

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC Project No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)  
October 7, 2016 Meeting Summary****FINAL (11/22/16)**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)  
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ) – *via phone*  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)  
Amy Stevenson (USDI-BLM)  
Dorothy Dickey (USDI-BLM)  
Paul Bridges (USFWS)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp) – *via phone*  
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)  
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)  
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek) – *via phone*  
Heather Whitman (USDI-BLM)  
Josie Elefritz (USDA-FS)

RCC Members Absent

Mary Grainey (OWRD)  
Jim B. Muck (NOAA Fisheries)

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

**USDA-FS:** Patrick Berry, DLRD fisheries biologist, has accepted a position with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. His position will be filled at a later date. Ron McMullin is the acting Forest fisheries biologist on a temporary detail until the position can be permanently filled. The Forest will be creating a GS-12 position for a SA 19.3 mitigation fund administrator to work full-time on development and review of project proposals.

**USDI-BLM:** John Royce is the new assistant district manager.

**ODEQ:** Pete Sheppard has left the department. Richard Whitman is the new interim director.

**NOAA:** Will Stelle, political appointee, has moved on. This position has been changed to a long term one. Political appointees will change out with the new presidency. Barry Thom is now the Regional Administrator for the West Coast Region. Two positions under him need to be filled.

Donna Darm is filling in for both positions right now (Deputy Regional Administrator (acting) and Associate Deputy Regional Administrator). She is talking about retiring.

It's not going to affect anything at the lower levels unless people start moving up into the open positions.

**Cow Creek Tribe:** Travis Mackey was hired as a fisheries biologist and is based out of Roseburg. He took Kelly Coates' old position.

### Public Outreach

- Public Tour – Steve asked which media effort was most effective as far as getting word out about the tour. Pam said for them it was their USDA-FS Facebook page and e-mails. Rich said invitations to the Umpqua Watershed Council didn't result in many attendees, but that, for them, it might need to be a more focused group. Pam also said that perhaps the market is saturated.
- Rich provided a tour of the fish passage facilities to a small group of high school students and instructor from the Phoenix School on October 3, 2016.
- October 21, 2016 – The science class at the South Umpqua High School is interested in a tour of Soda Springs fish passage facility, spawning fish, and habitat projects.
- There may possibly be tour interest from an Umpqua Community College class.

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

### Soda Springs Fish Passage

**Status/Update:** Everything is operating smoothly. There was a maintenance shutdown that ended in late July 2016.

**Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations Update:** The update is complete and the final report is being reviewed by the TWG agencies. The comment deadline was extended to October 19, 2016 at the request of NMFS. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission filing deadline is March 1, 2017.

### Wetlands Update

**Ranawapiti Update:** Pam said the Forest Service cut several overhanging snags to make the work site safe. The Forest Service Road crew re-routed the stream back to the original channel. The outlet over the impoundment dam was also deepened. The wetland water level was lowered as a result. The wetland construction expert on the Forest said it was the second worst slump/headcut that he'd ever seen. Steve said the Settlement Agreement wetland repair project is on hold until they see how the Pond and associated hydrology stabilizes. PacifiCorp and the USDA-Forest Service will keep an eye on it over the winter. They may have to block off the channel to the wetland.

**Lake Creek Wetland:** Construction has started and should be completed by late October. It's the eighth and final wetland to be constructed.

There was a small blowout at the Fireswamp wetland. The repairs were small.

### Aquatic Reconnects Update

The ten Lemolo 2 projects were all completed early. This brings the total reconnects completed to 72! Scott thanked Pam for all the USDA-FS coordination and notice to proceeds, etc. for all the reconnect projects.

The group discussed the clean-up effort associated with the aquatic reconnect projects and the canal repairs conducted along Lemolo 2. Scott talked to Weekly Brothers personnel to make sure they had the NTP with them at all times. Regarding the canal gunite project, Pam asked if more material would be added to the berm, from the edge of the road to the canal, as she said it looked like only a small amount had been added. Scott said yes, they'll add more. The project should be completed by October 20, 2016.

The clean gravel piles will be left where they're at. After the winter, they will augment the aquatic connectivity sites, as needed. Everything else will go into the Lemolo Quarry.

**Toketee Dam:** There are new FERC rules regarding seismic evaluation. The rehabilitation project is still being developed and must be approved by FERC before PacifiCorp can proceed. The basic concept includes a large (~70,000cy) rock buttress in front of the dam and relocation of the intake tower. The NTP request for development of Fish Creek and Slide Creek quarries will be sent to Pam as soon as the geotechnical plan comes together. PacifiCorp is potentially looking at drilling for rock quality around May 2017, pending results of the FERC conceptual design review. The wetland delineation of the project site will be done this week to inform permitting requirements.

### Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Currently awaiting three NTPs, as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
Toketee Powerhouse Fiber Optic Cable and Vault Placement	PacifiCorp awaiting response from USDA-FS.
Lemolo Dam Low Level Outlet Access Road Turn-Around Improvement	PacifiCorp awaiting response from USDA-FS.
Programmatic Transmission Line Maintenance	PacifiCorp awaiting response from USDA-FS.

PacifiCorp will work with BLM to develop a similar programmatic transmission line maintenance NTP request in the near future. The programmatic request to FS includes restriction zones based on cultural sites; rare, threatened, and endangered species locations; and avian restriction zones to establish where programmatic actions can take place without a new NTP for each individual action.

One other project discussed was PacifiCorp's pending vegetation management proposal to address FERC's dam and facility safety inspection requirements. PacifiCorp is required to clear the canal right-of-ways. FERC wants trees cleared from outside the canal that could cause damage to facilities

if they come down or that obstruct routine visual inspection of the facilities. PacifiCorp is working on the vegetation management plan specific to maintenance of the area within 15 to 20 feet of project waterways.

PacifiCorp inquired whether the USDA-FS may be interested in doing a timber sale associated with this large scale vegetation removal project. It was suggested that USDA-FS could sell the timber via a streamlined process because the hydro project NEPA would cover the tree removal. If a timber sale is done, it would be in the 2018-2019 timeframe.

Rich mentioned that the Fish Creek screens were dewatered for maintenance, and that the settling pond is being cleaned of sediment which will be staged in an upland location until DSL permitting can be obtained to return it and gravel to the creek as required by the USACE permit.

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

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

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

**7.2 Gravel Augmentation:** The annual monitoring is progressing. Rich noted that he and Patrick Berry were trying to complete the Soda Springs gravel augmentation 19.3 project this year before Patrick leaves. Rich offered technical facilitation to the USDA-FS to support this project for implementation in fall 2016 or at the latest fall 2017.

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

**8.3 Soda Springs Habitat:** The annual monitoring revealed that some minor maintenance work is needed and will be scheduled for 2017. The downstream pool tailout could use more gravel so it is hoped that the USFS gravel augmentation project will occur in fall 2016 to contribute to this need.

**19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Study:** ODFW is hard at work on the redd counts. The smolt trap retrofits are still in progress. One of the three traps to be retrofitted is complete.

Predator Control Study Implementation Plan and Budget for 2017 - TWG funding proposal: Commit \$148,500 for Stillwater Sciences to provide services for the Predator Control Study and Anadromous Juvenile Production and Survival Estimate. Work to be performed in 2017, with a final report completed by the summer of 2018.

Rich noted that substantial support from the TWG and the SA 19.2 crew will be required even while we fund one Stillwater person for assistance, management, analyses, and oversight.

**RCC Action:** Support and approve the TWG funding proposal from the SA 19.2 fund. **\*\*Approved by majority on 10/7/16; Approved by OWRD on 10/10/16\*\***

In addition, two or three EBAs (experimental biology aides) will continue working on the 19.2 program from the SA 19.2 fund. The 2017 estimated cost is between \$120,000 and \$150,000, which was previously approved by the RCC.

**Flume 12:** Surveys will be conducted in early November as soon as flows drop to the correct level to match previous surveys.

### Flows & Ramping

**WQ Monitoring Revision:** Chris, Pam, and Mary confirmed that they have all received the WY2014 report and flow data CDs.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### Operational Updates

**Powerhouse/Canal Outages:** Mike said the last annual maintenance of the year is scheduled for October 10, 2016 - October 30, 2016 on Fish Creek. The canal is already empty. The forebay has been low all summer. Steve inquired as to how it has held up. Mike said really well. The 2017 outage schedule is ready. The first outage will be for Soda Springs in February 2017. He wasn't sure if a second outage would be needed for that one.

Pam mentioned that there was a lot of brush at the Lemolo sag pipe. Scott said it was from canal brushing for the aquatic reconnects and canal repair projects. One pile had been built over the last year and a second pile is just from the reconnect projects. Once the project is watered back up, the brush will be moved out. Pam asked where it is going, to which Scott replied in the burn piles at the Lemolo quarry. Pam approved of this location.

**Reservoir Management:** Lemolo Lake Drawdown is on schedule. It's currently about 20 feet below full pool.

There will be cultural site remediation at the historic garbage dump on the banks of the reservoir after the ARPA permit is received by PacifiCorp from the USDA-FS.

Per Scott, high-altitude divers will be performing dam safety inspections and video recording of the face of the dam and intake towers in early November. No NTP is needed but this will require ramping canal flows into the river for several days then back to the canal. A hyperbolic chamber will be on site for diver safety.

### **Other:**

Lemolo Lake Trail - Steve said there are some concerns about safety, including a signage plan for the trail segment over the dam. Miguel Amat y Leon has committed to providing a public safety plan to PacifiCorp for review.

It was noted that Lake Creek flows were scheduled to increase in mid-October with ODFW's management of the Diamond Lake flashboards.

RAP meeting coordination - Steve has sent out e-mails to coordinate scheduling.

Annual erosion control plan reports - Scott will send to Beth for distribution.

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

**Enhancement:** In-stream work in Rock Creek was completed in July. Dave reported there were a lot of leftover plantings. Kirk Haskett acquired some native plants and will be planting them next week. They are planning next year's projects and in January and February they will be collecting materials for next July. They are running out of private landowner access areas to improve in the Rock Creek basin.

**Monitoring:** Sam Moyers will be doing Coho monitoring in October and November. The ODFW screen staff are looking to replace ODFW's old screens at Rock Creek fish hatchery, as they are not working as designed. They are blocking fish now but the rotating screens aren't rotating. Work is currently being done on design changes. ODFW will be paying for these changes.

From a fish passage point of view, the Rock Creek fish ladder is working well. They are partnering with Sidney Post at BLM to install water quality gages in the Rock Creek basin, specifically a device that measures water temperature.

ODFW is continuing the Soda Springs fish ladder video review. The FishTic software has sped up the process and helped ODFW catch up to the current month/year.

They've completed kokanee surveys in Spring River, and have e-fished the Lemolo Reservoir. For the first time in years, no tui chub were present in brown trout stomachs. In some of the data, they are seeing different brown trout diet trends in the North Umpqua River compared to the Lake Creek area of Lemolo. There have been decent numbers of spring Chinook spawning upstream and downstream of Soda Springs dam.

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

Pam reported there was a meeting held on the monitoring projects.

**BLM:** They have two projects, but no one has contacted Anne Craig about invoicing.

**Cow Creek:** With respect to last year's partnership, they have had three meetings, but how to get the funding to them is the question. It's been a nightmare to give funding if nothing is set up. Kelly thanked Pam because she knows it has been difficult on their end. Hopefully in the end, a system will get set up.

**Soda Springs Gravel Augmentation:** The funding for this project is being coordinated. It was chosen because of the need to get the placement done soon.

There has been no change in the strategic plan. Timber sales are top priority and they are looking to the fall – they are getting there.

ODFW is looking into to a wildlife monitoring plan for small animal tracking adjacent to the canals. They are proposing nets on the inside of the canal. There is a concern on where they are attached and how they will be attached. A meeting will eventually be set up with PacifiCorp, ODFW, and USDA-Forest Service staff.

**2017 RCC Meeting Schedule:**

Beth will schedule the 2017 RCC meetings, as follows:

<b>January 18</b> (Conference Call)	<b>August 16</b> (Conference Call)
<b>May 17</b> (Face-to-face, with project tour)	<b>October</b> (combined with annual public tour, TBD)

**Next RCC Meeting:** January 18, 2017, 10:00AM – Noon (Conference Call)

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

One last item, below, was mentioned.

ODEQ issued a Notice of Civil Penalty Assessment and Order to the Lemolo Lake Resort for failing to register an underground storage tank. The Resort was supposed to address the citation in May 2016 but they never did. Chris suspects it was a failure to act citation, but he doesn't have any details. ODEQ is very regulated so it's not uncommon that operators are cited. It's rare, however, to get further citations for non-response.

Scott mentioned the Resort is remodeling and the kitchen may re-open by November.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.