

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC No. P-1927)**

**Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)  
August 21, 2019 Conference Call Meeting Summary**

**FINAL (9/27/19)**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)  
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)  
Amy Golladay (USDI-BLM)  
Paul Bridges (USFWS)  
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)  
Jason Brandt (ODFW)  
Sam Moyers (ODFW)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)

Other Attendees

Ken Witcher (PacifiCorp)  
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)  
Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)  
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp)  
Jon McSmith (PacifiCorp)  
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)  
Ken Homolka (ODFW)

RCC Members Absent

Jim Muck (NOAA Fisheries)  
Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Introductions/Member Updates/Organization News

**USDA-FS:** Jimmy Tyree has taken a job outside the Forest. Terri Brown, who is currently a fire management officer at the Supervisor's Office, will do a 120-day active detail, starting in late September.

**USFWS:** They have completed their move to the BLM office. The Service has plans to fill Rob Burns' former position.

**ODFW:** Jason Brandt is the new Southwest Region Hydropower Coordinator and RCC representative, replacing Dave Harris.

**PacifiCorp:** Jon McSmith is the new maintenance manager at North Umpqua.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

**Annual Public Tour:** After group discussion, it was decided to move the tour forward one week to Friday, October 4, 2019. Steve will edit the time and date on the previous press release and get it out for distribution. Pam reported that they still have access to the Wolf Creek Job Corps buses and will reserve two of the mini buses. Kelly added that she will have the press release published in their tribal newsletter and will get it added to their Facebook page as well.

Rich said that there were no other public tours currently scheduled, although the Source One Serenity veterans group may come up again.

## FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

### Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

**Tailrace Barriers:** The clean-up and maintenance, necessitated by damage from debris mobilized by the April high flow event, has now concluded.

**Fish Ladders:** The Soda Springs fish ladder expansion joint repair will happen in late fall or winter, with January/February being the best time for the least fish movement. Debris removal was completed at the Fish Creek fish ladder. This debris removal was also due to the April high flow event. The facility was operating the whole time except for flow reduction for a couple hours during the cleanout of logs and sticks.

**Fish Screens:** Rich submitted a permit application to the ACoE and DSL for sediment removal to maintain the Fish Creek fish screen, fish ladder, and impoundment capacity. It will be a five-year permit to allow for long-term maintenance efforts. The DSL has put it out for a 15-day comment period. ACoE is working on it as well. Chris questioned whether the dredging will be needed every year, and Rich replied that it will depend on the frequency and intensity of high flows mobilizing sediment. Sediment removed from these locations will be placed downstream of the dam for pass-through during high flow events.

There will be an outage for Soda Springs fish screen maintenance during the first two weeks of October. Full dewatering of the screen is not required. Only the tertiary screen area will be dewatered, but the facility will be out of operation during the public tour. The fish ladder will remain in operation. The bypass reach flows should be the usual 300-320 CFS.

### Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>Slide Creek Quarry Development Plan</i>	Awaiting USDA-FS NTP
<i>Toketee Village Duplex</i>	Should be released shortly.

Removal-fill permit applications have also been submitted for the Soda Springs and Slide Creek bypass reach fish habitat work, including gravel augmentation and boulder installation to protect the existing log weirs. This permit is also going to be for a five-year period at the suggestion of the ACoE. Currently all permits and approvals are in hand except for the ACoE permit. Rich is hoping to start work this month and at the very least prior to the mid-September start of spawning.

### Other/Upcoming Projects

**Toketee Dam Rehabilitation:** *nothing new to report.*

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES AND ISSUES

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

Rich reported there is a TWG meeting planned for next week.

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

**SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation:** Reported above.

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

**SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Modification:** Reported above.

Rich is working on contracting the log weir repair work in the Soda Springs bypass reach. His hope is that they can do a combination of boulder and gravel work in the next few weeks and stay within the \$30,000 coming out of the gravel augmentation fund. If it's more, he'll report back to the RCC. Pam asked where boulders were being harvested from. Rich said they are planning on moving the existing boulders. The high flows moved some of the boulders around to where they are not serving a useful purpose. One boulder is on the PIT tag antenna. Sam Moyers is looking to see if there are other boulders that could be accessed and will check in with Pam. Pam said to check out Copeland Creek Road on the road to Foster Pit. Before you get to the pit on the right side, there is a big bunch of round boulders that have already been identified.

**SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study:** Reported above.

The short story is that the monitoring is going well. We're not catching nearly as many juvenile fish as in past years, possibly due in part to the this year's April high flow event flushing juveniles downstream. The fish ladder is operating well, and we're continuing to count adult fish moving upstream. The TWG has the long term monitoring and predator control study report from Stillwater. The report indicates that brown trout are eating a lot of fish. Due to the high potential for predation on anadromous fish species, the report recommends implementation of a predator control program. Dirk Pederson will elaborate on the report at the TWG meeting.

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

Since the last RCC meeting, the WY17 Annual Flow Monitoring Report was provided to the agencies, and the Soda Springs Water Quality Annual Report for WY 2018 was provided to ODEQ.

### **OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

#### Powerhouse/Canal Outages

A maintenance outage is scheduled for one of the Toketee generators during the third week of September. The duration will be two to four weeks and depending on any weather events, may or may not affect flows in the bypass reach. The Soda Springs fish passage maintenance outage will occur in early October. There is potential for reduced generation (and increased bypassed reach flows) at Lemolo 1 during GSU maintenance. If flow changes were to happen, Rich would revise and redistribute the outage schedule.

#### Reservoir Management

**Lemolo Reservoir:** Rich submitted the fall drawdown plan to ODFW and USDA-FS today. The plan is essentially identical to 2018 and predicts that flows at the Copeland gage will remain above the usual target of 725 CFS.

**Toketee Reservoir:** *nothing new to report.*

**LWD Management Plan:** Rich said that the high April flows delivered two large logs (50-70 ft long and 2-5 ft DBH) onto the booms at the Soda Springs dam. Both logs were removed from the reservoir last week, dragged downstream of the powerhouse, and placed along the riparian river edge to contribute to fish and wildlife habitat as required in the Plan. During most years there are no logs large enough to require manual transport nor do they warrant reporting per the Plan like this.

### **SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Jason reported that Kirk Haskett has completed 25 large enhancement sites on private land. The sites were mostly comprised of rocks and wood jams, including roughly 250 boulders. The boulders were donated from Forest Investment Associates. Adult snorkel counts in Rock Creek will start the first week of September.

### **SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE**

Pam reported she has four collection agreements she's working on to distribute funds. The funds for the FY2020 projects have arrived and will be ready to distribute starting October 1, 2019. She is working with Kelly Coates, Pacific Rivers, and UC Davis for genetic research in Steamboat Creek. It's not an easy process. For FY2021, she recommended folks start working on proposals in November 2019 and have them ready to submit in January 2020. Proposals need to be shepherded by the appropriate FS staff specialist: For fisheries, proposals need to go through Bob Nichols; for erosion control, Marc Sommers; and for wildlife, Justin Hadwin. Also, if you were given any funding since 2017, you will need to include a report on how the funds were used.

Ron McMullin told Rich that he was planning to have 500 cubic yards of new gravel delivered this fall for use in gravel augmentation and fish habitat projects.

### **Other**

Chris commented on the new PacifiCorp website. He liked the revised design and said it was very clear and concise. Steve said he would pass this on to the PacifiCorp communication folks.

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

**NEXT RCC Meeting:** October 4, 2019 (Conference call, followed by the annual public tour).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:48AM.