

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
May 19, 2021 Meeting Summary****FINAL 8/3/21**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)
Amy Golladay (USDI-BLM)
Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)
Frank Weaver (USFWS)
Logan Negherbon (NOAA Fisheries)
Jason Brandt (ODFW)
Kregg Smith (ODFW)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Jeffrey Brown (PacifiCorp)
Audrey Squires (National Forest Foundation)

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

USDA-FS: Mark Sommer is the acting Deputy District Ranger at the Diamond Lake Ranger Station. He has 70 days left of his detail. Sherri Chambers should be included on all Ranger emails. They are continuing to follow CDC guidelines, which identify that if someone is fully vaccinated, masks aren't needed inside or outside of federal buildings. They are taking down all their signs. Currently, they are still teleworking. When they do re-open their buildings, there is no policy for asking about vaccination history.

NOAA: They are still waiting on a replacement for Jim Muck. Their office is still teleworking, and they are tight on authorizations.

USFWS: The spotted owl critical habitat review has been delayed.

BLM: There have been some organizational updates, including the associate manager taking another position. There have been some activities on Archie Fire restoration. They are looking at opening up the front desk area for appointments.

ODEQ: There have been some travel updates. The current policy is they are beginning to emerge, and day trips are generally approved with standard COVID protocols in place. They are now allowed to do site and field visits.

Hydropower licensing and removal/fill permitting have parallel 401 programs. Sara Slater, DEQ's 401 dredge and fill program coordinator, is the new Eastern Region water quality manager replacing Eric Nigg who retired. DEQ is currently recruiting to fill Sara's position in the dredge and fill program. Nothing has changed on Chris's side.

ODFW: Kregg Smith has filled Ken Homolka's position, as Ken retired. Kregg has a background in the Upper Great Lakes area (USGS and FERC projects), and the last four years he's worked on fish passage and screening projects. He has been in the hydropower program for about a month now.

Jason said their office is still closed to the public, and he hasn't heard when that will change. They are now able to go out and do site visits (masks/socially distanced). Chandra Ferrari, the new Water Program Manager, will take over for Anna Pakenham-Stevenson. Chandra recently worked with Trout Unlimited and the California Department of Fish and Game and will oversee the hydropower program.

OWRD: Mary Grainey is retiring at the end of June. She worked 20% on hydroelectric projects. There is no timeline on refilling her position. Travel-wise, they have received no clear direction. There are several projects in the offing, including some minor hydroelectric projects. Craig said there is nothing like getting out on the ground to see projects in person.

PacifiCorp: Jeff said there was a vaccination clinic at the USDA-Forest Service's office.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None at this time.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Archie Creek Fire Rehabilitation Update

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Most of the pole replacements on public lands have been completed, but there is still a lot of work happening on private lands. There are supply chain issues with a lot of different departments. Line 46 is restored and Pacific Power is delivering power to the grid, but there is still ongoing work on Line 39.

Pam said that PacifiCorp is helicopter logging, and it is more efficient than ground-based operations. There have been over 100 new cultural sites identified in the area. Both USDA-FS and PacifiCorp appreciate all the work going on.

Steve said the area is like a moonscape which made it very easy to find cultural sites. It is an archeological district with significant material from Steamboat to the BLM boundary. There have been significant changes related to site cataloging, registering sites, and updating the HPMP. Russ Howison and the agency cultural resources staff have all been really busy.

It was noted that in southern Oregon the 2021 fire season has already started.

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Rich reported the fish ladders, screens, and tailrace barriers are all working well. Maintenance and upgrades of the Soda Springs fish screen are planned for September.

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

Scott reported that the designs are nearing completion, but the flowline alignment is still in flux. It appears it will be on the right abutment, but not sure whether it will be a tunnel or cut/cover in the road. There have been some issues with consensus on the fluid dynamics model. It's currently being discussed with FERC. The Beckley-Thomas quarry development permit has been submitted to USDA-FS for review.

The current construction timeline is 2024 – 2026.

Pam asked about the flowline alignment on the right bank and its location with respect to Toketee Rigdon road and the FERC boundary. The design is still in flux, but PacifiCorp is aware of license and permitting issues associated with going beyond the FERC boundary.

Pam asked to have them please make sure to look at where the boundary is. NEPA/EIS is covered if it's in the boundary of the hydropower project. If they go over to the other side of the road, FERC will have to make a determination, and that could turn into a bit of time.

Steve noted that the rehab project will require a license amendment with or without the boundary expansion.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>DOGAMI Permit Application</i>	Awaiting review and Signature
<i>Slide Creek Diversion Power Supply</i>	Pending
<i>Two new residences at Slide Creek Village</i>	Pending
<i>CWI Hazard Tree</i>	Pending
<i>Helicopter Log Decks 3 (FS) and 10 (BLM)</i>	Pending
<i>Clearwater 2 Diversion – sediment removal has been done regularly over the past decade so the area has had several reviews already.</i>	Rich will send the NTP request to Pam. The only difference is there will be more material removed this year than in recent years.

NORTH UMPQUA PUMPED STORAGE PRESENTATION

Steve gave a presentation about PacifiCorp's intent to file an application for preliminary permit for pumped storage developments at Clearwater 2 and Fish Creek forebays using Toketee Reservoir as the lower reservoir in both developments. He asked the RCC to mull it over and informally ruminate on it until our next RCC meeting, at which point we can consult as a group. The impacts are very minimal, and this project will be beneficial as we all work towards a carbon-emission-free future.

Chris asked if PacifiCorp’s proposal required pumped storage at both locations or if only one of the two developments could be pursued. Steve said the application is to analyze feasibility at both of the locations, but they are independent developments. It is possible that one or none of the developments will be determined to be feasible. We are just reserving our priority to file a future license amendment or application. The preliminary permit simply gives PacifiCorp the time right to perform studies to see if a pumped storage project is feasible. Chris asked if PacifiCorp was considering all of the developments within the existing FERC boundary. Steve said no, only the Fish Creek and Clearwater 2 forebays at this time.

Jason and Logan mentioned water rights. Chris said he thought FERC’s preliminary permit term was three years, but per Steve it’s four years. FERC has an opportunity to then extend it for another four years. Pam asked if it was tied to the current FERC project. Steve said FERC will assign it a separate number. Chris then asked if PacifiCorp could provide the FERC docket number once it’s been assigned. Steve said, yes, we will do that.

MONITORING PROGRAM & TECHNICAL WORK GROUP UPDATES

Rich gave the following updates:

SA 4.1 Soda Springs Fish Passage O&M

After agency review, the Soda Springs O&M report was filed with FERC on January 21, 2021.

SA 5 & 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring

After TWG review, the Slide Creek monitoring report was filed with FERC on February 16, 2021.

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Bypass Reach Habitat Maintenance (update, schedule)

No new updates; monitoring continues. No maintenance is planned nor anticipated for this year.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring and Predator Control (update, schedule)

The 2020 report has been drafted. Rich will send it out to the TWG for review. He thanked Jason, Sam Moyers, and Chris Sheely for getting it drafted.

Water Quality Certification Monitoring

The water quality monitoring downstream from the Soda Springs Powerhouse is ongoing with USGS. At Lemolo 1 forebay, the flushing regime is underway but due to the warm, sunny, dry spring, operators are observing more algae than in recent years, but the pH is well within criteria. Lemolo 1 forebay will be dewatered in June for annual maintenance. No long-term problems are anticipated.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages (updates, plans)

Jeff reported the Clearwater 1 outage is ongoing with expected return to service on May 20, 2021. The Lemolo 1 outage starts June 7 and will run through June 25. In July, the Fish Creek plant outage is scheduled for July 6-18. The Toketee tunnel outage will run from July 20-30. We are looking at alternatives based on the work scope. Scott mentioned his concern is that it is now fire season. On the butterfly valve installation, if IFPL goes to a Level 4, then the project could be stopped in-progress with a section of flowline removed, rendering Toketee out of service. Depending on FERC's review of the valve project, it could push us out to June or October depending on what works better on timing. The project will seek to avoid fire season impacts, and he's trying to avoid a long-term outage.

Reservoir Management (Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs)

Rich gave the following updates:

Lemolo Reservoir: The normal summer full-pool (4,145 feet) is just now being achieved. Everything looks good. The water is clear, and fisherman and campers are there now.

Toketee Reservoir: The Toketee Reservoir is being managed per recent restrictions, at the low end of the operating range.

Soda Springs: The Soda Springs Reservoir is also being managed as normal with minimal fluctuations.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Jason reported that their hydropower crew continues to be hard at work in the Rock Creek Basin. They are performing spawning surveys and getting ready for the instream season. Spring Chinook Salmon numbers for 2020 included a peak count of 33 live adults, which was greater than the 9 observed in 2019, and 154 redds which was also greater than the 31 redds recorded in 2019. The majority of observed adult spring Chinook Salmon continue to be of hatchery origin. Hydropower staff have helped in efforts to remove hatchery salmon at the Rock Creek fish ladder. The sorting efforts were hindered last year because of the Archie Creek Fire and will be hindered this year as well, as the sorting equipment at the ladder was destroyed. They most likely won't be able to sort this year but spring Chinook Salmon are still being collected for brood stock and are currently being sent to Cole Rivers Hatchery. Hydropower staff have completed Coho salmon spawning ground surveys and totals should be available for the next RCC meeting. Numbers in Harrington and East Fork Rock Creek appeared to be comparable to previous years though distribution in East Fork Rock did not extend as high as in the past and is most likely due to lower winter flows. It was good to see that Coho Salmon are spawning despite the issues from fire impacts. As far as winter steelhead, many avid anglers have declared it was the worst fishing season in memory. Winter steelhead spawning in Rock Creek remained low through April, but we saw an uptick the first week of May with an increase from 3 redds to 11. We suspect those were the last fish hanging on hoping for higher flows. That's probably not going to happen now. For lamprey spawning ground surveys, they saw one lamprey redd in mid-April which is the earliest they've seen in the Rock Creek Basin. Hydropower staff completed the Effectiveness Monitoring Project Report for the restoration work

that was completed in Harrington Creek. Pre- and post-project evaluations indicate a 184% increase in summer juvenile Coho Salmon average abundance and a 585% increase in winter juvenile Coho Salmon average abundance post-restoration work, all definitely positive results that show the benefits of instream habitat restoration/rehabilitation work. As far as restoration work this summer, they are working on existing structures damaged by fire - either replacing them or rehabilitating them. There are a large number of roadside riparian, hazard trees that need to be cut down and the hydro crew has been working with landowners/industrial timber operators to get them placed instream. The hope is to drop or push the trees where they are with rootwads attached. ODFW will be out onsite to monitor the operations and guide tree placement. They are still continuing to pick up logs for instream restoration activities and have procured a large number of logs from the Rock Creek Hatchery hazard tree removal. Forest Investment Associates is continuing to be a great partner and are looking to provide 500-1,000 large boulders that will be collected from a recent salvage harvest area that can be used for instream restoration structures.

ODFW is still trying to get their water quality monitoring stations that were damaged in the fire up and running again. They thought that they could salvage some of the stations within the burned area, but they are finding that the internal components were damaged and most will have to be replaced. USGS has a water quality station up and running in Rock Creek, which will provide important water quality data. They also expect to receive some insurance money to replace some of the stations. There is a plan this summer to do a forward-looking infrared (FLIR) drone flight to get an idea of water temperatures in and around in-stream structures. This will be done out of the Corvallis office, and hopefully will show water quality benefits from restoration activities.

Pam asked Jason what was going on with the otter. Per Chris Sheely, the otter has been a hinderance at the ladder. It is eating brown trout (he's ok with that) and has been seen chasing steelhead and maybe spring Chinook Salmon. The otter has been coming in from the upstream end of the fish ladder. Chris said the potential impacts have lessened a little and don't seem to be much of an issue now. ODFW hasn't pursued relocating the otter but will monitor the situation. Rich added that the otter most frequently seems to show up at night to chase trout. When there is no otter activity, sometimes the brown trout will take up residence by the window, so the otter seems to keep the trout from occupying the window. Pam said she appreciated the update.

Pam mentioned as an FYI on drone use, that if you are using a drone on BLM or USDA-FS lands, it needs to be coordinated with the Roseburg interagency coordination center. Jason said he would pass this information on to Kirk Haskett.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND

Audrey Squires reported she has received 15 funding applications: 1 from BLM, 1 from Phoenix School, 3 from ODFW, and 10 from Forest Service. The reviewing committee, made up of line officers and staff, reviewed the applications one week ago and has made recommendations. There will be announcement coming out soon. This year the requests totaled \$1.1M.

Strategic Planning

The final draft report is nearly complete. It will include a holistic restoration strategy. Both the Umpqua National Forest and BLM are working on it, and Audrey hopes to share it soon. It goes beyond hydro to address leveraging available funding sources. It will also finalize all the efforts

from 2015. The two documents will go hand and hand. She hopes they can leverage additional funds for the watershed.

Pam said they kept review comments in the draft. After the Umpqua Forest Supervisor gets done reviewing the applications, they will go back to each of the proponents to see where they can improve their proposal requests. Pam added that if anyone has been funded in the past, she will need project completion reports. They don't have to be large and there is a form that folks can follow. It's all part of getting the mitigation dollars and proving efficient and effective use of funds consistent with the funding proposal. They are still working with ODFW on Good Neighbor Agreements, the vehicle which transfers the funding. It continues to take a lot of work to transfer funds to other organizations.

OTHER RCC AGENCY PROJECTS AND/OR COORDINATION

Pam said they are still looking for help with the Archie Fire rehabilitation work. They are also looking for some additional decking locations on the east side to avoid the peregrine falcon restriction zones. She sent out some emails to coordinate with T&D staff but hasn't been getting a lot of response. Steve offered to help. Pam noted that there are a limited number decking locations in the Archie Fire area due to topography and cultural constraints. There have been problems finding additional decking locations. While most of the habitat in the fire area got torched, there were still some spotted owl and falcon nesting zones. She said PacifiCorp has been doing a fantastic job working through the Archie Fire aftermath.

Steve clarified his role as the "middleman" as far as transmission lines. Until the power ties into the larger grid, it's still considered a FERC facility. Those of us in Renewables Resources don't have management responsibility for the equipment. Steve is mostly a conduit for information transfer.

Mike said the NTP should be coming out fairly soon on for helicopter landings. Some BLM hazard trees have fish painted on them for use in fish habitat restoration log jam projects in Rock Creek. Jason said Jeff McEnroe, in conjunction with PUR, has been talking with them about the activities. Mike said he just didn't want to conflict with other agencies' projects.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None at this time.*

Lastly, Chris asked about the Fish Creek Forebay and prior annual authorizations to provide water for firefighting purposes. Steve said we had previously decided as a group that it would not be a long-standing authorization, but rather a year-to-year one. If the USDA-Forest Service wants to use it, they need to make a request to the RCC to store the water and have an extra one CFS available. Pam added that there will be letter coming out shortly requesting it for this year. Steve added that having a pumped storage project at Fish Creek could be a benefit in that it would provide additional water for firefighting without diversion from flow-limited Fish Creek.

NEXT RCC Meeting: August 18, 2021

The meeting adjourned 11:51 AM.