

FINAL (Approved August 20, 2014)
5-21-14 Meeting Summary
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)*
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)*
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA)
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Steve Burns (USDA-FS)
Anne Shirley (BLM)*

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)*
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Tribe)

* Attendance by phone

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Introductions, Member/Organizational Updates, Upcoming Meetings/Presentations

Member Updates (staff changes, organization news)

PacifiCorp – Todd Olson replaces Monte Garrett as the PacifiCorp representative.

USDA-FS –

- Steve Burns (Fisheries Biologist) replaces Craig Street at the Diamond Lake Ranger District.
- Steve Bacigalupo is the new Zone FMO (fire management officer), covering a zone that includes parts of both the North Umpqua and Diamond Lake Ranger Districts.
- Alan Hubbs is moving to the Supervisor's office as Assistant Fire Staff Officer.
- Jennifer Taylor is the new recreation/facilities person for the North Umpqua and Diamond Lake Ranger Districts.
- Bill Mulholland is the new District Ranger at the North Umpqua Ranger District.
- Randy Menke (Trails Coordinator) is retiring in the latter part of July.

NOAA – With the recent west coast merger, Jim Muck (Fisheries Biologist) is the now the RCC representative, with Ed Meyer staying on for consultation.

Cow Creek – Amy Amoroso (Natural Resource Director) is leaving.

Public Outreach: Rich presented a compressed version of the public tour at a recent outreach opportunity with the Roseburg Rotary Club. No other RCC members attended due to short notice. Rich asked whether the RCC still wanted advance notice of such invitations and presentations.

Pam reiterated the RCC Ground Rules stating there should be at least two people on each outing if possible, and to please notify the RCC (via e-mail) as early as possible when opportunities arise. Each member can then decide if they will attend or not.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Operation and Maintenance: It took a couple of months to get the fish screen up and running but by mid-March the screen was in full operation with the north intake closed. On March 31, a sunny, calm afternoon, a mass of organic debris bubbled up from the reservoir and plugged the screen within one minute; providing a real-life test for the pressure relief panels. The panels operated as designed by opening and preventing damage to the screens. The plant was near full generation, with about 1,900 cfs going into the fish screen. The flow to the plant was immediately shifted to the north intake and agencies were notified. The screen was taken out of service for cleaning, inspection, and to re-set the panels. While it was dewatered, other minor repairs were also made to water level sensors and desedimentation gearboxes and shafts.

A three-week outage was requested and approved, but repairs were completed within ten days and the facility returned to service within a couple days thereafter.

PacifiCorp continues to learn from events like this and improve the facility operation, mechanisms, and logic. PacifiCorp's objective is to speed the differential relief automatically in an attempt to relieve pressure before the pressure relief panels open, since they take several days to reset.

PacifiCorp is also considering opportunities to reduce the hazard from reservoir debris, such as dredging or raking debris through the spillway or the north in-take during high flows rather than having it go into the fish screens.

On today's tour, you will see the PacifiCorp crew doing some maintenance on the primary cleaner - they are swapping out the cable. There have been issues with the pulley and other challenges, so the mechanics have been improving the system as they repair it. On some of the equipment, we are at the mercy of the manufacturers (such as Atlas Polar) and their warranty and support services. The de-sedimentation system is currently operating three times a day.

Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations: Rich reported that the evaluations are progressing. PacifiCorp filed a request for extension of time, including the agency approval emails, with FERC. The new proposed deadline for a final report to FERC is March 2017. The immediate goal is to get the hydraulic balancing started as soon as is practical. Meridian Environmental (using Northwest Hydraulic Consultants as a sub-contractor) won the contract for the evaluation work and has been on-site for a kick-off meeting. They are expected to provide Rich with detailed study plans and schedule by early June. As these details develop, Rich will provide them to the TWG so members can stay apprised of plans.

Tailrace Barriers

Biological Evaluations: Rich is in the process of drafting a study plan for underwater video observation of fish at the tailrace barriers to determine whether their current hydraulic configuration is posing a risk of fish injury. Hopefully the method identified, using this information, will be successfully used at the Soda Spring tailrace barrier as well as Slide Creek. Ed expressed concern with deviating from a course of additional baffling at Soda Springs tailrace barrier, but Rich is concerned that additional baffling is impractical for debris management, even with the fish screen in operation. Rich will review the baffling pilot study report and subsequent operation with the prototype baffles in place. This information will be considered at the next TWG meeting along with the video study plan.

Fish Creek Dam and Canal Projects

Fiber and Power Upgrade: This upgrade is still planned for this year, but in the fall. The cable will be buried in the roadway. It will need a new USDA-FS notice-to-proceed authorization.

Wetlands

There are three remaining wetlands to be constructed.

Fireswamp Wetland: Awaiting cultural surveys and then a work scope will be able to be defined.

Stump Lake Pothole Wetland: The bid process is complete and a contract is pending. The wetland will be constructed in August or September of this year. Steve Albertelli is working on the permit process. There are problems with DSL/ACOE consultation, as there seems to be a high turnover at both of these agencies. The Historical Properties Management Plan process needs to be explained each time. A letter is needed from Chris Kelly (Forest Archaeologist) confirming SHPO consultation and compliance with Section 106 requirements. It was suggested that having cultural review forms from Russ Howison would be helpful.

The wetland project requires removal of 2,300 yards of material and will be done under a Nationwide Permit.

On a related note, the group discussed the build-up of sediment in front of the Clearwater 1 spillway. It was mentioned that removal of the sediment would be most efficiently addressed at the same time as the wetland enhancement, considering the opening of the access road and the presence of applicable heavy equipment. There is an estimated 400 cubic yards for removal, which may be added to the spoils pile for the wetland. There is a threat that if this sediment continues to build up, it will block flow to the spillway and eventually result in overtopping of the dam. A contractor will need to determine the best method for removal. Contracts and permits will be obtained by PacifiCorp staff.

Pam asked if this type of dredging project requires separate NEPA review. Some activities were specifically addressed in the License, Settlement Agreement and Management Plans, and USDA-FS direction is to consider NEPA review completed for these tasks. She also inquired if this was the first time for dredging. Steve said, no, other facilities had been subject to permitted dredging operations without additional NEPA review, including Lemolo 2 forebay, Slide Creek canal intake, and Clearwater 2 canal intake. Specific dredge disposal areas are identified on Project map sets at Lemolo 2 and Clearwater 2 forebays only.

Aquatic Reconnects Update

Seven sites, four on Clearwater 2 and three on Lemolo 2, are on track for completion this year. There will be an outage in October for the two Clearwater 2 sites that require cutting into the flume to install the culvert. Seven will be built next year, with ten following in 2016. PacifiCorp continues to rely on the USDA-FS for support in the permitting effort through use of USDA-FS' regional general permits with both the ACOE and DSL.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

There have been some casual TWG gatherings in the last three months to address planning issues. Most of the TWG-approved plans have monitoring and/or maintenance requirements.

FHS

6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach – Stillwater Sciences is doing pilot studies to refine methods, which will be used when the fish and generation conditions are appropriate (e.g. when there is daily ramping at the powerhouse).

7.2 Gravel Augmentation – Monitoring and maintenance of supply sites is annual, and the augmentation reach is on a 5-year schedule (2016). The supply sites are depauperate of gravel and the RCC should consider adding some in 2014.

8.2 Slide Creek Habitat – Monitoring is on a 5-year schedule (2017)

8.3 Soda Springs Habitat – Monitoring is on an annual schedule. Based on the current condition, gravel addition (via 7.2, above) appears warranted.

19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control – There is no dedicated long-term monitoring staff this year. The TWG should consider when to staff up for the continuation of this work relative to how the Soda Springs fish passage performance evaluation progresses.

FPD

Choosing the contractor for widening the fish viewing window will run through this TWG, as well as the biological monitoring of the tailrace barriers.

F&R

This TWG has not met in many years, as there really is no need. PacifiCorp is continually working with the USGS to manage gage sites and data per the Flow Monitoring Plan.

401 WQC

The 401 Water Quality Certification monitoring is nearly completed. The outstanding issues are to complete dissolved oxygen monitoring in Soda Springs bypass reach during July 2014, and to address long-term plans for pH amelioration and monitoring in Lemolo 1 forebay during summer months. Chris recapped the pH issue from the past three years of monitoring, indicating that PacifiCorp's daily flushing regime succeeded in ameliorating pH to a comfortable range. For Lemolo 1 forebay pH, the 401 does specify two years of monitoring, then every five years. Chris suggested it is appropriate to stick with that schedule, indicating that the first two year monitoring requirement has been satisfied and that the next monitoring can be done after a five-year interval, in 2018. He will review the most recent reports from 2013 then issue a letter to document the formal DEQ response.

OTHER ITEMS

Operational Updates

Powerhouse/Canal Outages: There will be a Lemolo 1 outage beginning June 2, for three weeks. It will be dewatered and a fish salvage will be done with fish liberated to Lemolo Lake.

Impoundment Water Level Conditions and Plans: Lemolo Lake has been full this spring, near 4,148 feet. It's a response to the lack of snowpack. Conditions are extremely dry. Water is being stored for when it's needed later.

Toketee Lake Update: PacifiCorp is holding the lake level steady at the lowest end of the normal operating range (about 2,427-2,428 ft MSL) until further notice, to minimize the amount of water that would be released in the extremely unlikely event of an earthquake of sufficient magnitude to cause a dam failure. There are engineering and exploratory studies underway to better characterize the integrity of the dam. Normal operation range is 2,427 to 2,430 ft MSL.

Lemolo 2 Canal: At Flume 10, the brushing crew noticed some of the trestle supports were in need of shoring up. Subsequently, to reduce loading on the flume, the flow was reduced by half in the Lemolo 2 canal, which required flows to be increased in the Lemolo 2 bypass reach. The upper end of the bypass reach is flowing at 366 CFS (normally it's 80-90 CFS). It is expected that the shoring will be completed by Friday and the flows routed back to normal on the weekend.

“Load Shedding” Operation: As an FYI, Rich explained that a couple weeks ago a scenario developed that was never contemplated in the Settlement Agreement or FERC license. On a Friday afternoon, the North Umpqua Hydro plant received a request from PacifiCorp's C&T group to stop generating. They basically said to turn off as many generators as possible for the weekend. This “load shedding” was needed to protect the larger power grid which had much more energy than demand. Some of the North Umpqua generators have bypass valves, such that water can pass through them when the plant is shut off and not affect river flows; others do not have this capability (e.g. Lemolo 1 and 2). The Project operators responded to the request by using the bypass valves at plants where available, but they also turned water away from the Lemolo plants by ramping the bypass reaches up and keeping the water moving downstream. This operation at the Lemolo plants is not technically defined as ramping “for purposes of power generation” as defined in the settlement agreement. But also in retrospect, this type of ramping although done to address a severe power grid issue was not a project “emergency”. PacifiCorp has notified C&T and the North Umpqua desk that the Lemolo plants should not be operated in this manner in the case of future similar events.

SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Harris)

The majority of time spent by Sam Moyers and Kirk Haskett (about 80%) is on trying to catch up on video fish counts at the Soda Springs fish ladder. They are currently four-six months behind. They have been gathering information on each species observed passing through the Soda Springs fish ladder and documenting problems they have seen in the fish window. One example is they have found the same steelhead passing upstream then backing downstream up to twenty times. They are seen a lot of trout swim back and forth as well, but since they are so far behind in reviewing videos, they will reduce their focus on trout. There is talk amongst ODFW staff about some sub-sampling, but will get the okay from all parties first.

In between tape reading, they have gone to the Rock Creek basin to design instream work in both Harrington Creek and Main Stem Rock Creek. They are teaming up with the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers and the Bureau of Land Management on these projects this summer. Currently they are collecting boulders for July placement. They have also been walking streams to survey for spawning coho and steelhead adults.

In the performance evaluation being done by Meridian biologists, the hope is to filter out the less interesting video (running water), but not lampreys. Dave said they are currently six months behind. It was only supposed to be five percent of their time, so there is definitely a lot of lag

time. Rich said we may need to go to an analog system like Rock Creek has. It would sacrifice some resolution and ability to identify fish, but might facilitate the speed of review.

Dave added that the fish viewing window needs to be cleaned more frequently than done in 2013. Windows that are not cleaned regularly result in misidentification of fish species and missed fish. Rich said it's in the scope of work for the window replacement job to try and figure out how to clean it without having to dewater the area.

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Sighting)

2014 Project Selection: Round 2 of the 2014 projects are being reviewed by Alice Carlton. They still have not received funding from the bank. Pam will send an e-mail to find out the status of when they will receive it.

Strategic Restoration Plan: There has been a lull for several months, but it's now ramping back up.

Steve Burns and Pam Sighting mentioned to PacifiCorp about a fire event that happened last year along the highway underneath some transmission lines. A PacifiCorp person showed up and the USDA-FS Incident Commander told them to make sure to wear proper PPE in the area. Both Steve and Pam reiterated that when there is a fire, the USDA-FS Incident commander is in total command and anyone who shows up needs to have proper PPE on and have fire gear with them (boots/hard hat/gloves, along with a Nomex fire shirt, fire pants, and a fire shelter).

Public Comments – none at this time.

Action Items

Action Items	Status
RCC will send comments to Beth Bendickson on the draft North Umpqua Annual Report by June 2, 2014.	
Ed Meyer will send an e-mail to the RCC regarding the recent court decision relating to the State of Oregon fish passage rules.	
Pam Sighting will send an internal e-mail to USDA-FS staff folks to find out the status of the 5-Year Strategic Plan, then report back to the RCC.	
Schedule the 2014 annual public tour.	Complete; <i>October 8 tentative</i>
Schedule a FHS/FPD TWG meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review study plans for biological evaluation of tailrace barrier(s) • Review hydraulic evaluation field work plans for the Soda Springs Fish Passage Project 	Complete; <i>June 18, at Toketee (10AM-2PM)</i>