

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

**Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
October 4, 2019 Meeting Summary**

FINAL (1/15/2020)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries), by phone
Jim Muck (NOAA Fisheries)
Jason Brandt (ODFW), by phone
Craig Kohanek (OWRD), by phone; proxy for ODEQ

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp), by phone
Jon McSmith (PacifiCorp)
Rachel Showalter (USDI-BLM)
Tim Walters (ODFW), by phone

RCC Members Absent

Chris Stine (ODEQ)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Introductions/Member Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: Jim Tyree has taken a job outside the Forest. Terri Brown (Terri.Brown@usda.gov), Deputy Fire Staff Officer at the Supervisor's Office, is now acting as the Diamond Lake District Ranger through mid-December. Mitch Olson is the new special uses specialist. There are two new folks at the Diamond Lake front desk. Kathleen and Sam. Pam said they are prepared for a potential furlough before the end of the year.

BLM: There have been some big changes. Rachel Showalter came onboard this spring as the Assistant Field Manager of the Swiftwater Field Office supervising the fisheries/wildlife group. FWS has moved into the same building with BLM. Jose Maneras is the new acting state director.

NOAA: Ken Phippen is retiring on December 31, 2019. There will likely be a fill-in for his position as Oregon Coast Branch Chief for a few months, but the plan is to rehire. Several positions are on hold due to budget restrictions.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

South Umpqua High School Tour (October 2, 2019): This was their semi-annual class tour. It was a marine biology class, so the focus was on fish. Rich did a shorter version of the RCC presentation and then gave the usual tour of the Slide Creek and Soda Springs areas and the fish evaluation building. It went well; several students engaged and asked good questions.

Annual Public Tour (October 4, 2019): The tour will be especially useful for the new USDA-FS folks. Rich updated the presentation from last year.

Other Tours: Pam reported that the USDA-FS will have a tour on October 8, 2020 and October 11, 2020 for the Forest Supervisor. She would like to take the attendees to the fish viewing window.

Jim Muck appreciated Rich providing a tour for a small NOAA group including the branch chief.

The group will review attendance and success of the annual public tour at January's RCC meeting.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Tailrace Barriers: They are in standard operating/maintenance mode.

Fish Ladders: The Soda Springs fish ladder repair work will occur in January/February with a four or five day outage. As Rich has noted before, four to five cfs is leaking through the expansion joint of the fish exit channel and dewatering will be required to repair it. He will keep the RCC posted. Despite that issue, all project fish ladders are operating well.

Fish Screens: The Fish Creek screens were dewatered and cleaned during the prior and current week. An inspection of the fish return pipe, which took a few days to plan, was performed yesterday. The pipe is in good shape and no deterioration was observed.

Maintenance and wire tracing of the Soda Springs fish screen is currently occurring. All of the work scheduled for this year is able to take place while the facility is in normal operation, hence the fish screen will not be taken out-of-service.

A question was asked about diverting water from Fish Creek to the Fish Creek forebay for firefighting. Pam said that the USDA-FS made no such request this year.

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.
<i>Garage replacement</i>	

Pam mentioned the proposed capping of the Low Poole Dump Site between Poole Creek and Lemolo Resort. The cultural investigations and mitigation proposal development have extended over a three year period. She mentioned that a scope of work for the proposed mitigation was pending.

Other/Upcoming Projects

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation: *nothing new to report.* Monthly meetings are held with the USDA-FS.

Rich reported that we are ahead of schedule on the annual Lemolo Reservoir drawdown. On October 1, 2019, the reservoir was at 4,135 feet (two feet lower than originally planned). The drawdown is proceeding within the usual one-half foot/day limit and today we're almost at 4,133 feet MSL.

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: Back in February, the RCC approved up to \$26,000 to add USDA-FS gravel to the river. It would mostly be added with a sluice pipe at the base of the fish screen at the Soda Springs bypassed route, but some would be added with a conveyor belt off the bridge. Rich is not sure if we still want to do it this year. He does have it contracted out, but is looking for clarity on the in-water work period. The last time we used the sluice pipe method was November 2014. The sluiced gravel was added near the rip-rap and we counted on high flows to distribute it downstream. Rich asked both ODFW and NFMS for input on the appropriate in-water work period. Jim said his preference was early November, following Chinook spawning but prior to the coho spawning period. Jason said they were ok with the November timeframe. Rich will attempt to get the contractors lined up for a November work period.

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

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Maintenance: The high flow event this past April changed everything in the Soda Springs bypassed reach. We prepared an in-water work plan for maintaining log weirs that had been undercut by the event and changed the configuration of boulders. Despite our best intentions and efforts getting RCC approvals, contractor lined up, NTP, the 401 water quality certification and DSL permit, we did NOT receive the ACOE 404 permit until Friday, September 13, 2019, and the inwater work window expired on Sunday, September 15, 2019. By that time spring Chinook were spawning in the vicinity of the work areas and the agencies decided to not to do the work in 2019. After discussion, the work has been rescheduled to 2020. Rich will talk to the contractor to get a new cost estimate to perform the work next year. The permitting process was more arduous than in the past, partly because for the first time the ACOE representative insisted that USDA-FS was the lead agency and thus scrutinized the NTP protocol and findings. Pam said she asked ACOE what was different this year regarding this project and was told there was a new supervisor. Pam added there were multiple questions/e-mails including the consultation between the Tribes not involved with the Settlement Agreement. Jim said for this License-related work, FERC is the lead agency and NMFS and USFWS consultation for all ACOE permits is covered by the 2002 BiOps. He complimented Rich's efforts to complete the work in the face of significant regulatory delays.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: The predator control report from Stillwater Sciences concluded that predation is substantial enough to warrant a control program. Preliminary predator control was initially planned for this year, but due to a variety of issues, it won't happen. The state has new protocols requiring pathological analysis before fish can be transferred. Jason is still working with Dr. Aimee Reed on pathological analyses of Soda Springs brown trout. Pathological analyses are required prior to approval to move fish within the basin. At this point, our predator control work won't begin until next year due to plans and budgets. Steve said if it requires an extra level of pathology, should we move them? Jim added that there is a cost in doing that - fishing trip, catching a certain quantity, and then sending to pathology. Jason checked on this and reported that the pathological work was completed and the only cost was for shipping the various sized nine brown trout specimens to Corvallis at a cost of approximately fifteen dollars. Right now the ODFW crew is so deep into spawning surveys that they have no time to catch fish, which has been the hold up.

Jim said the looming factor is how fast the fishing can occur. He believes Rich is right to plan on spring time because we may not get the pathology report back until winter. Jason will work with Sam to get the pathology started.

Pam heard from Bob Nichols about increased number of spawning of tui chub at Lemolo. Jason said that Bob was supportive of moving the brown trout from Soda Springs to Lemolo as they may help reduce tui chub and hence improve water quality.

As far as long term monitoring, we have had several years of spending down the reserve of that account. The Study Plan, budget, and staffing have been the subject of several TWG meetings this year. Currently the TWG is proposing that three years of focused and intense long-term monitoring in the post-passage period to compare to the baseline results. It will take more than the annual funding amount to complete the work scope in those three years, so the question is how do we spread out our funding over the entire timeframe to continue interim level monitoring while budgeting for the larger post-passage period monitoring. It was agreed that the most important elements of monitoring during interim and post-passage periods is enumerating the adult fish at the fish ladder and the juveniles at the fish evaluation building. Secondary elements are redd surveys for spring Chinook and predator control efforts. All other work would be lower priority. As far as budget, we will endeavor to accomplish the scope of work with an annual budget of \$116,000 (2019 dollars) in years 2020-2028 and 2033-2038. During those periods of 'Interim Level Monitoring' we would bank almost \$30,000 per year of annual funding to be able to spend in years 2029-2032 for the more comprehensive post-passage monitoring field efforts. To make the budget balance, the funding for years 2037 and 2038 needs to be moved forward to balance out the spreadsheet. Steve is researching whether moving annual funding forward is allowed under the license and settlement agreement. The TWG will continue to revise the Study Plan and include these conceptual budget details for RCC review next year.

Based on this conceptual plan, the TWG proposed both the long term monitoring plan and the overall budget to the RCC and asked for approval of the proposed 2020 annual budget of \$116,000. ***The RCC approved the 2020 annual budget of \$116,000 on October 4, 2019.***

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

As an FYI, Pam reported that USGS was considering eliminating the monitoring gage downstream of the Winchester Dam. She doesn't think USDA-FS could fund it because it's not on federal land nor directly related to USDA-FS projects.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages

An emergency/forced outage of Clearwater 1 began on October 1, 2019 and is ongoing.

Rich distributed the planned outage and flow change schedule in January and then updated it again last week.

Soda Springs Penstock Outage (October 29-31, 2019): Dewatering of the penstock will be required with flows ramped into the Soda Springs bypass reach.

Reservoir Management

Lemolo Reservoir: *discussed earlier in the meeting.*

Toketee Reservoir: *nothing new to report.*

Soda Springs: *nothing new to report*

LWD Management Plan: *nothing new to report.*

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Jason gave an update on this program. Rock Creek spring Chinook snorkel counts at approximately 80 adult holding sites above and below the hatchery diversion dam in early September resulted in counts of 58 hatchery and 13 wild chinook. The Rock Creek hatchery removed 600 hatchery fish at the diversion dam this year compared to 265 removed last year. Six hatchery and 12 wild adult summer steelhead were also observed during the snorkel surveys in Rock Creek. Kirk is continuing to work with Forest Investment Associates (FIA) and Lone Rock Timber this year for procurement of future restoration materials, and he has been able to secure 100-125 free boulders from FIA and 60 to 75 free logs from Lone Rock Timber. He hopes to have the boulders and logs moved by the end of the year. He also has an agreement in place for 2020 with a private landowner for the procurement of 100 logs with root-wads attached. The Swanson log yard in Glide is no longer available for staging restoration materials so Kirk has been working on cleaning out all of the logs and boulders from the yard and moving them to a new location for future staging. Materials are being moved to the Basco Logging Rock Creek site, as they have offered us storage of our restoration materials there for free in exchange for installation of a new gate, for which Kirk is currently getting bids. Kirk is making good progress on working with three landowners regarding restoration in the Rock Creek basin. Landowners along Rock Creek have been hearing about the good restoration work we are doing and seem willing to work with us on future projects. Kirk said they saw triple the number of juvenile coho rearing in Harrington Creek in the summer as compared to previous surveys

and overwintering increased from 2% to 33%. Coho spawning surveys are starting in late October and three spring Chinook spawning surveys are being conducted per week into November. There are seven water quality sites that will continued to be monitored in the Rock Creek basin.

Jim noted that the Umpqua watershed needs help for the Southern Oregon Coast coho (SOCC) population to survive. They are working on a grant to push work on the North Umpqua, as the numbers of SOCC are falling there while other SOCC streams in the watershed are seeing success in rebuilding populations. Now that we are no longer releasing fish at the hatchery, we should really question what work is needed for the coho population to be restored. It's hard to keep it as a listed species. The three populations that are failing are the Necanicum, Sixes, and North Umpqua. The North Umpqua population is failing due to past hatchery programs. He expects the North Umpqua will pass in the new stock status that is currently under review in NOAA. There has not been a hatchery program in the North Umpqua for over a decade.

He appreciated the efforts of the USDA-FS, PacifiCorp, etc. Jim noted that the PUR focuses on private lands, mostly downstream of Rock Creek.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Pam sent out the 2020 selected projects in May. The funding has already been provided to BLM, ODFW, and others. She is still working on getting the 2019 funds to Pacific Rivers and the Tribes. There are ongoing issues with how to transfer the funds. It's taken the University of California, Davis three years to get funding.

Pam said that the delivery of 500 CY of additional spawning gravel to the Soda Springs staging site started this week. Rich said they seem to be hauling in groups of three trucks at a time, so be wary while driving on the tour today.

As for a review of last year's projects, it was held up due to a heavy snow year.

For 2021, project proposals should be ready for submission in January or February. She reminded the group that projects must have at least a 20% match (USDA-FS regulation) and not contract more than 49% of the work. Proposals must be submitted by a USDA-FS proponent and include any personal/non-federal contributions to time and expenses (e.g. car trips to project sites, etc.). The more matching contributions included from the outside (i.e. non-federal, e.g., non-governmental organizations), the higher the project will score on the approval list. To obtain future funding, proponents are required to submit post-project reports. Reports do not need to be too lengthy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

NEXT RCC Meeting: January 15, 2020 (Conference call)

Proposed/approved 2020 Meeting Schedule:

January 15 (Conference call)	August 19 (Conference call)
May 20 (In-person, followed by a project tour)	October 2 (In-person, followed by the annual public tour)

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.