

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
October 12, 2018 Meeting Summary****FINAL (3/20/19)**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Amy Stevenson (USDI-BLM)
Michael Korn (USDI-BLM)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA Fisheries)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)

Other Attendees

Ken Witcher (PacifiCorp)
Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESSMember Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: There has been no discussion yet on the Diamond Lake Ranger District fisheries biologist position. They may have a “good neighbor” policy where they could use ODFW folks to fill in when needed. Bob Nichols is filling in on fisheries issues in the meantime. David Warnack is currently the acting Forest Supervisor. Bryan Benz is no longer the botanist; he took a full time teaching position at UCC.

ODFW: On the SA 19.2 monitoring crew they are down to one EBA position (Chris Sheely) following departure of the seasonal EBA on October 5, 2018. Dave Harris plans to retire by the end of the year, whether his position will be filled is undetermined.

USFWS: Scott Center is the acting district manager in the Roseburg office while Jim Thraikill is on a detail in Lacy, WA. There is an open position in the office that will backfill what was formerly three separate positions.

NOAA: The strategic action plan for the Coho Recovery Plan has been issued. The hydro project is included in the plan.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Rich reported that the headcount for today's annual public tour is 34 people.

There was group discussion about different media outlets to advertise the tour. Chris said they used the PacifiCorp public release. They are always trying to come up with other direct methods. He said there are a lot of outlets that have interest in the tour. Steve asked about the ODEQ-regulated community email list. Chris said certain recipients from the list were targeted, but the email list was not used for blanket distribution of the tour press releases. The list is intended only for distribution of ODEQ public notices. Pam said they used Twitter but didn't do a radio ad. She mentioned that next year the USDA-FS could use the mitigation fund project contact list. She said she did hear a radio ad. Rich said sometimes the smaller radio stations are good and mentioned the interview he did for Frances Eatherington's weekly radio show where he advertised the public tour. He will send the podcast link to the RCC. Kelly said they posted the media release on their tribal webpage. Last year it was added to their newsletter, but she couldn't do it this year because the release came too late. She said receiving it in August would be better. Steve said that could be done. The press release stays the same except for the date. Rich noted that there was a request from the Northwest Rafting Association to attend next year's tour. Pam suggested adding information such as the number of fish per year that go over the fish ladder, etc. Rich said that adult fish counts are already incorporated into the presentation and talking points, and that juvenile fish downstream migration estimates won't be available until later in the year. Logistics were also discussed including transportation, project sites, etc.

Other recent public outreach events included a group of eight veterans from Healing Waters who came for a tour on October 11, 2018. A group of about 30 students from South Umpqua High School toured the Project on October 5, 2018. Nothing else is planned so far for the remainder of this year but a UCC Water Resources class is interested in having him present at UCC in early 2019 (the class lacks enough time to make an on-site trip). Rich said all the visits in 2018 were both enjoyable and educational for the participants.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

The facilities are working very well. The planned maintenance of the Soda Springs finishing screen area is complete. Counts of juvenile fish at the Soda Springs Fish Evaluation Building have dropped from thousands of fish in the summer down to about 40 per night last month and only about 10 yesterday. The smolt traps are now out of the water.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>Umpqua North Complex Hazard Tree Removal</i>	Awaiting USDA-FS NTP
<i>BLM Programmatic ROW Management</i>	Awaiting revisions to HPMP and additional coordination
<i>2nd Quarterly report</i>	Pam will send out the 2Q report shortly.
<i>3rd Quarterly report</i>	Pam is working on the 3Q report.

Pam brought up a concern about trees.

Other/Upcoming Projects

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation: PacifiCorp and FERC are still going back and forth about seismic calculations. The anticipation is for construction in 2020 with completion by 2021. Pam said they are hiring a former USDA-FS employee (Larry Boker) to review the quarry plans. He has reviewed the plan and is working on a draft response expected next week.

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.*

SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation: The gravel patches in the Mainstem river between Soda Springs powerhouse and Boulder Creek are in good shape. The next report isn't due for four years.

SA 8.2 Habitat Monitoring: *nothing new to report.*

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Modification: ODFW has been monitoring redds. No additional gravel will be placed this year. The USDA-FS approved a SA 19.3 project proposal for gravel augmentation, so there is funding available for a future project. She suggested “gravelling up” in the downtime to get a stock pile for use as opportunities arise. Pam asked if Rich could tell if gravel is making it to the priority gravel patches. Rich indicated that some of it is indeed contributing to downstream patches, so the further upstream we can place the gravel the more locations it will benefit as it moves downstream.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: The smolt traps are out of the water, and the evaluation is winding down. There are no plans for smolt trapping next year. The predator study field work is done, with the lab work ongoing. Rich doesn't expect the draft report from Stillwater until spring 2019. There has been substantial field effort both last year and this year so we should learn a lot about the predation potential with this report.

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

Nothing new to report.

Lemolo 1 Forebay Monitoring

Rich completed another round of five-year interval pH monitoring. ODEQ is currently reviewing the data, which shows that the pH in the forebay remains below the threshold of 8.5. Regarding the 5-year monitoring interval, Chris said it's described it in the 401 water quality certification. For the long term, we'll have a better idea of how the forebay responds over time, given the operation and maintenance applied to it. The most significant thing has been the operational regime that promoted a higher flushing rate through control of canal inflow, which has proven successful at stemming macrophyte growth and ameliorating pH.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages

There are no outages planned for the rest of the year. The 2019 planned maintenance schedule will roll out in first part of the next year.

Jim suggested that we consider adjusting the timing of Soda Springs fish screen maintenance to a period with least actual fish movement based on what we have learned during this year's monitoring.

Reservoir Management

Lemolo Lake: The Lemolo Lake drawdown is proceeding according to the plan reviewed by ODFW and USDA-FS in August.

Pam asked if the Low Poole archaeological site was exposed. Steve replied that it was above the reservoir water surface elevation at that time. The archaeological site will be covered with Geotech fabric and buried using riprap and pumice to protect the site and prevent mobilization of archaeological material. The project is planned for 2019. The USDA-FS needs to provide a final mitigation prescription to PacifiCorp. The work must be conducted in late fall when the reservoir is drawn down but before snowfall. The former Lemolo Resort owners collected quite a few things from that site that couldn't be recovered following the fire at the resort. Both Rich and Pam have checked in with the new owners to keep them informed about reservoir operations.

Ken reported that the resort had a successful summer (July/August) despite the smoke. The resort owners said they understand that their boat ramp is out of the water when the reservoir is drawn down. Pam will be meeting with them on October 19, 2018 to talk about their wanting to put in a sandy beach area. The USDA-FS and PacifiCorp will need to verify that they can use the road from the resort to the archaeological site for the remediation project. Steve said he plans on attending the meeting.

The group discussed the fire season, which had not ended yet. Pam was asked if the USDA-FS used water from Fish Creek forebay for firefighting. Neither PacifiCorp nor the USDA-FS was aware of fire-fighting use of Fish Creek forebay. Rich reported on the approved fire-fighting diversion of water from Fish Creek to keep the forebay watered-up. Rich said flows in Fish Creek have been about 10 cfs below average all summer, and the authorized diversions of up to 1 cfs began on July 18.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Dave reported they are busy doing spawning surveys, and that they are getting caught up on analyzing the video. For winter they will settle into report writing and then next year they will start doing steelhead surveys. Rich added that he is checking FishTick files for successful filtering of non-fish events and capture of fish events by comparing them with full data collection on the DVR for at least one day each month. Dave said the ODFW crew is also continuing spawning surveys in Rock Creek and are starting to gear up for next year.

Jim reported that Rock Creek looks great from a habitat enhancement standpoint. He questioned whether it was possible to perform winter juvenile surveys. Dave responded that winter juvenile surveys are conducted for coho within Harrington Creek at night. Jim wants to monitor effectiveness of winter habitat improvements. Jim thinks that ODFW's tributary enhancements are a model for statewide implementation.

Jim asked about smolt trap use in Rock Creek. Dave said that BLM used to trap juveniles below the diversion dam but hasn't for many years.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Pam reported that Mark Sommers is managing implementation of the funded gravel augmentation project.

Regarding the Strategic Plan, there is nothing new to report. She said it keeps dropping to the bottom of the list; everyone is getting back from a busy fire season.

Fiscal Year 2019 funding has been received. She said she has never seen such difficulty trying to figure out how to transfer money to a sister agency (BLM)! Regarding apportionment, the money cannot be received from outside funding to the USDA-FS as they have reached the ceiling on how much they can take in. Each quarter they review it. She also gave a heads up that the next round of project proposals will happen in November and December. She will be requesting projects proposals between Thanksgiving and Christmas. They need to make sure that everyone/agency that proposes a project coordinates with a USDA-FS counterpart (e.g. last year three agencies put in proposals for the same project). She said they will change the form so it is clearer what project proponents are asking for and what the matching funds are.

She said they have the funds for Cow Creek; now they just need to figure out how to deliver them. Kelly said she will send an e-mail to try to figure out what methods they can use for the funding. She asked if Bob Nichols is still the contact for the new projects or is it Pam. Pam confirmed that she is the contact for new projects.

SA 19.4 OVERSIGHT FUNDING UPDATE

Dave, Steve, and other ODFW staff met regarding the SA 19.4 funding review and ODFW's staff funding short-falls. They realized they have two more years before the license-mandated funding review on the 15-year anniversary of the license becoming final (i.e., 2020). However, it was important to have the discussion now as ODFW says they will run out of funding for the two existing positions by approximately June 2019. If ODFW cannot generate an additional \$40-60K/year in addition to the current SA 19.4 funding, one of the positions will have to be dropped. SA 19.1 does not specify that ODFW has to do the work. Tributary enhancement projects can be completed by PacifiCorp, ODFW, or another entity (e.g., contractor) as long as the projects are approved by ODFW. ODFW suggested that they are close to relinquishing implementation of SA 19.1 if they cannot fund the positions. They aren't getting any help from within ODFW to fund the position. Steve said that the RCC will need to make some decisions about costs of fund implementation and prioritizing projects based on funding limitations. PacifiCorp says that ODFW should charge the SA 19.2 fund for SA 19.2 work (i.e., not use SA 19.4 funding to cover ODFW staff work on SA 19.2), which may help some of the staff funding shortfall. The RCC needs to start thinking about the real costs to implement these programs since some of the expenses have been 'subsidized' by related funds (i.e., SA 19.4 funded positions doing work outside of the scope considered by SA 19.4) The RCC may need to hire contractors to do work currently performed by ODFW staff, and implementation may cost more than anticipated. ODFW said they will regroup and analyze their internal staff cost calculations. They will also look at SA 19.2 estimates. They've already looked back at July 2017 to June 2019 and will be presenting that funding request to the RCC. Steve said that depending on how that works out, there may be more requests to appropriately charge SA 19.2 expenses to the SA 19.2 account.

Year-round EBAs are charged to SA 19.2. It was considered whether not having year-round EBAs would free up some dollars. Rich suggested having an FHS TWG meeting to review the Study Plan and discuss how to accomplish it within budget and staff limitations and appropriately prioritize projects in light of costs vs benefits. Rich proposed November 7, 2018 as the date for this meeting. Dave mentioned that the RCC would need to consider project and funding needs for the long haul, through 2038.

Other Items

Steve brought up the planned Clearwater 2 forebay dredging in 2020. The identified dredge disposal area of the FERC boundary is within spotted owl critical habitat, so Steve wanted to begin coordination and consultation early. He scoped out the area and found that the USDA-FS had already cleared trees and created a habitat plot within the disposal area. PacifiCorp has requested USDA-FS concurrence with using the previously cleared area for dredge disposal, but Steve wanted to give Pauly and FWS a heads-up that consultation may be required on habitat

modification within critical habitat. PacifiCorp would replant the habitat plot as needed following dredge disposal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

NEXT RCC Meeting: Below is the proposed 2019 RCC meeting schedule. The RCC approved this schedule today. Beth will set up the 2019 meetings.

January 16 (Conference call)	August 21 (Conference call)
May 15 (In-person, followed by project tour)	October 11 (In-person, followed by the annual Public Tour)

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM. The public presentation and tour will follow at 11:00 AM.

AGENDA**Resource Coordination Committee (RCC) Meeting
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project****October 12, 2018****9:00 AM – 10:30 AM****In-Person Meeting / Conference Call****Portland: (503) 813-5252 ♦ Toll Free: (855) 499-5252 ♦ Conference ID: 217383**

- 9:00** **Introductions, Agenda Review, Old Business**
- Member updates and organization news
- 9:10** **Public Outreach (past events / future opportunities) – plan for today**
- 9:20** **Facility and Project Updates**
- Fish protection and passage facilities
 - Tailrace barriers
 - Ladders
 - Screens
 - NTPs or other coordination
 - T&D ROW vegetation management
 - Toketee Dam Remediation
- 9:30** **Technical Work Groups - Updates**
- FHS: Monitoring and maintenance schedules (SA 6.2, 7.2, 8.2, 8.3, and 19.2)
 - SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation – update, schedule
 - SA 8.3 Habitat Modification – update, schedule
 - SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring – update, plans, budget
 - SA 19.2 Predator Control Study – update, plans, budget
 - F&R: Monitoring and Reporting (gages, water quality)
 - Lemolo 1 forebay pH report
- 9:40** **Operational Updates**
- Powerhouse and canal outages – updates, plans
 - Reservoir management – Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs
 - Other
- 9:50** **SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement project updates**
- ODFW updates (habitat, passage, easements, plans)
- 10:00** **SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund project updates**
- Soda Springs gravel augmentation – plans, schedule
 - Strategic Planning and Selection Criteria
 - Schedule for next round of projects
- 10:10** **SA 19.4 Funding Review**
- 10:20** **Public Comments**

10:25 **Next RCC Meeting:** 2019 Schedule (Proposed)

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May 15 (In-person, followed by project tour)	October 11 (In-person, followed by the annual Public Tour)

Meeting adjourned