lu Harding, WTRA	Jocelyn & Tom Tuthill, Woodland Park Homeowners
Don Harman, PacifiCorp	Sandra Ward, WTRA
Jim King, WTRA	Stephen Williamson (guest of J. Clapp)
Sunny King, WTRA	

**Calendar:**

February 7	Steering Committee	Merwin, WA?
February 22	Aquatics Resource Group	Lacey, WA
March 15	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA
March 28	SocioEconomic Resource Group	Merwin, WA
April 25	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
May 17	Cultural Resource Group	Olympia, WA
July 19	Cultural Resource Group	Toppenish, WA
Sept 20, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Seattle, WA
Nov 15, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA

**Summary of Actions:**

1. Tonight’s meeting was to provide an overview of the Trail Routing Feasibility Study to interested parties.

**Agenda Item 1: Trail Routing Feasibility Study Review (Handout #1)**

M. Stenberg gave a brief overview of the relicensing process and how PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD advertise the meetings. (Newspapers, email lists).

A resource group first approves a proposed study, and then the Steering Committee must approve it. Once a study is approved than it is funded by the Licensees and conducted by a consultant team. In this collaborative process, the licensees give up a lot of control of the process, but at the end, hopefully all of the participants have worked things out and we have a package of license conditions for FERC. We are hoping the collaborative process will best meet everyone's needs.

Almost all of the recreation studies are done or close to being done. We are starting to work on the vision process. The visioning process will identify what types of recreation developments and experiences the collaborative team feels is appropriate for the three reservoirs. The next step is more detail. We want to end up with a package of recreation improvements compatible with aquatic improvements, etc.

Right now, there are no user numbers for trails. An idea was proposed for the Saddle Dam Trail that users could do a voluntary head count process, stopping in at the gates or some other system. User fees for trails, trailheads, etc. are still an issue to be discussed. PacifiCorp has agreed to a three-year contract with Thousand Trails Management Services. They will be managing all day use areas and campgrounds. There will be no change in fees.

PacifiCorp's primary business is the generation and distribution of power. To focus on that, we needed to look at options for management of our recreation facilities. In contrast, the primary business of Thousand Trails Management Services is recreation management. They have 30 years of experience. They come in with a different approach than we are able to have. They will have more people on the ground. We usually have 26. They will have 42 in the summer. PacifiCorp will keep their security contracts going. PacifiCorp will monitor the contractor to maintain the highest quality of service, keep costs down and keep maintenance up. PacifiCorp campgrounds will not become Thousand Trail membership campgrounds. PacifiCorp will also continue the reservation process. The funding for this is a little less costly, and it will be funded through the fee process. This is not a concession on public grounds. PacifiCorp lands are privately owned. Monies will continue to go where they have before (trail maintenance, ground maintenance, etc.). PacifiCorp is trying to provide the most positive recreation experiences possible. R. Castle thinks PacifiCorp has done a very good job and understands why PacifiCorp would enter into an agreement like this.

### **Trail Feasibility Study**

This study was requested by the state of Washington InterAgency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC). They put together the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The current SCORP was done in '94-'95 and is good through this calendar year. FERC uses SCORP as a benchmark for recreation needs. The public told the IAC, on a statewide basis, activities that are most popular require or should have trails to support them. The setting most popularly demanded for trails is next to water. So today's discussion is a result of the trail feasibility study.

M. Stenberg said the focus today is on what we think is the most feasible trail alignment, opportunities and constraints. This study is not to say the trail will go here. But what side of the reservoir, what we need to consider, etc. was looked at for feasibility. We can't answer detailed questions. If the trail is to go forward, there will be another level of detail and analysis that will be considered. With that in mind, EDAW, PacifiCorp and Cowlitz

PUD have completed a feasibility study for the physical routing of a spine trail from the west end of Merwin Reservoir to the east end of Swift at Eagle Cliff.

M. Stenberg then did a walk-through of Handout #1. Below are excerpts from that handout. Notes during the meeting are in italic.

The overall objective of this study is to investigate the feasibility of a non-motorized, multi-use “spine” trail extending from Merwin Park at the west end of Lake Merwin to Eagle Cliff Park at the east end of Swift Reservoir.

**The completion of this study does not commit the project licensees to the construction of this trail. Rather, the study is intended to investigate the feasibility of a trail or trail segments that can be considered later in the relicensing process along with other potential recreation enhancements.**

*M. Stenberg, an EDAW trail planner and an EDAW biologist walked/drove the length. GPS readings were taken in several locations along with extensive field notes to help fine tune alignment, cost estimating.*

The methodology for the desktop analysis and field reconnaissance components of the trail feasibility study are described below. The following overall objectives guided the alignment of the most feasible trail corridor depicted in this report:

*(Goals)*

- Identify a feasible “spine” trail along the length of the projects from Merwin Park to Eagle Cliff Park;
- Minimize crossing of private land (*land not owned directly by PacifiCorp*);
- Maximize potential for linkage to other published trails provided or proposed by other agencies/entities (Clark County, USFS, etc.) (*trail plans*);
- Maximize potential for linkage of existing and proposed recreation sites along the reservoirs;
- Avoid ecologically or environmentally sensitive areas (*wetlands, riparian zones, nesting areas, etc.*); and
- Provide the opportunity for a variety of user experiences, such as vegetation changes and exposure and access to water bodies and natural features (*views, water’s edge*).

A trail scouting team conducted field reconnaissance during the week of October 2-6, 2000. Representatives from EDAW, Inc. and PacifiCorp field checked potential trail routes by vehicle and/or foot to physically locate a feasible non-motorized trail corridor, observing opportunities and constraints that were not revealed in the desktop analysis or preliminary field visit. GPS reading were taken along this route where needed/possible and field notes were prepared along the trail corridor for later use in cost estimating.

Segment 1: Lake Merwin – Merwin Park to Cresap Bay on Lake Merwin

Segment 2: Yale Lake – Yale IP Road to West End of Swift Reservoir

Segment 3: Swift Reservoir – West End of Swift Reservoir to Eagle Cliff Park

*M. Stenberg walked the group through the maps for each segment, pointing out areas of crossings, “existing” trails/roads, etc. and places where new trails/bridges/segments would need to be added.*

*The first “pinch point” is in the Merwin segment, just west of Cape Horn Creek. After following a T-Line access road, the trail would reach Highway 503. A new trail would have to be built across private lands or on the SR 503 right of way.*

*A second “pinch point” is at Woodland Park and Rock Creek when Old Growth Management Area and potentially three cabins could be in conflict with the proposed trail route. The Rock Creel crossing will also require a substantial bridge crossing.*

Four options were identified if a connection from Cresap Bay to the most feasible trail route (Yale IP Road) for the Yale trail segment is pursued. None of these options is considered ideal. Each of these options is depicted in Figure 3.1-1 (Sheet 4). These include:

- Option A – Route the trail to the north from Cresap Bay until it intersects with SR 503 and use SR 503 and the Yale Bridge and other roads to access the west terminus of the Yale IP Road.
- Option B – Cross the Yale Bridge as in Option A and explore new trail options on PacifiCorp and private lands to reach the Canyon Creek Bridge on the Yale IP Road.
- Option C – Direct trail users along Frasier Road to Saddle Dam Park and across Yale Dam to access the Yale IP Road. *Safety issues.*
- Option D – Terminate this trail segment at the Cresap Bay Day Use Area, and resume at Saddle Dam or the western terminus of the Yale IP Road, resulting in a trail gap. *New trailhead area, not on company lands.*

*Below are comments/discussion during the meeting, following the presentation.*

Question: When will PacifiCorp get a feel for approach to Plum Creek? Answer: We are looking at the IP road for rights and need to make contact with Plum Creek in the near future. We have no idea how they’ll react to the proposal.

Question: How finalized will things be before a decision is made? Answer: The RRG is working on a vision for each of five management units that make up the project area. This study is about as detailed, as the trail proposal will get for the collaborative process. At this point, we don’t know where it will start, or what pieces will end up in the final settlement package. It is up to the RRG to put the package together. Then the RRG vision will go to a settlement team that will take all resource groups’ visions and see where the fits are. We will be starting the READ process this year. Each resource group will put alternatives into one document. That will be the hardest thing in this process to this point. The thing to remember here, what ends up as license conditions the company is going to build and take care of. We’re ultimately responsible for any improvements or enhancement that are described.

D. Robinson has some concerns with the impact of a trail on Woodland Park. He assumes PacifiCorp will not encourage camping along the trail. A lot of places with different trail heads. People will see Woodland Park as convenient whether we want it to be or not. Park and walk in, etc. and pick up the trail or end up in the community. While a direct impact on three cabins, it is really an impact on all the cabins when people figure out they can pick up trails, etc. Several years ago Woodland Park residents were required to move the gate up to the top of the road to protect wildlife habitat. It seems ironic to me to be encouraging folks to walk through there. Is there a connection with the Terrestrial Resource Group and habitat? Regarding removal of cabins, folks have a way of life, have been leasing, etc. To just say “you’re out of here”, those are severe impacts. I would like



to figure out some other way to not have to go in there and change the way of life and negative impacts.

PacifiCorp said the TRG will be looking at it and talking about it and responding. There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup>, possibly 3<sup>rd</sup> draft, etc. to fold in all concerns. They will be glad to consider options.

Question: In the right of way for the (IP) road, will there be a separate trail or using road right of way itself? (Regarding logging) Answer: There's not a lot of space to the side of the road. We may be able to improve the surface somewhat, clearing side/brush to get horses off pavement, etc. Logging will be going on out there. We feel the two uses can be compatible, but there may be some closures at times during logging, etc. It's mostly a Monday/Friday activity during logging.

Since the Merwin site is more difficult, etc. to work with, and not that any of us want to give up the chance of a trail, but it sounds like another option would be to make the trailhead at Saddle Dam and pick up Merwin at a later date, etc. so Merwin doesn't hold up rest of project.

S. King also suggested screening material along the trails for areas such as Woodland Park, nesting sensitivity areas.

M. Stenberg is hoping to take some video footage of the proposed IP Road so we can see what it looks like at the next RRG trails discussion.

Any comments on the trail feasibility study are due to M. Stenberg by April 18.

### **Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. Draft Trail Feasibility Study

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
TERRESTRIAL RESOURCE GROUP**

**April 10, 2001**

**Sawyer Hall  
Lacey, WA  
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary  
Final – August 22, 2001**

**Attendees: (12)**

Liana Aker, WDFW	Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
Hugh Black, Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation	Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker
Kathy Dubé, Harza	Colleen McShane, EDAW
Chuck Everett, EDAW	Gene Stagner, USFWS
Jim Eychaner, IAC	Ron Tressler, EDAW
Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp	Mitch Wainwright, USFS

**Calendar:**

April 16	Socioeconomic Resource Group	Merwin, WA
April 19	Aquatics Resource Group	Lacey, WA
April 25	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
May 3	Socio and Recreation Meeting	Yale, WA
May 17	Cultural Resource Group	Olympia, WA
July	READ Workshop No. 1	TBD
July 19	Cultural Resource Group	Toppenish, WA
August	READ Workshop No. 2	TBD
Sept	READ Workshop No. 3	TBD
Sept 20, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Seattle, WA
Oct	READ Workshop No. 4	TBD
Nov 15, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA

<b>Assignments from April 10 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Research aerial photo coverage of Merrill Lake.	
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Confirm whether or not to map the newly acquired PacifiCorp lands around Cougar Creek.	Yes
<b>EDAW:</b> Prepare list of streams to survey for torrent salamanders.	
<b>EDAW:</b> Bring map of Swift culverts to the next meeting.	
<b>V. Stofiel:</b> Send out notice of the June 25 <sup>th</sup> Merrill Lake trip.	
<b>K. Dubé:</b> Prepare memo of work to date on the erosion study.	
<b>V. Stofiel:</b> Send the Swift Bypass Synthesis study to the TRG.	
<b>M. Garrett:</b> Check on availability of the inflatable boat.	
<b>L. Aker:</b> Send a copy of the new delineated distance to disturbance of various levels of known tolerances of eagles study to M. Garrett.	

<b>C. Everett:</b> Look at the wildlife plan for Siouxon Creek.	
<b>C. McShane:</b> Research King County's report on the effectiveness of buffer zones around wetlands.	
<b>M. Wainwright:</b> Check management plan regarding meters for line of sight.	

<b>Assignments from Nov. 14 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>M. Garrett:</b> Write up the process of how PacifiCorp chose the rock pit site and include cover type mapping of the area for the next meeting.	Completed
<b>C. McShane:</b> Contact J. Nichol to be sure the Reservoir Fluctuation study plan has been distributed to the TRG.	Completed
<b>D. MacDonald:</b> Add approval of the Reservoir Fluctuation study plan to the Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee agenda.	Completed
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Create a data legend with field names and their values for the cover type mapping on the FTP website.	Completed
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Research and create a table to show CI variables with a +- .5 spread and explanations for the gap.	Completed
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Send variable statistic output to C. Leigh.	Completed
<b>C. McShane/M. Wainwright:</b> Review literature for distances of how far mink roam, etc.	Completed
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Identify and summarize cover type acreages that were not sampled due to size, access, etc.	Completed
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Check the FTP site to see if mapping areas for elk are still on the site.	Completed
<b>R. Tressler:</b> Add road sites, elk units to the FTP site.	Completed
<b>EDAW:</b> Develop a "strawdog" of target years and put the Merwin layer on the GIS.	Completed
<b>M. Wainwright:</b> Get update/status of salamander study from C. Crissafulli.	Completed

### Summary of Actions:

1. **Introductions.** Reviewed and approved the agenda. The notes from November 14, 2000 were approved.
2. **Update on status/study schedule:** Handout #1 detailed tasks and work needing to be completed during the 2001 study season. There is a Swift/Merrill Lake reconnaissance trip tentatively scheduled for the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>. This will provide a better understanding of the habitat parameters to be sampled, level of effort, and existing shoreline variability.
3. **Update on erosion studies at Swift Reservoir:** The primary reasons for looking at erosion at Swift was to see if retreating shorelines are resulting in lost upland habitat; and water quality concerns due to increased turbidity. Another area of concern is cultural resources (areas within drawdown zones, artifacts to protect). Harza found that the geomorphological processes occurring at Swift are those that would be expected in this area. The rate of past shoreline erosion can be figured out using shoreline geometry. Harza will prepare a memo of the work to date.
4. **Swift Bypass Synthesis Study review:** This study was proposed to provide information on all the resources associated with the bypass reach. The effects of proposed flow changes need to be considered on the whole area as an ecosystem, not to just one fish species or one life stage.
5. **HEP Study field sampling program for 2001:** EDAW reviewed the conference call that took place in December. A spreadsheet was sent out to the group along with a memo that summarized what

remains to be sampled. There is a total of 71 plots; including but not limited to 7 agriculture plots, 9 emergent wetlands, 11 forest wetlands, 2 old growth plots at Yale, and 4 conifer plots at Yale. Handout #4 details additional plots.

6. **Review of trail siting study:** The overall objective of this study is to investigate the feasibility of a non-motorized, multi-use “spine” trail extending from Merwin Park at the west end of Lake Merwin, to Eagle Cliff Park at the east end of Swift Reservoir. Members of the group expressed concerns of the effects on elk habitat, and osprey and eagle nest proximity to the proposed trail.
7. **Constraint values for recreation suitability model:** The group reviewed Handout #5, which listed resources which might constrain recreational development. Resources assigned a constraint of number 1 were considered to represent a low constraint to recreational development; 5 was considered a high constraint. A 5 doesn't overshadow everything else, but it plays in heavily. Cultural resources were not included in the constraints analysis, but will come into play later. After modeling, one or two “best” areas should be identified.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> at Merwin.

**Agenda Item 1: Introductions** (Pre-meeting Handout #1)

The agenda was reviewed and approved. Reviewed and approved notes from November 14, 2000.

**Agenda Item 2: Update on study status/schedule for 2001** (Handouts #1 and #2)

See Handout #1 for details on the remaining tasks.

**Cover type mapping:** This task is close to being done. There are small pieces left that are related to other studies. Riparian vegetation mapping below Merwin will start in a few weeks.

The mid-section of Speelyai Creek between Yale and Merwin will be mapped this summer. A survey along this creek in September 2000 found that the riparian area consists mostly of alder. Beaver ponds are frequent from the point of the diversion to the hatchery; there are about 25 beaver dams per mile. The vegetation along Speelyai canal has already been mapped.

**HEP Study:** Data collection should be finished this spring.

**Analysis species:** Surveys for the red-legged frog were conducted last year, but EDAW did some additional spot checking in wetlands this year. Spring has been wet enough to do some surveying.

EDAW will conduct surveys for Cascade torrent salamanders in tributaries to Swift and Merwin this summer. The Cascade torrent salamander was common in Yale streams. The streams to be surveyed at Swift and Merwin have not yet been identified, but will be prior to the next meeting.

Field workers are also keeping track of observations of western red-back salamanders, alligator lizards, and other amphibians and reptiles. Data recorded includes location, habitat, number, and life stage. Sightings are entered into the wildlife observation database. The database also includes observations of all other wildlife, including bald

eagles and ospreys. A matrix of species and habitat associations is included in the technical report.

**Botanical surveys:** No state or federally listed endangered plant species found been found in the study area so far. No noxious weeds in Class A have been documented either. Compared to other locations in western Washington, the number of weed species and the extent of infestations is relatively low in the study area. The technical report lists weeds and their classes.

Culturally sensitive plants are presented as a list of species and general location in the project area. We specifically said we would not map them.

Reed canary grass is not listed as a weed in Washington. There is some thought that at least one subspecies of this plant could be native to the Pacific Northwest.

**Wetland Synthesis:** EDAW is continuing to take readings at staff gages. This study also includes pulls information from mapping, HEP, botanical resources, and analysis species studies.

**Tributary Stream Study:** Preliminary work was done using WDFW/PacifiCorp information on roads and streams, but these maps were somewhat dated. The data have been updated to produce a current map of roads and streams. Culvert information was collected for this study and for the ARG. Culverts at Merwin and Yale were mapped last year, for a total of 146 stream culverts. Swift was done 2 weeks ago. Culverts within a ½ mile area at Merwin and Yale were included in the mapping. . PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD own very little land at Swift, so EDAW choose to cut the area down to ¼ mile. Most of those roads around Swift are owned by Plum Creek and Weyerhaeuser. Cowlitz PUD says we have no ability to influence those roads, so going down to ¼ mile is fine. The USFS said stream reaches within the ¼ mile may have fish passage; streams have a higher gradient further anyway.

Question: Are there data on perched wetlands above culverts? Answer: All culverts draining streams or wetlands were surveyed, with notes on habitats. At a lot of culverts, particularly at Merwin, were on streams that were dry or subterranean. About 75-80% of culverts are on PacifiCorp-owned lands at Merwin and Yale.

There was not a much erosion observed at associated with the culverts. However, 66% of stream culverts were “shotgun”, meaning that there is a drop from the culvert on the downstream end (all detailed in the technical report).

**Riparian Habitat Synthesis Study:** There was not a whole lot done last year, but some data were collected in association with the IFIM study in the bypass reach. Tim Hardin set up some transects that extended through the riparian area. This information is summarized in the technical report. The riparian habitat along Speelyai Creek was surveyed last fall.

Question: Is there a relationship between houses and beaver ponds? Answer: The houses are generally built more where water is actually flowing. Most of the beaver dams are pretty old.

Question: A lot of the remaining tasks seem to be fieldwork. Is timing of these tasks based on crew schedule? Answer: Pretty much. Time of year for specific surveys drives much of it. If we have to have something for the READ process, we can come up with it.

**Reservoir Fluctuation Study:** This got a late start. The technical report summary is fairly short, but we mapped the cutbanks around Swift. There is a large area without cutbanks. As we move along east, south shore are few areas with cutbanks. Cutbank mapping and some erosion work were the main tasks accomplished in 2000.

We have started the process of mapping potential areas of the reservoirs with either large rocks, downed wood that wildlife could use for cover. (February). That is not in the technical report. We found only one ponded area near Drift Creek, below winter low pool (under normal conditions that wouldn't be there). It was full of silt, which would not be good breeding habitat for amphibians. It was gone by March as the pool level increased. There were no ponded areas exposed in the Drift Creek area during drawdown, most likely because the sediments consist of porous material. The study plan said we would survey ponded areas in the spring for amphibian breeding, but there is nothing there to survey.

Question: Did you make note of porous areas? Answer: No, but we speculate that is why water doesn't collect. We did not see any areas that could have ponded water. Most of the drawdown area was surveyed with binoculars from a vehicle or on foot. The flat area around Drift Creek was surveyed during PacifiCorp's helicopter survey.

Question: Are you close enough, when it's drawn down, to see how deep it actually is where the river comes in? Answer: WDFW said it varies, 6" in some areas, 3-4 ft deep in other areas. It could be an area of concern for fish passage.

There is a Swift/Merrill Lake reconnaissance trip scheduled for the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>. This will provide a better understanding of the habitat parameters to be sampled, level of effort, and existing, shoreline variability in both areas.

### **Agenda Item 3: Update on erosion studies at Swift Reservoir**

The primary reasons for looking at erosion at Swift was to see how fast the shorelines are retreating, potentially resulting in lost upland habitat; and water quality effects due to increased turbidity. One area of concern is effects on cultural resources; zones within drawdown zones that have artifacts to protect.

Harza looked at aerial and ortho photos and overlaid past and recent ones to try to see the amount of shoreline retreat. It was not successful, as erosion areas at the scale of photos were not measurable.

K. Dubé showed a 1963 photo and 1998 photo of the same area. Sharper land points are evident in the '63 photo.

Harza found that the geomorphological processes occurring at Swift are those that would be expected in this area. Kathy showed photos of some large cutbanks, up to 50 feet high. These are young Quaternary volcanoclastic areas that are not compressed, so they are very erodable. Areas of bedrock are not as erodable. The process of erosion at the younger areas is undercutting, which results in calving at full pool.

Question: Did you observe any correlation between erosion and wave action? Answer: Yes, particularly in young Quaternary volcanoclastic areas on points or headlands. It is a function of fetch; higher wave energies develop over longer distances and can cause more erosion.

Within drawdown zone, Harza looked at tree root exposure to estimate erosion/deposition. Erosion probably occurred rapidly in the beginning of the first license period. Surfaces under full pool are mapped as either cobble, silt, or bedrock. The substrate type (i.e. cobble, silt) and total erosion since the reservoir was built can give an indication of future erosion potential. Waves don't have enough energy to move cobble, but they do move silt. There is no differentiated change in erosion rate through time, but a total average rate can be estimated.

Harza showed 3 maps that represent areas of differing geology and data layers. They show depth of erosion, and type of surface under full pool water. There is delta-forming deposition at each major tributary. Most coves have no cutbanks because they are protected. Exposed points have the highest cutbanks. Summer (full pool) is when most cutbank erosion occurs. Winter has storm waves, summer has waves from wind, and recreational boating.

Question: In some areas you did not specify denuded banks, but you probably collected some of that information. Did you pinpoint what is due to recreation, dispersed camping, etc.? Answer: We didn't do that, but a recreation survey may address that.

In an attempt to figure out the amount of upland habitat lost from erosion, we measured 2 cross sections. Starting with upland slope, we profiled down through stumps and measured the current and original level of ground. We only did 2 sites, measuring original ground level based on where the top of ground on the exposed stump was. Total loss of upland is a geometry problem based on hill slope gradient, shoreline profile. We can extrapolate to estimate the total shoreline loss over the 50 years since project built. Erosion has probably slowed down now, and this estimate would represent the maximum amount lost. This could become a monitoring tool by placing stakes in upland areas of interest and rerunning erosion profiles in the future.

Although this initial effort of using slope profiles appears promising, Harza is still figuring out how to calculate slope angle using GIS and may need to do some manual figuring. Harza will prepare a memo summarizing the work to date.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Swift Bypass Synthesis Study review (Handout #3)**

This study was proposed to address issues associated with setting flows in the bypass reach. The effects of proposed flow changes need to be considered on the whole area as an ecosystem, not to just one fish species and one life stage

This synthesis study will compile information from different studies done in that reach.

K. Dubé reviewed the bulleted items on Handout #3.

This study will begin relatively soon and will need terrestrial study input. Information on riparian habitat structure will need to be extracted from the HEP study results.

This study will feed into the READ process and needs to be approved by both the ARG and TRG and the Steering Committee.

Comments are due to K. Dubé by Friday April 19; a revised copy will then be distributed to the ARG and TRG by April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda Item 5: HEP Study field sampling program for 2001 (Handout #4)**

EDAW summarized the conference call that took place in December. A spreadsheet was sent out to the group along with a memo that listed what remains to be sampled. There is a total of 71 plots; 7 agriculture plots, 9 emergent wetlands, 11 forest wetlands, 2 old growth plots at Yale, 4 conifer plots at Yale; Handout #4 details additional plots.

EDAW is looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May to send out 3 teams to sample wetlands for the HEP study. Pond-breeding amphibians in the study area typically lay eggs between March and May, depending on the species. Data from the wetland staff gages indicate that water levels through this period are relatively constant. The agriculture and pasture lands will be sampled in late May or early June to coincide with the Savannah sparrow breeding period. The fields are typically mowed at the end of June.

USFS can't participate in the field sampling due to budget constraints. WDFW is available and Cowlitz PUD can assist on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1. Effort in forested areas will be focused at Yale and Swift.

**Agenda Item 6: Review of trail siting study**

The overall objective of this study is to investigate the feasibility of a non-motorized, multi-use "spine" trail extending from Merwin Park at the west end of Lake Merwin to Eagle Cliff Park at the east end of Swift Reservoir.

The completion of this study does not commit the project licensees to the construction of this trail. Rather, the study is intended to investigate the feasibility of a trail or trail segments that can be considered later in the relicensing process along with other potential recreation enhancements.

The methodology for the desktop analysis and field reconnaissance components of the trail feasibility study are described below. The following overall objectives guided the alignment of the most feasible trail corridor depicted in the report:

*(Goals)*

- Identify a feasible "spine" trail along the length of the projects from Merwin Park to Eagle Cliff Park;
- Minimize crossing of private land (*land not owned directly by PacifiCorp*);
- Maximize potential for linkage to other published trails provided or proposed by other agencies/entities (Clark County, USFS, etc.) (*trail plans*);
- Maximize potential for linkage of existing and proposed recreation sties along the reservoirs;
- Avoid ecologically or environmentally sensitive areas (*wetlands, riparian zones, nesting areas, etc.*); and
- Provide the opportunity for a variety of user experiences, such as vegetation changes and exposure and access to water bodies and natural features (*Views, water's edge*).

Segment 1: Lake Merwin – Merwin Park to Cresap Bay on Lake Merwin



Segment 2: Yale Lake – Yale IP Road to West End of Swift Reservoir

Segment 3: Swift Reservoir – West End of Swift Reservoir to Eagle Cliff Park

Four options were identified if a connection from Cresap Bay to the most feasible trail route (Yale IP Road) for the Yale segment is pursued. None of these options is considered ideal. Each of these options is depicted in Figure 3.1-1 (Sheet 4). These include:

- Option A – Route the trail to the north from Cresap Bay until it intersects with SR 503 and use SR 503 and the Yale Bride and other roads to access the west terminus of the Yale IP Road.
- Option B – Cross the Yale Bridge as in Option A and explore new trail options on PacifiCorp and private lands to reach the Canyon Creek Bridge on the Yale IP Road.
- Option C – Direct trail users along Frasier Road to Saddle Dam Park and across Yale Dam to access the Yale IP Road. *Safety issues.*
- Option D – Terminate this trail segment at the Cresap Bay Day Use Area, and resume at Saddle Dam or the western terminus of the Yale IP Road, resulting in a trail gap.

EDAW knows there are a lot of constraints at Merwin, and it may be more appropriate for short trail segments. They considered starting trail east of Woodland Park, but that takes the trail into an area with osprey nests.

Question: Is there still opportunity to provide comments to incorporate into the study? There are more than 9 osprey nests, no occupied eagle nest. PacifiCorp has a few corrections. Answer: Sure.

PacifiCorp does not want to go along the T line due to possible vandalism. It would take the trail off PacifiCorp land, too.

Question: Could we impose seasonal restrictions, during nesting/breeding times? Answer: Activity needs to be 1500 ft away from a nest during breeding season, April to August for osprey, but that is generally focused on loud noises, forest activities, etc. WDFW said there is a new study out on distances of disturbance of various types and tolerances of eagles.

USFWS is concerned with the steepness of the east side of Speelyai bay. EDAW said it has all been hiked. Merwin has more use. It might be better for smaller segments, etc. connected to other recreation sites. Long continual areas are better for Yale and Swift. There could also be conflicts with horse traffic at Merwin. Saddle Dam north is their area of use now.

Question: Can we consider closing some pieces to some areas? Have more erodable areas, etc. be foot traffic only and have the section along Yale be more open? Answer: Possibly, but motorized, non-motorized is easier to enforce. Pedestrian use is the number one choice among recreationists.

The potential of starting the trail at Speelyai is good. Parking, and overflow parking is available but it is a heavily used area. That's one other thing to consider. A longer trail would mean more people. Going across the dam has the least natural resource disturbance.

Along the Yale segment, there is occasional timber road usage. USFWS suggested that it is so close to water, people can dive off and go right to the edge of the water. It might be a good idea to incorporate some specifically hardened sites, etc. so that people can access the water and not create their own side trails down slopes anywhere.

Question: Regarding eagle nest locations, are we keeping track of roost sites? Answer: According to a mid '80s study, there is at least one known and one suspected roost area. Not sure of status. Expect timing of pedestrian use would not conflict with eagles' roosts, which are used primarily in the winter. The eagle nest at Yale nest is not within line of sight of the IP road.

The Swift trail segment has 2 eagle nest sites, one 250 meters away. The trail could move upslope to get 450 meters away. The other nest site is near the dam, 580 meters away, down slope, and not within line of sight.

EDAW is not sure Northwoods residents are aware of the trail plan, but the trail is not going between this development and the water so there should be minimal impact.

USFWS said another thing to consider is that bringing more people into the area could increase the potential for poaching bull trout from the bridge crosses the east end of Swift. This is a staging area for bull trout in mid summer. It could be detrimental to the bull trout population if poaching increased.

Send any comments on the trail plan to C. Everett. The plan is to come up with a more refined route after comments, cost projection, etc.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Constraint values for recreation site suitability study (Handout #5)**

This study is using existing GIS layers to assess the suitability of potential recreation sites, primarily larger campgrounds and day use areas, not small things like trails, etc. The product would be a colored map showing constraints, areas to consider, etc. for future recreation use. M. Stenberg is preparing GIS layers to put into the model. The associated needs analysis has not been done yet.

The group reviewed Handout #5, which listed resources which might constrain recreational development. Resources assigned a constraint of number 1 were considered to represent a low constraint to recreational development; 5 was considered a high constraint. A 5 doesn't overshadow everything else, but it plays in heavily. Cultural resources were not included in the constraints analysis, but will come into play later. After modeling, one or two "best" areas should be identified.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> at Merwin Headquarters.

### **Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. Lewis River tasks for 2001
2. Preliminary Field Schedule for TRG studies 2001
3. Swift Bypass Reach Synthesis Study

4. Preliminary HEP Polygon Prioritization
5. Lewis River Recreation suitability study

Pre-Meeting Handout #1: Agenda

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
RECREATION RESOURCE GROUP**

**April 25, 2001**

**Merwin Headquarters  
Ariel, WA  
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary  
Final– July 25, 2001**

**Attendees: (12)**

Liana Aker, WDFW	Jeroen Kok, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Rec
Ilene Black, FD #7, NCEMS	Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker
John Clapp, Citizen	Peggy Nelson, Clark Co. Public Works
Chuck Everett, EDAW	Judy Orloske, Cowlitz-Skamania FD #7
Dean Fewkes, Citizen	Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp
Andrea Kloewer, Citizen	Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp

**Calendar:**

May 3, 2001	Socioeconomic Resource Group	Merwin, WA
May 3, 2001	Socio and Recreation Meeting	Yale, WA
May tba	Cultural Resource Group	tba
May 17, 2001	Aquatics Resource Group	Merwin, WA
June 27, 2001	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
July 19, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Toppenish, WA
Sept 20, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Seattle, WA
Nov 15, 2001	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA

<b>Assignments from April 25 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>J. Hills:</b> Provide all negative comment cards received during the 2000 season.	
<b>All:</b> Review Recreation Planning Framework and Vision (Handout #4)	
<b>C. Everett:</b> Provide Cougar Action Plan at the next meeting.	
<b>J. Clapp:</b> Provide SWOT document to M. Stenberg for group distribution.	
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Find out how many large group events were held at the project parks for the 2000 season.	
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Add new issues discussed to the Trail Feasibility Plan.	
<b>F. Shrier/V. Stofiel:</b> Email 6-month status report to interested group members.	
<b>All:</b> Review Recreation Issues and Possible Actions (Handout #5). Comments due by May 25.	
<b>M Stenberg:</b> Distribute letter to DNR about fees at Swift Camp.	Completed
<b>EDAW:</b> Redistribute table matrix, including Handout #5 information. Matrix is a summary.	

<b>Assignments from Jan 30 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>J. Hills:</b> Break down positive public comments received.	Completed
<b>J. Hills:</b> Add PacifiCorp's name, address and telephone number to this season's comment card.	Completed
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Create a meeting plan for the year to address public and evening meetings.	Completed
<b>J. Hooson:</b> Research ownership of the reservoirs and underlying lands.	Pending
<b>C. Everett:</b> Synthesize unique differences of each reservoir for comparison data for visioning.	Completed
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Send out "fresh" visioning matrix.	Completed
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Set up an evening meeting in Yale.	Completed

**Summary of Actions:**

1. Reviewed and approved the agenda, adding a brief discussion of a SWOT document. The January 30 notes were approved along with the notes from the public meeting held the evening of January 30.
2. **Action items:** Action items from the January 30 meeting were reviewed. Discussion took place on the SWOT document and the GIS criteria.
3. **Comments on proposed trail study:** Handout #2 contains several comments about the proposed trail. The study was presented to the TRG, ARG and CRG. EDAW reported on the discussion with the TRG group. Issues brought up today will be added to the study. Next steps include a closer look at the north side of Merwin alignment, the eagle nest at the IP road, upper Swift and another look at the south side of Merwin, pros and cons of both sides and more desktop analysis. Do some fieldwork between Speelyai and Cresap. Need some further discussion on seasonal restrictions and a clearer vision on what the trail cross-section would look like. Including, how wide it will be for maintenance access.
4. **Vision:** The previous vision matrix was converted into the new format (Handout #5) so it can mesh with other groups and READ process. PacifiCorp reviewed the READ process. The group will review Handout #5, making note of their individual preferences, range of alternatives and vision. The group would like the original summary table updated to use as a reference.
5. **Technical report:** Handouts #6 and #7 are the recreation pieces of the 2000 Technical Report.

**Agenda Item 1: Introductions** (Pre-Meeting Handout #1)

Reviewed and approved the agenda, adding a brief discussion of a SWOT document.

The January 30, notes were approved along with the notes from the public meeting held the evening of January 30.

**Agenda Item 2: Review Action Items from 1/30/01 meeting**

*(See the above assignment table for status of action items. Discussion of any is below)*

**Comment cards:** Handout #1. J. Hills will provided all comment cards to the group. Most campers are not local citizens.

**Meeting Plan:** Handout #3 lists four more working RRG meetings. It does not include meetings in the READ process or evening meetings.

**Comparison data:** Handout #4 captures the existing conditions in order to look forward and recognize how proposals might change existing experiences. Help make conscious decisions. We will revisit when we start looking at recreation needs. As we develop a recreation plan and monitoring items, use this as a framework for setting up the monitoring plan. Monitor ROS areas differently so areas do not change over time. Review Handout #4 for the next RRG meeting.

**SWOT document:** SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the Lewis River Valley. J. Clapp brought this document, saying PacifiCorp did participate in it in 1995. J. Clapp asserted that in '93 PacifiCorp was investigating getting support to change a paragraph in Article 7 to allow charging of fees. This '95 document shows no statement from PacifiCorp or D. Harman that they were working on instituting fees. Yet, J. Clapp feels that they knew they were heading in that direction.

Page 4, one threat indicated, consensus, local access to parks/lakes was becoming a problem. People were crowded out due to high use from outside the community. PacifiCorp should have stated they intended to charge these fees. This was a supposedly open communication.

J. Clapp cited other statements and sections of the SWOT document. He feels that fees should have been mentioned. He said that the one thing that could be gathered from the document is that at that time it was noted that the concern of the local community was access to lakes and local facilities.

I. Black said this SWOT document was background for the Lewis River Community Action Plan, for which there was never a consensus. Fees were never an item. Some things, restrooms, etc. that were top priority, have been accomplished. PacifiCorp donated a piece of ground for that at Cougar. She suggested not reading into this document (fees).

PacifiCorp said the fee discussions just began 2-3 years ago. Saying they were planning for day-use fees in '93/'95 is not true. J. Roppe, D. Harman of PacifiCorp were at those meetings. M. Stenberg feels this is good background information. The piece that clicks for him are the concerns about being physically limited to access due to overcrowding; then with the fee structure, people can physically get in, but may now be economically limited. I. Black pointed out that a lot of what people are unhappy with now came about from the earlier discussions of complaints of overcrowding, alcohol use and restrooms. Those complaints were addressed with the fee program.

Question: Has parking within parks been reduced, and has that contributed to parking outside parks? Answer: Merwin is the only area where parking was reduced due to new construction. Use has changed; Merwin Park is not the popular spot it used to be. D. Fewkes and J. Clapp feel the fee introduction contributed to that. However, PacifiCorp said that use dropped off at Merwin Park before fees. The new buildings were built in '94/'95. The lot very seldom fills to capacity now. Part of that is also due to the no alcohol policy.

EDAW has asked J. Hills to research how many times group sites were reserved in 2000. PacifiCorp still requires a group use permit.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> evening meeting:** The primary reason for the meeting is to allow another public comment forum on fees, management, and the relicensing process. The meeting will be presented in an “Open House” style. The meeting agenda will start with Billy Fields giving an introduction and overview of operations; Dave Leonhardt will cover the relicensing effort, resource groups, etc.; Jane Hills will speak on the fee program, 1000 Trails contract and current management direction; Kristi Wallis will facilitate the comment/discussion period.

**PAH Study:** This study of PAHs, was proposed by conservation groups participating in the ARG. They feel PAHs may be at dangerous levels in system. Dangerous levels of PAHs will effect zooplankton viability and some fish reproduction based on a Lake Tahoe study. The conservation groups want us to measure PAH levels at key locations during the recreation season. The sample sites were chosen because of the high density of boat use. Samples will be collected at four sites on Yale Lake in the summer of 2001. 5 liters of water will be collected per site for a total of 20 liters of water to be tested. The samples are taken 3 meters below the water surface. PAHs can be detected at one-trillionth part per liter.

J. Eychaner opposed this study feeling it singled out the effects of recreation on water without a plan of how to use the study results.

Conservation groups feel if there is dangerous levels of PAH then recreation use should be limited on the reservoirs, at least on those high-risk days, etc.

**GIS Criteria:** Utilize GIS data layers from various resource groups to help determine where recreation development is most suitable.

Variables for opportunities or constraints. Identify out of GIS data layers; rank them as low/high constraint or opportunity.

Initial ranking of resources was performed by PacifiCorp and EDAW. EDAW presented the criteria list to the TRG. They increased some buffers, raised some constraints, etc. After running the criteria through the model, we will end up with opportunity and constraint maps, that showing area that are most suitable or unsuitable for recreation development. These maps will be used as a recreation-planning tool. If the need analysis says so many campsites, we should be able to look to the map for potential areas.

These maps will allow us to start putting the pieces of recreation supply, demand and need together with the vision. This paper exercise will not replace on the ground site evaluation for potential development impacts though.

The main intent is to look for larger polygons of suitable for development. A trail required more site specific siting. We can look to see where a trail route goes through these different areas, but a trail must be sited on the ground to determine lines of site, topography and resources to avoid. GIS cannot pick up some details. We still have to go out to ground after an area is identified. This mapping exercise also does not consider cultural resources.

One layer of data not done yet is the view shed for Merwin and Swift. This layer identifies lands around the reservoirs with views of the water and views of Mt. St. Helens. North side and south side. Ridge line siting.

**Agenda Item 3: Review comments received on the Trail Routing study. (Handout #2)**

Handout #2 contains several comments about the trail study from cabin owners at Woodland Park, WDFW and the City of Vancouver. The cabin owners voiced their concerns for trail development adjacent to the community and potential impacts this could cause to the community and individual cabin site owners.

The Feasibility Study was presented at the ARG, TRG and CRG. The latest is the Terrestrial Resource Group. Their concerns focused primarily on the north side of Merwin. Specifically buffers around raptor nests and wetlands.

Several people raised the question of why the south alignment on Merwin was dropped. The primary reason being lack of company land. The transmission line is placed on easements across private lands. Also, the trail will be more difficult to maintain because of travel distance from our shops.

A.Kloewer is concerned that the proposed Merwin spine trail section is disappearing. Even segments proposed as an alternative to the connected spine are getting smaller, minimizing usefulness to day-use equestrians, hikers and bikers. Winter, spring conditioning and evening rides should be 5-6 miles of relatively easy terrain. Summer riding of conditioned stock generally calls for longer trails. As stock becomes conditioned, a seasonal equestrian shift can be anticipated. The interest shift accommodates increased casual use by park guests during the summer.

In rebuttal to the proposal to move the Merwin section of trail to the Clark County side:

- PacifiCorp states that Merwin Park is underutilized. As the first recreational facility in the chain of lakes, Merwin Park and lakeshore has the potential to be a significant recreational asset to day hikers, riders and bikers. A primitive parking lot exists below the fish hatchery that could easily be reestablished and made into a multi-discipline day-use trailhead.
- Primary recreational access to PacifiCorp's facilities is via I-5, SR-503 in Cowlitz Co. Access to the Clark Co side of Lake Merwin for the majority of users is through a maze of small country roads from I-5.
- Locating the Merwin section on the south side would concentrate a pressure of diverse users, creating a bottleneck main trailhead accessing two legs of the spine trail. Crossover from SR-503 Cowlitz Co, the primary access route, to the first trail access and main trailhead would cause unusually heavy traffic in the area.
- Clark Co./Vancouver Parks and Rec. has already proposed a trail along the south shore of Merwin as part of their comprehensive trail system. PacifiCorp should not be obligated to fund Vancouver's proposed trail.
- All of the other sections of proposed trail are located on the south side of the reservoirs. Recreational opportunities should be evenly distributed.
- A. Kloewer cautions the group that the majority of horsemen attending represent organizations based in Clark Co. This bias does not fairly represent horsemen from



other areas. Horsemen, hikers and bikers should be advocating more trails, not less, as demand for recreational opportunities continues to increase.

A. Kloewer encouraged the group not to abandon the vision of a viable multi-use trail on the north side of Merwin.

At Merwin, the discussion focused on raptor nest sites fairly close to the proposed trail route, east of Speelyai Bay. A better alignment farther uphill and away from the reservoir is needed between Speelyai and Cresap Bay. It was proposed to take another look at that area and reroute the trail away from nest sites. Pinch points, bridges, nest sites, etc. all along the Merwin segment combine to make this section not look very good from both a cost and environmental perspective. EDAW does not know if it is doable at this point or not. Actions included in the draft READ vision document include a trail segment from Merwin Park to Cape Horn Creek and from some point west of Rock Creek to either Speelyai or Cresap Bay were discussed. WDFW provided it formal comments on the trail routing study and included specific concerns about the proposed alignments on the north side of Merwin.

A comment was made that the south alignment could possibly eliminate the day use, casual user. Clark County side is difficult to reach by road.

The interesting thing about the south side, while it doesn't work as well physically it has less resource concerns, the north side has habitat constraints, conflicts with Woodland Park cabin owners and stream crossing but works better physically. Conflicts on both sides show that Merwin is the most difficult area. We need to talk more about Merwin and look at all the issues that have come up. Reality for the casual user is that shorter segments will serve many people. The long spine trail is the ultimate goal but may not be feasible. We are continuing to add comments to the plan.

Different alternatives from Cresap Bay to IP road. Alignments still there as potentials. Yale, looking at the IP road, is still the best option. There is an eagle nest near the road, but it is not in the line of site. The draft READ vision document includes a potential action for development of the IP Road for recreation purposes. Wetlands must be considered near the west-end. The intent is to keep the trail on the road.

We need further discussion of potential seasonal use to avoid impacts during nesting season and conflict with commercial forest activities on all segments.

Swift route is pretty much the same. There is an eagle nest at Drift Creek. The proposed trail does need to get farther away from that nest. Trail could be moved to the next road to the south to get farther from the eagle nest. Line of site will change as the clear cut grows up between the road and the eagle nest. USFWS has concerns with the possible concentration of people at the Eagle Cliff Bridge and wants to know the long-term plans for the park. That is a bull trout habitat area so there would need to be some educational signs, etc.

Overall, there is good potential for shorter trail routes around Merwin Park. Trail head at Cresap or Saddle Dam. That needs further evaluation. Shorter trails at each recreation site. Once we get a vision for the whole system, we will take a closer look at trail heads, capacity, who users would be, rest stops, etc. Fill in the system to make sure it works.

EDAW envisions the USFS standard of 3-foot width for the trail. PacifiCorp is trying to avoid private land. The north side of Merwin will have to cross some private lands if we did the whole length. From a company perspective, they would like to see the trail bed 4-5 feet wide for multi-use and ease of maintenance with ATVs.

EDAW said Merwin could provide a forest type trail experience with up and down terrain, Yale is more open, with a level trail with views of lake. Swift is more rugged; primitive but uses existing forest management roads. Three different ROS experiences and a variety of trail experiences are possible.

Question: In considering all these trails, what is the feasibility of emergency services to get there? That is another impact on the services themselves. Answer: Using the IP road and existing forest roads, they will be able to get in. I. Black said the ambulance folks have bicycles for response, as well.

Question: What is the surface of the IP road? Mainly concerning equestrian users. Answer: The forest roads are a gravel surface. IP road is paved. R. Johnson (BCH) was able to ride next to the road, so maybe there could be some shoulder improvement for equestrian use. L. Acres said that would create concerns with wildlife caused by “off trail” horse use. They could start infringing on sensitive wetland areas. Some streams close to road, etc. Needs a more thought to that. PacifiCorp agreed that we need to keep horses out of streams and wetlands, but also believes that the shoulder is part of the road.

A need for watering stations along the IP road was discussed to lessen the temptation to go off the road to wetland or creek sides to water horses. Some creek side areas could possibly be armored for watering, or possibly some gravity-fed, continuous flow, shallow stations.

WDFW is interested in having a trail overlay map with revisions included, with the framework and vision project. It is hard to include in the GIS process but it is still a large part of the recreation process. Overlay with ROS data also.

These are issues that will be added to the study. Next steps include a closer look at the north side of Merwin alignment, the eagle nest at the IP road, upper Swift and another look at the south side of Merwin, pros and cons of both sides and more desktop analysis. Do some field work between Speelyai and Cresap. Need some further discussion on seasonal restrictions and a clearer vision on what the trail would physically look like for new construction, use of existing forest roads and the IP Road.

**Agenda Item 4: Review the draft Vision matrix and the new READ format (Handout #5 - Recreation Issues and Possible Action for the Lewis River Projects READ)**

*Note: M. Stenberg provided substantial clarification of this section of the notes based on personal notes taken during the meeting.*

The previous vision matrix was converted into the new format (Handout #5) by the consultant team so it can mesh with other resource group’s information and the READ process. The group stated that they would like the READ format translated into the old RRG Vision table format to use as a quick glance vision document (understanding that it cannot contain all the detail of the READ table). M. Stenberg will update the original document in the near future.

The READ process will refine potential alternatives for the NEPA documents. The READ process can also provide a road map for the settlement team. The READ document outlines the process that will be used to work toward these goals.

The first step is a legal framework meeting with the Steering Committee. The intent is to get people on board with how the process is structured. Simultaneously, consultant leads will prepare a summary of potential resource area overlaps and conflicts. These summaries will include individual actions and the interactions of that action with other resources areas.

Individual resource groups will review the 2000 Technical Report to identify data gaps and needs. Once that is completed, we can begin potential action identification. These resource group discussions will also identify the any potential “train wrecks and deal killers” for discussion with the larger Collaborative Team in July 2000.

In step 4 of the READ process, all groups, all consultant leads, all the Steering Committee members will get together for a series of two day workshops. At the workshops the Collaborative Team will 1) brainstorm resource interactions; 2) identify and take steps toward resolving conflicting objectives and “train wrecks and deal killers”; and 3) attempt to “package” the potential actions into logical, balanced groupings (alternatives). We will have workshops once a month to try and work through issues of previous meetings. In between workshops, resource groups will be going on with their own meetings. The resource groups will develop a series of matrices that capture the results of the READ process. These tables are included in the READ documents along with each resource group’s consensus goals.

The applicants do not see FERC attending all the workshop meetings.

The RRG will review Handout #5 (draft READ vision table) with comments due by May 25. The table will be emailed out to the RRG for use in preparing comments. Once the comments are received all of them will be compiled and distributed on or before June 11 (sooner if possible). These comments will be discussed at the June 27 RRG. It is important that members of the RRG review the draft READ vision table noting individual preferences, vision and the range of alternatives. EDAW will redistribute the table matrix, including Handout #5 information.

**Agenda Item 5: Review 2000 Technical Report (Handouts #6 and #7)**

Handouts #6 and #7 are the recreation pieces of the 2000 Technical Report.

**AGENDA for Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 27 at Merwin Headquarters.

**Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. Positive comment cards received
2. Comments on the proposed trail routing plan
3. Draft 2001-2002 Lewis River Recreation Resources Schedule
4. Recreation Planning Framework and Vision
5. Recreation Issues and Possible Action for the Lewis River Projects READ

6. Recreation Supply Analysis Summary
7. Recreation Demand Analysis Summary

Pre-Meeting Handout #1 - Agenda

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
RECREATION RESOURCE GROUP**

**June 27, 2001**

**Merwin Headquarters  
Ariel, WA  
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary  
Final – October 3, 2001**

**Attendees: (14)**

Joe Alexander, Woodland Park  
Ilene Black, FD #7, NCEMS  
John Clapp, Citizen  
Chuck Everett, EDAW  
Jim Eychaner, IAC  
Dean Fewkes, Citizen  
Rick Johnson, BCH, WTRA, FD #10

Jeroen Kok, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Rec  
Dave Leonhardt, PacifiCorp  
Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD  
Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker  
Jim Nieland, USFS  
Judy Orloske, Cowlitz-Skamania FD #7  
Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp

**Calendar:**

June 28	Aquatics Resource Group – Conference Call	Longview, WA
July 11	READ Kickoff Meeting	Woodland, WA
July 12	READ Kickoff Meeting	Woodland, WA
July 16	SocioEconomics Resource Group	Woodland, WA
July 16	Flood Management Group	Woodland, WA
July 19	Cultural Resource Group	Longview, WA
July 25	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
July 26	Aquatics Resource Group	Longview, WA
Sept 5	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
Sept 10	READ	TBA
Sept 11	READ	TBA
Sept 20	Cultural Resource Group	Seattle, WA
Oct 17	READ	TBA
Oct 18	READ	TBA
Nov 15	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA

<b>Assignments from June 27 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Check on park opening/closing times.	
<b>J. Hills:</b> Provide group site request number; also how many people were turned away so we can judge demand.	
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Provide the number of special use permits by park.	
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Check with J. Hills on several issues, including walk in “rules” and meeting with emergency services people.	
<b>J. Clapp:</b> Check with ornithologist regarding eagle nests in Merwin area.	
<b>J. Clapp:</b> Discuss snag issue with C. Leigh.	

<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Check on OSHA requirements for tree height.	
<b>D. MacDonald:</b> Discuss the requested additional option regarding WDFW with TRG, M. Garrett and C. McShane.	Completed

<b>Assignments from April 25 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>J. Hills:</b> Provide all comment cards received during the 2000 season.	Completed
<b>All:</b> Review Recreation Planning Framework and Vision (Handout #4)	Completed
<b>C. Everett:</b> Provide Cougar Action Plan at the next meeting.	Completed
<b>J. Clapp:</b> Provide SWOT document to M. Stenberg for group distribution.	Pending
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Find out how many large group events were held at the project parks for the 2000 season.	Pending
<b>M. Stenberg:</b> Add new issues discussed to the Trail Feasibility Plan.	Completed
<b>F. Shrier/V. Stofiel:</b> Email 6 month status report to interested group members.	Completed
<b>All:</b> Review Recreation Issues and Possible Actions (Handout #5). Comments due by May 25.	Completed
<b>EDAW:</b> Redistribute table matrix, including Handout #5 information. Matrix is a summary.	Pending

### Summary of Actions:

- 1. Introductions.** Reviewed and approved the Agenda. Note approval deferred.
- 2. General agenda items:** Assignments from April 25<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. The group had some facility use concerns to pass on to J. Hills.
- 3. Results of additional trail routing work:** EDAW reviewed analysis data from a field visit to the north side of Merwin.
- 4. Review Issues/Actions list:** The table was built from the vision developed by the group. The RRG asked EDAW and PacifiCorp to put the draft together. It has been reviewed and modified once, following group discussion. This is a second review of this document. See attached document for comments.
- 5. READ/Visioning:** The RRG started the visioning process several months ago. That vision included a series of actions that affect many other issues and resource areas. The READ process puts those actions into matrices so they can be evaluated. The READ process will sort actions/issues. The document does not create packages yet. See attached for comments on the group vision.
- 6. Next meeting:** The next RRG meeting is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> at Merwin. Tentative agenda items include READ work, needs analysis and capacity/suitability mapping.

#### Agenda Item 1: Introductions (Pre-Meeting Handout #1)

Reviewed and approved the Agenda. Approval of notes from 4-25-01 was deferred pending inclusion of comments by A. Kloewer.

#### Agenda Item 2: General agenda items (Handout #1)

Assignments from the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed.

Question: Some parks allowing walk ins; are they charged a fee? Answer: Not that M. Stenberg is aware of. He will check with J. Hills.

Question: Last 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Yale, traffic was backed up onto the 503 spur. The fee booth is still where it was. Will it be moved for safety? Answer: J. Hills is aware of this and is trying to work on it with Thousand Trails. They are brainstorming process changes, rather than moving the booth at this time.

Question: J. Hills mentioned a yearly meeting with emergency services people? Fire District #7 and FD #10 have never met with PacifiCorp or Thousand Trails. There have been no delays on calls into parks so far, but that meeting has never occurred. There are time constraints by law for emergency services to get to a situation. They need to get into locations with no hassles. Answer: M. Stenberg will discuss this with J. Hills.

Question: Are the parks opening/closing earlier? Answer: M. Stenberg will check with J. Hills for details.

Question: Is information on what's been collected through fees available? Answer: PacifiCorp is not going to provide economic information. Use information has been provided in several formats; campground and vehicle counts. There is a correlation between that and fees.

D. Fewkes said parking/allowing walk ins is a small step in the right direction. We do need to make sure that we are coordinating some very active parking control with enforcement.

### **Agenda Item 3: Results of additional trail routing analysis along Merwin Reservoir**

PacifiCorp and EDAW went into the field to look more specifically at the north side of Merwin, and Rock creek to Cresap Bay.

Issues include: snags, osprey nests, wildlife and vegetation concerns.

**Snags:** The Merwin Management plan specifies the northern portion of Merwin be managed for wildlife. PacifiCorp is in the process of implementing that. When all the projects are licensed, that plan will be reevaluated and possibly expanded. In the current plan are requirements for snags. They are used by various types of wildlife. There are two criteria; 2 snags per acre for general forest areas, which is the predominate area and pockets of old growth goes up to 10 snags per acre. Trails need to stay 1 ½ tree lengths away from snags for safety reasons, wildlife use. Snags are purposely located away from roads. The trail plan does focus on roadbeds, and they are safe from being in the snag area. We do want to use existing roads where possible (2 lane tracks-unengineered) Newer roads do have culverts under them.

**Nest sites:** There are 4 osprey sites on the east side of Speelyai Bay that are of concern. The original trail alignment did go near these. We looked at trying to get around them to avoid the line of site. K. Naylor, EMS coordinator in the Compliance group at PacifiCorp, identified another road alignment that's to the north a little bit that would get around most nest sites. There is one site that is difficult to avoid. The option is open for moving a nest site that just can't be avoided by the trail. K. Naylor hopes there will be more future flexibility to move snags around in old growth areas. Nests are generally closer to the reservoir.

J. Alexander also knows of one active nest site in the Woodland Park area that is within 100 feet of residences. The proposed trail route goes near this site.

The map showed two nests on the west side of Speelyai, but they are no longer there.

There is a possibility of eagle nests in the Merwin area, but it is not certain.

**Vegetation management practices:** K. Naylor is creating areas for future old growth; preserving current old growth. He is creating open foraging areas and mid range areas. Doing cuts, building roads that would be good for trail use. The area is actively managed for a variety of wildlife types.

Question: Is PacifiCorp creating openings on lands despite all the activity around PacifiCorp lands? Answer: K. Naylor has been told by WDFW not to modify anything he does away from the management plan. The TRG would be looking at that concern.

**Seasonal restrictions/osprey nests:** The sensitive period is fairly early. By June we could allow people in there with no significant conflicts with nests. Eagle restrictions are different. Temporal restrictions could be applied to trail segments.

There are no specific elk calving areas. Forage areas are maintained at Saddle Dam and along the transmission line.

**Trailheads/segments:** Merwin Park to Marble Creek; serve people well, fairly flat, ADA accessible, viewing platform.

Cape Horn Creek just off 503; old road beds and new trail. Not too difficult to do. Could consider Merwin Park to Cape Horn segment, about 2-3 miles one way.

Cape Horn to Rock Creek is the most problematic and costly segment. Woodland Park, creeks to cross, private lands needing easements. About 4 miles, with 4-5 bridge crossings, especially at Jim Creek and Rock Creek. Expensive segment and very complicated. Doesn't look good.

Rock Creek to Speelyai Bay hatchery; one trailhead just past Rock Creek bridge and another location about a mile down the road. This segment did not look bad at all; couple nests site that can be avoided, some old road sites. About 3 miles. Couple trailhead areas around Speelyai Bay, one at hatchery.

Speelyai Bay to Cresap Bay; not as easy, from a wildlife perspective. There are 4 active osprey nests. Could maybe get trail farther away, but not 100% sure could avoid impact. Maybe do part of trail out of Cresap going 1-1.5 miles and terminating before getting to nests. Maybe viewpoint to shoreline, etc. to create some terminance. Increase existing trail from Cresap, maybe double it by doing this. Osprey nest area to hatchery may have wildlife concerns we can't overcome. Also some steep terrain.

This area does change over time; new snags, nests, etc. We need to be adaptive to where trails may be re-routed, future temporal restrictions, etc. Diversion structure near hatchery could be for future trail use. Some active mitigation that could be done.

Question: Is this feasibility all done on one deal, or can we do segments? Just do some sections? Answer: Absolutely. Through the feasibility study we will find areas where there's too much going on; other pieces that are more doable, etc. Shake out in merit



order. Through settlement/vision, some segments might become license conditions, some might not.

D. Fewkes suggested we might look more at the section of Speelyai Bay/Cresap. Leave a placeholder in the plans for future linkage. That would help alleviate concerns. Reserve funding for future plans.

**Remaining work:**

- In depth desktop analysis of north/south side of Merwin, laying out pros/cons of both sides.
- Laying out footprint of trail, width, materials, etc.
- Looking at overall system, placement of trailheads
- Estimate of anticipated users and types
- Cost estimate

Timeline for this work is the summer. The READ process will help make things more definitive.

**Agenda Item 4: Review comments on Recreation Issues and Possible Actions (Handout #2)**

Base assumption: if no comment on it, everyone agreed to it after review. D. Fewkes doesn't agree; he feels it should be built by the group. However, the table was built from the vision developed by the group. The group charged EDAW and PacifiCorp to put the draft together. It has been reviewed and modified once, following group discussion. This is a second review of this document. This is not a plan; it is a universe of options. It is not productive to rehash the whole thing.

If there are things that are totally out there; retain as being thrown out by the recreation group. Extreme types of things.

Picking a preferred alternative will not happen today, but down the road. This is step one to getting there.

The group reviewed the document, along with comments received from various parties.

*See attachment of Handout #2. Changes made by the group today are reflected in italics.*

**Agenda Item 5: Discussion of READ process and Visioning (Handout #2)**

Using issues framework, how they meet/conflict with actions and effects will be fleshed out in the READ process. It is a collaborative process. A revised version of the READ document will be discussed with the Steering Committee. Basic products, and the purpose are the same. Issues from Scoping Document 2 (SD2); settlement, produce Environmental Assessment (EA). Categorize issues, actions, etc. to get us from SD2 to EA. Sort data. Start with a vision, series of actions. Actions and effects on a whole bunch of different issues. Take these matrices and put them into the READ tables. The READ document will sort actions/issues. It does not create packages yet.

Question: By Sept/October we're well into READ, interacting with other groups. Aren't we packaging today to present to other groups? Answer: This is a list of actions. We don't package at this step. Put into matrix and evaluate.

Question: Without packages, what we produce is a mismatch of things. Different scenarios previously. If we just list randomly, couldn't we end up as not what this group intended? Answer: That's where the interactions piece comes in. List effects of all actions and interactions of all actions. That gets to packaging. We won't know effects until we present something to the other groups for them to respond to. Vision is not packaged. But we could have a list of different actions for Merwin. The matrix provides a list of actions and possible visions. Overall vision. Think about packages.

The READ is not packaged. Another major change is that the first READ meeting workshop, formerly trainwrecks and deal killers, will be a kickoff meeting. The consultants will present tables. Trainwrecks/deal killers will happen further down the road. We're now down to 3 workshops. Then resource groups will get assignments from the Steering Committee to work with other groups.

For clarification, the intent of the visioning table is to clearly describe a spectrum of recreation actions that could be applied to almost any reservoir. After the group is happy with the list, go through and define things that need to come off, etc. Things we support within our vision.

D. Fewkes is apprehensive approving this as a group and giving applicants a one veto power to not take things out. He feels PacifiCorp is looking for approval on a weeded out version. Cowlitz PUD reiterated the READ matrix is a wide vision, but no fundamental approval by anyone that it will be implemented. There is no agreement on doing or not doing any of these actions or anything in the READ matrix. No group approval. Approval comes in the negotiating stage. Identifying a "preferred alternative" is not tantamount to approval either.

Question: There is no approval on lists of actions; any group member can put anything on the list? Answer: Yes, this is to create a spectrum of alternatives. It is all coming into the READ process. This is not an approval stage. All the actions will go into the READ matrix. However, if we put things onto the list, they need to be based on something; studies, data, etc.

*See attachment of Handout #2. Changes made by the group today are reflected in italics. New bulleted items are:*

- Provide additional primitive access to the shoreline (boat ramps and picnic areas)
- Keep one campground open year 'round.
- Provide a new group-use facility.
- Improve wildlife viewing and fishing.
- Prohibit parking; add guard- rails; relocate parking to below the canal or at the west end of the canal, at a safer location.
- Provide appropriate sanitation facilities at river access sites.

D. Fewkes would like to add as an option that the applicants support (fund) any WDFW projects that provide recreation opportunities on project lands.

IAC does not feel it is appropriate to single out WDFW. They feel it's unfair to other agencies involved.

USFS feels it's a good option, but doesn't know if this is the right forum. They feel this is something that WDFW would need to request.

A lot of that would be listed under Current Management and Operations section in the READ.

PacifiCorp said these individual agencies are in this process and what they want added and addressed is being done. This request seems redundant. The effect would be no effect.

D. Fewkes said management of fish and wildlife is an active thing. He thinks there needs to be a link. He would like to have it as an option, and understand there is a lot of disagreement but still want it added as an option.

USFS suggested having shown as a request in the notes, and then give it to the Terrestrial group. Other groups have the expertise; this group is not the venue for that issue.

D. Fewkes stated that earlier it was said individuals could add own options and this is one he wants added. However, Cowlitz PUD said the group is not saying no discussion, but saying it fits better under another group.

D. Fewkes is standing by his request that it be included in the list of recreation issues. Not going to back down from it.

The USFS is hearing that he needs to be more specific in the request. D. Fewkes said things like surveys, habitat restoration, supporting/enhancing healthy population of fish and wildlife

The IAC said the link between the issue and recreation is clear, a definite relationship. However, to single out, elevate and give them entity at this time is unfair. They disagree from that standpoint. It is not the time to give any entity an advantage to say they will be funded. It's premature.

### **Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting**

The next RRG meeting is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> at Merwin. Tentative agenda items include READ work, needs analysis and capacity/suitability mapping.

### **Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. Comment cards
  2. Recreation Issues and Possible Actions for the Lewis River Projects READ
- Pre-meeting Handout #1: Agenda

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
READ Workshop No. 1**

**July 11 and 12, 2001**

**OakTree Restaurant  
Woodland, WA  
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Draft Meeting Summary  
Version 1 – July 18, 2001**

**Attendees: (47)**

<p>Liana Aker, WDFW Hugh Black, RMEF Ilene Black, FD #7, NCEMS Jeff Breckel, LCFRB Lynn Burritt, USFS Mike Bonoff, MWH Brad Caldwell, DOE John Clapp, Citizen Kathy Dubé, MWH Larry English, CTF Chuck Everett, EDAW Dean Fewkes, Citizen Steve Fransen, NMFS Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp George Gilmore, Meridian Environmental Mike Henry, FERC Darlene Johnson, City of Woodland Noel Johnson, lewisriver.com Janne Kaje, Tech Advisor to Cowlitz Tribe Richard Kennon, Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, Native Fish Society John Kinney, USFS George Lee, Yakama Nation Jeremiah Lehman, Davis Consulting Group Curt Leigh, WDFW Malcolm Leytham, NHC Dave Leonhardt, PacifiCorp Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Carleton Lindgren, Northwoods</p>	<p>Ryan Loposa, Cowlitz County Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD Jim Malinowski, Fish First Kevin Malone, Mobrand Andrew McNeal, Citizen Colleen McShane, EDAW Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker Nan Nalder, ACRES Bob Nelson, RMEF Judy Orloske, FD #7 Nancy Osborne, Cowlitz Tribe Ned Piper, Cowlitz PUD Commissioner Perry Piper, Student Rusty Post, WDOE George Raiter, Cowlitz Co. Commissioner Mariah Reese, Citizen John Roland, USFS David Russell, Cowlitz Tribe Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp Jill Sterrett, EDAW Veronica Stofiel, PacifiCorp Gail Thompson, HRA Robin Torner, Cowlitz Tribe Karen Thompson, USFS Heidi Wahto, ACRES Mitch Wainwright, USFS Kristi Wallis, Facilitator Tom Zeilman, Yakama Nation</p>
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**Calendar:**

July 16	Socioeconomics Resource Group	Woodland, WA
July 16	<del>Flood Management Group</del> — Cancelled	<del>Woodland, WA</del>
July 19	<del>Cultural Resource Group</del> Cancelled	<del>Longview, WA</del>
July 25	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
July 26	Aquatics Resource Group	Longview, WA

August 20	Socioeconomic Resource Group	Merwin, WA
Sept 5	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
Sept 10	READ	TBA
Sept 11	READ	TBA
Sept 20	Cultural Resource Group	Seattle, WA
Oct 17	READ	TBA
Oct 18	READ	TBA
Nov 15	Cultural Resource Group	Merwin, WA

<b>Assignments from July 11-12 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>V. Stofiel:</b> Email most recent READ template to participants.	
<b>M. Garrett:</b> Research board feet of timber cut per year on project lands.	Completed.
<b>PacifiCorp/Cowlitz PUD:</b> Create table for the READ to cross reference studies for each action.	

**Summary of Actions:**

1. **Introductions.** Reviewed and approved the agenda.
  2. **Relicensing purpose/process:** Licenses are granted from FERC to operate projects. They follow the Federal Power Act. FERC also considers public benefits.
  3. **Legal framework:** FERC needs to take into account certain agency’s relationship with FERC; different responsibilities; mandatory prescription authority (NMFS, USFWS, DOE, USFS, Tribes, comprehensive plan basis – state agencies, licensees, local government/citizens, non-government agencies (conservation groups, etc.). Different levels of authority.
  4. **READ purpose:** The READ document is matrices of issues and actions and how they will relate to each resource.
  5. **Agenda Items 5 – 14:** The consultant for each resource area presented their matrices. Clarifying questions and comments are noted under each individual agenda item.
15. **Wrap up:** Concentrate on resource groups the next couple months and pull this group together again in September. Identify where meetings need to occur between resource groups. The participants agreed to this approach.
16. **Steering Committee:** In the next 6 weeks we will have a Steering Committee meeting to talk about the structure of settlement.

**Agenda Item 1: Introductions (Pre-meeting Handout #1)**

Reviewed and approved the agenda.

The primary goal of this workshop is to walk through each resource group section, an initial presentation by the consultants. We will stick to time constraints. Listen to the whole presentation and then ask clarifying questions. Then, these sections will go back to the individual resource groups. The Steering Committee will make assignments. Handout #1 is for questions and actions not listed. They will be distributed to resource groups.

**Agenda Item 2: Relicensing Purpose and Process**

Licenses are granted from FERC to operate projects. They follow the Federal Power Act. FERC also considers public benefits. Power, development, energy conservation, fish and wildlife concerns, recreational opportunities, environmental quality. FERC puts

conditions into the license that addresses these things. Overlay of different federal statutes – NEPA, ESA, Clean Water Act, among others. This was recently a traditional process; now collaborative (alternative procedure). Greater public involvement, development good database of information, etc.

### **Agenda Item 3: Legal Framework**

If FERC gets a settlement with all agencies signing on to it, we're hopeful FERC will say go forward. FERC needs to take into account certain agency's relationship with FERC; different responsibilities; mandatory prescription authority (NMFS, USFWS, DOE, USFS, tribes, comprehensive plan basis – state agencies, licensees, local government/citizens, non-government agencies (conservation groups, etc.). Different levels of authority. We want agreement among as many as possible, hoping to bring it all together. Around the settlement table everyone is a participant.

For the 4 projects being relicensed, the first phase is getting all information pulled together. The second phase is access to information. The final phase is settlement negotiations.

### **Agenda Item 4: READ (purpose, organization, logistics)**

The READ document is matrices of issues and actions and how they will relate to each resource. This workshop session covers tables 1 and 2 from the READ Template, the consultants' first cut. This is a working document for the next six months.

If we haven't hit on all the issues/actions, write comments on blue/green sheet. (Handout #1)

Resource groups will eventually come up with a group of preferred alternatives/visions.

Any missing actions, or newly proposed ones, can be noted on Handout #1 and those will be forwarded to individual resource groups. They can be sent in later, or brought to the next scheduled resource group meeting, etc.

The list of actions on the handouts for this workshop came from Scoping Document 2. It is up to the resource groups to really work on the tables.

### **Agenda Item 5: Current Project Operations and Resource Management (Handout #2)**

F. Shrier began the presentation on this section, and also covered emergency services, employment and taxes. E. Lesko discussed entrainment and hatchery production, fall chinook, and bull trout. M. Garrett covered Wildlife Management Plans (WMP). D. MacDonald discussed Swift #2.

Question: Are there hatchery fish in the East Fork? Answer: Not at this time.

Question: Do the hatcheries raise any harvest trout anymore? Sea run cuts? Answer: No. The State decided to delete the program in favor of summer steelhead production. Information gathered through creel surveys showed little angler interest for sea-run cutthroat.

Question: Is there discussion about Cedar Creek hole, in protecting native and wild fish, being killed by angling, etc. in that hole? Answer: Not much, as that is overstepping what PacifiCorp can do.

Question: Formatting clarification. Some sections are left blank and “no effect identified”? Answer: Blank cells in the terrestrial section are an oversight. Most of the blanks should be “effects unknown”. The purpose of this process is to complete or correct information in these cells. DOE pointed out that we need to know if it was studied and nothing was found, or what, and to cross reference those study numbers, for further clarification. It would also be helpful to note direct/indirect effects.

Question: Is there a boat ramp at Merwin Park? Answer: No. There is a ramp for river access.

The Cowlitz Tribe is interested in the number of board feet of timber harvested annually as part of the WMP. Also queried the rotation age; the Merwin program operates on an approximate 70-year rotation.

WDFW is unclear on actions vs. alternative. Is anadromous reintroduction an action or alternative? Answer: Current operations is the NEPA alternative. The alternatives may be comprised of a series of actions, such as anadromous reintroduction. The rest of the presentations will present a series of actions that will be packaged into alternatives. There is a specific action called “Anadromous Fish Reintroduction”. Some time from now, the resource groups will evolve visions. Think how you might package within and across resource areas.

Under emergency services, law enforcement sometimes gets overlooked. Be sure to add that.

Question: Will water quality standards and criteria be separated out. Will all different types of hatchery fish be listed? Answer: We can do that. Note things like that on the blue sheet. (Handout #1)

#### **Agenda Item 6: Flood Management (Handout #3)**

M. Leytham presented the matrix on flood management.

Question: Are there provisions in flow regulation, normal to high flow, quick reduction where bars/spawning beds left open? There needs to be better responsibility and control of that water. Answer: In terms of flows, they are determined by FERC and not done independently by the company. Any flow moderated is done so in consultation with FERC, WDFW, USFWS, etc. Currently reserving water in reservoirs to benefit fish later in the year.

Question: Are these the end results to contend with lawsuits? Answer: No, they’re not related. Flow regulations are things we’re required to do under the terms of the license. FERC license ramp rates, 2” per hour down ramp rate, voluntarily.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Watershed Processes (Handout #4)**

K. Dubé discussed watershed processes.

Question: Is adding large woody debris (LWD) below Merwin Dam due to a lack of gravel being removed? Answer: This dam has an unusually high level of good gravel. LWD would help retain gravel.

Question: Would you anchor wood into the ground? Answer: That would help prevent it from moving, but on river the size of the Lewis, it’s a different scale than Cedar Creek. It

may be difficult to anchor against 50-60,000 cfs. It could have an effect on flood levels by increasing the amount of stuff that comes down rivers during higher flow events. Waste of time, effort, money as it will all be washed away.

Question: Is there minimum flow in the Swift bypass all the time? Answer: That is a separate aquatic issue, different action.

Question: Would increased flows in lower Speelyai potentially wash out beaver dams? Answer: Yes, have walked the reach with the terrestrial group consultants. Will assess the effects of changing flows on beaver dams.

**Agenda Item 8: Water Quality (Handout #5)**

M. Bonoff presented the water quality section.

Question: What will affect the rapid change in TDG? Answer: There is no clear approach for TDG right now. No clear solution for temperature either. PacifiCorp could run the project constantly to keep temperatures constant, but that would drain Swift and Yale Reservoirs. The quick temperature change is a localized event.

**Agenda Item 9: Aquatic Resources (Handout #6)**

K. Malone discussed fish passage and reintroduction issues (see attached overhead presentation). G. Gilmore talked about the remaining aquatic actions.

Question: How much are the utilities willing to spend on this? Answer: That's way ahead into settlement discussions.

Question: There are several mentions of impacts on utility rates. How? Answer: That is the subject of a lot of discussion at the Socioeconomic Resource Group. That information might need to be provided to the entire group. Cowlitz PUD said the relicensing process is paid for by PUD customers. It is a direct relationship. PacifiCorp has a direct and indirect relationship. Currently, they contract with Clark County. They do sell power to BPA which filters through the counties.

J. Malinowski said power is selling at above production costs. Near zero operating costs. Investment costs should be near total recovered. What is the average mega-watt output? Answer: It's in the IIP, first page. PacifiCorp begs to differ – there are no operating costs. There are no fuel costs, but environmental costs are there.

Question: What percentage of value of the project should go into mitigation? Answer: FERC said every process is done individually. There is no formula.

Question: How many cfs does it take to operate turbines at full blast without spilling? Answer: Somewhere between 10-12,000 cfs.

Question: Is there some alternative that says "it will not work" and move the money to other parts, improving habitat somewhere else? Answer: That's the no action alternative. Can add in habitat enhancement.

Question: Are there more details on the European fish lock system? Answer: Fish come into a small ladder, 50-60 ft to flat area, to an "elevator" that goes up face of dam. The door closes, pipe fills with water, spills out with fish. Highly mechanical, but the



biological benefit is people aren't handling fish. Don't know about height restrictions. Question on earth/fill project for engineers.

Question: Any example of off site habitat improvements has been left off the list. WDFW encourages adding it. For years WDFW has had recommended ramping rate. Any reason not to evaluate those? Answer: No, we can look at that.

Question: By putting anadromous fish up high above Swift Reservoir, are you creating another problem you don't need? How much affect ash has had on spawning, etc. Won't attain anything. Need things done down below the dam. Answer: A lot of those questions have had specific studies, and others go to settlement.

Question: How many fish are spawning during high water runoff? Nov-Mar? Ramping rate and flood control is a big consideration then. Answer: fall chinook, late coho, steelhead, and chum.

Question: The presentation mentioned millions of dollars (\$10-20 million per ladder, \$10 million per collection facility) for fish ladders. Are you preparing us already for the idea of not spending that money? Answer: No, no decisions have been made. Ends up being a decision for everyone. Money, risks, benefits.

Question: For connectivity, ladders vs. trap and haul? Answer: It is a choice in tools. Each will still get fish to the next project. Fish ladders and trap and haul are both identical up to a certain point. There is a ladder entrance at the base of the dam for the first 100 feet of any facility. How much stress does it put on a fish population going from that end of 100 feet to one dam or up all the way is a consideration.

Question: For fish estimates, how many more would opening up habitat create? Answer: The only thing we have is J. Kaje's modeling. Maybe 20-40 steelhead per mile, spring chinook . Maybe 10,000 fish consistently.

Question: We have heard that the utilities have no obligation to restore populations to pre-project conditions. Are we going to get information on pre-project production? Answer: We did come up with an estimate in the 2000 Technical Report life history study.

Question: What do you feel the capacity of Lewis River North Fork is? How close are we? What is an ideal run size and is it attainable? And what they have now? Answer: PacifiCorp wishes they could answer that. It is a hard question to address. **10-12,000 71,000 coho adults is what we want to attain.** *(Frank: The number I stated at the meeting was incorrect. Our license article states a mitigation goal of 71,000 adults.)* PacifiCorp has worked with Fish First in past and anticipate doing so in the future.

Question: Is there a reverse push so fish will go back down ladders? Answer: The problem is, 10,000 cfs going to turbines, 10 cfs to ladder; where water goes, fish go. Not a lot of movement of adults, make way down through turbines, spillway, juvenile collection facility.

Question: In the next stage, who and how will project alternatives be developed? Answer: The idea is that various resource groups will add to them, etc. to create a set of alternatives. Settlement team will work with those to create settlement package. Collaborative process.

Question: Is there a voice to say no once everything is put forth? Answer: There is a voice; it's going to come down to negotiating.

**Agenda Item 10: Terrestrial Resources and Land Use (Handout #7)**

C. McShane discussed terrestrial resources.

Question: Where is improvement of stream habitat? Answer: That falls under aquatic resources.

Question: Would there be any support for improvement without acquisition outside project lands but within the basin? Answer: Sure, it's just not listed.

Question: The Merwin Management plan already includes proposed actions. Does that mean these are instead of the Merwin plan? How does current activity fit into all of these new actions? Answer: A lot of these actions are presently included in the Merwin plan. The manner and extent of implementation is open to review and revision through studies. Current WMP only applies to Merwin lands. What we're proposing here will apply to other PacifiCorp lands near Yale and Swift 1. Depending on study results, there could be changes in way management of company-owned lands are managed.

Question: So when we're looking at alternatives, it could be a mix of some actions in current actions and some of these or one or the other? Answer: It's not exclusive, it could be either or both. Look at it as an expansion. Tweaking that plan to make it all fit. The process in place will set new priorities, reset goals, etc. for the new licensing period.

Question: When looking at TER 10, under project economics, it says "significantly affects". It doesn't say how much land would be acquired, so "significant" is hard to judge. Level of significance needs more definition. Aren't there several different levels of acquisition? How will different amounts of acquisition be addressed under one action? Answer: Different levels will be addressed by TRG and in settlement negotiations.

Question. In the RRG, a number of us had concern of needs of local residents to have access to lands, etc., being conscious at the same time of how that can be intrusive on wildlife, etc. How can we look at that as expanding access for local residents but at the same time be hopefully non-intrusive to wildlife and aquatics as well? Undeveloped access should minimize impact on environment. One particular issue is year 'round access. Answer: K. Wallis is hearing we need to get the RRG and TRG together. That would help provide ideas for appropriate recreational plans. We will need to pull together some possibilities for meeting times, etc.

Question: Seeding practices for meadows? Answer: That is ongoing forest practices; following clearing, thinning etc. it is replanted, seeded to provide forage for big game.

Question: Have you come up with some type of plant that will survive the winter? Answer: Yes, the seed mix was developed with WDFW to provide winter forage as well. The Saddle Dam farm area is year 'round forage. One objective we're working with is conducting studies to quantify condition of habitat for a variety of species, including elk. Benefiting elk is one of those goals.

In regard to access, all PacifiCorp lands, other than those already leased for particular purposes or near facilities, are open to the public. Roads are gated to prevent vehicular

disturbance to wildlife. All lands are free for foot traffic. Swift allows fishing access across the dam. One goal the TRG is trying to address is to minimize impact/disturbance during winter, especially to big game.

L. English pointed out that PacifiCorp has given the disabled hunter program two areas. Companion hunter does not harvest animal. PacifiCorp has been a good neighbor with this project. Can see it expanding in the future. These people are so thankful. No competition with those that can walk.

**Agenda Item 11: Recreation and Visual/Aesthetic Resources (Handouts #8 and #9)**

C. Everett presented the recreation actions. D. MacDonald discussed the visual resources.

Question: Why is there no action to accommodate up river passage to support fishing for salmon/steelhead is not listed? It was believed there was general agreement about that at the last RRG meeting. Answer: It will be discussed at the next RRG meeting.

Question: For ADA considerations, are you going to include all boat launches, facilities and parking for them? Answer: We certainly will look at them. Apply same design concepts to all boat launches.

Question: There are two access roads at Merwin to the swimming hole. L. English would like to see those accessible to the disabled. Answer: There are new ADAAG guidelines coming out that will provide recreation providers a set of guidelines for future renovation. Swimming, picnicking, camping, etc. is one of those. That's a good example.

Question: There are dogs and boats in that swimming area. The signage is not big enough and where you can see it. Could it be put out by the pay station? Answer: At the public meeting in Yale, enforceability of plans, decisions was one issue. Maybe some actions with respect to that.

L. English also pointed out that there is no ADA access boat launch below Merwin Dam. He would like to see that done, as well as grant money for consideration of future projects for access around the entire system.

J. Malinowski has concerns for year 'round access for canoeing/kayaking, especially upstream of Cresap. He'd also like to see that area closed to motorized vehicles as they destroy canoe/kayak experiences. Answer: The RRG has discussed that before. It is up to the county's rules, so can't guarantee success. Making the area non-motorized requires county action.

Question: The RRG is so far ahead of other groups, do you have a number of alternatives? What are they? Answer: The details are all in the actions discussed today. We have begun to talk about a set of preferred actions, but there is no concurrence on that yet. Many of these potential actions need to be coordinated with other resource groups. Also, some actions will not be determined until negotiations of settlement packages happens.

Question: How much actual money is available for these projects? Answer: There is no ballpark figure. It is better to define people's needs and figure out creative ways of getting there. PacifiCorp can't say until we get to settlement and see the economic picture at that time.

Question: Any idea of what's been spent from license period to license period? Answer: No idea, but a sizeable amount of money has been spent. Cresap as an example, was a \$14 million project. Also, it's not just the utilities paying for it. It's Cowlitz County residents, etc.

Question: What is the capacity of the reservoirs as far as absorbing new recreation facilities proposed? It seems there ought to be a point to limit use by limiting facilities. Answer: We're still working on the capacity/suitability study and needs analysis. Looking at number of boats Yale can absorbing. Use of launches and parking at launches. We're in the middle of that and still working on some of the details. The same goes for the number of campsites.

Question: Regarding the opportunity for comments, how do we make sure they get into the system? Under trail sections, even though WDFW has commented in RRG, TRG, and the ARG, we see no effects listed. Commented and noted in meeting notes, but not reflected in matrices. How can we be sure they get in? Answer: Each resource group will be editing the sections and reviewing the comments received. For comments from today's workshop, the most direct way to submit comments is to fill out the (blue) green sheets. They go to resource groups, and are discussed and incorporated. The point of READ is to get input. Each resource group needs to decide how to handle/incorporate comments. The end needs to be a roadmap to considerations, cross referencing studies, etc. to provide more details. Other matrices may provide some of that information.

Question: Is there some place where all of that is collected; where we can come back and look at decisions made, etc? Answer: That's down the road; this document is not anyone's proposal. This is the consultants' view, as a starting point. Just because it is written down doesn't mean it's going to happen. The complete list of potential actions will be winnowed down later. Some groups may come up with a preference set, some may not. The Environmental Assessment (EA) will address that, and should provide a record. This is part of that process.

As a follow up to a previous comment, D. Fewkes said some of us have leaned more toward primitive areas; accommodating immediate residents. We may be able to do that without attracting out of staters, etc. With resort-type environment, reservations, the locals are locked out and don't have access. Hopefully avoid the "if we build it they will come" and still provide access to local residents.

#### **Agenda Item 12: Socioeconomic Resources (Handout #10)**

J. Sterrett discussed socioeconomic resources.

D. Fewkes commented for those not involved in SRG; local history on day use fees: They were not implemented until the time of the merger with Scottish Power. They were implemented in '99. Low rates before fees. When the dams were put in, there was a commitment to the people that they would have free access. Citizens want to hold the licensees accountable to that. Day use fees discourage free and open use of the reservoirs. Feel negatives to not having fees are minimal. Situation of taking away impact of day use fees on rates is minimal or non-existent. Realize indirect impacts on other resource issues. Want to be conscious of that; find solutions to limiting impacts.

K. Wallis said the day use fee issue will be a settlement discussion.

Cowlitz has no day use fees at this time.

SOC 15 deals with fee impacts on anglers.

**Agenda Item 13: Cultural Resources (Handout #11)**

G. Thompson presented the cultural resource actions.

Fish First is advocating selective harvest for salmon. They would like to see work with the tribes to develop harvest methods that allow this; the idea is to separate native from hatchery fish.

USFS notes an inconsistency in CUL 1 with aquatic resources.

Question: Which action identifies traditional cultural properties? Answer: We haven't identified specifics. For recreation impacts, the tribes need to look at planned sites to see if there is conflict. Places are most times confidential. HRA provides maps to the tribal representatives to identify conflicts without detailing locations. Deal with them as they come up.

**Agenda Item 14: Project Removal (Handout #12)**

This is considered due to NEPA requirements. F. Shrier presented the handout.

Question: Is it reasonable to look at dam removal in some combination with respect to fish passage? One or two project removal vs. all 3? Answer: In terms of providing flood control, we need all 3 projects. I'd say no. Economics of that would be tremendously expensive. However, it is within the realm of possibility as an action.

**Agenda Item 15: Wrap up**

K. Wallis thanked all participants and re-emphasized the process and stages; studies, READ process, settlement discussions. There will be discussions of the merits of actions. We need to get resource groups focused in on this first cut. Then dialogue among resource areas.

Concentrate on resource groups the next couple months and pull this group together again in September. Identify where meetings need to occur between resource groups. The participants agreed to this approach.

**Agenda Item 16: Steering Committee Meeting**

June 11<sup>th</sup> notes were approved. A general concern on the notes, statements or input from the applicants is often input as statement of fact, or listed anonymously. Attribution will be given in the future.

In the next 6 weeks we will have a Steering Committee meeting to talk about the structure of settlement.

**Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. READ workshop question form
2. Current Project Operations matrix
3. Flood Management matrix
4. Watershed Processes matrix
5. Water Quality matrix

6. Aquatic Resources matrix
7. Terrestrial Resources and Land Use matrix
8. Recreation Resource matrix
9. Visual/Aesthetic Resource matrix
10. Socioeconomic Resource matrix
11. Cultural Resource matrix
12. Project Removal matrix
13. READ template document

Pre-Meeting Handout #1: Agenda

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
RECREATION AND TERRESTRIAL RESOURCE GROUPS**

**October 11, 2001**

**Merwin Headquarters  
Ariel, WA  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary  
Final – January 14, 2002**

**Attendees: (18)**

Chuck Everett, EDAW  
Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp  
Curt Leigh, WDFW  
Dave Leonhardt, PacifiCorp  
Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD  
Lisa McLaughlin, Notetaker  
Colleen McShane, EDAW  
Andy Moyer, Northwoods citizen  
Maryann Moyer, Northwoods citizen

Jim Nieland, USFS  
Judy Orloske, FD #7  
Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service  
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp  
Don Smith, FD #6, Northwoods  
Gene Stagner, USFWS  
Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
Mitch Wainwright, USFS  
Kristi Wallis, Facilitator

**Calendar:**

Oct 17	READ	Longview, WA
Oct 18	READ	Longview, WA
Nov 1	Aquatics Resource Group	Lacey, WA
Nov 2	Flood Management Group	Conference call
Nov 5	READ	Longview, WA
Nov 6	READ	Longview, WA
Nov 13	Socioeconomic Resource Group	Longview, WA
Nov 14	Cultural Resource Group	Longview, WA
Nov 15	Aquatic Resource Group	Longview, WA
Nov 16	Terrestrial Resource Group/HEP Team	Lacey, WA
Nov 28	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA

<b>Assignments from October 11 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>RRG:</b> Provide specific campground user descriptions.	
<b>D. Smith:</b> Provide information to M. Stenberg on FD #6; number of project-related calls.	
<b>M. Stenberg/M. Garrett:</b> Draft revised actions/details and email to the RRG.	

**Summary of Actions:**

- 1. Introductions.** Reviewed and approved the agenda.
- 2. Overview of REC RRMP plan:** M. Stenberg reviewed the handout and the group discussed various points.

3. **Extended camping season:** The group reviewed actions regarding keeping a campground open year-round and/or extending the camping season. The actions were not changed, as the proponents were not in attendance. M. Garrett and M. Stenberg will get together and draft revised actions/detail. Then send out to RRG via. Email to collect participant's responses.
4. **REC 21:** Drafting of Swift and how that relates to Northwoods was discussed.
5. **Future camping capacity:** The camping needs analysis allows us to begin to think about location and how many sites are needed to meet future demand. The group discussed the difference between expanding existing-campgrounds or building at an undeveloped site.
6. **Conservation easement:** G. Stagner showed overheads with outlines of the proposed conservation easement around Cougar and Panamaker Creeks. The purchase of these lands and the designation of the conservation easement are all part of PacifiCorp's ESA compliance.
7. **Bypass reach activities:** The applicant's desire for a minimum amount of recreation use in the Bypass reach was discussed. WDFW is supportive of fishing and wildlife viewing activities continuing.
8. **Shoreline dispersed camping:** The vision of the RRG will drive TRG effects. Current RRG vision is for a minimal level of management oversight and presence.

**Agenda Item 1: Introductions (Pre-Meeting Handout #1)**

Reviewed and approved the Agenda.

**READ Workshop Outcome**

K. Wallis reviewed the joint sessions/READ workshop. These two groups are well ahead of the other groups and came prepared to the workshop. Both would like more detail in actions to help quantify effects. Specific actions were identified at the READ Workshop that the groups need to address.

M. Stenberg reviewed meeting notes from the READ workshop. He suggested reviewing the pertinent portion of the notes with each agenda item.

From the READ Workshop, more discussion of the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) was identified as a topic for discussion between the TRG and RRG. Program elements that may be included in the RRMP include Recreation Facility Operation, Recreation Facility Development, Interpretation and Education, along with other elements might all be in the RRMP. The RRMP is the final study of the seven major studies described in the Lewis River Study Plan Document. The RRMP will be prepared either part way through settlement or after settlement.

**Agenda Item 2: Overview of REC 1 – Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) (Handout #1)**

M. Stenberg and C. Everett reviewed the RRMP draft.

Question: C. Leigh: Getting at the potential for development of recreation facilities on land that isn't currently owned by the applicants? Why isn't the word "acquisitions" included in there? Answer: M. Stenberg: Good point. It would be included if it is an



appropriate action that resulted from settlement. We have not had any actions proposed for acquisition for recreation development.

C. Leigh: It is likely, there are other resource values on lands that may require parks on lands that aren't owned. Exchange may lose some value.

Question: K. Wallis: Do we need to add that to the rec actions? Answer: C. Leigh: I would think so.

J. Nieland said the monument boundary surrounds some PacifiCorp lands that could be acquired and added to the national monument. Has that been the topic of any meetings? Answer: F. Shrier: We did an exchange with the USFS. They bought from us and we bought the Cougar lands. It has already been done.

K. Wallis said to identify it as an action and we won't need to mention it in the RRMP study plan. M. Stenberg pointed out that if the RRMP Study Plan doesn't include a specific action that it does not preclude additional actions. For example I&E isn't mentioned in the RRMP Study Plan but it is a READ Action and could be included in the RRMP.

USFWS' assumption is any kind of plan is going to reflect the settlement decisions and actions. Is this just a template to develop a plan? PacifiCorp agrees.

Question: M. Garrett: Is the development of the RRMP and Levels of Acceptable Change (LAC) monitoring process one connected process? Answer: M. Stenberg: Yes. LAC will be monitored based on predetermined triggers. Adaptive management is more of a change in business. For example, a new recreation activity shows up that we never dreamed possible (personal submersible), adaptive management allows a planning process to deal with changes like this and allow for proper planning and management of the lands.

M. Garrett said potential acceptability down the road is based on monitoring and adaptive management adjustments based on the results of monitoring.

### **Agenda Item 3: Extended Camping Season and Convenience Camping Structures; REC 29, 30 and 32 (old READ numbers)**

M. Stenberg reviewed sections of the READ notes dealing with old REC 29.

Yale Park is currently day use only. Beaver Bay and Cougar are the choices of camps to keep open year round.

In general, campgrounds are open the Friday before Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Cresap is closed in winter for elk from the end of October/beginning of November. It is off the list for consideration as a year-round campground.

At Swift, the weather, snow, etc. is such a factor that it is not a good candidate for year-round operation. Open in April for opening day of fishing season, one loop is open through October for hunters. Road 90 is not plowed in the winter so access to the campground can be problematic.

At Yale, Beaver Bay opens before Cougar for fishing season on Yale. It closes right after Labor Day, as does Cougar. Cougar opens before Memorial Day.

J. Nieland said Swift could be considered an extended season campground depending on the weather.

D. Smith said Northwoods becomes inaccessible once in awhile. We plow it ourselves.

M. Garrett reviewed the TRG effects of these actions.

Question: M. Stenberg: Would the TRG like the RRG to be more specific as to the certain areas? Beaver Bay and Cougar? K. Wallis: Is one more sensitive than the other? Is one option more desirable than the other? Answer: M. Wainwright: I think it would be similar impacts on both. M. Garrett: We're not at that scale yet. In general, these would apply to both.

M. Stenberg suggested drawing parables between those areas and Cresap. WDFW said the use of big game in all three is a concern and to have those areas available is an issue and will continue to be an issue.

Question: C. McShane: Any other options? Swift/Yale Park? Answer: C. Leigh: Yale Park could be available in winter and big game is not as big of a concern there. It may change the layout.

Question: M. Garret: Extended season seems a lot more logical to me, unless we are going to provide yurts. Are we talking in reality extended or year 'round? Year 'round has a lot bigger impact on some of these areas. Extended use impacts are significantly less. Do we really need year round use? Answer: M. Stenberg: In the rec and soc groups there are those who feel very strongly that by PacifiCorp closing parks in the fall we've created a lack of demand or use. The company closes them because no one is here. Chicken/egg argument. They feel it would stimulate business, etc. Not sure I agree with that argument myself, and I don't think the studies support that either. Shoulder season, on the other hand could happen. Convenience structures could be popular in shoulder season, based on Oregon State Park's experience.

C. Everett said REC-R27 is to keep a loop open status quo, not to provide cabins or yurts. There are one or two individuals who see keeping a loop open as a benefit. If people are warm/dry (cabins, yurts, or with partial or full hook ups) they will come in shoulder season. Current situation, no facilities, use is going to remain very low or be non-existent during those rainy cold periods.

M. Garrett is suggesting that REC-R27 is an unreal expectation. K. Wallis said to test it with D. Fewkes and see if part of R27 can be brought into R28.

USFS said snow on the ground for the snow park is going to have a larger effect than keeping a camp open year 'round. Convenience structures may keep some of them overnight rather than day use.

The group decided to have M. Stenberg and M. Garrett clarify these actions and distribute to both groups via. Email for their review.

Question: USFS: Is it fair to characterize potential impact on big game as peaking in mid-winter and a lesser concern during shoulder season? Answer: WDFW: It is not an absolute. Tend to have behavioral patterns that form early in shoulder season. If big game experience a disturbance in the area during the shoulder season, they tend to avoid those areas. Spring doesn't seem to be as bad a problem; areas of reproduction are a different issue.

USFS feels it would help decide if there are areas to extend to the shoulder season. Better seasonal positioning of keeping areas open. Characterize the seasons.

WDFW said the Merwin Management Plan focuses on forage November 1 to April 30. Breeding season is Sept 20 – Oct 4. WDFW has been concerned about keeping hunting season out of that breeding season.

USFWS said identifying effects depends on several things. There is a different kind of camper in the winter season. Self-contained RVs, generators, etc. Effects to wildlife would go up with that kind of use. Would be possible shoulder season could effect wildlife by behavioral change and/or avoidance. Also, proponent of keeping camp open, by extension we should use that proponent's assumption on how it will be used for the effects analysis on wildlife. Think it depends somewhat on which campground we're talking about it. What's the use going to be for those people (i.e., what are they going to do while camping)? TV, snowmobiles, skiing, etc.? Projections are germane to the effects.

M. Garrett said that is a good point. Get the proponent to further define this so the TRG can take a closer look at effects.

REC 27 – more specific in description, plug in sites, more definition of use. TRG will assume uses and define effects and define specific sensitive periods.

REC 28 – same comments for REC 27. More definition of action. Proposed dates of extension.

Question: M. Stenberg: Can we assume the extended season would not go into November 1-April 30<sup>th</sup>? Exclude that window? Answers: D. Smith: April 30<sup>th</sup> goes past opening day. C. Leigh: Elk season is Nov 3 – Nov 11. Swift is open for that. USFS: Weyerhauser has closed their lands to camping. The impact to the national monument is development of dispersed campsites during hunting/elk season. By not making camping available in Yale, there is more impact on the national forest, shifting into national monument. Need further action by shifting that use.

USFWS said this action focused on providing convenience structures to allow extension of the season.

Question: D. MacDonald: Where are the elk the Swift campers are pursuing? Answer: J. Nieland: Generally on USFS lands. D. MacDonald: So the destination of campers is USFS lands. J. Nieland: Elk is not the issue, camping is.

C. Leigh: It is the opposite of current management directive. D. MacDonald said it is the impact of elk hunting on project facilities. The difference is to keep camps open for hunters, don't keep them open for elk.

WDFW said the areas where they tend to winter have management for that where they don't cause damage to fences/agriculture. Hunting occurs in transitory range. We are dealing with herds of resident animals and migratory. Damage that occurs on private land occurs by both. They are trying to find places that are secure and have things to eat. Campground is less secure; an orchard has security and food, but they cause damage.

USFS said we end up moving recreationists around. We need to be able to characterize those management actions. At least identify those effects.

C. McShane said if the concern is having elk hunters dispersed. USFS said they'd have the opportunity to camp in a campground as opposed to going out into the forest.

C. McShane doesn't see that as an action. Keep campground open through shoulder season is an action.

USFWS suggested reversing how the action is stated with the objective to extend the season which may include yurts, cabins.

K Wallis said it is easier to add to REC-R27; talk about sensitive times in TRG effects. Add what is contemplated use on REC-R28.

**NEW ACTION:** Extend season through shoulder season, at Yale. Mid April to November 1.

Use: hunters, RV campers, convenience structure user.

REC 28 – Yurt users; car campers

D. MacDonald said another demographic is the RV user with no hook ups. They may also use yurts. Also, these campers in fall season, other regulations may diminish desire to camp in fall. Hazard to campers.

M. Stenberg said we also need to think about the weather. In the winter, go here or the coast.? Which is going to be more attractive? There is a logic flaw in the year 'round idea.

USFWS said there are other terrestrial effects as well. Any time you extend seasons or get more people, those effects are directly proportional to how many people. Fire pits mean fire wood; which usually results in the removal of dead/downed wood, snags. Fragmentation not as big of a concern although brand new campground with clearing might cause some fragmentation. Disturbance is not just to big game. Depending upon when and where do get some aquatic/amphibian impacts. Breeding season for amphibians is in Feb/April and they are vulnerable to disturbance this season.

D. Smith is the secretary for FD#6 at Northwoods. He noted two impacts: An increase in recreation increases demand on the FD; about 80% of their call outs are medical. About half are at the campground. He can see, as more and more people use the campground, more demand on our district for medical. Secondly, our tenders get our water out of Swift at the ramp. When they can't use the ramp, the ability to fill and fight fire is diminished. We can draft from reservoir and fill tenders in 12 minutes.

FD #6 serves Northwoods, Swift Village and by mutual aid everywhere else; 6 sq. miles but serve all of the area. NCEMS services that area. First responder is from FD #6. Overlap with NCEMS. We've done emergency services because they weren't there. It is a slow process to fill a tender when water is down. Additional ability to fill possibly.

PacifiCorp has gathered information from FD#7 and NCEMS. They would like similar information from FD #6; the number of calls, etc.

K. Wallis said we need to make sure tasks/assignments get completed. Before November 28, provide another iteration.

M. Garret was thinking the TRG would wait for revised/updated action/descriptions. Distribute to TRG; review, then address with a conference call.

M. Stenberg suggested that after the notes come out, he and M. Garrett could draft revised actions/detail. Then send out to RRG, email and conference call.

#### **Agenda New Item 4: REC-R21 – Northwoods Issue**

When the reservoir is pulled down early, before Labor Day, it gets dicey to get boats in and out. Draft at Swift is a historical pattern. Kept full pool Memorial Day to Labor Day. In the last 10 years, PacifiCorp has drafted before Labor Day 4 times for various reasons. This year, inflows into the system are half of what is required for outflow below Merwin Dam. The early drawdown the year before was generation related. 1 ft of water at Swift equals pulling Yale down 2 ft or Merwin 4 ft. Less dramatic impact if we pull Swift down. From a power production standpoint, it is most efficient to pull it out of Swift. Other resource benefits look at other indicators: shoreline residents, recreation. The majority of the recreation is at Yale (50%). There are more residents around Merwin by approximately six times. That's the information the RRG had when we looked at this.

USFS: What would be achievable action? Rather than just focus on keeping the pool between five and 7 feet of full pool. What are alternative actions that could meet the goals of boat and shoreline access without the pool being between 5 – 7 feet below full pool?

F. Shrier said we'd have to look at something other than reservoir levels. Changing features of ramp/moorage up there.

Question: If you have to draft 5 ft, why is it all out of Swift? Three ft out of Swift, six out of Yale, etc. That mitigation would help immensely. The average level seems to have, from watermarks on frontage, stayed down 2 ft of what it used to be. Then when it drops another 3-4 ft, it becomes severe. We know there's generation, droughts, fish concerns. Is there any way to achieve a better balance? We would like to see this group find ways to make this achievable. Has anyone challenged the input/output? Answer: J. Nieland suggests we get beyond water level and get to the goals behind it, like having a boat area with water in it. Some things could be done like dredging, dikes, etc. rather than keep water level up which is less flexible. Not really sure what objective of keeping water level up. We need to be more specific in that action.

Question: D. Smith: You mentioned how much water is required to flow out. Is there some stipulation that more must flow out than Mother Nature is putting in? Answer: F. Shrier: It's a license requirement. Taking advantage of dams being there in drought.

F. Shrier said because we also have issue with Swift boat ramp, I suggest we change the language to *Develop options to accommodate upper Swift reservoir ramp use and moorage between the end of April and end of October.*

A. Moyer would like to see this action stay. Add another action (with the new wording) there are many things impacted.

Question: A. Moyer: Is it reasonable to challenge the stipulation of inflow/outflow? Answer: F. Shier: It is not out of reason to have that discussion. We are developing a new license through all this work. When it gets down to negotiating, that discussion will need to come up for an operating procedure. The situation of the past two years was not anticipated.

USFWS pointed out there are a couple other issues: ESA listed species of fish down below. PacifiCorp is working to get an incidental take permit for those, but one stipulation to obtain the incidental take permit will probably be an instream flow requirement below Merwin by NMFS. That is outside of the control of relicensing.

F. Shrier said when PacifiCorp made an adjustment for drought; they consult with the state, USFWS, and NMFS for requirements. Concern was spawning at higher levels. Set flow in November of 2000 cfs, which is way below the license requirement. Kept fish spawning in adequate water; no chance of being dewatered. Allowed us to refill. We were one of the few systems that was able to do that in the NW. We are facing the same situation right now. Rain this week did nothing to change flows coming in; we have less than 5000 cfs coming in. We have to decide the chances of a repeat of last year, about 5%. Probably going to hold flows at 2000 cfs. Draft all three reservoirs, but not as much as we would have to.

The group agreed on removing the editorial comments from REC-R21.

### **Agenda Item 5: Future Camping Capacity**

The camping needs analysis allows us to begin to think about location and how many sites are needed in the future to meet the projected demand. The Needs analysis was presented at the last RRG. It isn't to the point of the number of sites and where. But it would help us to understand the constraints of the TRG at campgrounds and the site of any possible new campground. Would help anticipate need for demand in future.

The analysis uses 60% and 90% occupancy as triggers. 60% is average. When we hit that point start thinking about taking some actions. Reservation system, use distribution, hardening facilities, etc. It is 90% during peak months. Cresap Bay and Cougar are at capacity at both triggers. Beaver Bay and Swift below that, but will reach capacity in the next 30 years.

Where to accommodate needs? Would like to hear TRG concerns on one site vs. another.

Alternatives – Page 5 of the Overview document

Cougar Camp: We could meet future need at Cougar; land around that could be expanded into. Rough analysis shows 3-4 new loops. That is assuming Cougar Park is converted to campground use.

Expand in Beaver Bay: Pull back from wetlands; make it all day use or flip flop with Cougar.

Increase Swift camp: 10 additional sites up to 25 or so.

New site south of Speelyai canal: the only area that looked feasible for a brand new campground/boat launch/day use area combined. (through GIS mapping).

Group discussion has centered around infilling/expansion first before creating any new campground.

Question: C. Leigh: When you did an assessment of sites, did you look at the south side of Merwin? Why was it excluded? Answer: M. Stenberg: Yes, the topography is too steep. Criteria for mapping went into it. WDFW felt we had some disagreements in the criteria which didn't get resolved.

M. Stenberg said for camping experience, we have a different customer base than traditional state parks. Our market niche is accommodating tent campers, pickup campers, small trailers. In the group's discussion they want to keep that. Doesn't support larger type camping, hook ups, etc.

Question: M. Garrett: Within the TRG, the general feeling is it is better to not impact additional habitat/resources but expand, modify to meet those needs with facilities already there. Percentage criteria; is it necessary to meet those? And, can we meet those numbers by what combination of those alternatives? Answer: M. Stenberg: Capacity and suitability will explain our ability to meet the percentage criteria more than we have to date. You're right though, depending on the desired experience we may not want to continue to expand to meet 100% of future demand. C. Everett and I have talked about more detail on these alternatives. Best first step is to roll out the generalities to see conceptually what people are most comfortable with. We have looked at nine ways to arrange camps to meet the needs. First step; what are we most comfortable with if we are going to expand camping; expanding existing campgrounds or building on previously undeveloped sites. C. Leigh's proposed action of something on the south side, studies show that people like camps because they are on the reservoir. If buy land off the water, it won't fill that experience or expectation of the recreational visitor. Off site campgrounds are not reservoir related recreation.

Question: G. Stagner: So there is an assumption built in; they are coming to use the reservoir or Mt. St. Helens? Is that separated out somewhere? Answer: M. Stenberg: Yes, but in these projections both groups are included in the needs projections. Roughly 80% of the campers cite the reservoir as their primary destination and 20% cite either the Monument or Gifford Pinchot as their primary destination.

C. Leigh: So some of that could be provided off reservoirs. M. Stenberg: Possibly, but they will camp at reservoirs first.

C. Everett said RV parks have hook ups, PacifiCorp does not. RVs that need a big site are unable to camp on reservoirs. Mix of full hook ups, partial or none is one of the proposed actions. The RRG has just begun to talk about that. He would like feedback from the TRG on Cougar Park, Camp, Beaver Bay and Swift and the new site. We've heard about seasonal concerns; more recently setbacks at Cougar Creek, wetlands around Beaver Bay. Use those to come up with more precise alternatives for the TRG to effect on. Swift is primitive, lower level of use at Merwin.

Question: C. Leigh: We've got a park right out here, why not a boat launch? (Merwin Park) Answer: F. Shrier: It is a safety issue, proximity to spillway. C. Everett: This park site gets very little use. The group is not too supportive of a boat launch here; keep the experience. Talked about group picnic shelters.

### **TRG input**

Cougar: Added area of a few more loops is preferable to try to satisfy as much of need in areas impacted by human activity. Ideal place for that. Need more input from USFWS/WDFW. At the same time, move camping away from Beaver Bay wetlands, reduce/minimize those impacts. Satisfy needs in those two places would be the way to go.

USFWS thinks that would better meet the objective.

C. Leigh said in the vicinity of Cougar park is a high use elk area. Further expansion of the park would require some timing restrictions; mitigate impacts on elk in the area. Beaver Bay might have less impact. Cougar has been an area of concern.

M. Garrett said there might be other areas of concern in developing a new site. We might be able to meet needs without impacting elk by putting those temporal constraints on.

C. Leigh said Speelyai also has those concerns. However, M. Garrett believes that's a thumbs down.

Question: M. Garrett: Knowing what we just heard and knowing what our general feelings are, could you (the RRG) come up with more details? Answer: M. Stenberg: Yes. It is easier with it narrowed down. C. Everett: Mark and I feel pretty sure we can meet the needs without going to a new site.

Question: What is the demand level you're trying to meet? Answer: C. Everett: The time frame peak is in July/August. We are not serving the time frame as well as other criteria.

M. Garrett feels, just looking at terrestrial resources, a smaller number of campsites 100% used, than a larger number only 80% used is better for the resources overall. The 60% criteria can cover that. M. Stenberg said, going with USFS criteria, we have to look at site recovery. We want to find efficient use of sites, peaking and have recovery time.

M. Garrett said areas that are very impacted have lost habitat value; don't care if vegetation comes back. But if a site loses aesthetic value, he can see where recovery means more. Losing aesthetic value may create more dispersed camping. USFS controls use with gated areas. As demand increases open gates, let other areas rest. From an operational standpoint it reduces costs and focuses use.



Question: C. Everett: On Cougar Creek what are timing constraints regarding bull trout?  
Answer: USFWS: It is really not a timing restriction but rather a concern that the timing of the bull trout spawning season is September – October. If the season for camping is extended then there will be different impacts depending mainly on when/where/ and number of people. The concern is take in the form of harassment or increased fishing mortality.

#### **New Agenda Item 6: Proposed conservation easements**

G. Stagner showed overheads with outlines of the proposed conservation easement along Cougar and Panamaker Creeks near the Cougar camp area. As part of ESA compliance land was bought around the creeks. PacifiCorp is in the process of consulting through FERC with USFWS now for an Incidental Take Statement. There is a proposed 500 ft buffer on either side of Cougar Creek. This would be a no touch zone with some allowable activities. (Outside red line on overhead) Encompasses part of campground/day use area. There is no intent to shut down those areas. Some areas above the highway need some intensive reforestation efforts so the buffer is smaller along there to establish a riparian zone along the creek. The proposed zone would allow ongoing activity within the campground and picnic area. The campground part is not included in the buffer zone. The intent is to allow ongoing activities but to limit increased development or disturbance within the buffer zone. (Pink line on overhead) 250 ft on east, 500 or so ft on west side of Cougar.

Culvert does constrict channel in terms of fish passage. Panamaker Creek might cause problems in future.

#### **Capacity/Suitability Mapping Results**

This was a GIS exercise; many criteria that feed into it; opportunities and constraints. The RRG developed the criteria and the TRG refined and rated restrictions.

Range from low to high and some excluded areas. Looking at high/medium high categories. Focus in on specific areas.

Yale: Beaver Bay, Cougar area, Yale park, area south of Speelyai.

Question: C. McShane: Was elk mapping criteria in there? Answer: C. Leigh: It was incorrect in PacifiCorp's database. I've talked with K. Naylor about it. Criteria was almost reversed. Misinterpreted from ILM data.

Swift: Eagle Cliff, Swift campground, around dam, but up high.

Merwin: Cresap Bay, Speelyai Bay, valley away from reservoir, area close to 503.

Report out within a month.

#### **REC 27**

Can't answer demand level; pose that question to the RRG group.

J. Nieland mentioned another question the RRG talked about, some carrying capacity of the land. Part of what we're doing now is starting to address some of those issues. Limit at some point. Not sure, but he sees us working towards that in this process. Trying to

come up with the best solution. Period beyond the 30 year period, if we can accommodate any of that. Taking actions that reduce impact at the facilities.

Question: C. McShane said the way this is worded now, including partial/full hook up?

Answer: M. Stenberg: Not sure how they got combined. (reviewed from previous meeting) Need to re-evaluate with RRG.

C. Leigh noted there are different impacts with installing hookups. Expand capacity, building more loops, enlarging footprint. M. Stenberg reads it that hookups would be in new loops.

C. McShane said it seems expanding capacity is one action in and of itself. Hook ups are a separate action to get at longer season issue. Mixed. M. Stenberg agrees and recommends splitting it out.

Effects; red light, green light, what. If there is more detail involved in an action then there is a difference in those lights. Magnitude of TRG effects will create kick out, etc.

M. Stenberg and C. Everett should come up with some more viable alternatives, run them through the RRG and then to the TRG for effects. Footprints, facility, user types, time frames.

Can expand north of Cougar. Another loop by day use; eliminate day use and move it to Beaver. More substantial changes.

Question: C. McShane: Would it be helpful if the TRG went out and looked at some of these areas? Answer: C. Everett: M. Garrett and K. Naylor have been out there.

M. Garrett said if specifics are laid out in the proposal, look at it, go out on site if necessary, respond. Possible modifications to make things work. Hone it down to a concrete action acceptable on both sides.

D. MacDonald said not all groups are at the same place at the same time. One task for the RRG is to assign ranking to get feel for what the group thinks are priority. We may not want to spend a whole lot of time fleshing out an action that may be a low priority.

Question: M. Stenberg: How much effort should we put into these and are we getting ahead of ourselves before we get into settlement? Implicitly start making commitments beforehand? Answer: F. Shrier: We don't want to go too far. We can say a number of units without a whole lot of detail. When we want to know if a measure is going to be useful, it's worth talking about. Don't go farther than that.

M. Garrett: In terms of effects on resources, the size of footprint, location, number; that would give us enough to determine impacts.

## **R29**

We could do more if we wanted to meet certain level and Cougar was constrained.

Area would be between existing camp and flat area before boat launch.

Question: M. Garrett: How short are these trails? Answer: These are short walking trails that should go with the actions that change footprints, adding loops. They are not going anywhere, but are within the existing footprint of campground. Perimeter trail for pedestrian circulation off the road ways.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Allowable Activities in the Bypass Reach**

The current RRG vision is not a lot of active management.

Question: Doesn't this action get to the concerns we discussed before? Answer: M.

Stenberg: Yes, but there are no regulations to enforce the TRG vision for shoreline camping, suitable sites, criteria, patrolling sites, camping in certain sites, etc.

J. Nieland said we can post signage on lands, use rules, etc. but cannot do regulations.

M. Stenberg said the TRG needs to propose that as an action. Need to know what the rule is before we can identify the effect.

The RRG is concerned about suggesting any dispersed camping in the bypass reach. K. Wallis said this is a particular concern of the TRG, to capture effects.

USFWS wants to be sure use rules for any dispersed areas include options of closing/opening areas for resting of habitat, etc.

M. Garrett said to also include criteria acceptable to goals of the agency and goals of the company.

TRG effects would change if there was more camping. M. Stenberg thinks it would stay in the matrix as is. There may be a new action that better reflects the RRG's vision.

Vision: Changed improved to Allow. No trail development, no facilities.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Shoreline Dispersed Camping**

Question: C. Leigh: For capacity, when you develop fire rings, etc. how do you make sure you don't end up with 50 different campsites? Answer: M. Stenberg: There are already stone rings there. We are thinking of putting permanent rings in place of the stone fire rings for safety reasons. Site growth is a potential trigger; how many are suitable for long term use. Not likely to be a lot of site growth.

M. Garrett feels anywhere we have area that is not totally uphill people will put a tent. His concern is the definition of management. Hardening has positive TRG effects. If not actively managed, all effects would become negative. Enforcement to negate spillover effect. Still need clarification.

M. Stenberg said this is at odds with the RRG vision. Their vision is status quo, lack of management. Minimal amount of hardening, management. They accept there may be triggers in the future that may cause increased management. More driven by competition for sites, people pressure, user conflicts. Social triggers, site pioneering/expansion of sites; these are all triggers.

If the TRG has management desires, give the RRG direction.

Question: C. McShane: Does this include taking a site out of service if it meets some criteria like proximity to wetlands, etc.? Answer: M. Stenberg: Yes.

C. Everett said we might see creeping/expansion of existing sites. He doesn't think we'll see a lot of pioneering of new sites in new areas. M. Garrett said so a little additional impact on habitat but relatively minor with some management. These effects will change then. It sounds like a monitoring/adaptive management process that is part of RRMP.

PacifiCorp is looking at this from a management efficiency prescriptive; right now the sites receive no management.

REC 22 is not congruent with what the RRG is saying/visioning. There is probably not an action that fits the vision at this point. As soon as the vision is figured out, the TRG can address effects. Vision would then become an action.

Question: C. Everett: The group is not opposed to enforcement, etc. but feels it is not necessary at this time. The RRG wants to set up a process or series of triggers that make the decisions for additional management. Should we start somewhere else? Answer: C. Leigh: If it isn't something that confines an action to an existing area, then TRG effects are incorrect.

#### **REC 24**

Steps that may happen; the actions. Following triggers, perhaps.

USFWS keeps coming back to even if we designate sites, nothing at all that will prevent site creep. In other words, existing sites can get larger and create more disturbance and impacts. Doesn't apply to boat in sites.

**New Action:** Acquire appropriate land base as needed to facilitate recreational facility expansion both initially and over time to meet projected expansion needs.

Add DNS to ranking – Do Not Support.

### **Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. Overview of REC 1 RRMP  
Pre-Meeting Handout #1: Agenda

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
READ WORKSHOP #2**

**September 10 and 11, 2001**

**Oaktree Restaurant  
Woodland, WA  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Draft Meeting Summary  
Version 1 – October 1, 2001**

**Attendees: (51)**

Liana Aker, WDFW	Jim Malinowski, Fish First
Tom Backman, Yakama Nation	Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker
Cathy Batchelor, Cowlitz Co. DEM	Nan Nalder, ACRES
Hugh Black, RMEF	Peggy Nelson, Clark Co. PW
Ilene Black, FD #7, NCEMS	Joan Nichol, MWH
Jeff Breckel, LCFRB	Jim Nieland, USFS
Mike Bonoff, MWH	Stan Niman, Energy Consulting Services
Kathy Dubé, MWH	Judy Orloske, FD #7
Chuck Everett, EDAW	Rusty Post, WDOE
Dean Fewkes, Citizen	Dana Postlewait, MWH
Terry Flores, PacifiCorp	John Roland, USFS
Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp	Norman Ross, PacifiCorp
George Gilmour, Meridian Environmental	Joel Rupley, Clark Co. Endangered Species Prog.
Liz Hamilton, NSIA	Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp
Tim Hardin, Hardin-Davis	Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Mike Henry, FERC	Jill Sterrett, EDAW
Darlene Johnson, City of Woodland	Veronica Stofiel, PacifiCorp
Noel Johnson, lewisriver.com	Brett Swift, American Rivers
Janne Kaje, Tech Advisor to Cowlitz Tribe	Gail Thompson, HRA
John Kinney, USFS	Karen Thompson, USFS
Curt Leigh, WDFW	Heather Tischbein, Cold Spring Conservancy
Malcolm Leytham, NHC	Robin Torner, Cowlitz Tribe
Dave Leonhardt, PacifiCorp	Ron Tressler, EDAW
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp	Kristi Wallis, Facilitator
Ryan Lapposa, Cowlitz County	Tom Zeilman, Yakama Nation
Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD	

**Calendar:**

Sept 20	<del>Cultural Resource Group</del> - Cancelled	<del>Seattle, WA</del>
Oct 1	Socioeconomic Resource Group	Merwin, WA
Oct 4	Aquatic Resource Group	Lacey, WA
Oct 3	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA
Oct 5	Flood Management Group	Woodland, WA
Oct 10	Cultural Resource Group	Portland, OR
Oct 10	Steering Committee conference call	Conference call
Oct 11	Joint Terrestrial and Recreation Resources Groups	Merwin, WA
Nov 1	Aquatic Resource Group	Lacey, WA

Oct 17	READ	TBA
Oct 18	READ	TBA
Nov 5	Recreation Resource Group	TBA
Nov 5	READ	Longview, WA
Nov 6	READ	Longview, WA
Nov 12	Socioeconomic Resource Group	Longview, WA
Nov 14	Cultural Resource Group	Portland, OR
Nov 15	Aquatic Resource Group	Merwin, WA
Nov 29	Aquatic Resource Group	Lacey, WA

<b>Assignments from September 10-11 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>J. Sterrett:</b> Write up four ways to combine day use fee actions and email to the SRG.	
<b>T. Hardin:</b> Hardin is looking at duration/how much flow in Rain and Ole Creeks. We have some data that has that information of when it goes dry, etc. When it goes dry, how much do bull trout need and when do they need it. Have the data, needs to be pulled together. Send that information back to the RRG when available.	

<b>Assignments from July 11-12 Meeting:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>V. Stoffel:</b> Email most recent READ template to participants.	Completed.
<b>M. Garrett:</b> Research board feet of timber cut per year on project lands.	Completed.
<b>PacifiCorp/Cowlitz PUD:</b> Create table for the READ to cross reference studies for each action.	

### **Summary of Actions:**

1. **Introductions.** Reviewed and approved the agenda.
2. **Presentation by N. Ross:** Norman Ross has been with PacifiCorp since 1998. He deals with all aspects of taxation and has a history with regulated companies. He explained regulation, taxing and rate cases.
3. **Status report from resource groups:** Consultant leads for each resource group reviewed their particular matrices for new actions added, edits made within the resource group, etc.
4. **TRG/RRG:** The group discussed interactions between the two resource groups.
5. **RRG/SRG:** The group discussed interactions between the two resource groups.
6. **ARG/RRG:** The group discussed interactions between the two resource groups.
7. **RRG/FMG:** The group discussed interactions between the two resource groups.
8. **Wrap up:** The group feels the workshops are beneficial. The next is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Longview.

### **Agenda Item 1: Introductions (Handout #1)**

Reviewed and approved the agenda.

### **Agenda Item 2: Presentation regarding Regulated/Non-regulated utilities; property taxes (Handout #2)**

Norman Ross has been with PacifiCorp since 1998. He deals with all aspects of taxation and has a history with regulated companies.

## **Regulation**

There are several aspects to regulation: rates increase/decrease, oversight as to types of services a particular company can provide, geographical area, setting of standards of quality of that service. Regulators, PUCs that exist in each state, have oversight of each aspect. Handout #2 is referring to application of one of the aspects, rates and how they are determined.

The primary function of regulation is a balancing function. Interests of numerous parties; ratepayers and shareholders. Rate case accounting records are reviewed and a company asks for an increase/decrease. The regulators try to balance interests of those distinctly different groups.

PacifiCorp has property in 10 western states; they provide electric service in 6 of those states. They are also regulated by FERC as it relates to wholesale transmission of power.

Page 1 – Revenue requirement: This is gross revenue, the amount the company expects to collect from ratepayers. Sum of operating expenses, return on capital invested (return on ratebase). This formula is provided to give this group a sense of the process. The entire function in rate case is determined, and is focused on arriving at the revenue requirement. It also determines which class of customers to collect from.

Question (F. Shrier): Who calculates the allowed rate of return? Answer (N. Ross): It is calculated on a rate base; differs by state. There is no coordination between states. Allowed rate of return is now around 9%. In the most recent Utah rate case it was just a bit over 9%, in that range.

Question (M. Bonoff): Are operating costs within that state? Or is it company-wide? Answer (N. Ross): Typically, they always start at the system level. They look at the overall operating cost of providing service for all customers, then allocating the cost down to the state where the company is arguing a rate case.

PacifiCorp thinks it would be helpful for people to know where hydro rests in the Company mix of generating capabilities. Primarily PacifiCorp gets its generation from coal-fire-steam plants. N. Ross said there are 15 thermal generating plants, the majority in Utah and Wyoming. There are 53 hydro facilities, which is about 10% of the generating capacity. However, even though the percentage is low, hydro is critical to operating the other facilities and provides load-following capabilities.

Question (L. Hamilton): How do these various commissions look at environmental costs of doing business and “bad” decisions, such as paying too much for generation, etc.? Answer (N. Ross): One standard that comes into play is to review expenses and determine if costs are reasonable and prudently incurred. Any expense is subject to being filtered through those criteria. How regulators might view those instances, can’t say specifically, but subject to those two issues. PacifiCorp said hydro’s fuel cost; water doesn’t cost, but environmental mitigation is considered an operating cost that goes into rate case. It is still subject to the criteria. If it is disallowed, costs are passed on to shareholders or ratepayers.

Question (Fish First): Past investment is recovered under the old license. Would new investment be incurred under the new license? Cost of power to utility from this resource based on new investment? Answer (N. Ross): We still have to look at the overall system.

T. Flores said there are continual investments through time, so a lot is still on the books. Still include debt on the books looking at the overall economics of project.

Question (D. Johnson): Is that value or cost? Answer (N. Ross): This formula V is the original cost. Net book value is the gross value of original cost minus depreciation.

Question (T. Backman): Are new investments different than O&M type costs? Answer (T. Flores): We are also still making new capital investments. In order to keep plants operating efficiently, we keep making new investments. F. Shrier: In day to day work, PacifiCorp employees separate out time, O&M, capital investments, etc. Capital investments are recoverable. Day to day maintenance fall under O&M and that's not recoverable.

Question (B. Swift): Is there a depreciation schedule for investments? Answer (N. Ross): That is another aspect of regulation. Percentage applied is approved by the PUC; found at tail end of the FERC annual report. Percentage per year.

Question (B. Swift): Is it the PUC that sets a depreciation schedule based on the rate imposed? Answer (N. Ross): It is supported by depreciation studies presented by the company and analyzed by the PUC. The rate is applied against the account balance.

Question (T. Backman): Is it an implied understanding that a capital improvement of 15 year life and it is 5 years away from a new license; assumption in process? Answer (N. Ross): As it relates to hydro, we wouldn't be looking at installing a new facility for instance if we didn't have an extended period. There would be the expectation to continue operating.

Question (Fish First): How would the utility recover un-depreciated costs if the license was not granted or transferred to someone else? Answer (F. Shrier): In that case, if the license were awarded to someone else, the utility would need to be compensated by the new license holder.

Page 2 of the handout gives a visual sense of how it all works.

Question (F. Shrier): Is it true that we can't charge operating costs. Are these capital operating costs? Answer (N. Ross): They are recurring annual costs; everything that shows up as an operating expense. Some are expensed currently. Capital dollars are recorded in an account and amortized over time.

Question (M. Bonoff): None of this applies to wholesale power sales? Answer (N. Ross): No, not correct. Part of this applies to wholesale. Profit serves to offset operating costs. In theory, if you have a substantial year in wholesale sales generating profit, you would have to reduce what you are charging retail customers. You're not allowed to collect more than you need to pay these costs. Utilities operate to pay their costs. Costs are broken out to these various components.

Page 3 is the valuation process. Assign value down to each taxing district. Three tools appraisers in each state Dept. of Revenue looks at. Comparable sales approach used mostly in residential property. System value is placed on the entire PacifiCorp system. 5-7% state allocation in WA. Weighting of various indicators, strengths/weaknesses, then will come to a system value – fair market value measure.



Then comes the allocation process that gets to a state specific value. Formula that is primarily based on original cost of property in state and original cost of property in system. Used consistently within 14 of western United States. Distributed to each of the taxing districts, based on allocation of historical cost. Fraction that creates a multiplier. State sends a report to each county assessor of value. The taxing district represents an overlay of multiple taxing agencies/service districts. Unique taxing area, a geographic boundary.

Question (F. Shrier): How does the state determine assessed value/book value? Answer (N. Ross): There is a record of the cost of property in each state; provided in annual report filing.

Question (N. Johnson): Does what happens in Scotland have any effect on it? Answer (N. Ross): No, there is strict separation of UK utilities and US operations. US is a regulated utility. Nothing functionally has changed.

Question (J. Kaje): If there is a different operating mode, what is the magnitude of economic effect on the company? How important is it to operate as a peaking facility? Difference between that and different scenario like more of a flat, always running project. How does it affect the bottom line? Answer (G. Gilmour): That will come out in PDEA ultimately. J Malinowski said the peak will be 3-4 times more valuable rather than baseload operation. F. Shrier explained that is typical if only considering non-firm power. Main value is not necessarily to get more money. The company can use hydro to cover other demands over the peak load.

S. Niman said the company is using this resource for reliability to serve its retail customers. There is an economic value in terms of stabilizing and keeping rates low for customers. In the past year, we have seen 10-1, 20-1 value in terms of power recently. If the resource can be used flexibly, the company can insulate its customers from the volatility of the marketplace. The value of volatility has not yet been determined. That concept does not have a dollar number. Making coal and thermal plants more valuable for flexibility.

For Cowlitz PUD, all power from Swift No. 2 goes against the PUD's load.

Question (B. Swift): We've heard repeatedly about generating peak/non-peak and charging the same. Is there no regulation of selling on the wholesale market? Answer (F. Shrier): PG&E is declaring bankruptcy; they are paying \$3000 for power, selling at \$40-50. N. Ross looked again at Page 2 of the handout. If the company saves money or generates revenues from other areas (wholesale market) rates go down. Long term, company (shareholders) does not benefit from sale of wholesale power.

Question (J. Rupley): In reference to actions and respect to environmental issues/revenues, what is the total amount available for addressing license issue requirements. Look at it from that standpoint, or address issues as total cost? Answer (T. Flores): In settlement agreement, changes in operations ultimately down the road, include all costs in calculations to revenues in a rate case. PacifiCorp will take a package in front of the commission. The PUC will dissect all those and subject them to the criteria. J. Rupley said then it doesn't make sense to talk about a "bucket full of money" for mitigations; it will all be put in operating costs as expense.

Question (R. Post): From ratepayers or investors? Answer (T. Flores): The company would argue in a rate case that these are expenses incurred in getting new license; PUC

staff/commissioners will decide how much can be recovered. Rate case is a whole bunch of factors. It is not a guaranteed thing by any means. It is not the commission's job to detail which benefit is counteracted by what impact. N. Ross said if there some additional costs there is not a guarantee we'd recover those, even if we argued they were reasonable and prudent.

Question (B. Swift): When rejected, do they specify which accepted, which rejected? What is the track record in state PUCs accepting them? Answer (N. Ross): Yes, there is a breakdown. Specific history, not aware of that. F. Shrier said PacifiCorp cannot determine what we spent in the Merwin license and what we got back. Those costs were rolled into rate case, but we cannot tease out that information.

To the USFS, it sounds like PacifiCorp's environmental expenses are spread through the entire utility.

With the PUD, there is a more direct effect of costs vs. rates. Cowlitz PUD said they propose a rate, hold public hearings, etc. The elected Commissioners agree on a rate and that rate is implemented. The impact is much more rapid on PUD ratepayers.

Question (N. Johnson): What is the PUD responsible for compared to PacifiCorp, as in fish mitigation? Answer (D. MacDonald): That is an interesting question. There is no agreement at this time. F. Shrier said the two utilities have to have an MOA put together for relicensing costs and they haven't yet on cost-sharing for new license implementation.

### **Agenda Item 3: Status report from resource groups/Review of revised matrices**

Consultant leads for each resource group reviewed their particular matrices and discussed new actions added, edits made within the resource group, etc.

#### **Flood Management:**

M. Leytham and S. Niman reviewed the flood management matrix. The FMG has not yet had a meeting devoted to the READ matrix.

Question (J. Rupley): Action 3, under socio it says the action affects costs of operating the projects? Answer (M. Leytham): That would be expense involved in doing that action.

Question (L. Hamilton): Has there been discussion of changing flood rule curves to benefit fish, out-migrants? Answer (M. Leytham): No, this study is specific to flood hazard. It is one of the interactions we need to address. F. Shrier said that issue is addressed under aquatics.

Question (C. Batchelor): Under Action 5, what do you mean by "county EMS"? Answer (M. Leytham): Emergency Management Services.

J. Kaje said this highlights the issue of needing to get groups together, but it is odd that Action 1, relatively high flow pre-release shows "no effects identified" in the issues of Aquatics. There are many possible effects on aquatic resources.

Question (L. Hamilton): In regard to pre-releases, why not change the 100-year floodplain? Answer (M. Leytham): It is the amount of water needed to control floods. Controlled by 1933 flood which had higher volume than the 1996 flood. No alternatives we looked at could control the 1933 flood volume. To provide assured control of a 1933

flood would require devoting very large amounts of storage to flood control; current is 17 feet of hole. To control 1933, we would need in excess of 80 ft. of hole.

Question (J. Nieland): What is the effect of water backing up from the Columbia vs. water being spilled? Answer (M. Leytham): In 1996 the Columbia exceeded the 100 year level. That influenced flood levels at the county bridge in Woodland by about 6 inches. There are residences on the Lewis that have finished floor levels lower than the 100 year level on the Columbia. There was nothing PacifiCorp could have done to prevent damage.

Question (J. Nieland): How large an influence are releases in that backup zone? Answer (M. Leytham): There is a water level discharge curve developed for the bridge; about 1 foot for 10,000 cfs, tapers off as channel broadens.

### **Watershed Processes**

K. Dubé reviewed previous actions and the newly added ones.

WTS 5: Would this be an alternate way to place LWD? Or in another reach? Fish First recalls the conversation as to how LWD could be placed, and the fact that it can be done.

Question (L. Hamilton): There should be state standards as far as stem size, stream size, volumes. Seems the goal should be what a healthy stream should look like and work to get to that. Does the state of Washington have standards? Answer (K. Dubé): There are no standards, but there are guidelines.

Question (K. Thompson): Isn't there a LWD plan for the basin? One of the USFS comments is on this. This comment looks like Cedar Creek is used as an example. Answer (F. Shrier): There's an evaluation. J. Malinowski said the intent was to make placement of LWD throughout the basin a priority. Anything you can do to provide cover for fish is beneficial. Don't think we should reject the idea of placing LWD in the mainstem.

Question (T. Backman): As we speak, this area is being asked by NWPPC to develop watershed restoration plans. Is this basin in need of that or sufficient information to move forward? Answer (J. Malinowski): Assessment of the system has been made. Absence of LWD is a major problem. There is a real need to restore stream complexity. K. Dubé said the group may want to consider looking at project-affected reaches. T. Backman said such a plan would identify everything that needs to be done in the watershed. Utilities can identify parts they can work on. PacifiCorp wouldn't be responsible for whole plan, but it would help guide efforts.

R. Post said at some point, this group will have to head that direction anyway. Any one or combination of actions may be imposed on the basin and interested parties in the basin. Some group would have to reconvene; do it now rather than have to do it in 5-10 years.

J. Rupley said there are a number of planning processes going on. He thinks it would be an important consideration here that we reflect current planning processes and not duplicate them. Better idea to spend limited resources on implementing existing plans rather than creating new ones.

R. Post said if this group did this as larger basin/watershed plan it would suffice for a lot of those issues that can come up in the future.

PacifiCorp said this is getting beyond the project effects issue. It might be more efficient, but we're not the only player in the basin. R. Post said whatever this process comes up with, with a subtle tweak on how this process works, the agreement this group comes up with could function as a salmon recovery plan.

K. Wallis reminded the group that we need to stay focused of what we're trying to accomplish in this process today.

WDFW said WTS5 talks about placing LWD, and mentions Cedar, Swift bypass, below Merwin. Has there been discussion of other tributaries? They suggest rewording the action to say "in other areas in the basin".

Question (J. Malinowski): Is it possible to place WTS 5 as a duplicate action? Habitat improvement in both places? Objective of this is to improve habitat. Answer (K. Dubé): I think it would be confusing to have it in both places. The USFS suggested combining it into one action. However, WTS 5 details specific habitat improvements.

L. Hamilton said regarding watershed processes she thinks of the function of the watershed and the project disrupts that system. Think of what is PacifiCorp's responsibility to restore some of that.

K. Dubé suggests taking the methodology part and move it to WTS 3 and 4; think about offsite mitigation in AQU 32.

### **Cultural**

G. Thompson reviewed the cultural resources section. One new action has been added.

Regarding the new action, Fish First is concerned that current harvest methods are not allowing fish to spawn. Carcasses provided nutrients. Recover historic spawning populations.

While WDFW is supportive of selective harvest, and actions of tribal members to selective harvest, regulation of harvest is a regulatory issue and is not appropriate as a license issue.

Fish First thinks there is potential for mitigation/financing of facilities to provide for selective harvest.

It was suggested the action be reworded to include "the potential funding of".

### **Water Quality**

M. Bonoff reviewed the water quality section. WAQ 3 is a new action since the last READ workshop.

However, this is an engineering fix and should not affect water quality. This type of fix is not necessary at Yale or Swift 1 and 2.

Reword the action to replace "at all projects" with "in the bypass reach."

### **Aquatics**

The ARG has not had the chance to discuss new actions yet. Defer workshop discussion until the resource group has reviewed.

**Terrestrial**

M. Garrett reviewed the course the TRG has taken. They've looked at terrestrial effects within the recreation matrix. He also reviewed the new actions.

**Recreation**

C. Everett reviewed the newly added actions.

**Land use**

J. Nichol will review the new action with D. Fewkes.

**Socioeconomics**

J. Sterrett reviewed the new actions.

Question: Where do most of the day use fees go now? Answer (J. Sterrett): They are used to defray recreation O&M costs of facilities. They go to PacifiCorp.

Regarding SOC 25, WDFW said it was never the intent for purchasers of our access pass to use facilities for other than fishing or hunting. It is a fishing and hunting access pass.

**Agenda Item 4: Joint discussion between TRG and RRG**

M. Garrett said the TRG got together after the first READ workshop and reviewed actions and issues and looked for inconsistencies, etc. of actions. Seeing effects differently and need clarification. It might be useful to walk through from recreation and have TRG respond.

F. Shrier suggested there may be a way to combine some into one action, etc. in either of the groups.

**REC 12 and TER 8:**

There is a conflict. TER 8<sup>1</sup> could be enforced on PUD lands.

Question (F. Shrier): Who would enforce and what are the regulations? Answer (J. Nieland): It would be a state regulation. Utilities cannot make laws. It may be a trespass situation.

M. Stenberg said TER8 is about dispersed camping. REC12 is about other activities. WDFW is looking at recreation activities in a controlled manner, not a manner that would reduce disturbance and suggests control features to prevent the action from precluding fishing in the bypass.

M. Garrett suggested a wording change so they are not necessarily a contradiction.

Cowlitz PUD said they own a little land in the bypass reach, but it is predominately owned by DNR and others.

Question (M. Henry): Who would develop control features? Answer (C. Leigh): It would be a license condition to undertake parking, etc. on their ownership.

K. Wallis said C. Leigh suggested adding "consistent to resource values" to REC 12. Clarify TER 8 as a focus on dispersed camping.

M. Stenberg wanted to know if there was a proposal to combine the two actions into one recreation action.

Question (C. Leigh): Are there other Rec actions that address dispersed camping?

Answer (M. Stenberg): Yes, elsewhere.

Question (K. Malone): What are we doing with these actions? Remove conflicts as if we're doing them all? It seems we're looking at effects of actions upon other actions.

Make sure comments affect stand alone actions, or incorporate other actions. Answer (K. Wallis): We're seeing if there are any conflicts. I thought part of this was to see if there can be some reconciliation. F. Shrier said if there's some efficiencies in combining actions, or create new ones, it will create a tool for the settlement team to work with. We will have given it our best cut to limit conflicts. K. Wallis said we are discussing indirect effects in the ARG. Some of these actions depend on what gets implemented and how far you carry it. Apply the rule of reason and see if there are some big conflicts we can identify.

J. Nieland said in regards to dispersed camping, it's considered elsewhere, it's not drive in camping. It's boat in. Significantly different type of dispersed camping than we see elsewhere. It is good to keep it separate.

Question (M. Garrett): If we did put them together, what about incorporating the idea of controlling or eliminating camping there but still keep low-impact activities. Fishing, parking facilities, prohibition on camping. Answer (WDFW): That meets our needs.

However, we can't control activities that are not on project lands. Camping occurs on a mix of the lands. There are about 6 or sites that are on project lands. M. Stenberg said we need to be consistent in actions. Be mindful of actions that create recreation opportunities and cause dispersed camping.

M. Garrett said hardened sites are not necessarily provided everywhere, so he doesn't necessarily see an inconsistency.

Question (K. Wallis): Should M. Stenberg's comment be an effect? It may modify the pattern of camping in the basin.

J. Nieland said it is important to note Weyerhaeuser has closed all their lands to camping, and we're seeing new campsites forming where there had been none. Closing areas shifts burdens to other landowners. Just to keep in mind as a possible outcome.

USFWS thinks we're losing sight of TER8. The very first part of the action is the reason it's in terrestrial. The focus is the disturbance to vegetation and wildlife in those areas. Hoping that by developing some hardened sites we can help the applicants control that non-designated camping. F. Shrier said that is not going to solve all the problems. The way this is worded, "reduce recreation related disturbance", a lot is on someone else's land. It's more the way they access that area.

The group agreed to delete "particularly in the Swift bypass reach" from TER8.

Fish First said if we are establishing riparian buffers, it doesn't make sense to talk about prohibiting camping in riparian zones if they are no-touch buffers. We need to also be consistent with ESA.

M. Garrett said past conversations have been for providing control of dispersed camping in areas of shoreline habitat that has lower value than riparian areas.

D. Fewkes said the wording sounds fine. On the camping issue, a lot of those campers are people that want to get away from developed campgrounds, etc. and don't mind not having a lot of the facilities. When we talk about hardening, look at ways to make them safe and ways to minimize impact to the area. We don't want to harden to the point of attracting more campers.

The two actions will remain, with wording changes to each.

New REC 12 reads: *Improve wildlife viewing and fishing in the bypass reach of the Lewis River consistent with resource values.*

TER 8 now reads: *Reduce recreation-related disturbance to vegetation and wildlife in riparian areas by developing dispersed campsites on project lands. Enforce regulations against camping in non-designated areas.*

J. Rupley cautioned that currently there is nothing in the counties against developing shoreline camping, but could be in the near future could be. We don't want to set up false expectations.

**REC 13-15:**

With regard to terrestrial issues, M. Garrett said impacts of these are kind of a generalization of all 3 trail routing actions. When we talk this through, some areas are less impacted than others. Providing a trail down the IP road is a lesser effect on resources than cutting new trails through certain areas of Merwin.

USFWS agrees. Given that trail locations are not specified on the ground, these actions and issues need to be a little general.

The USFS said all of this is in a very conceptual mode. It has to be kind of nebulous.

The TRG can address effects more directly on specific areas that have been identified.

WDFW suggested breaking out the section of REC 14 that mentions new walking trails.

The RRG did a map of the proposed trail routing that shows more clearly what is existing trail and what would be a proposed new trail. Viewing this would help the TRG identify effects better.

USFWS feels we currently have two different kinds of action in one; existing trails or little segments we can agree on, and new trails. When identifying effects on terrestrial resources, it is easier to identify with specific areas.

K. Wallis suggested breaking the effects discussion into existing and new. On new trails, talk about concerns and potential impacts and choices.

M. Garrett said going back to the task we're faced with, looking at how recreation action is described and the effects on terrestrial resources. Now the RRG can make them more specific.

Question (F. Shrier): Reword the actions to talk about new trails or new actions? Review effects on existing and review effects on new?

Question (G. Stagner): Is there an assumption on trail construction? Danger trees, lack of snags. If that is part of trail construction standards assumed, then it is better to know now. Answer (M. Stenberg): We have researched that and there are no rules for recreation trails. F. Shrier suggested that could be part of the wildlife management plan, addressed in TER 1. M. Garrett said trails are not addressed, but snags are. Clarify that the REC actions will be consistent with wildlife management plan.

There is a phase 2 to the trail feasibility study that will provide more detail to some of these questions.

Decision on REC13-15: The RRG will get more specific on the actions, breaking out new trails, existing, etc. Then the TRG will provide more specific effects, prior to the October 11<sup>th</sup> READ workshop.

A placeholder will be put under aquatic effects that will need to be reviewed for the effects of these rec actions.

#### **REC 22 – 25:**

These actions discuss dispersed camping, shoreline management of dispersed camping, etc. There are about 6 sites on Merwin and 60? shoreline use sites on Yale. The RRG is defining management of shoreline sites and what hardening means. They've talked about desired experience for these campers. Manage for that experience and protect resources. Desired experience is primitive; people are self-policing. Some building activities are happening out there. The RRG created a list of actions on how to manage these, from status quo to high management. Triggers are an important concept due to the length of the license.

USFWS would want the disturbance of riparian zones factor addressed if we're not going to be out there discouraging sites. Suggest one step up in management to go out once a week, after the weekend, to check for garbage, if fires are out, etc.

M. Garrett said terrestrial effects are predicated on the assumption of active control and not attracting more camping. If controls are in place to prevent that from happening, positive TRG effects? If more spill-over, then effects will change.

M. Stenberg said the next step for the RRG is to go through the needs analysis and projected growth of this activity. That will drive some of the triggers. The interpretive and education plan should encompass all these types of things. Part of that plan is also figuring out the message and the best media for that.

The TRG would like a well-defined description of what management would be for next time.

Question (F. Shrier): REC 22 and 23 are in direct conflict. Leave them in? Answer (WDFW): Don't see a problem with that. You'll only pick one or the other, not both. There is support from the group for both, so they will be left in.

There is also a potential cultural conflict with REC 25. However, the cultural sites are underwater and aren't a problem at this time.

#### **REC 26:**

This deals with providing dispersed camping along proposed trail routes.



D. Fewkes is not sure if a trail is an actual attraction to dispersed camping. M. Stenberg hasn't actually seen it in his experience.

L. Aker reiterated that WDFW does not think this is conducive to wildlife management, and current regulations on overnight parking. If people are using trails already in campgrounds, they already have a place to camp, etc. The TRG needs to spend more time on effects.

Question (M. Garrett): Did the RRG fill out the effects? Answer (M. Stenberg): I put in new actions, sent it to C. Everett, C. McShane and J. Sterrett.

Question (M. Garrett): Do you feel comfortable with the TRG effects then? Answer (M. Stenberg): Not quite yet.

USFWS feels this needs to more specific in the action; compatible with what?

M. Garrett said the TRG would approve eliminating the action.

The group approved deleting REC 26.

### **REC 29**

USFWS said if anything happens at Cougar campground, that's the only place we have a spawning population of bull trout. It is usually closed prior to bull trout spawning time. If it is kept open, there could be increased poaching, disturbances, etc. (This will be added to the effects discussion).

D. Fewkes said keeping a campground open at each reservoir was an action I had. The concern of local citizens is that focusing efforts on peak season with a lot of people out of area. For local users, it is part of our culture. We use the woods a lot more during the fall/winter. Address concerns with environment with that. If Cougar is not right one, let's find ones that are.

### **REC 30-32:**

Terrestrial effects were based on the extension of the season

F. Shrier pointed out that the road isn't maintained in the winter at Swift.

This is one of the overlaps with socio, as well. It is beneficial to the local economy to have an extended season.

D. Fewkes also said there is not total agreement in the RRG about cabins, etc.

WDFW would like to see specifics along with keeping one campground open; which one, how late into the season, etc. Reproductive periods for raptors, late fall/winter big game foraging are things to consider. The amount of problem depends on the specifics of extended season.

C. Everett would like feedback from the TRG on the sensitive seasons.

Decision: The TRG will identify sensitive seasons for the RRG.

The RRG will then get more specific on the extended season.

Company opinion is that seasonal use drops off after Labor Day.

**TER 10:**

M. Stenberg said this needs more detail. What are corridors, etc. and the restrictions proposed, wildlife management.

WDFW said a corridor is a narrow area; big game ones have been identified as areas to get elk through; developing landscape for access from summer range to winter range. Raptor management corridor is a ¼ mile wide band around reservoirs and tributaries where raptors are. Don't take down trees, don't concentrate recreation use, etc.

Question (Cowlitz PUD): Do you envision no recreation in these areas? Answer (WDFW): Cresap is opened/closed on a scheduled so both exist. Does not preclude recreation.

The RRG needs the seasons of impacts, hunting seasons, etc. The TRG will provide those. This action represents a proposal to acquire additional lands, or management of, for sensitivity management. Recreation effects are different under management and acquisition. Separate those out again. The TRG needs to discuss this further; acquiring land can provide more recreation. There may need to be possible restrictions on those lands.

Cowlitz PUD said conservation easements are in the works to develop "no touch" zones and will preclude recreation. Drew boundary to exclude some known dispersed camping sites. M. Garrett said those preclude some types of recreation, not all.

USFWS said the conservation easements are very focused on a specific piece of ground. An easement is a concept/proposal that basically says no management. Flexible enough so that things that need to happen to protect primary function of that land are left.

WDFW would like to see the action broken into two: one dealing with acquisition and one dealing with management.

**Agenda Item 5: Joint discussion between RRG and SRG**

**SOC 3:**

J. Rupley said if SOC 3 is a priority, it's probably not going to happen. J. Sterrett said this is more of a wish list than a priority. There is a breakdown of how funds are distributed, in the socioeconomic report. PUD privilege taxes go in to the county's general funds.

D. Fewkes realizes that SOC 3 is an uphill battle, but feels it's a good one to undertake. PacifiCorp needs to Pac realize the reservoirs provide recreation and other needs and then bigger impacts on emergency services; provide revenue to help out departments. (already in SOC4 and 5).

J. Sterrett suggested combining SOC 4 and 5, and SOC 3 and 8.

J. Rupley said property taxes go into a general fund and are allocated according to needs the commissioners perceive. Some don't get near the government service they pay for and vice versa. Rule of thumb: 65 cents on the **dollar for residents???**, 1.25 for industry. It is more appropriate to discuss SOC 4 and 5 rather than redirecting property tax revenues.

D. Johnson said that whenever we talk about funding, we never get to flood. All of the counties have had to do things for that possibility. When we isolate that, there's a cost of

handling that. Don't think it's appropriate to just look at emergency services. Incorporate what goes into various counties for flood situations.

K. Wallis reminded the group that this is a range of possible actions. Not all will be implemented. Some have a greater chance of being possible. Fire districts have serious issue of funding.

J. Rupley suggested looking at the agreements between Toutle River/USFS/Castle Rock.

### **SOC 15**

There is not a lot of detail here because it is covered in the recreation actions. D. Fewkes said that by improving things for anglers, it would be contributing to the socio spectrum. Things like fee-free boat launches. Probably should put those details back in.

See REC 20 and 36.

K. Wallis suggested the next version of the matrix have a cover page that shows these types of cross references for all areas so we don't have to keep some actions in the matrix. Consolidate, maintain thought in cross-reference overlaps. Make sure effects are well identified.

SOC 1 – cross reference and drop from matrix

SOC 12 – cross reference with REC 29, 30, 32

SOC 14 – cross reference with REC 28

SOC 15 – more clarification prior to cross referencing

Fee items (SOC 16-28) could be consolidated into 4 actions. Describe the intent and some mechanisms for getting there.

Question (K. Wallis): Originally the RRG was dealing with fees. They deferred to SRG. Is that okay still? Answer: (D. Fewkes): They haven't deferred to socio, but they recognized not needing to go over everything twice. Wouldn't call it deference.

Question (K. Wallis): Do we need that discussion today? Task of resource group is not to make decisions. Settlement team will eventually deal with day use issues. The RRG is comfortable letting the SRG identify different options. Answer (D. Fewkes): I think so. It has been the applicants' statements that there is limited validity to the socio group.

K. Wallis said the SRG has been described with a different role; they're reactive rather than proactive.

Cowlitz PUD said the applicants have never said anything like that about the SRG.

PacifiCorp said it doesn't matter which group has it as long as we're covering the issues.

With that, the SRG can address the fee issues.

Question (USFS): For SOC 15/REC 20, keep in mind effects caused by construction of facilities. Do any of these affect collection of campground fees? Answer: Those camping fees are generally accepted, so the primary focus has been on day use/parking/launch fees.

Question (J. Nieland): Is a reservation fee in the future for dispersed campsites being considered? Answer (J. Sterrett): That is new ground. A similar issue is whether it is legitimate to charge where there are facilities. Problem is just charging for access.

Fish First sees trade offs. The locals do not necessarily benefit from more activity at reservoirs. They think a lot of locals are concerned about closure of facilities for extensive times during the year.

K. Wallis said more activity is covered in effects; closure/facilities is covered in actions.

D. Fewkes said if charging fees for access other than campgrounds, we draw the line there. We saw a drop off in recreation with the implementation of day use fees and the merge with Scottish Power.

PacifiCorp clarified, again, that there was just coincidence between the timing of the Scottish Power merger and day use fee implementation. One had nothing to do with the other.

Decision: J. Sterrett will write up 4 ways to combine day use fee actions and email out to the SRG.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Joint discussion between ARG and RRG**

##### **AQU 15 – 19:**

Recognize the recreation impacts.

AQU 15-16: T. Hardin is looking at duration/how much flow in Rain and Ole Creeks. We have some data that has that information of when it goes dry, etc. When it goes dry, how much do bull trout need and when do they need it. Have the data, needs to be pulled together.

Send that information back to the RRG when available.

##### **AQU 18-19:**

There is no biological impact for not stocking. Interaction between species. It could create competition between coastal cuts and rainbows; prey for bull trout interaction.

There is a large impact from the recreation perspective. The USFS said the objective is to get more fish up there.

J. Kaje said the ARG talked about this; think short term and long impacts on actions like this. Short term decrease certainly. If anadromous reintroduction occurs, hatcheries may help to facilitate that. Some resources dedicated to different purpose, but hopefully fishable populations up there in the long term.

J. Sterrett suggests that if you're saying these are linked in with reintroduction, it would be better to combine with AQU 23 and 21.

B. Swift said we just heard there may be a negative effect on bull trout; it wouldn't solely benefit reintroduction.

J. Nieland said if the non-stocking option was chosen and reintroduction doesn't happen, that would create different types of impacts.

J. Kaje said we may change species mix, reduce, alter, program as well. Need to break that action down and discuss it in ARG.

T. Backman said this is a fish management issue; needs to be independent of this as well. Encourage development of overall fish management plan for Lewis River and then ask question how this opportunity fits in. This group doesn't have authority to make trade offs.

J. Nieland said if this group decides not to fund it, that has impacts. The stocking programs could then be eliminated if the state decides not to continue it without the funding.

**AQU 20:**

This is not a long term thing, kick start system until runs are established.

Question (M. Stenberg): What is the scope? Dump truck loads? Answer (J. Malinowski): Fish First has put about 10,000 carcasses in Cedar Creek over the last couple years. No nutrient monitoring but we know it does good, etc.

Question (M. Bonoff): Would the nutrient contribution be part of enhancement in reservoirs? Answer (J. Malinowski): It would mostly be in streams. The whole ecosystem is benefited, impacted by these carcasses.

L. Aker said there has been some discussion of "upper basin". If it is from Merwin up, then there are some tributaries that fall in highly recreated areas. Could impact campers w/dogs, etc. Above Swift doesn't have as much recreation. J. Malinowski said there is no excuse for letting dogs run loose. If they die, so be it. That's not going to stop the program.

K. Wallis said L. Aker is saying there is an impact that needs to be addressed.

The USFS said clean water issues need to be analyzed carefully and resolved clearly.

M. Stenberg doesn't see much recreation impact, but the message is good for the I&E program.

Question (D. Johnson): Is there an effect on water quality for swimming? Answer (C. Leigh): Some of that issue is addressed by the season of use. Carcasses are not available during the recreation season.

**AQU 21-23**

Short term impacts to recreation, fishing closures, etc. in trying to reestablish runs. Long term benefits to recreation fishing. Inherent is carcass issue, etc.

**AQU 29**

This action is a regulatory thing; the utility can't close fisheries. If it did happen, it would have effects on recreations as Cedar Creek is a very popular hole.

J. Malinowski said Fish First is concerned about the impact on fish in that hole. If we're serious about salmon recovery, we need to start reducing the stress and let them spawn. Wild/native all holding together. I see it related to hatchery operations. We need to move away from non-selective harvest. We see it as modifying hatchery operations to minimize impacts on fish in that system.

PacifiCorp said it is still a state issue. Hatchery/management.

Fish First feels there are funding implications. They think one objective of the relicensing effort should be to focus on participating and facilitating salmon recovery. Come up with a program to facilitate that goal. They feel hatcheries are an important part of the equation to salmon recovery. They have asked the state to declare Cedar Creek as a salmon sanctuary.

WDFW thought we talked about this yesterday. It is not a license issue. Game commission takes public input; follow process for comments. Not appropriate to consider it a licensing issue.

PacifiCorp suggests investigating this further in the ARG for a way to word this.

### **AQU 31**

These are changes that will come from a sub-basin plans. Consistent with proper fish handling techniques, water discharge requirements, etc. Hatchery practices as opposed to hatchery management policies.

Question (K. Dubé): There was discussion between WTS actions to augment LWD in different reaches and how that might affect recreation and boating, etc. From a recreation standpoint, what kind of issues are there? Answer (M. Stenberg): At Swift, clear out some floating debris, problem to recreational boating. Could potentially end up as a hazard.

J. Nieland said the USFS had a major debacle with kayakers in trying to place LWD. Recreationists are adamant about placing anything in the stream that would interfere with movement or fishing. The agency did modify the proposal somewhat. Don't be surprised if we encounter that type of controversy.

D. Johnson said there is a lot of discussions of keeping reservoir where people boat, water ski free of any debris. If it is going to break loose and float down, it is not good from a recreation perspective.

M. Bonoff said with AQU 30 there would be a potential water quality issue with increased production.

K. Thompson sees ARG/TRG interactions in TER 1, 4, 5, 9 and 11. Anywhere that there's a riparian impact, it impacts aquatics. Suggest adding/discussing managing for large trees. TER 4 – need to identify effects. TER 5 – no touch buffer proposal? Management within buffer? With TER 9 are we actually considering obliterating roads?

WDFW said in terms of road management plans there now, it is installing gates and precluding motorized access. Development of management plan for roads, identify those that are no longer needed for removal.

### **Agenda Item 7: Joint discussion between RRG and FMG**

A larger flood hole may require fish passage changes. Could be that passage season would not interact with flood season. Could shorten flood control season without increasing flood risk. Could finish it on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Question (T. Backman): By shortening the flood management season, what does that mean in terms of water for fish? Answer (M. Leytham): Mandatory pool could be full by April 1<sup>st</sup>. PacifiCorp said it also depends on what kind of facility, where is the reservoir level is going to be and where to put exit structures.

K. Malone said at a minimum, the need for juveniles is April 1 – Oct 1 as full and stable a pool as possible without spill at Swift and Yale. Not a lot of fish before April 15<sup>th</sup>, but some steelhead. Two week window that will vary depending on the season. If there are bigger reservoir fluctuations, especially at Swift, any screening system has to be bigger to handle those kinds of flows. Gulper could float up and down with a lot of different elevations. Depends on juvenile passage system constructed. Full screen, eliminate fluctuation as much as possible.

Question (D. Johnson): For 75,000 acre-ft. of hole, what's that mean? Answer (K. Malone): Fish passage likes stable at any level and not spill. Take fluctuation over spill at Swift. It also depends on when at full pool and when we want the juvenile facility operating.

M. Leytham said fluctuations at that time of year are driven by operation drawdowns.

Question (N. Johnson): So I am hearing that flood management is not conflicting with fish passage? Answer: Right.

Question: Ramp rates do not apply to flood control situations? Answer (PacifiCorp): No. At a certain point we don't have to comply with ramp rates; flex with river system.

Question (M. Leytham): Would that preclude pre-release actions? Answer (PacifiCorp): We think so. We're talking about new run off procedures potentially.

### **AQU 17**

Note limitations are not applicable during high runoff procedures (HRP).

Question (J. Kaje): What is the threshold for HRP? Answer (M. Leytham): The imposition of pre-release policy. If inflows to the project exceed 40,000 cfs and total project hole is less than 60 ft. deep, start pre-releases at 25, 000 cfs level.

WDFW said it makes sense to have ramp rates not apply during HRP. Also look at when to apply down ramping rates. As long as change in water levels do not expose fish (stranding), there is no need to do a slow down ramping rate. Stranding study would show at which flow restricted down ramping should begin. Below full capacity, restriction may not be necessary if no stranding.

PacifiCorp feels these are details to work out in the ARG. Have D. Bornemeier or M. Leytham there to help with operational constraints.

WDFW said to look through interactions for FLD 2. Aquatic resource effects should be of varying degrees.

Question (J. Kaje): When there is a high flow event, what's the operation procedure in terms of time for getting back down to hole? Very different experience for fish to have few days of high flows and then normal or extended period of higher than normal flows. Answer (M. Leytham): Both HRPs mandate how the pool is restored on the receding end of the hydrograph. Done very quickly in light of back-to-back events in the Northwest.

Yes, releases are such to get back to pool level. In '96 it was within 3 days of peak. One action we are proposing is to modify the receding limb to allow for more storage on the receding limb.

J. Sterrett suggested, based on the socio item taken off on flood control, add words "to protect life and property value" to FLD 1 and 2.

LWD does increase flood hazard. Concerned about material jamming on bridge in Woodland. (AQU 28, WTS 4, 6, 8.) Increases risk of material causing damage.

### **AQU 33**

Question: Is this real time ability to see what flows are? Answer (G. Gilmour): The ARG hasn't gone over that yet, but that's my understanding.

WDFW said we have no way to tell what's coming in to the upper reservoir. If there are flows in the bypass we would want a gage in there too. Makes monitoring of flow agreements much easier.

### **REC 21**

Depends on flood control season.

### **CUL 1 and 2**

Discussion needed. Larger holes would expose more artifacts.

M. Bonoff said regarding TDG and higher spill, we did measure during the spill test in '97. Fairly low levels. Not a direct plunge pool. (bypass) Elevated TDG at Merwin when spill, but not above state levels.

## **Agenda Item 8: Wrap up**

Question (Cowlitz PUD): We've had two workshops now, is this beneficial? Another way to see it done? Suggestions for next workshop?

D. Johnson said with small enough issues, information we got was extremely beneficial. Long list is less beneficial. Rec didn't seem to get as far.

J. Malinowski thinks this is a very complicated process, but this provides structure to the discussion. Think down the line we'll have to come up with costing information. Also need to have something that measures relative benefits of certain actions.

Question (J. Sterrett): Is there a way to group into high-low cost? Answer (J. Malinowski): Might be crude first cut at it. G. Gilmour: A lot of actions will need to be further refined; pretty broad at this stage. Until more refined, difficult to assign cost to those things.

K. Wallis thought it was helpful when we discussed TRG/RRG that the TRG has already looked at everything and had specific comments/questions. If some resource groups not at a certain point, structure discussions with issues/groups ready to be discussed. Set a target.

Prior to adjourning, D. Bornemeier reviewed the notification procedures that the FMG has been discussing.

The next workshop is Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the PUD in Longview.



## **Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. Tax information prepared by N. Ross

### Pre-Meeting Handout #1: Agenda

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<sup>1</sup> While the PUD does own some land in the bypass reach, the dispersed camping discussed here does not occur on PUD land.

**LEWIS RIVER RELICENSING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS  
READ WORKSHOP #3**

**October 17 and 18, 2001**

**Cowlitz PUD  
Longview, WA  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Draft Meeting Summary  
Version 1 – October 23, 2001**

**Attendees: (40)**

Tom Backman, Yakama Nation	Lisa McLaughlin, Note taker
Hugh Black, RMEF	Colleen McShane, EDAW
Ilene Black, FD #7, NCEMS	Nan Nalder, ACRES
Mike Bonoff, MWH	Joan Nichol, MWH
John Clapp, Citizen	Jim Nieland, USFS
Kathy Dubé, MWH	Judy Orloske, FD #7
Jim Eychaner, IAC	Dana Postlewait, MWH
Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp	Bud Quinn, Skamania County Commissioner
George Gilmour, Meridian Environmental	John Roland, USFS
Tim Hardin, Hardin-Davis	Joel Rupley, Clark Co. Endangered Species Prog.
Mike Henry, FERC	Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp
Noel Johnson, lewisriver.com	Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Janne Kaje, Tech Advisor to Cowlitz Tribe	Jill Sterrett, EDAW
Curt Leigh, WDFW	Veronica Stofiel, PacifiCorp
Malcolm Leytham, NHC	Brett Swift, American Rivers
Dave Leonhardt, PacifiCorp	Gail Thompson, HRA
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp	Karen Thompson, USFS
Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD	Heather Tischbein, Cold Spring Conservancy
Jim Malinowski, Fish First	Robin Torner, Cowlitz Tribe
Kevin Malone, Mobrand	Mitch Wainwright, USFS
Al McKee, Skamania County Commissioner	Kristi Wallis, Facilitator

**Calendar:**

Nov 1	Aquatics Resource Group	Lacey, WA
Nov 2	Cultural Resource Group conference call	Conference Call
Nov 5	READ	Longview, WA
Nov 6	READ	Longview, WA
Nov 13	Socioeconomic Resource Group	Longview, WA
Nov 14	Cultural Resource Group	Portland, OR
Nov 16	Terrestrial/HEP Resource Group	Lacey, WA
Nov 28	Recreation Resource Group	Merwin, WA

<b>Assignments from READ Workshop #3:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>ARG:</b> Discuss mitigation for WTS under flood actions.	
<b>PacifiCorp:</b> Add current operations as actions under the appropriate resource areas. Make sure mirrored actions are incorporated into the Interactions matrix.	
<b>T. Backman:</b> Modify CUL-R10 in order to move it the Aquatic READ list.	

## **Summary of Actions:**

1. **Introductions.** Reviewed and approved the agenda.
2. Revised effects matrix: Update on resource group progress, introduction of the action cross-reference table and a master list of interactions.
3. Interaction Matrix: Concept and development were discussed.
4. Integrated resource group discussions: The groups discussed interactions of their actions on other groups' actions.
5. The next READ workshop is Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Longview.

### **Agenda Item 1: Introductions (Pre-Meeting Handout #1)**

Reviewed and approved the agenda.

### **Agenda Item 2: Revised READ Effects Matrix (Handouts #1, #2) Resource Group Progress**

#### **ARG**

The aquatics group has gotten through all their actions and considered new ones. Looked at Watershed Processes and Water Quality as well. Combined some actions into one or referred them to another resource group. At the bottom of the cover page you can see which ones were combined. They still need to look at the aquatic resource issues across the board.

#### **FMG**

Minor changes; FLD1 was combined with SOC1. One new action added.

Question (J. Rupley): There was some discussion last time about using the term “No Effects Identified”? Answer (F. Shrier): For those groups that have gotten through all those, they have changed them. Looked at by study or material review, so that no effect identified. ARG hasn't gotten to that point yet. Can answer some questions on those today. Still a working document.

#### **SOC**

Collapsed a bunch of fee actions. Eliminated a couple actions the group thought were infeasible. Clarified financial assistance actions – R2 and R3.

#### **CUL**

The first cultural meeting since March was last week. One new action was added by the Yakama Nation. Also, the new action of the CRMP, which will combine some actions into one. Similar to the TRG action. The printed matrix does not reflect these changes.

#### **REC**

Some assignments from last READ. Break out trail proposals into separate actions for purpose of evaluating effects. Other changes, break out R26. Joint meeting with TRG but no changes to the matrix. Collapsed power canal actions into R31. Waiting on proposal for shoreline management of camping/triggers. Status quo preference. New action from WDFW regarding acquiring lands.

## **TRG**

Few changes since last meeting. Minor change to R1 and R6. Substantial change to refocus action to dispersed camping.

Question (G. Gilmour): Are the management plans comprehensive? Answer (C. McShane): It is an umbrella plan, but something specific to each project. Don't know exactly how that will be structured.

## **Action Cross-Reference Table**

Handout #1

This is a draft version for review.

Question (B. Swift): How is this going to be used? Answer (D. MacDonald): It is simply a guide of the crossovers. F. Shrier: It shows where old actions ended up if they are not on the matrix.

## **Other Changes**

Master list – Handout #2. This includes changes from meetings. List of actions, description, extra column for draft interactions.

## **Agenda Item 3: Concept and Development of READ Interaction Matrix**

D. MacDonald said what is interesting about this process is it's dynamic. We get to write the book on how to go through the READ process. Things evolve. Discussion of interactions is something everyone is interested in and how that is different from the effects matrix. Spend few minutes talking about the difference. Head towards another document that will describe interactions.

There is a very fine line between effects and interactions.

At this point there are three suggested kinds of interactions: Mutually exclusive, mutually supportive, and actions which effect the success of other actions either positive/negative. Using those, we started filling in actions from Handout #2. How do others view interactions?

Question (B. Swift): What is the definition of effect vs. interaction? Answer (D. MacDonald): I believe effects are within resource areas. Some resource actions are also mutually exclusive within a resource group.

Question (T. Backman): In support, would it be dependent? Answer (D. MacDonald): That would fall under "effects success of".

J. Nieland said another kind of effect is synergistic. May have some things that are not precisely current actions but may move into something different. See that coming out of discussion at READ process.

J. Sterrett, as a follow up to that, said SOC and FLD are supportive/synergistic of overall goals. Not an effect, but positive support.

J. Kaje doesn't find the distinction between positive/negative and supportive. Mutually exclusive is clear-cut. Could have positive/negative. Dependency is good if one depends on another. Don't have use for the last two. For example, the interpretation program of REC R4, CUL R5, 6 are not dependent upon each other, but supportive.

M. Stenberg said actions are supported by consensus goals. Broader than each action.

Question (M. Henry): Aren't you influencing then, rather than providing a technical base? Answer (J. Sterrett): Record all linkages and dependencies rather than action or bigger goal. Not creating preference, just recording linkages so the settlement group can weigh all those and make decisions.

Question (K. Wallis): Is it appropriate to modify the third category so that it only shows negative effect? Answer (B. Swift): Delete "mutually supportive" and keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> option as is. Positive captures mutually supportive. J. Sterrett: I'm in favor of keeping mutually supportive as it gets to broader linkages. Various types of positive. C. McShane: As we work through these it may become clearer and one category may disappear.

D. MacDonald's vision of success for today is to be clear on the interaction matrix, review the FMG study, cover the resource pairs, have focused, concise discussion and start to weigh interactions. A whole bunch of stuff to cover and not a lot of time.

Question (G. Glimmer): How is that going to happen? Present actions and look to others for interactions? Answer (D. MacDonald): Look at each action, chime in, and we will write down the possible interactions. Develop as it goes.

**Agenda Item 4: Presentation of the results of the Flood Management Study (Handout #3)**

M. Leytham presented the results of the Flood Management Study (see FMG 8-24-01 notes and the ARG 10-04-01 notes). The FMG is now at the point of deciding which scenario meets their needs the best.

Question (B. Swift): Define extreme and moderate. Answer (M. Leytham): Extreme is flows in the valley in excess of 60,000 cfs. Moderate flows would have triggered HRP, spills from project but not exceed around 40,000 cfs in the valley.

Question (M. Henry): Is hole equally proportioned among all 3 reservoirs? Answer (M. Leytham): It doesn't matter, we're lumping them here.

Question (K. Dubé): Are you starting with 21 ft of hole? Answer (M. Leytham): No, that's where the HRP policies come into effect.

Question (B. Swift): How is storage currently distributed? Answer (M. Leytham): Most storage is in Swift.

Question (J. Malinowski): Does the model predict loss from a power perspective? Answer (M. Leytham): No, but S. Niman has ranked the scenarios.

Question (J. Kaje): Where do you get the logic about starting out at 55 ft. and not refilling? Answer (M. Leytham): The actual starting hole is driven by operations preceding the event. Refill can occur as long as it doesn't encroach the flood control space.

J. Kaje said regarding ranking of economic impact, it seems to me it depends a lot on how we spread flood control throughout the project. It would make a big difference. For the ARG, it matters a great deal where that hole is. We must understand trade-offs economically and other considerations.

Question (D. Postlewait): There are short time windows on simulations. Correlate effects of different actions for fill. Is there a significant impact on the annual rule curve? Answer (M. Leytham): There only situation I can think of is toward end of winter, dry conditions, projects quite low; where the operators try to capture water coming in. Some increase risk of not refilling but pretty low. Annual rule curve wouldn't be changed much by any of these. With four more feet of storage, presumably the projects would be operated 4 ft. lower throughout flood season. Flood control season runs Nov-Mar. If there is encroachment into that space, then the projects are drawn down. Usually there is much more storage than required under regulations. In a dry year, operators look ahead earlier than April.

Question (K. Dubé): For the effect of spill in the bypass reach, would it occur more or less frequently? Answer (M. Leytham): Try to get sense of how often pre-releases would occur, on average would be about one per year of 25,000 cfs, maybe about one day.

K. Wallis said there was a lot of good resource group participation. More work to be done. Talk about actions/effects today. First, identify interactions without lengthy discussion. Provide some range. Then discuss and see which category they would fall in to.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Integrated Resource Group Discussions of READ Effects and Interactions**

The attached Interactions Matrix details interactions between actions and the category of the effects of the interactions. Below is discussion of interactions.

##### **Aquatics and Flood Management**

Interactions:

Location of hole/impact on fisheries.

Gravel movement/removal in Swift

Flood plain change

Question (J. Rupley): Downstream impacts, effects on braided channels, etc. I don't see where there are mitigation processes under WTS that addresses those issues. What do we do when meet up with something like that? Answer (K. Wallis): Test the resource group to see if it has been discussed. We can add actions to the matrix. We haven't put constraints on actions.

T. Backman sees a potential conflict between the desire for total flood control management vs. the benefit of having an occasional flood. Management scenarios where allow flood to happen, but would have to plan for it due to property owners' rights and concerns. Appear mutually exclusive, but wondering if there is some sort of management option.

K. Wallis pointed out that we need to be speedy today and didn't think we were going to identify each action.

F. Shrier said PacifiCorp changed the procedure of which gates open first, stepped procedure to help keep TDG at lower level at Merwin. (WAQ interaction/effects).

D. Postlewait said all fish passage actions have interactions with flood. If there is a major change in reservoir operations, limiting fluctuation could have an impact on design details.

M. Leytham explained that it appears actual pool levels are affected more by power generation than flood control. The average hole in Feb. is 55 ft., which is much more than required for flood control. D. Postlewait said that makes sense; we need to know what will control reservoir levels. Power generation or flood controls.

K. Malone said if flood control doesn't effect where the reservoir is, there is no interaction then. Elevations will be where they were, so no interaction. Interaction should be evaluated between power operations. Designing around power hole rather than flood hole.

G. Gilmour sees basic interactions as instream flow in bypass, reintroduction in Yale, and full exclusionary screening.

Question (C. Leigh): Curt: Looking at AQUR13, interaction with the 2 FLD actions, how do they fit together? Answer (F. Shrier): It shouldn't be an interaction. K. Malone: But if we're pulling water from the forebay, it could be hypothetically.

Delete FLD1-2, FLD 6 from AQU 13.

J. Kaje said supportive depends on where we have things in the reservoir. It is safe to say spilling 25,000 cfs in the bypass may be less damaging than spilling 60-80,000 cfs. If pre-release shaves off what would go into the bypass, it would be supportive.

K. Dubé said WTS-R7 could be positive if there are more frequent large flows in the bypass and then redistribute.

There was some discussion of current operations. It was included so people would know what we're doing. If people want current operation to continue, those items will needed to be added as actions.

Aquatics to Flood  
Interaction with juvenile migration.

#### **Aquatics and Terrestrial**

C. McShane said it is hard to imagine any interaction except for TER-R10 and 12, which talk about limiting fluctuations, annual drawdown. Would support a number of the passage options.

Change in water level is less than 2/10ths in any one day. *[Note from Frank: while I did see some data that showed this rate of change, on a daily basis, Erik pointed out (and was correct) that the average hourly rate is 0.2 ft/hr. We are working to put together some graphics to illustrate normal daily reservoir operation.]*

J. Rupley sees interactions between aquatics and terrestrial with fish reintroduction action AQU-R1-12 and improving riparian habitat TER R3-7. Positive impact on fish that may use streams that flow into reservoirs.

C. Leigh said in earlier discussions of AQU-R1-3, they are expensive we wouldn't do anything else. Seems that would be an interaction.

#### **Aquatics and Socioeconomics**

Question: How does SOC-R1 affect PacifiCorp? Answer: F. Shrier: Not very directly, but indirectly. D. MacDonald: Any measure will increase rates. There are a couple that will

reduce rates. B. Swift: So the concept is getting to zero but don't know measures to get there. More of a Cowlitz PUD issue.

Question (J. Nieland): How would you make the determination something is too expensive? Answer (K. Wallis): Negotiations. J. Kaje: That's an opinion; it is a scare tactic to say "therefore nothing else would get done." No one in this room is qualified to say how much will be spent. It is inappropriate to say such. F. Shrier: I take offense to calling it a scare tactic. It's certainly very costly as I stated in an ARG meeting but I did not say it was too expensive. J. Nieland: But it implies that nothing else would get done. F. Shrier: It doesn't say that.

T. Backman: I don't have any preconceived ideas that it would affect rates at all. My focus is on what is good for the fish.

C. Leigh pointed out there are actions you wouldn't reference to SOC-R1 like AQU-R14. M. Stenberg said it supports SOC-R1.

J. Rupley suggested the problem may lie with SOC-R1. It doesn't recognize pressure on rates right now. D. MacDonald said it deals with economic growth. What happens in Cowlitz does effect Clark County. K. Wallis suggested adding more language to that option.

#### **Aquatics and Cultural**

CUL-R9 – Traditional practices could interact with reintroduction, restoring habitats, etc., AQU-R18-20. Enhancement is an effect, but not an interaction. Access works in conjunction with others. Revised wording? K. Wallis is surprised this not cultural action for protection of all resource enhancements. But, it may fall under the cultural management plan, too.

CUL-R10 – T. Backman is not sure about traditional methods. We don't want to dictate to the tribes how to fish. They will quite often use modern methods. This could be an aquatic action. R. Torner had some troubles with "traditional". Change to "culturally significant".

T. Backman will work on the wording for this one. Then back to an aquatics action.

#### **Flood and Cultural**

Shaving peaks off flood events could reduce risk of exposure; pre-releases would presumably stay in channel, maybe deeper. If we have a stream unmanaged and active, probably would have been site disturbance previously. May not be disturbing new areas. Some lateral migration, but mostly confined. Remote possibility.

#### **Flood and Socioeconomics**

All flood actions are mutually supportive and important to the overall socioeconomic consensus goals.

#### **Flood and Terrestrial**

TER-R12: The intent was to keep water level up as high as possible during winter. Close to mutually exclusive.

TER-R10: More information coming. It sounds like there is not a large amount of daily fluctuation. Emergency situation causes much higher fluctuations. TRG needs better information.



J. Kaje has a problem with flood/aquatic interactions. Without details of how storage is dealt with throughout the basin, we won't know. We need more detail of how it operates through the system. If there's interest in developing flood actions to minimize aquatic impact, we should craft those together. What kind of more detailed action would serve that purpose?

K. Wallis suggested those two groups get together before the next READ workshop.

K. Malone said eventually you would have to get to settlement/set of alternatives, laying out a plan for what you want to do. Seems like have to get to some kind of overall plan before you get into too much detail. If we knew alternatives, we could say where flood storage would need to be, etc. Come up with goals for fish passage before have detailed discussion.

K. Wallis said the goal of this effort is not to take things off table, but to inform the settlement team. This allows for more information.

### **Recreation and Aquatics**

REC-R1 – AQU-R15, 16: K. Dubé said we could see the whole reintroduction as a positive effect for recreation, but negative effect on fisheries. Short term vs. long term.

Question (C. Leigh): What about putting water back in the bypass? Answer (G. Gilmour): That's a tricky one. Has many factors. Add AQU-R12, could be positive and negative. Negative from a recreation management perspective. C. Leigh: It could also have the potential action to increase fishing, etc. in the reach. M. Stenberg: There is a conflict.

REC-R6 – AQU-R1 potential negative. Increased recreation? Increasing quality of experience. Captured in REC-R1 interactions. Access to fishing, anybody that wants to can. Facility improvements to allow more boat access shouldn't increase fishing. See normal growth over time with demand. People who want to fish from a boat can and do now. In near term, a bunch of new facilities is not going to stimulate a bunch of fishing.

REC-R19 – AQU-R19 negative. WTS-R3, 7. Number of boats on lake is limited by parking. Yale measures deal with increasing parking. Gates close when parking lots are full. Specifically more boats, need to decide if captured. More boats is a water quality effect, not interaction. Does this include additional boat trailer parking? Yes, this one needs fleshed out a little more. More clarification on action.

Question (H. Tischbein): The quality of experience depends on who you're talking about. Has there been a survey of user groups, who is using this and what they want? Answer (K. Wallis): Yes, wide range of actions, effects. Local economy boost, quality of life and safety. The RRG is trying to prioritize actions.

H. Tischbein said conflicts are real and it seems we need to make those apparent to those who will make decisions and who will not see values laid out.

M. Stenberg explained the RRG has had ongoing conversations about needs, wants and desired experience. Yale is an area of heavy motorized use. Merwin is a notch down, smaller numbers of people. Swift is even another step down, more primitive, lower density of boating. Agree with you, wilderness experience is farthest out. Create more primitive facilities, we have some opportunities. Monitoring over time.

Question (H. Tischbein): Other actions are also in conflict, looking through the green sheet, TRG wants to protect habitat, RRG wants to enhance recreation. Need to understand where real conflicts are between value systems. Going to be certain thresholds where human disturbance has gone over some line. Where is the settlement team going to get that information? Answer (K. Wallis): That's what this is getting to.

D. MacDonald: In the IIP we listed consensus goals and individual goals, then the READ template. Groups have discussed a number of times and it does show up a number of times in templates.

### **Terrestrial and Socioeconomics**

TER-R6 – SOC-R5 supportive; SOC-R18 supportive. More lands, more management, more expensive. That would be an impact and dovetails into SOC –R1. Protecting more lands and quality of life.

J. Nieland said the real effect is an effect with SOC-R1 and fostering economic growth. As acquired and protected, it limits economic growth. C. Leigh said conversely, it protects those lands to provide better opportunities. D. MacDonald said it is not specific to a certain form of economic growth/development. C. McShane feels it should be an effect and captured in the matrix.

Adding to the effects of purchasing/managing for wildlife might remove properties for development/recreation in TER-R6. K. Wallis suggested adding it to the recreation effects section of TER-R6.

A. Quinn said from his perspective, the tax issue becomes important. Our lands (Skamania County) are 80% publicly owned. Any time land is taken off tax roles we cringe. Sometimes tax impact isn't that great, collectively has an effect. That is something that concerns us.

C. McShane said it would still be on tax roles, though, as PacifiCorp would pay taxes on it. Maybe at a different rate. Capture the possibility of such in the effects.

Question (C. Leigh): Do you foresee having lands on projects that are not recreation or wildlife lands? That wouldn't be covered under plans? Answer (F. Shrier): That certainly exists now but we don't know what the new license will look like.

### **Terrestrial and Cultural**

Survey lands when some disturbance is proposed to them.

Question (C. Leigh): Is there a chance in acquiring lands for wildlife we could acquire land for cultural sites? Answer (G. Thompson): Yes.

### **Socioeconomic and Cultural**

See table.

### **Cultural and Recreation**

REC-R4, CUL-R7, R9 and CRMP – Synergistic action. Opportunity to develop a small information station in the project area where all these things could be combined. Maybe a new action to incorporate synergism.

SOC-R19 – This should be a Rec action. J. Eychaner had submitted it. He explained the reasoning. There has been fee discussions, we (the IAC) see fees as one of the tools

professionals have to manage use and recreation. See no reason to take that out of tool box under next license. It has done very positive things, vandalism is down to 1% of what is was.

D. MacDonald explained that this got into socio, discussed as a rec action and some saw it as a day use fee issue. M. Stenberg said it does have broader application than just fees. J. Eychaner originally submitted it as a goal, not an action. The utilities would like to see it kept as an action. It will be re-drafted as a REC action.

### **Recreation and Terrestrial**

Question (J. Eychaner): What is the definition of primitive? I am deeply concerned about the undefined use of that term because some of the worst managed sites I've seen are termed primitive. Answer (M. Stenberg): It doesn't include picnic areas, etc. Rec group needs to come up with a common understanding. "Free basic access" was a term an individual kept using and it was correlated with primitive.

### **Recreation and Socioeconomics**

See table.

### **Agenda Item 6: Wrap up**

There will be further discussion among resource groups. The next READ workshop is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The Steering Committee needs to approve the READ template.

### **Handouts**

(All Handouts become part of the public review file)

1. READ Actions Cross Reference Table
  2. READ Interactions Master List
  3. Flood Management Study Results
- Pre-Meeting Handout #1: Agenda

**Attachment 2:  
Comments and Responses on Draft Report**

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This section presents stakeholder comments provided on the draft report, followed by the Licensees’ responses. The final column presents any follow-up comment offered by the stakeholder and in some cases, in italics, a response from the Licensees.

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Page/ Paragraph</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response to Responses</b>
WDFW – KAREN KLOEMPKEN	6b	REC 05 App. 2-11 to 2-13; Segments 2 and 3 of the trail & Table 3.2- 1, trail segments N2 & N3	Resource Issues.	<p>The comments in the letter of April 2001, from WDFW listing concerns regarding trail segments 2 and 3 on Merwin, are still pertinent. They are repeated here for your convenience along with new comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “A number of stream crossings and potential impacts to wetland-associated species along this route are also of concern – the northeast Merwin area presently supports a diversity of species that are sensitive to disturbance (pileated woodpecker, osprey, bald eagle, waterfowl spp.) which is precisely the reason they occur in these less-developed parcels.”</li> <li>▪ There are continued concerns regarding the “potential unavoidable conflicts” with nesting sites and created snags.</li> <li>▪ Location of trail near “well-used game trail corridors” could cause added stress to wildlife in the area.</li> <li>▪ “WDFW proposed an</li> </ul>	<p>The Trail Feasibility Study was completed in two phases. Phase I presented a “spine” trail running from Eagle Cliff Park (at Swift Reservoir) to Merwin Park (at Lake Merwin). In the Phase II study, in response to agency comments and additional field reconnaissance, an approximately 3.5 mile segment between Cape Horn Creek and Rock Creek was dropped from further consideration, thus avoiding at least three stream crossings and potential impacts to wetland-associated species. Each trail route was further analyzed in Phase 2.</p> <p>Over 75 percent of the potential trail route along Lake Merwin is on existing roads. As part of the MWHMP, snags are located away from these roads; therefore, the trail alignment should not conflict with snags where it uses existing roads. All known nests and</p>	

Commenter	Volume	Page/ Paragraph	Statement	Comment	Response	Response to Responses
				<p>alternative along the ROW, south of Merwin Reservoir. This route is evidently also supported by Clark County. The main argument against investigating this route further seems to involve the unsatisfactory aesthetic experience that exists along the powerline corridor and the potential for vandalism of transformers. It appears that the Merwin portion of the proposed trail cannot be situated such that it will not conflict seriously with one or more parties.”</p>	<p>snags were reviewed during field reconnaissance to avoid conflicts.</p> <p>Most recreation users surveyed prefer a near-water (shoreline) recreation experience which the southern route does not provide. In addition, much of the southern ROW is not owned by PacifiCorp, is very steep in locations, and conflicts with residential areas.</p> <p>Many wildlife disturbance issues can be mitigated through proper design and trail siting, seasonal use restrictions (if necessary) in areas of higher sensitivity, and/or by maintaining adequate buffer distances from sensitive areas.</p> <p>The Phase II Trail Feasibility Study addressed all comments received regarding wildlife disturbance issues. However, because exact trail alignments go beyond the scope of this study, the design of the trail and associated buffers zones will</p>	

Commenter	Volume	Page/ Paragraph	Statement	Comment	Response	Response to Responses
					<p>be the scope of a later study. Many areas can provide adequate wildlife habitat while still allowing visitors an opportunity for recreation use. Non-motorized trail use in the Project area is a potential recreation measure that, if implemented, will need to be balanced with other resource needs throughout the alternative evaluation process and, ultimately, through the term of the new license.</p>	
WDFW – KAREN KLOEMPEN	6b	REC 05 App. 2-14 to 2-15; Segment 4 of the trail, Table 3.2- 1, Trail segment S5	Resource Issues, Land Ownership Issues, and Other Issues/Constraint s.	<p>The comments in the letter of April 2001, from WDFW listing concerns regarding the Yale/IP road route, are still pertinent. They are repeated here for your convenience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “The issue of whether access along the IP road is supported by DNR and other easement-holders is yet to be formally resolved. WDFW would like written assurance that sighting a trail along this route is supported by all concerned entities.”</li> <li>▪ “The southern end of Yale at the beginning of the proposed route is of particular concern regarding the potential for wildlife</li> </ul>	<p>Many wildlife disturbance issues can be mitigated through seasonal use restrictions in areas of sensitivity (if necessary) or by maintaining adequate distance from sensitive areas. Phase II of the Trail Feasibility Study addressed comments received regarding wildlife disturbance issues; however, because an exact trail alignment was not determined, actual impacts are unknown. Many areas can provide adequate wildlife habitat while still allowing visitors an opportunity for recreation. Non-motorized trail use in the Project area is</p>	

Commenter	Volume	Page/ Paragraph	Statement	Comment	Response	Response to Responses
				<p>disturbance: A wetland area frequented by a number of species known to be sensitive to disturbance<sup>1</sup> and several eagle and osprey roost areas and nests occurs along this section. In addition, as the IP road route continues north along Yale, several stream crossings occur as well as a number of additional osprey activity areas. Although the trail itself is mostly-paved and well armored, it must be expected that riders will need to water their horses at points along this route. The streams are much more accessible than the reservoir, potentially impacting these sensitive areas. More investigation into seasonal-use restrictions and potential impact assessment is warranted.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “During an April 5, 2001 visit by WDFW along the proposed IP road route, a common loon and an osprey flushed 2.5 miles south of the IP bridge. Near this same point a recent rockslide covered the entire road highlighting the need</li> </ul>	<p>a potential recreation measure that, if implemented, will need to be balanced with other resource needs throughout the license application process and, ultimately, through the term of the new license.</p>	



Commenter	Volume	Page/ Paragraph	Statement	Comment	Response	Response to Responses
				<p>for more in-depth assessment of bank stability along this route.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concern of disturbance of eagle nest at southwest corner of Drift Creek cove.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><sup>1</sup> EDAW. 1998. TES and priority species observation <i>in</i> Final Technical Report for terrestrial resources, Yale Hydroelectric Project #2071, PacifiCorp, Portland, OR.</p>		

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