

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

**Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
March 20, 2019 Meeting Summary**

FINAL (5/8/19)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Amy Golladay (USDI-BLM)
Michael Korn (USDI-BLM)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA Fisheries)
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)
Sam Moyers (ODFW)
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Travis Mackie (Cow Creek)
Bob Nichols (USDA-FS)

RCC Members Absent

Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: Mark Sommer is acting for Joe Blanchard as the Forest hydrologist for the next 120 days.

NOAA: They are short a branch staff member at the moment due to internal staff movement.

USFWS: Mike Asch was hired to fill a vacant position and work on predator/wolf issues. Jim Thraikill has returned from a detail. The AO, Robin Pritchard, is retiring. The USFWS office is moving to the BLM office in May.

ODFW: Dave Harris has officially retired. Sam Moyers is the ODFW RCC representative. Dave's position is opening this week and will hopefully be filled by May. The position scope will include water quality and water rights in addition to hydropower coordination.

PacifiCorp: Mike Blum, Roger Lee, and Doug Bateman have retired. Ken Witcher is the new Production Manager. His previous Maintenance Supervisor position is now open.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Positive feedback was received from those attending the October 2018 public tour. The Friday timeframe seemed to work as there was not significant drop-off from the numbers attending on the past weekend day tours.

Rich gave a general overall presentation to the Umpqua Community College water resource class. It was a 3-hour lab session for two students. He also gave an evening presentation to the Northwest Rafters Association. He said it went really well and that they might want to participate in the public tour.

Rich will continue to let the RCC know of any scheduled public outreach opportunities as they arise.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Rich reported that everything is operating very well. Fish counts at Soda Springs fish ladder are continuing with the FishTick software. Steelhead have been observed in the window on recent days, and the otter(s) seem to be regular visitors now several times per day. Lately they generally appear when no fish are present, although Chris Sheely said he recently observed an otter chasing a steelhead past the window. At some point we may have to address the otter(s) if they become a substantial fish passage deterrent.

There is an expansion joint leak in the middle of the exit channel into Pool 51 within the fish ladder at Soda Springs Reservoir. The operation of most of the exit gates is affected by this leak as it adds more water into the ladder than it was designed for. All are working in single-gate mode as the fish didn't seem to care for a two-gate mode. There has always been a bit of a leak on the fish passage side. Now it's larger and affecting the flow calculations in the ladder. We are mitigating the issue by setting the desired gate flow at 20 cfs instead of the 25 cfs design flow to account for the additional flow from the leak. This causes the exit gates to be less open than normal, which may cause some fish to need multiple attempts to exit. There is a repair planned with a 4-day outage which Rich will alert the agencies of when scheduled.

The Soda Springs fish screens are also working very well. It was a mild winter for flow and debris events and the Fish Evaluation Building (FEB) has been fished one night per week during most weeks throughout the winter. Currently the snowmelt is sending some new debris into the FEB. We also need to be careful to keep the smolt trap out of harm's way when debris passes through the dam. The situation is being closely monitored.

The one-night catch at the FEB recently was about 60 mostly smolt-sized fish, about 20 of which were steelhead with the remainder comprised of coho and Chinook. There was also one steelhead kelt.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>ROW Hazard Tree Removal</i>	Awaiting USDA-FS NTP
<i>Slide Creek Quarry Development Plan</i>	Awaiting USDA-FS NTP
<i>BLM Programmatic ROW Management</i>	Awaiting USDI-BLM NTP
<i>4th Quarterly report</i>	Pam is working on the 4Q report.

Other/Upcoming Projects

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation: There have been some additional discussions between FERC and PacifiCorp regarding seismic loading and acceleration calculations, but there has not been any resolution to move the project to the final design phase. The project is scheduled to be implemented in 2022/2023.

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: Rich said this year’s proposed project will benefit both SA 7.2 and SA 8.3 programs. The TWG recommends that we augment the Soda Springs bypass reach with the existing stockpile of gravel. There is currently 900 cubic yards (cy) of stockpiled gravel. The TWG discussed using 100 cy in the Slide Creek bypassed reach off the School House Bridge, 100 cy off the Soda Springs Bridge and/or near the FEB, and the remaining 700 cy delivered by sluice pipe below the Soda Springs fish screens as it was done in 2014. To further develop the project proposal, Rich requested and received a cost estimate from Weekly Bros. for \$15,930 for sluice pipe gravel delivery. There will be an additional \$3-4K for PacifiCorp contracting/permitting management. Sam has been talking to Clint Hatfield about use of the conveyor truck for the other gravel inputs. ODFW recently did a 300 cy project for \$4,900, and Sam believes the 200 cy delivery as contemplated for 2019 would be around \$4,500. It was suggested to use the conveyor truck to put the gravel into the sluice pipe, nine yards at a time. Gravel movements and machinery will need to be coordinated among contractors and within permit conditions. Steve compiled the costs and said the total proposed scope of work is between \$25-30K.

Bob asked why we were using all the different pieces of equipment and wondered if there would be cost savings and consistency if we didn’t.

Jim said these dollar figures are good because they were discussed in detail at the TWG meeting, and thus, he didn’t feel it was necessary to rehash them at this meeting. Ed asked about using the SA 7.2 balance because the remaining balance wouldn’t be enough for another project. Steve replied that it could be combined with the SA 8.3 balance or a future SA 19.3 fund project.

Jim mentioned that the current stockpile of gravel was 900 cy and asked how much gravel could be purchased for the \$9,000 balance of the SA 7.2 fund. Rich said we would have to ask Weekly Bros. for an estimate.

Pam added that there is currently \$111,000 in the SA 19.3 fund for both FY18 and FY19 gravel augmentation.

The TWG proposed to the RCC spending not-to-exceed \$30,000 from the SA 7.2 fund for gravel augmentation during 2019 as described above. Jim added that he approves using all of the remaining \$39,000 in the fund if necessary to complete the approved scope of work. ***The RCC approved the \$30,000 funding request from the SA 7.2 fund on March 20, 2019.***

Steve asked Rich and Sam to refine and compile the various charges into a single budget proposal and provide it to the RCC.

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

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Modification: The annual report was provided to the RCC in January. It concludes that the habitat would benefit from the existing gravel as discussed above. Steve said the Settlement Agreement Amendment allows for the funding to be used in the bypassed reach, mainstem, and tributaries downstream of the dam. Rich added that the feasibility assessment and implementation plan identified the bypassed reach as the highest priority.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: Rich reported that last year's work went really well. It helped that the flows were lower than the previous year. The annual report is currently being reviewed by the TWG, with comments due back by the end of the month. The report will then be cleaned up for distribution to the RCC. The plans this year are generally to continue the monitoring effort similar to last year with much less of a focus on the predator control study. Stillwater Sciences will be contracted for the PIT tag array tuning, monitoring, and data quality control. The draft predator control study report, which is previously approved and obligated funding, is due out in May, with the final report coming out in June. The 2019 scope of work for Stillwater to perform the PIT tag array work is about \$3,500. Rich's role is also expected to be less than last year as there is no night-time electrofishing planned for this year. The smolt trap was launched last week below Soda Springs Dam. The upstream traps (near Slide Creek powerhouse) will not be fished this year as they were primarily for the predator control study. The Soda Springs trap will be operated as much as possible during snow melt and spill to be able to sample the juvenile fish coming through the spillway. They anticipate that quite a few of the fish tagged last year above the dam will show up below the dam as smolts this spring. Fish Evaluation Building operation will occur from one to three nights per week during peak outmigration. Sam said they'll also keep working on the spawning surveys and video fish counts. Rich said the priority will be keeping up with the adult fish count through the ladder, juvenile downstream migration sampling and tag recovery, and continuing the redd counts as time and staff and conditions allow.

Jim asked if Rich could send out clarification of the scope of work discussed above. He's interested in the location and intensity of spawning surveys during 2019. Steve asked if the clarification write-

up could be presented at the next TWG meeting. Jim was ok with this. The scope of work tasks will be used by the TWG to define priorities.

Steve sent out the latest potential 2019 budget for the SA 19.2 program on March 19, 2019. There was a lot of discussion on near-term and long-term budgeting at the TWG meeting. There is a significant amount of work required in the post-passage period beginning in 2025, and the TWG agreed that we will need to “bank the SA 19.2 budget” for several years to save for the anticipated cost. Steve explained that funding the full ODFW-proposed labor budget in 2019 with SA 19.2 funds may come at the expense of future discretionary work since we will essentially be spending the full fund balance in 2019, but the TWG proposal was to fund ODFW this year as a transition from the interim-passage period to the period of saving money for the post-passage period.

Steve asked the RCC if they approved paying the previously incurred \$8,408 of ODFW labor on SA 19.2 tasks from mid-October 2018 through December 2018. ***The RCC approved this additional \$8,408 expenditure on March 20, 2019.***

Steve asked about the pending 19.3 project proposal from ODFW to cover a portion of their escalating labor costs. Pam said she is hoping that by mid-April they will be able to review the SA 19.3 fund projects, which include the ODFW funding proposal of \$60,000 for SA 19.2 long term monitoring. If the SA 19.3 project gets approved, then the FY2019 19.2 budget proposal could be less (i.e., more money would be saved in the 19.2 fund for future work). Pam reminded everyone that the SA 19.3 fund can't be used for PacifiCorp-responsible projects or activities considered in the Settlement Agreement, but Steve noted that the ODFW request is for “unforeseen expenses” (e.g., escalating overheads and state expenses) not considered in the Settlement Agreement. He added that the TWG strongly encourages funding ODFW's SA 19.3 mitigation fund proposal so that the amount of money retained in the SA 19.2 fund is maximized.

Jim said that the TWG should discuss in detail the priority task items to make sure we are coordinating work effort and getting the data we want (e.g., ladder counts, smolt trap below soda to see what is coming through evaluation building vs. what's coming off of spill, spawning surveys, etc.). Steve asked if Jim was ok with the 2019 budget proposal as long as the TWG commits to additional discussion and coordination of work priorities and scope at future meetings. Jim said yes.

The TWG proposed to the RCC a projected spend of \$168,196 for the CY2019 scope of work. ***The RCC approved the 2019 budget of \$168,196 as proposed on March 20, 2019.*** Rich said he will work on scheduling a TWG meeting fairly soon and will set up a scheduling poll to maximize participation. Everyone acknowledged that part of the rationale for approving such a large budget was that coordination during the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019 was especially difficult due to the loss of experienced personnel (e.g., Dave Harris from ODFW), the federal government shutdown, and harsh winter weather.

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

Rich reported that, with respect to the WY2017 annual report for Flow Monitoring, he is still waiting for USGS to provide the publication-grade data. He will provide that and also the Soda Springs Water Quality report to ODEQ as soon as the respective data are available for analysis and reporting. Flow-wise, Rich explained that a recent storm had felled several trees in the Soda Springs bypass reach which affected the water depth in the gage pool and also interfered with USGS's ability to measure the flow. Last week, while USGS was on site to measure flows, PacifiCorp was conducting FERC-mandated spillgate testing. After consulting with ODFW and NOAA-Fisheries personnel (also on-site for a TWG meeting), the flow from the spillgates was increased briefly in a successful attempt to mobilize the trees out of the gage pool. The USGS gage website shows that on February 9, 2019 the flows seemed to spike up (when the trees fell into the pool) and then on March 13, 2019, they seem to drop back down to 300 CFS (as the trees floated downstream). In reality, it was about 300 CFS the whole time, but the trees were altering the recorded stage heights.

Rich said that yesterday a boulder was removed from the Lemolo 2 canal and it was learned that there is damage to the canal floor in the gunite section where the boulder landed. Some flow was ramped into the Lemolo 2 bypass reach to be able to do an inspection with less water in the canal. If there is a need for additional ramping in the bypassed reach, Rich will let everyone know. Scott Schevenius is inspecting it today and if it is something that can be repaired today, they'll do it. [Post-meeting update: the canal was patched and is holding water. No additional repairs or abnormal water management are needed at this time.]

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages

A single unit outage is planned for the Toketee powerhouse next week. Rich said that the two other Toketee units would remain operating as normal but the loss of the third unit could cause earlier and higher flows in the bypass reach if snowmelt conditions occur during the outage. Maintenance work on Clearwater 1 is scheduled for April, with Lemolo 1 following in May. These are both regular maintenance outages that were included on the previously distributed maintenance schedule.

Reservoir Management

Lemolo Reservoir: Reservoir refill is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2019 at increments of one-half foot per day. The boat ramps are expected to be accessible to the water by the time they are melted off or plowed out. Pam thanked Rich for keeping the resort owners apprised of this and said that they really appreciate it.

Toketee Reservoir will operate within the minimum water level range for the foreseeable future, as has been the case in recent years.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Sam provided the 2018 update. Kirk installed four crossings on two tributaries, of which three were new culverts and one was a bridge installation. They replaced a double-barrel culvert and single pipe on Little Conley Creek to rectify fish passage obstructions. They observed good numbers of fish, including cutthroat trout, out of the pipes. The road was closed, and they had to wedge in around logging operations. Kirk worked on a 2017 side channel project, going back in and adjusting it last summer. He said for PacifiCorp, it cost more for labor and materials, but it was a quick summer for them. In 2019, they will be working on one to two miles of stream enhancement area on private lands from Little Conley Creek to McComas Creek. Three landowners have all agreed to access permissions for the projects. He noted that it will be the biggest water they have ever worked in.

Rich asked whether anyone is managing the Rock Creek fish ladder counts. Sam said he is not aware of anyone keeping up with them as there is no district or hatchery staff available to do it. No data was collected in 2018. However they do count adult fish during summer snorkeling surveys in the Mainstem and juvenile coho in Harrington Creek for habitat work effectiveness monitoring. At one time, the Jeff Dose and the Steamboaters were interested in assisting with Rock Creek fish ladder counts by installing the FishTick system, but he isn't certain if they still do. Rich noted that Jeff Fryer (originator of the FishTick software) was going to come to the project to collaborate on FishTick software improvements at Soda Springs, and he could not find anyone willing to meet with him at Rock Creek.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Pam reported that the strategic planning program has stalled at the March 2015 planning document as other projects always seem to take precedent. USDA-FS staff review of FY 2020 project proposals, submitted in January 2019, is scheduled for April 2019. The proposals/recommendations will go to Alice Carlton for review. About a week after that, it should be known which projects were approved. She said that the funding to the BLM went rather smoothly this year, as opposed to previous years. If the ODFW funding request does get approved, the money would be available in October 2019. The next round of project proposals (for 2020/2021) will be requested in January 2020. Rich pointed out that ODFW's SA 19.3 funding proposal is also relevant to the RCC agencies and implementation program because of the lack of a Forest Service district fish biologist in the Diamond Lake Ranger District, which historically has been very involved in the implementation and monitoring program and whose absence was not anticipated in the License and Settlement Agreement. Neither Pam nor Bob had any update on the status of the district fish biologist vacancy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

NEXT RCC Meeting: May 15, 2019 (In-person, followed by project tour). The 2019 Rolling Action Plans will be signed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.

AGENDA**Resource Coordination Committee (RCC) Meeting
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project****March 20, 2019
10:00 AM – Noon
Conference Call****Portland: (503) 813-5252 ♦ Toll Free: (855) 499-5252 ♦ Conference ID: 5338955**

- 10:00 Introductions, Agenda Review, Old Business**
- Member updates and organization news
- 10:05 Public Outreach (past events / future opportunities)**
- 10:15 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
- 10:45 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)
- 11:15 Operational Updates**
- Powerhouse and canal outages – updates, plans
 - Reservoir management – Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs
 - Other
- 11:30 SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement project updates**
- ODFW updates (habitat, passage, easements, plans)
- 11:45 SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund project updates**
- Soda Springs gravel augmentation – plans, schedule
 - SA 19.2 LTM Funding Request?
 - Strategic Planning and Selection Criteria
 - Schedule for next round of projects
- 11:55 Public Comments**
- Noon Meeting adjourned**