

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)  
August 16, 2017 Meeting Summary****FINAL (10/6/17)**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)  
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Mary Grainey (OWRD)  
Amy Stevenson (USDI-BLM)  
Paul Bridges (USFWS)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)  
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)  
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Jim B. Muck (NOAA Fisheries)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)

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

**Cow Creek:** Kelly gave appreciation to Rich, Pam, and Chris Kelly for the tribal tour they recently conducted. She said it was very informational.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

**RCC Annual Public Tour Discussion:** Steve proposed Saturday, October 7, 2017 as the date for this year's annual public tour. Rich is working with Umpqua Watersheds, as they have good outreach efforts on weekends and have expressed in the past that if the tour was on a weekend there might be more public turnout. Coordination would still be needed with Pam on obtaining USDA-FS buses, etc.

Amy said she won't be able to attend, but Max might. She also noted that Cheyne Rossbach is BLM's public affairs specialist for promotion of the tour.

**\* The RCC approved trying the proposed Saturday tour date. \***

Rich mentioned that a small homeschooling group in Camas Valley wanted a tour back in July but it didn't work out. They are now interested in rescheduling the tour for either late September or early October. There would be five or six students. Someone suggested maybe including them in the annual public tour.

Kelly said she will put a notice in the September tribal newsletter about this year's tour.

## **FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES**

### Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Soda Springs fish ladder is operating well and the window was most recently cleaned on August 15. There have been a few glitches with the counting system due to maintenance on the powerhouse and substation, which resulted in intermittent power supply to the evaluation building. Up to three days of video data may have been lost because of power supply problems. The back-up battery failed, and there has been a lot of troubleshooting to get it back up and running.

The annual Soda Springs fish screen outage started in mid-July. It was originally planned to be a two-week outage, but besides the planned upgrade the finishing screen backwash system needed substantial mechanical repairs requiring more parts and time than planned. The project is half way done and the outage has been extended to August 25, 2017.

Soda Springs powerhouse is also shut down for substation maintenance, so the bypass reach is at full flow with spillways open. This is likely to be the case for another week. Then the flow will need to be reduced in the bypass reach down to minimal flow for the SA 8.3 fish habitat work.

One trashrack panel on the upper end of the fish screen has been modified with a hinge so it can be opened periodically during downstream kelt migration.

### Wetlands Update

The Ranawapiti pond repair is scheduled for early September pending the fire situation.

With respect to the Lake Creek wetland enhancement, there was some concern during construction that the cells would be able to retain water during the amphibian breeding season. The addition of bentonite to the cells and inlet swales from the adjacent creek succeeded in supplying the wetland with consistent inundation through the breeding season as observed in early August. The USDA-FS has done a good job on plantings. Lots of amphibians, including tree frogs, Cascade frogs and western toads, have been observed.

Kelly inquired about overall wetland status. Steve replied that all eight license- and SA-required wetlands have been constructed and will continue to be monitored for five years post-construction.

Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Toketee System water tank replacement</i>	
<i>Below ground/liquefaction inspection at Lemolo Reservoir</i>	
<i>Habitat Enhancement Boulders</i>	Completed
<i>Toketee Rehab Slash Disposal</i>	Pam has contacted Brian Smith for concurrence

Other/Upcoming Projects

**Fish Creek Settling Pond Sediment Management (Permits/Plans):**

The sediment already removed from the impoundment and settling pond will be staged along Fish Creek downstream of the dam for natural mobilization during winter high flows. The work will need to be conducted between fire season restrictions and the wet season, either later in September or October.

Rich talked about the proposal to temporarily divert about 10 cfs of water from Fish Creek for the sole purpose of filling the Fish Creek forebay to make it a viable firefighting water source as requested by the USDA-FS.

Since the RCC decision supporting the proposal, the diversion has raised the forebay about one and a half feet. The plan is to continue to add another two feet and then reduce the diversion down to one cfs or less to maintain the water surface elevation. The diversion rate will depend on how much water is lost to fire fighting and evaporation. The USDA-FS will monitor and record how much water is used.

The USGS gage recorded decreasing flows when the headgate was opened and then flows came down a little more due to the natural diurnal cycle. Currently there is about 10 cfs being diverted with over 70 cfs remaining in the creek. Chris said he sees it is currently at 77 cfs, which is considerably more flow in the creek than when this happened for the 2015 firefighting needs. If this is put into use for active fire suppression, does PacifiCorp see a need to increase the cfs and will the one cfs maintain sufficient water for firefighting purposes? Rich said the forebay is being managed proactively and preventatively. It was used heavily for similar purposes in 2008, providing some referential experience. Most of the time firefighting efforts consisted of dipping buckets from helicopters into the forebay. There is limited capacity and frequency of such dipping efforts, so it is expected that one cfs should be sufficient. As far as he knows, they haven't dipped so much that anyone has noticed a level drop. Mary reminded that one cfs equals 440 gallons a minute so it would take a lot of helicopter dipping to use that much water.

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES AND ISSUES

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

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

**SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation:** *nothing new to report at this time.*

**SA 8.2 Habitat Monitoring:** Slide Creek bypass reach spawning habitat surveys are planned. Stillwater is scheduled for field work August 23, 2017 and running through September 1, 2017. This period includes an extension of that work upstream further into Slide bypass reach and Fish Creek, as part of the USDA-FS SA 19.3 work. If anyone is interested in helping with the field work, please let Rich know. *[Post-meeting note: Work was delayed due to fire activity.]*

**SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Modification:** The in-water work period is scheduled for August 23-24, 2017. Weekly Bros. is staged and ready to start once the flow goes down. Sam Moyers or Rich will monitor turbidity. *[Post-meeting note: Work was delayed due to fire activity.]*

### **SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study:**

**Long-term Monitoring** – Ongoing with OFDW leading the charge. There are two smolt traps near the Slide Creek tailrace barrier and one upstream of the bridge below the Soda Springs Dam. Both sites are working well, but the cleaning drums are problematic. Dave said the goal today is to get in and put a patch on the drum screen in the evaluation building so it will be ready to fish when the fish screen and powerhouse come back into service. The smolt traps are still capturing a few fish, and they are getting a little bigger in size. Some of the juvenile coho are now large enough to be pit tagged. At Soda Springs, the catch of Chinook fry has gone from a dozen per day to over 100 a day. The trap safety line broke but has since been fixed. The crew is busy on a daily basis going through the fish in each trap. There has been discussion on when to remove the traps for the winter; maybe in mid-September before the fall high flows begin. Rich added that there have been many challenges with the pit tag antennae and reader system down by the evaluation building. There haven't been a lot of fish detections due to a combination of issues including high flows during spring and now with the powerhouse shutdown. He is hoping to still get some useful tag detections in the future.

**Predator Control** – The last round of electroshocking to complete the brown trout estimate, growth, and diet studies will take place on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 *[Post-meeting note: Work was delayed due to fire activity.]* With the electroshocking they are finding more and more recaptures. There are still a lot of salmonid fry in the reservoir. Dave said it was the last chance for folks to come out to participate and added, "It's quite the experience."

### Flows & Ramping (F&R): Flows, Ramping, Gaging, Monitoring, Plan & Reports

Rich recently submitted the Soda Springs water quality station report. Roger Reynolds is still working on the WY15 flow data but is still awaiting records from the USGS.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Powerhouse/Canal Outages

*Soda Springs powerhouse, as previously mentioned above.*

### Reservoir Management

The Lemolo Reservoir drawdown plan was submitted to ODFW and USDA-FS on August 15, 2017.

## SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Dave reported that Kirk Haskett has finished work in East Fork Rock Creek by adding to a project from 1987 that's still functioning. He also has gone into the Stillwater coho study area, and is busy conceptualizing potential projects for 2018.

Sam Moyers is currently working in the Prospect area, but will soon start making annual fish counts in Harrington Creek and doing the spring Chinook counts in Rock Creek. In the fall, they will start on spawning counts.

## SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

The 2018 project selection package was sent out by Pam in mid-May. With Pam currently out on fire duty, we'll await her report on the mitigation fund at the next RCC meeting.

**Soda Springs Gravel Augmentation:** *nothing new to report at this time.*

**Slide Creek/Fish Creek Bypass Reach Spawning Habitat Monitoring:** *nothing new to report at this time.*

**Other:** Rich asked Kelly the status of Travis' lamprey sampling. Kelly said he is focusing on offsite areas right now (Rock Creek, Steamboat, and Canton). They are doing electrofishing and environmental DNA collection. She said that Rock Creek is finished and they are finishing up on DNA collection. Additional electrofishing has been put off until fire season dies down. Steamboat DNA collection is done. There is not enough funding to complete the Canton area. They have been finding hundreds of juvenile lamprey in the vicinity of instream habitat enhancements such as our log and boulder structures in Rock Creek.

**NEXT RCC MEETING:** October 4, 2017, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM (Conference Call); followed by the October 7, 2017 RCC Public Tour.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *None at this time.*

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.