

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC Project No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)  
August 17, 2016 Meeting Summary****FINAL (9/30/16)**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Mary Graine (OWRD)  
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)  
Patrick Berry (USDA-FS)  
Amy Stevenson (USDI-BLM)  
Dorothy Dickey (USDI-BLM)  
Paul Bridges (USFWS)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)  
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)  
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)  
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp)  
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)

RCC Members Absent

Jim Muck (NOAA Fisheries)  
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)  
Jim Thrailkill (USFWS)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**Member Updates/Organization News

**OWRD:** Susan Douthit is the new Water Master.

**USDA-FS:** Acting Forest Fish Biologist, Ron McMullin, who replaced Jason Wilcox, is half way through a 120-day work detail. Derek Milner, from Montana, is the Acting Forest Hydrologist, replacing Cara Farr.

**USDI-BLM:** Amy Stevenson (Realty Specialist) is taking over for Anne Shirley as the RCC representative.

**USFWS:** They are recovering from working on the BLM RFPs. No word yet on a replacement for Rob Burns.

### Public Outreach

**2016 Public Tour:** Steve has been in contact with PacifiCorp external communications folks. An increased effort will be made this year to advertise the public tour via social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in hopes of reaching a wider tour audience. To date, TV and radio coverage has been used, but this isn't reaching as many as they would like. They will try to recycle previous years' footage to use for this year. Steve said the plan is to start advertising about a month out from the tour. Pam said they will get the word out as well. Rich said that KEZI covered the tour last year.

Both Chris and Pam requested getting the release beforehand to help get the word out. The RCC agreed to a single point of contact for the public to sign up, and Steve agreed to be that contact point.

Steve asked if there were any new items the RCC wanted to highlight for this year besides Soda Springs fish passage. Suggestions included viewing salmon spawning above and below the Soda Springs dam since it will be near peak Chinook spawning season. The presentation could show videos of the fish window – it's interesting just to see the fish go by, and would show how the facility is a success.

Rich said besides showing the highlight clips already in the presentation, he could include some more recent clips (e.g. from the day before the tour, if there are many fish moving).

Steve asked if the standard route was ok, or did we want to change it up. The general consensus was the standard route is fine, but that we might want to poll attendees or discuss what they might like to see in future tours.

Pam suggested to Kelly that she might want to invite tribal elders (board of directors). She said she would.

Rich and Steve will update the announcement and press release from last year. Pam will coordinate bus transportation, and is assuming two small buses as in recent years.

It was mentioned that several years ago, some people were turned away because of limited space in the meeting room and buses. Thought should be given to what is the maximum practical capacity and alternatives to increase it. If we think there are going to be a lot of people, it was suggested to perhaps have it at an alternate location that could hold more people. Diamond Lake Ranger Station can hold between 80 and 90 people. Options should be checked before the information gets published, as it will be harder to change it once information gets out to the public. Pam will check with the Ranger District. Scott will check on fire code capacity information for the Implementation Center and Toketee Commons. Chris added that the implementation center seating arrangement could be done differently, say, in rows, which might add to the number that could attend, pending fire code limits.

## Outreach Events

Rich gave a Soda Springs update presentation at the hydrology breakfast two weeks ago. It wasn't a public meeting, but more a regular meeting of local hydrologists.

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

### Soda Springs Fish Passage

**Status/Update:** The fish screen was taken out of service and dewatered in mid-July for three weeks of planned maintenance of sedimentation valves and cleaning systems as well as a screen inspection. It was returned to service on August 4 and 5. The ladder remained in service the whole time. Minimum flow was provided in part by the log chute, which provided a safe passage for fish going downstream.

**Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations Update:** The final evaluation report from Meridian Environmental is expected to go to the TWG by the end of the month, for the official 30-day review before it has to go to FERC. A lot more detail was added per TWG comments on the June draft.

### Wetlands Update

**Lake Creek:** An October construction schedule is planned for this eighth and final wetland.

**Ranawapiti Landslide Update:** The USDA-FS did a recent wetland training session, including a field visit to Ranawapiti Pond. The trainer (from Virginia) said the Ranawapiti erosion was the third worst head cut he had ever seen. The USDA-FS has decided to "decommission" the embankment dam, which will allow the stream to return to its original channel. Water will be allowed to evaporate throughout the late summer and fall. If necessary, the embankment will be lowered more so it doesn't rise in the winter. PacifiCorp will install a berm at the outlet of the enhancement area after the former Pond area has settled. Steve will prepare a NTP request for installing fill to maintain the wetland area next to the pond.

### Aquatic Reconnects Update

Scott reported that ten sites on the Lemolo 2 canal were on the construction schedule this year. One last concrete pour will happen on August 18. This year marks the completion of the 72 crossings required by the Settlement Agreement. We are 77% complete on the work for this year. There will be lots of clean-up work after they're finished.

Work starts on culverts that go under the road next week. Portions of the Burma Road will be closed for about a week.

### Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
Dry Gulch NTP	PacifiCorp awaiting response from USDA-FS.
Pole replacement NTP	PacifiCorp contractor still working on the cultural review

Project	Status
	report for SHPO/USDA-FS review.
Storm damage work along Old Highway 138 NTP	PacifiCorp awaiting input from USDA-FS.
Vegetation management on BLM lands	Steve is coordinating a two-week notice from Trees, Inc. for the actions in cultural sites and will send it out to both Amy Stevenson (BLM) and Jesse Plueard (Cow Creek).
Ranawapiti Wetland	Steve will prepare a request for installing fill to maintain the wetland area next to the pond.

Pam reported that as of 12:01AM today (August 17), the Umpqua National Forest was going to Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) III.

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

### Fish Habitat Studies (Monitoring and Maintenance Schedules)

The TWG reviewed and made major improvements to the Soda Springs fish passage evaluation draft report, and will soon be reviewing the final report prior to submission to FERC.

**6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach:** *nothing new to report at this time.*

**7.2 Gravel Augmentation:** Monitoring will happen in October and November during the floats for Chinook redd counts. It will include tracking the gravel patches below Soda Springs.

**8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat:** *nothing new to report at this time.*

**8.3 Soda Springs Habitat:** The TWG performed an annual monitoring of the structures and habitat condition in June. There are no imminent threats to the structures or habitat, but two repairs are planned for 2017 in the lower tailout: patching small undercuts at the upper log weir, and adding boulders behind the lower log weir to shift hydraulics and backwater the river right bank a bit more. Sam, Patrick, and Rich will work out designs, permits, and costs for that work. Gravel is also needed on the lower tailout, but the USDA-FS has a mitigation fund project planned to add gravel in the vicinity this year, which should be sufficient. Pam noted that we need to exhaust the 8.3 funds before utilizing future 19.3 funds.

**19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Study:** Rich and ODFW are beginning to plan the troubleshooting of the evaluation building during fall juvenile out-migration to get it ready for a full year of sampling next year. It did get used during the performance evaluations, but getting it ready for full time routine evaluation is a larger endeavor.

Stillwater Sciences is working with ODFW on the preliminary draft predator control study. It should be ready for TWG review by mid-September. Plan implementation will commence in 2017, but some preparation is already occurring. Dave mentioned that ODFW needs to send the smolt traps in for OSHA-required safety improvements to prepare them for this study.

Rich mentioned that over the last month, there has been some aggressive brown trout feeding behavior noticed near the dam, which spurred some research by ODFW into how many and what

types of fish were being eaten. The TWG has seen the technical memo from the first round of sampling in July, and a second round was done August 8 when the fish screen was back in service.

The first round of research was done when the fish screen was down. Then they performed it while the fish screen was in operation. The question is, “did it effect whether brown trout were preying on fish at certain times or all the time?” During both periods, the majority of brown trout had eaten salmonid fry and/or juveniles. This preliminary information will help with the more detailed study next year. The brown trout were Floy tagged and released below the dam. Dave and Rich said another interesting observation was that several of the tagged fish passed back up the fish ladder into the reservoir within several days of release. They will continue to put tags and do more sampling in next week or two, to help decide what they want to do next year. Rich said of the first sampling group, they tagged five. Three went back up within the week. One was re-caught last week and re-tagged (so now has two tags in it).

Kelly requested copies of the technical memos related to fish predation studies.

**Flume 12:** The final round of habitat impact sampling in the Flume 12 reaches of Lemolo 2 bypass is planned for November with Meridian Environmental, repeating the same methods used in 2011. They are repeating the previous sampling effort. The final report is expected by the end of the year.

### Flows & Ramping

The WY 2014 flow/ramping report analysis is expected to be out by the end of August. A CD will be delivered to ODEQ, OWRD and the USDA-FS. This year looks to be the best record of compliance with all the flow and ramping restrictions since 2004.

**FMP Revision:** Over the next year, Rich will go through and recommend revisions to the plan.

**WQ Monitoring Revision:** Rich has discussed with the TWG that there is a long record of being in compliance with the water quality parameters at the Soda Springs monitoring station. It’s fairly expensive to operate the monitoring station through the USGS and PacifiCorp is proposing to reduce monitoring to save costs. They will work with the ODEQ, and then the RCC. Chris said he hasn’t reviewed the submitted proposal yet. One of things to look more closely at is what are the requirements per the Certification and what latitude do we have in interpreting and modifying them. There are specific conditions in the administrative rules that allow for modification, and a record of compliance is a good start. The conditions can only be implemented under certain conditions. It might help if changes were authorized in terms of an adaptive management strategy, as included in the License and 401 Certification. He understands the nature of and rationale for the request and will work internally and with PacifiCorp to address it.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### Operational Updates

**Powerhouse/Canal Outages:** With respect to the recent Lemolo 2 shutdown/outage, Pam said that when PacifiCorp started dropping levels, the gates that may have been clogged with sediment contributed to elevated turbidity levels. From Lemolo 2 down to the dam, campers reported that the river was chocolate brown. Patrick investigated and took pictures, and wanted to discuss what

kind of mitigation measures could be done for the future. He said it struck him as extraordinary that there was a bump in measured turbidity below Soda Springs from a turbidity event in the Lemolo 2 bypassed reach. He mentioned also that it looks like it might be setting up for another event.

Scott said the canal was dewatered to start the reconnect project.

Rich added there were three things connected to the shutdown: 1) An attempt was made to flush the rock traps (their purpose is to collect rocks and sediments). These traps can't be flushed without water pressure. This is a routine part of operation, so they made a point to do it, and was part of what you heard operations talking about. A rock trap covers a small surface area, only 2 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep in the floor of the canal, so each can only contain a tiny amount of sediment; 2) After transferring all canal water to the river, the sluice gate was opened which allowed some of the sediments behind the one-acre impoundment of Lemolo 2 dam to pass into the bypass reach as the pond gradually dropped to natural riverbed level. This created a little cutting in the impoundment when it was done on June 14, during which time we salvaged the fish ladder; and 3) The biggest part was probably the normal increase in bypass reach flows from minimum of 80 cfs to full natural flow of about 600 CFS (now gradually diminished to 400 CFS). It was observed that a similar shutdown in June of Lemolo 1 canal (but with no rock trap or sluice gate events) also created higher than normal turbidity, and it was decided that the heavy debris/snow/wind contributions from December storms probably led to increased logjams and bank erosion during the up-ramp. That also seemed to be the most plausible explanation for higher than normal turbidity during the Lemolo 2 up-ramp.

Patrick said he hiked the trail before and after the event and did not observe any slides. In fact, he said there was not a lot of winter tree fall in that reach and didn't think the turbidity was caused by that. He sensed that it was more related to the timing of project operations and suggested we have a conversation about what could be done in the future to avoid these types of events and minimize impacts to recreation and fish.

Rich emphasized that PacifiCorp is well aware of the clarity of the Umpqua River and the need to keep turbidity to a minimum. Steve explained that all of the License measures to minimize turbidity were adhered to, including ramp rates when the bypass reach was increased and the time of the shutdown being within the months prescribed by the Settlement Agreement. Rich added that PacifiCorp actively removes sediment from canals during shutdowns, as well as flushing rock traps during normal operations, to manage sediment and keep most of this from the river. One new improvement already underway is installing grating over the traps this year to help keep large rocks out to the flushing gates don't get stuck open. He noted the event happened in the May/June work window.

Chris asked about the diversion of water from the canal to the bypass reach and was it done per the maximum rate restriction. Scott said yes. Chris mentioned the sluice gate was also open, but didn't contribute to the turbidity. Try to find sources and address them. Rich said opening sluice gate was a transition from spilling over the gate and it was gradually done overnight. He doesn't believe it cut a huge amount of turbidity, but could contribute part of it. Chris said maybe in the future you get compounding contributions from a number of areas and if it's possible, sequence them in a way to minimize impact of compounding the material all at once. Maybe we can investigate strategies for these maintenance events. Rich said there is some flexibility, but is it better to have one long turbidity event or several short ones? Scott mentioned maybe open one rock trap per day

until they're all flushed out, working from top to bottom, to avoid cumulative effects from rock trap flushing.

Pat replied that in his opinion staggered turbidity would be better. He thanked everyone for being open minded and having this conversation about it.

As far as other outages this year, Mike said there will be one at Toketee, and some work at Fish Creek powerhouse, but neither will affect river flows. The schedule for next year is not developed yet. The group briefly discussed the pending Toketee Dam Rehab project. Steve noted in response to a question from Pam that PacifiCorp plans to divert water and generate power at Toketee during the project construction. Scott mentioned to Pam that PacifiCorp will, at some point, have to dewater the Toketee flowline. The current plan is to move the intake closer to the spillway. However, all of this work is still a couple of years out.

**Reservoir Management:** There is nothing new regarding Toketee Reservoir water surface elevation management. Regarding Lemolo Lake, Rich and Roger Reynolds are working on the annual drawdown plan for this fall. It will be sent out to ODFW and USDA-FS this week for review. Steve told Pam that her request for delaying the drawdown as long as possible for recreation reasons was duly noted.

Pam said it might be worth mentioning the start-up provisions for Lemolo 2 water up. Scott said there would be a pre-job brief and that moving the water is a slow two-day process. Operations personnel follow the water downstream to make sure there is a clear path. He added, "The Flume 12 event will NOT be repeated!"

### **SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Dave Harris):**

**Enhancement:** Kirk Haskett completed two months of Rock Creek habitat enhancements this summer. Also completed was a small enhancement project at the mouth of Harrington Creek. The project included the placement of 120 logs with root wads attached and the addition of 1,500 boulders. A survey had shown over a mile of side channels, so time was spent reconnecting them. They will be watered up this winter.

**Monitoring:** Sam Moyers monitored Harrington Creek. The first Harrington Creek project was done in 1987 and a few of the structures still remain in place today. Summer seeding was completed as part of the monitoring they do as they observed fish in pool and riffle habitats. They plan to go back in the fall and do spawning ground surveys.

Chris Sheeley is still reading fish video tape (he is currently on August 8) from Soda Springs. He's trying to keep as current as possible. Annual spring Chinook spawning surveys will begin the first of September. The plan is to start at Fish Creek and work down from there. They will do electro-fishing at Lemolo Lake twice (once in September and once in October). These will be night events. It's been an annual event for the last few years.

Once water shows up in the fall, the fall floats will begin. Smolt traps will be used in the predator/prey studies next year. The traps first need to be retro-fitted to meet OSHA code. Funding will come from the 19.2 Long Term Monitoring/Predator Control Fund.

**RCC Action:** Approve using the 19.2 Long Term Monitoring/Predator Control Fund for an estimated \$20K in smolt trap upgrades. **\*Approved 8/30/16\***

### **SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Pam Sighting):**

The projects have been selected for 2017. Pam is working with Kelly for a Cow Creek lamprey project (\$45K), but they keep bumping into a lot of problems with processing the agreement. The agreement is going to go directly through the USGS. Kelly is checking on things, including information with regards to the funding match. Agreements can be over the percentage of the match, but need to be under 50% of funding.

Other projects include large woody debris in Fish Creek (\$90K), gravel augmentation in Soda Springs bypassed reach (\$85K), Pass Creek and Canton Creek restoration (\$90K), aquatic invasive species public education (\$22K), ODFW monitoring of wildlife crossings (\$40K), Mowich Ponds wetlands (\$50K), and Glide District Drinking Water (\$?K). 19.3 funds are not intended to be used for anything PacifiCorp is currently funding. The overall 2017 project total is \$447K.

One of the projects is for North Umpqua Gravel Augmentation (\$85K): Patrick said the goal is to essentially repeat the RCC's November 2014 gravel augmentation in both time and location. It should happen in early November and be flow and logistic dependent. They will use Weekly Bros.' constructed pipe.

Steve asked Pam what the submittal deadline was for the next round of projects (for next year). Pam said they are still working on the strategic plan. It got hung up, but they have stepped back and reassessed it. Another public meeting will be held soon. They want to get it done and in place so modifications can be easily done. She says to be looking for the restoration plan in the fall with a schedule of when projects can be submitted.

### **Next RCC Meetings:**

- October 7, 2016 (Face-to-face, at Toketee), 8:00-9:30AM; 10AM – 3:00PM (public tour)

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.