

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
October 21, 2020 Meeting Summary****FINAL (1/7/21)**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Amy Golladay (USDI-BLM)
Pauly Bridges (USFWS)
Frank Weaver (USFWS)
Jim Muck (NOAA Fisheries)
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)
Jason Brandt (ODFW)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp)
Audrey Squires (National Forest Foundation)
Travis Mackie (Cow Creek)
Terry Farrell (ODFW)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESSIntroductions/Member Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: Audrey Squires is the new North Umpqua Restoration Program Coordinator. Audrey is employed by the National Forest Foundation and funded by the Umpqua National Forest through the 19.3 fund. She will be working on restoration projects and on the Strategic Plan. She previously worked with the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council as a Restoration Project Manager. Her experience includes instream restoration, grants, contracting, corporate partnerships, on the ground implementation, and social media communication.

Pam said the wildfires have created a huge change in the landscape, and the USDA-FS is now implementing significant restoration activities through their Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams. She is working on the Notice to Proceed for hazard tree removal, which is an ongoing emergency response. She has been working with a lot of specialists and is managing a \$1.9 million contract for felling hazard trees along Highway 138 and the road system on National Forest lands. Sheri Chambers is the acting Zone Ranger for both the North Umpqua and Diamond Lake Ranger Districts. Pam assumes it will be at least a one-year detail.

BLM: Amy mentioned the previously issued Notice to Proceed for native surface road improvements within the fire-affected area and said they are also working on hazard tree NTPs. On October 22, 2020, at 4PM, they will have an Archie Creek Fire presentation on their Facebook page.

NOAA: Their office is status quo through March/April 2021 (restricted to teleworking and no field work until Phase 2), although they may be able to do some field visits in a month or two.

USFWS: This is Pauly's last meeting as he is retiring on November 1. Frank Weaver will assume the RCC responsibilities. Their office is on indefinite telework until something changes. Frank mentioned the recent listing of the Pacific marten but clarified that this distinct population segment is outside of the project boundary.

ODFW: There are fire-related issues in the district. The Rock Creek Fish Hatchery sustained significant fire damage and some employees lost their homes. Hydro work is continuing despite that. Their office is status quo (not open to public). Ken Homolka is still in role of Hydropower Coordinator in Salem.

OWRD: Their office is still closed to the public and they are 95% telecommuting. They still haven't been able to get out into the field to see projects.

ODEQ: Alex Holocheck in the Eugene Office has left. Chris will backfill her work on individual Section 401 water quality certifications for removal-fill projects. They do intend to fill the position. They have a closed-door public policy and are working from home indefinitely for the foreseeable future. Travel restrictions are in effect, but travel is not prohibited. It's a higher bar to be able to do site visits. They have been involved in fire response and coordinating efforts to respond to erosion threats in anticipation of seasonal rains. There may be ash runoff along the McKenzie River and throughout the state. They are coordinating grants for responding to asbestos laden wash and reseeded to stabilize ground devastation in areas that have lost vegetation cover.

Pam asked Chris about grants. He said that EPA grants may be available, particularly for reseeded. There are also grants for removing hazardous materials in stream embankments and for bank stabilization.

Cow Creek: No updates at this time.

PacifiCorp: Jon McSmith has taken a position at the Lewis River hydroelectric project. Pete Sukraw is handling his duties in the interim. The position will be filled, and interviews are being conducted. Josh Boyd remains as the North Umpqua maintenance manager.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

There was no annual public tour this year due to the pandemic. Rich said that Dennis Feero from the South Umpqua High School was planning to come up and make a video tour of the project and spawning salmon to share with students via Skype. Unfortunately, the wildfires interrupted this plan. The only visitor Rich had at the hydro project since the August RCC meeting was Lauren Brown, a permit specialist with the Department of State Lands. She came for a visit on September 28, 2020 for a socially distanced view of the hydro project and specifically the fish habitat and maintenance projects related to removal-fill and 404 permitting.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Archie Creek Fire Impacts to Infrastructure and Operations

The wildfires were to the east and west of the generating facilities but didn't make it to the hydro project proper. The Archie Creek fire to the west of the generating units affected over 20 miles of the transmission line corridor in the FERC boundary. TL 39 and TL 46 run parallel to each other for much of their ROWs through the fire-affected area. TL 39 splits off to the south across Thunder Mountain on BLM land, and TL 46 generally parallels the Route 138 corridor. There are also many distribution lines within the fire affected area. Approximately 70 transmission structures have to be replaced in whole or in part. Those lines are down and still down. TL 46 is tentatively projected to be up at end of October. TL 39 is not expected to be energized until March 2021. There is extensive coordination going on to get the work done. Contractors on the ground have estimated that for the transmission line right of way, there are tens of thousands of trees affected. The Notice to Proceed (NTP) request with the USDA-FS was for 12,363 trees over 483 acres. Some are imminent and some will be short term (over the next five years). The BLM NTP was for 10,566 trees over 350 acres. The hydro project is generating some power for local distribution to customers east of Steamboat and west of Diamond Lake.

The Archie Creek and Thielsen fires resulted in an evacuation of all employees on the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project, to Bend, OR. The project was dark for four days. Evacuation took place on September 9, 2020. On September 13, 2020 a small group returned to the project. Everyone was able to return to the project on September 22, 2020. Rich said that the emergency evacuation shutdown caused some unusual ramping in several bypass reaches as well as the Wild and Scenic Reach, but that due to power outages at gage sites and fire damage to phone and fiber lines, some of the data were not available until recently, and some are still not. He will put together a "forensic flow" analysis and it will be included in the annual flow report for WY 2020.

Pam said they appreciated that PacifiCorp jumped right on it and that she was working on the NTP to make sure PacifiCorp has everything they need to keep mitigating the hazard trees.

Amy said they also appreciated the great communication and that they should have their NTP finalized on Friday.

Steve thanked the agencies for their coordination and patience with the evolving nature of the emergency response.

Jason asked about Soda Springs. Steve said we are hoping to have TL 46 up in a week so we can get a little closer to normal operations. Rich said whenever the transmission line becomes functional, we can resume generation at Soda Springs plant through the north intake until the fish screen comes back into service after our maintenance work is completed. Steve said one of the reasons they are focusing on TL 46 is because it has more capacity. Pete added that we could probably carry most or all of the North Umpqua load on TL 46 alone during the fall and winter.

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Soda Springs: Rich reported that all flow at Soda Springs dam is passing the dam via the log chute (about 750 cfs) and fish ladder (about 25 cfs). The penstock and powerhouse are completely dewatered. The fish ladder is in normal operation except that the AWS system is shutdown as part

of the fish screen maintenance dewatering. The focus for this year is maintenance on the de-sedimentation system. The parts are on order, and the maintenance should be completed by November 5, 2020. We are also upgrading to the electrical system powering the camera and lights at the fish counting station to improve safety, efficiency, and operation. We have been looking forward to these upgrades for several years.

Fish ladders and screens at other locations are operating as normally as possible given the powerhouse and spill conditions.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>Toketee Flowline Isolation Valve</i>	Pending
<i>Archie Creek NTP w/USFS</i>	Pending
<i>Archie Creek NTP w/BLM</i>	Pending

Pam asked about the Low Poole refuse trench capping project. Steve said the plan is to start work the first week of November, but the start date is pending contractor availability and reduction of the water surface elevation in Lemolo Reservoir.

Rich said there is one thing to point out as far as sediment maintenance needs: the Clearwater Diversion Pool. The sediment and woody debris coming from Mowich Creek is obstructing the minimum flow intake. The permit application was submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in August. ACOE wanted PacifiCorp to bundle projects under one long-term programmatic permit, but in following their advice, it has become difficult to get this one permit in the short-term. Rich, Steve, and Pam have a conference call planned with the ACOE to discuss this issue.

Steve said we are awaiting approvals and/or coordination for these other important operations group projects:

1. Renewal of rock permit for 1,000 cubic yards of rock stockpiled at Beckley-Thomas pit.
2. Winter range waiver to access Watson Ridge for generator replacement later this winter.
3. Coordination on high flow hazard signage in campgrounds, per FERC direction. New revisions pertain to the addition of earthquake hazard language.

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

Scott reported that he just received the draft application for the DOGAMI permit, which is currently being reviewed by internal staff. The hope is to have contracts in place to produce the rock in the first part of next year. We are still working with AECOM and FERC on the acceleration coefficients, the result of which may modify our intake structure. It's kind of a slow process, but we are slowly gaining ground on it. We are working on the 30% design as we speak.

Pam asked Scott to explain DOGAMI. It stands for Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and is the lead state agency for rock development in quarries.

Pam asked about the bid package and said we need to make sure the rock has been purchased from the Forest and that the permits are in place. Scott said we will take care of rock purchase prior to the

start of the project. He also said that we needed the DOGAMI permit in place and that it's one step at a time. As far as the dam rehabilitation schedule, it's a slow process and takes a year to develop the rock because it has to be done in small shots to maintain the size and quality we want. The project, dependent on FERC approvals, is slated for 2022 – 2024.

Scott asked Pam about the Watson Ridge waiver for generator replacement. We expect to receive the generator in about 12 weeks. Since the gate is closed, we need the waiver to be able to do the replacement. Pam will follow-up on this.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES AND ISSUES

Fish Habitat Studies (FHS): Monitoring and Maintenance Schedules

SA 6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach: Rich is working on the report which is due to the RCC by the end of the year. For part of the report, we need to have a completed test of the emergency flow release gate at Slide Creek. However, due to the wildfires the actuator work was delayed and might not be able to be completed by the end of the year. FERC's Order approving the report stipulates a final report be submitted by March 1, 2021. We want to make sure we meet this date and the best way is to write the draft report to the RCC by 12/31/2020 and then fill in the final piece following the spillgate testing. Steve said to spell it out better, we are planning on providing most of the draft report to the RCC to review in advance. After the spillgate test, a few additional pages will be provided for review before we submit the final report to FERC.

SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation/SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Maintenance Project: Rich will monitor gravel site usage downstream of Soda Springs powerhouse tomorrow during a redd survey float with ODFW. Rich reported that the gravel added last August in the bypass reaches is being heavily used by Chinook Salmon.

SA 8.3 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat Monitoring: *Nothing new to report.*

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: Rich reported that loss of power to the camera, lights, and computers during the fire caused a loss of a week or so of monitoring data. When the power came back on, the DVR began working but the FishTick program didn't get re-started for at least another week due to the highway closure. The fish monitoring systems are now all operating normally.

In the course of dewatering the Soda Springs fish screen, PacifiCorp captured nine adult brown trout inside the screen area and after coordination with ODFW, moved them up to Lemolo Reservoir for liberation as part of the Predator Control Program. Jason said he appreciated Rich moving the fish. He also said we saw some of the greatest movement of Chinook Salmon over Soda Springs dam in all the years of monitoring. It was encouraging to see the high number of fish passing through the facilities, as well as spawning. Rich said one other glitch is the pit tag antennae. Due to the power loss, the batteries didn't fully charge back up, but he was able to troubleshoot it and get it back up and running.

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

The most recent water year report should be completed and distributed to the relevant agencies soon.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages

Scott reported there are no more outages scheduled for this year and next year's schedule isn't available yet. He should know in two weeks whether we can install the Toketee butterfly valve, which is awaiting the NTP approval from Pam.

Reservoir Management

Lemolo Reservoir: Relative to the drawdown plan given to ODFW and USFS in August, the drawdown is about six days behind schedule due to the slowing of the drawdown during and after the wildfires.

Toketee Reservoir: *Nothing new to report. It is still being managed at the lowest end of the water level range due to rehabilitation needs.*

Soda Springs: *Nothing new to report.*

LWD Management Plan: *Nothing new to report.*

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Archie Creek Fire Impacts

Jason reported that pre-fire and post the most recent in-water work period, hydro staff worked with district and hatchery staff to get the camera and video recorder at the Rock Creek ladder operational with plans to help read video moving forward to aid in the monitoring of fish response from restoration efforts in the Rock Creek basin. The camera was replaced and rebooted, and a new DVR was purchased to improve storage and video reading capability. Rock Creek lamprey spawning ground surveys continued, as did Harrington Creek project data analyses and report updates. Water quality monitoring stations were also checked.

Post-fire, hydro staff have been spending time evaluating fire damage throughout the Rock Creek basin. There is some pretty heavy damage throughout the basin, including the loss of much of the riparian habitat. The possibility of slides and mobilization of sediment and debris instream is greatly elevated. Large wood used for wood/boulder instream restoration structures was burned at a number of locations, but the larger trees used should still function as intended and help capture material moving downstream during high water events. These structures will be critical in maintaining important rock and sediment load instream from slide events which fish can utilize in the future for spawning and rearing. Hydro staff worked with the various permitting agencies to get in-water work extensions to add large wood above restoration structures in East Fork Rock Creek to take some of the burden off of the structures and help prevent them from being overwhelmed and/or damaged

from extreme mobilizations of debris and sediment during initial high-water and slide events. Hydro staff worked with a contractor utilizing an excavator to topple burned riparian trees instream which has the added benefit of attached rootwads to help keep the trees in place. Fifteen sites utilizing 75 trees were developed and they should help greatly in dampening impacts to existing restoration structures. ODFW would like to thank the permitting agencies, including NOAA, on working so quickly to help get the projects going and completed before the winter rains and Coho Salmon moved in. A number of water quality stations were destroyed which is not ideal as water temperature monitoring will be critical during post-fire evaluations. ODFW is working with their procurement folks to get everything replaced but it might take a little while. ODFW is exploring other funding options to get them replaced as well. ODFW suspects that gravels collected and pools created by the instream restoration structures will have even greater utilization by fish (juveniles and adults) because of the cooler water temperatures the structures can provide. ODFW plans to increase temperature and juvenile fish monitoring in those areas, especially during warmer periods. Hydro staff have been working in an opportunistic capacity to acquire trees and boulders that could be used for future restoration structures. They are exploring a number of opportunities to acquire some of the largely available timber, and fire-opened access opportunities to potential boulder pits. Material storage areas are still available and so far, landowners in the basin are open to ODFW accessing their properties for restoration work. Evaluation of impacts to restoration structures is ongoing, and hydro staff have been working with the BAER group on potential joint restoration/mitigation efforts in the basin. ODFW's likely plan moving forward, for the next year at least, is to increase monitoring of existing structures to see how they perform through the rainy season and how they impact water quality. Maintenance of existing structures or additions of new structures could occur if deemed needed or time sensitive opportunities arise (e.g. access to potential restoration locations is currently readily available but may be lost with tree plantings, etc.).

Fish surveys will continue in the Rock Creek basin. Hydro staff are currently conducting spring Chinook Salmon surveys. So far, the peak count is 13 redds and 15 dead fish (approximately 7 miles of surveys). The building that houses the camera and video recording equipment at the Rock Creek ladder was heavily damaged and staff have not been able to get in to see if they are still operational. We are assuming they were destroyed. Metal equipment inside the building (brick structure with a metal roof) used to operate the ladder melted. ODFW will work to get them replaced but there is no timetable on when the structure will be fixed.

Jason is hopeful they'll continue to see benefits to Rock Creek basin aquatic resources from previously completed restoration projects in the coming years despite extreme fire impacts.

Jim asked about restoration as far as removing trees for potential landslides. Jason said he believes many of the private timber companies with resources in the Rock Creek basin are working to salvage what they can from burned areas. Removal of trees in draws and riparian areas is of particular concern in terms of potential aquatic resource impacts. Moving forward, ODFW Salem personnel are working to address impacts in those areas (draws and riparian areas) with timber resource agencies/companies, trying to keep as much wood as possible in place for instream restoration use while also meeting the needs of logging and timber operators.

Rich asked if the fish passage facility was operational despite damage to the building. Jason said he thought it was and said that fish are still passing. The concrete damage wasn't extensive. Regarding log structures, Rich suggested that ODFW keep an eye out for secondary impacts to structures from fire, logging, and restoration crews. He recalled Robert Nichols mentioning during a fire a few years

ago the crews severed several large and previously long fish habitat logs in the course of accessing burned areas. Jason said they would keep an eye out for that.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Pam clarified that the trees they are focusing on right now are hazard trees, not salvage trees.

Strategic Plan

Pam reported that an internal meeting was scheduled for November 1, 2020. The focus of the meeting is to start revisiting the plan and developing the vision for the North Umpqua watershed. Once we start getting ideas on paper, Audrey will reach out to partners to get one-on-one feedback and input, rather than in a group meeting setting where folks might not speak up. We hope to finalize it in January 2021, and then Audrey can start looking for outside funding in the form of grants and fundraising to get more work done on the ground. She is excited for partner engagement and getting everyone involved in the process.

For FY2021, there is a little over a million dollars in funded projects. ODF and DCSO were the only funding partners this year.

SA 19.4 OVERSIGHT FUNDING

Steve said he and Jason should reschedule a meeting before the end of the year to review the necessity and level of SA 19.4 funding, as is required per the Settlement Agreement in Year 15 of the New License. A meeting was scheduled in September but cancelled due to fire emergencies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None at this time.*

NEXT RCC Meeting: January 20, 2021 (conference call)

Proposed (and accepted) 2021 Meeting Schedule. Beth will send out the meeting invitations.

January 20 (Conference call)	August 18 (Conference call)
May 19 (Conference call); Project Tour (TBD)	October 20 (Conference call); Annual Public Tour (TBD)

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.