

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
April 20, 2022 Meeting Summary****FINAL 8/22/2022**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)
Jason Brandt (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Frank Weaver (USFWS)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Jeffrey Brown (PacifiCorp)
Joshua Moos (PacifiCorp)

RCC Members Absent

Logan Negherbon (NOAA Fisheries)

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

USDA-FS: They will be reporting back to in-office work starting June 6, 2022. They can choose to telework up to four days per week. David Andersen is the new zone ranger, replacing Sherri Chambers. Mark Sommer is still the deputy district ranger at Toketee.

NOAA: *No updates to report.*

BLM: There have been some fish biologist positions for vacancies posted. There is only one fish biologist on the district now, but BLM is hoping to increase staffing. BLM is wrapping up the Archie Fire Environmental Assessment effort and conducting restoration activities in Rock Creek and Camp Creek. They don't have an official return-to-office work plan yet and are currently running at 50% in the office with staff slowly returning. The USFWS is moving in towards the end of April 2022/beginning of May 2022. Per Mike (and Pam), June 6, 2022 is the estimated date for USFS staff relocating to the current BLM and future co-located office. The future new location is under construction with a potential move-in date of September 2023.

ODEQ: Staffing-wise, Haley Teach, the former nationwide permit 401 staff person, is on parental leave. When she returns she will be responsible for individual permits. Ari Sindel is doing nationwide permits. There is no change in the hydro 401 staffing department. A memo went out from the director saying that all DEQ offices will be open to the public beginning May 1, 2022. It didn't, however, indicate when staff would be required to return.

ODFW: John Zauner has been hired as the Hydropower Program Manager. Currently there are two hydro coordinator positions open, one in northeast Oregon and John's previous position in Clackamas. It's status quo as far as COVID protocols. The recommendation is that staff start going back to the office on a hybrid basis.

OWRD: Katie Ratcliff is the new water rights manager, replacing Alyssa Mucken who is now a top water coordinator in the director's office doing USBOR work. On May 1, 2022 the offices will officially open to the public with a staff telework option. Mary Grainey is still working 20% of the time. When she retires fully at the end of June 2022, they will work to refill her position. Currently they are filling lots of field positions having to do with water rights, illegal water rights, and cannabis issues.

USFWS: Staff is reporting back to the office starting May 1, 2022. There is a telework option. Scott Center, who was responsible for ESA consultations, retired. They have some candidates for his position and hope to hire someone soon.

PacifiCorp: Josh Boyd left the organization and Joshua Moos has joined the company as the maintenance manager. There has been some recent turnover on the operations side due to folks advancing to higher positions within the company. To minimize disruption, there has been increased attention in reinforcing the on-boarding process including training about the License, Settlement Agreement, and management plan requirements. There has also been an increase in flexibility in report-to-work locations for office staff.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Jeff Brown and hydro project staff participated in a career fair at Glide High School in March. Along with those efforts, PacifiCorp is rolling out an electrical apprenticeship program at Glide High School in partnership with other high schools and electrical workers organizations to help expose the local community to jobs at the hydro project and PacifiCorp at large.

There was supposed to be an operations visit from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) last week but it has been postponed to October. The Willamette ACOE will come to tour and view our fish passage facilities and hydro operation at a future date.

Upcoming events

- **April 27, 2022:** Job/trade fair in Medford.
- **May 9, 2022, 9:30AM:** The South Umpqua High School science class 'twice annual' field visit is back on the books. There will be about 12-15 students. Rich said if anyone from the RCC is interested in attending to please let him know.

- **May 19-20, 2022:** The hydro project will host the State Fish Passage Task Force quarterly meeting. Once a year the task force tries to get out and see fish passage projects on the ground. This year they will be in the Umpqua Basin. ODFW Fish Passage staff are currently finalizing details of the meeting, which will be in-person with an optional MS Teams component.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Fish passage: Rich reported that the planned maintenance work on the Soda Springs fish screen is nearly complete. Work was done on the submerged components during the dewatered period. Most of the remaining work to be done is above the water. Remaining work includes programming the logic for the secondary screen cleaner SCADA to enable operation in remote mode from the Toketee Control Center. The work will be complete next week with several months of ongoing monitoring, but already has improved the operation of the cleaning systems. When the fish screen was down for six weeks, the ladder remained in service. The attraction water supply flow was provided via the log chute instead of the fish screen. When the fish screen returned to operation, there were less than 100 fish observed at the Fish Evaluation Building during the first few nights. The work was timed to avoid the period of highest downstream fish migration. All other fish passage systems are operating normally.

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

Scott reported that the geotech investigation on Toketee Rigdon Road has been completed. We are still coordinating the engineering design with FERC. The intake structure will need a rebuild. Pam said she appreciated Scott’s coordination and response to USFS’s requests for modification of the traffic control program during the geotech investigations.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>DOGAMI Permit Application</i>	Awaiting review and signature
<i>Slide Creek new housing (discussion w/PC & USDA-FS)</i>	Pending
<i>Fish Creek and Clearwater 2 forebay/spillway debris removal</i>	Pending
<i>Final mop-up for Jack Fire trees/vegetation management by helicopter</i>	USFS awaiting submission of Cultural Review Forms by PacifiCorp

Steve said there will be more NTP requests coming, but he doesn’t have enough thorough details to issue requests yet.

Pam asked about the spotted owl procedures and whether they had become more restrictive. Steve replied that nothing had changed with respect to PacifiCorp’s existing authorizations, and he was having to explain the existing Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement for the Project to USFS staff because these authorizations may differ from Forest Service’s current protocols or requirements.

Franklin's bumble bee is a newly listed endangered species with a historic range as far east as Lemolo Reservoir, but there are no known locations within the FERC project boundary. The bee hasn't been seen since 2006 and may be extinct. Presence surveys will be conducted for the bee. The listing decision says that destruction of habitat is not a threat to the species. Pesticides are more likely the issue.

MONITORING PROGRAM & TECHNICAL WORK GROUP UPDATES

Rich provided the following updates:

SA 4.1 Soda Springs Fish Passage O&M

Related to maintenance on the fish screen, Rich gave a shout out to Jeff Brown, production manager, who helped spearhead the project. The entire hydro crew was managed without a maintenance manager. Jeff and everyone stepped up to make it all happen. He was appreciated by Rich and the fish as well. With respect to fish salvage during dewatering of the fish screen, there were only a few fish in that area during the cold weather of March 2-3, 2022. Besides several steelhead and salmon that were shepherded downstream to the river, five predator-sized brown trout were relocated to Lemolo Reservoir via the slightly-melted margin along the dam. The details will be included in the next annual report.

SA 5 & 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring

The almost-complete set of WY 2020 data is currently in the process of being reviewed. We are hoping to have that report distributed in about a month. A few years ago the USGS lag time was about three years from real-time to final data. Since then, they've updated their system and improved the turn-around time.

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

Similar to last year, monitoring is progressing well. Flows this year have been mellow, and thus, there hasn't been much gravel movement. The gravel placed two years ago is still available. No additional maintenance is needed. One caveat to that is we would like to remove some of the gravel over the pit tag antenna area to improve the antennae operation, but we can't move it until August because there are steelhead and salmon eggs incubating in it.

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

Jason reported that monitoring is ongoing and that the fish evaluation building is operating three nights per week. Following the fish screen outage, we have been capturing less than 100 juvenile fish (parr/smolt) per night. Jason recently emailed updates of this year's upstream and downstream fish passage. Rich complemented Jason on the clear format of the new, more detailed updates. For the month of March, winter steelhead have doubled last March's count. It's promising compared to last year's record low counts. We intend to resume the predator control program with the lifting of the pandemic restrictions. The electrofishing boat can net 50-100 fish per effort, as opposed to the angling effort resulting in approximately 25 fish.

Chris Sheely and Sam Moyers reported to Jason that so far the winter steelhead returns have slowed down. He doesn't have the exact numbers, but it has been low for April. April is historically the peak for these counts. The water temperatures have been cold, and we're only seeing intermittent increases in flow. Hopefully when water temperatures rise a bit, we'll see more fish movement through the ladder. Chris said juvenile counts have been low. Chris's theory is that the low counts are likely related to the full moon and low night time water temperatures

Rich said the weather has been like getting winter during spring. The SNOTEL site at Diamond Lake recently went from zero inches of 'Snow-water Equivalent' back up to a median level of three inches. The longer it stays cool, the longer that flow is metered out throughout the spring and summer.

Water Quality Certification Monitoring

On February 4, 2022, Rich emailed last year's Soda Springs water quality monitoring station summary to Chris Stine. The USGS is getting better at releasing water year records sooner. The flushing regime continues at Lemolo 1 Forebay. As long as it doesn't interfere with operations, Rich is encouraging the flushing regime to continue throughout the year (even though it is only required during summer) for long term management of macrophyte growth.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages (updates, plans)

Between now and July, there is another outage but it won't impact flows. The return-to-service date for the non-dewatered outage at Toketee is April 28, 2022. In May, there is a Clearwater 2 outage which involves dewatering the canal. On June 1, 2022, a Lemolo 2 outage begins for canal relining. The canal will be dewatered until the projected return to service date of July 1, 2022. From July 11-15, 2022 all three Toketee units will be offline to install plant valves. Water will be diverted over the Toketee spillway. During the week of July 18, 2022, there will be a Slide Creek outage. It hasn't been determined if water will be diverted over the spillway or a via a canal dewatering.

Steve asked Pam about whether a new forest botanist had been hired, but Pam hadn't heard anything yet.

Reservoir Management (Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs)

Rich gave the following updates:

Lemolo Reservoir: Rising and currently at 4,137 feet. The target is to be above 4,138 feet by the last weekend of April.

Toketee Reservoir: Operating as usual during recent years.

Soda Springs: Operating normally.

Pam asked if people could ice fish on Lemolo Reservoir. Rich explained that the reservoir is legally open to fishing year-round, but he wouldn't encourage trying to walk on the ice because it is rarely solid enough to do so, especially near the inlets, outlets, and around the perimeter. Lemolo Reservoir

differs from Diamond Lake in that it is at a lower, warmer elevation, has a LOT more flow and water velocity moving through it, and has greater and more frequent water level fluctuations which tend to break up the perimeter ice.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Jason reported the hydro crew is busy with monitoring and spawning ground surveys in Rock Creek and its tributaries. Steelhead spawning ground surveys in mainstem Rock Creek and tributaries are ongoing and he should have final numbers for the July RCC meeting. It appears that steelhead spawning activity in Rock Creek has been slow but redds have been observed high up in Rock Creek tributaries, including East Fork Rock Creek, so there likely haven't been many habitat access issues this year. Peak spawning may be a little later this year as compared to the past few years due to the recent cooler water temperatures, so hoping to see additional spawning into May. Lamprey spawning surveys will start in May/June.

The hydro crew is planning for extensive Rock Creek Basin habitat work this year, including instream work this summer (large wood and boulders). The crew have been spending time finalizing contracts for contractors that are going to help with instream placements of boulders and large wood and are working to extend the ACOE permit to last beyond this year. They have started ribboning access points for restoration sites and are continuing to work with small landowners on lower Rock Creek for access permission. They have a lot of material salvaged from the Archie Creek fire that is ready to go, and they are doing effectiveness monitoring on the existing structures. During a recent high water event, the structures held up even with the fire impacts. This is great news! There is still no news on the replacement of the fire-damaged water quality stations, most of which have finally stopped working. Insurance matters are always slow. The hope is to have water quality data soon.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND

Pam apologized for not getting the email detailing the call for projects out earlier to the RCC. It was sent out a few days ago. Applications need to be in by May 13. Proposals must conform with the two strategic plans, the Holistic Restoration Strategic Plan and the Mitigation Fund Strategic Plan. The application is set up to be more in-depth for doing reviews. Audrey Squires, Umpqua Restoration Coordinator, is coordinating the application process.

The Forest has received \$30M in fire restoration funding to use over the next five years. There is an overlap of folks working on hydro project issues and restoration funding projects, so staff availability is limited.

Pam said she accepted a detail in the fire recovery program but will keep her hydropower duties as well.

OTHER RCC AGENCY PROJECTS AND/OR COORDINATION

Rich to Jason: With respect to the SA 19.1 work, would it be appropriate to consider a display for the Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby to make sure the public and donors know about some of that work? The Derby is another source of fish habitat funding. Jason said yes, he would look into it. He has spoken with the Derby folks about replanting efforts.

Rich to Jason/Pam: Regarding signage in Soda Springs and Slide Creek areas, the operators quite frequently see people sneaking in to illegally fish in those areas. Over the past ten years, we have installed “no angling” signs, but no matter how securely we put them up, the signs are removed or vandalized by the public. We are contemplating more solid/permanent signage so people can’t pretend they don’t see the signs. Rich questioned whether SA 19.3 funds could be used to design signs with maps that make it abundantly clear which areas are off-limits to fishing, because this detail is unclear within the regulation book. He asked Jason and Pam to please think about it and get back to us. If we did want to put together an SA 19.3 proposal, who would be a sponsor? Pam said she wasn’t sure if it would be approved for 19.3 funding, but obtaining ODFW’s support could help the proposal. Pam suggested he work in collaboration with ODFW to fill everything out. She also said she could be listed on it as well as Ron McMullen.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None at this time.*

PUMPED STORAGE CONSULTATION

Steve gave an update on the Fish Creek pump-only project. PacifiCorp received an Additional Information Request from FERC. FERC mostly presented some follow-up questions about the consultation to date, in particular the cultural resources consultation process. There were a few questions on dam safety items, and FERC wanted clarification on how we’re operating the facility pending the Toketee Dam Rehabilitation. The response is due to FERC by May 6, 2022.

Comments

In looking at Volume II of the application, Chris said the water quality modelling report looked to be a draft. Steve said the final should have been included in the 401 water quality certification application and the FERC license amendment application.

Steve said PacifiCorp is proceeding with the studies originally proposed (wetland delineation later this year, water quality monitoring, and water quality modelling) whether we hear back from FERC or not.

PacifiCorp is now working on the Clearwater 2 (CW2) pumped storage application, which is planned for filing at the end of this month or early next month. CW2 is the second stage of the overall North Umpqua Pumped Storage Project. Because we are adding a new turbine and diversion, this license amendment application does require a three-stage consultation process. It’s different from the Fish Creek pump-only application, which immediately progressed to the application stage. The three-stage consultation process for a license amendment is not the same as a full relicensing process, and can be looser in scope and schedule depending on how the consultation process goes with stakeholders and the public. The first step is filing an Initial Consultation Document to let the consulting agencies know you are going to submit an application and identify what we know about the project proposal and natural resources in the vicinity of the project. The conceptual design remains the same as previously discussed.

Steve shared a map and walked through a preliminary look what’s entailed with this part of the pumped storage project.

As to the impact to the elk foraging habitat area in the proposed forebay expansion area, PacifiCorp is proposing to mitigate that impact with a new forage plot.

Chris said it looks like the forebay expansion would comfortably fit within the existing FERC boundary. Steve clarified that the expansion does extend beyond the existing boundary in a few locations. Steve said the design engineers are looking at multiple waterway discharge locations, and the same contractor who did the Fish Creek water quality modelling is also going to work with the design engineers to make sure there is good flow and water quality through the CW2 Forebay expansion. We hope to eliminate the issues we had at Lemolo 1 forebay. Chris agreed that avoiding stagnant zones was a good idea, to which Rich added that PacifiCorp would also avoid a plastic liner like the one used at Lemolo 1 Forebay.

Steve said two USFS roads will need to be relocated.

Pam asked about the land outside the FERC boundary. She was wondering about NEPA. Steve said the license application will require a NEPA document from FERC. It's not necessarily the boundary expansion that triggers a new NEPA document, it's what's happening within the boundary. Boundary expansions can occur and have occurred during the current license term without new NEPA review.

Steve shared another map and walked through the intake structure components. The proposed intake screen design is consistent with the existing fish screen at the Toketee intake structure.

Chris asked if the likeliest scenario is to use the pump-turbine for generation rather than the CW2 Powerhouse. Steve said the pumping schedule/frequencies have yet to be determined, but due to the projected efficiencies of the new turbine, it's more likely that the new turbine will be used for generation most frequently. Chris asked if there would be a subsequent proposal to decommission the existing CW2 plant. Steve said there isn't a plan to decommission at this time. Having those redundant generating units will allow one unit to run while the other is under maintenance.

Craig said you are obviously looking at a water right for both the diversion and forebay expansion as you'd be doubling the size of the forebay. There's a lot to digest, including the new diversion rate vs. existing rights. Steve said the proposed diversion rate is 470 cfs. For the larger North Umpqua project, note that consistent with the Fish Creek pump-only proposal, we're adhering to the same minimum flows and ramping restrictions required by the FERC license. Everything upstream and downstream of Toketee Reservoir is unaffected by what's happening at Toketee. We'll take water from the new diversion, but normal operation (maximum/minimum) of the reservoir will remain the same. In the near term, there continues to be elevation restrictions from the Toketee Dam Rehabilitation project. The water right piece is not a small one.

Chris asked if the capacity of the pump-turbine was the same as the CW2 Powerhouse. Steve said that the flow capacity is limited by the penstock. That's where the 470 CFS comes from. There are no changes to the penstock. Chris asked if it was a capacity-related amendment? Steve replied that this was not a capacity amendment.

Steve said the FERC filing is imminent. One requirement of the three-stage consultation is a joint public and agency meeting to kick-off the proposed project, along with a site visit to go over the conceptual design and proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures. A tentative meeting date has been scheduled for June 8, 2022. We will be doing a suite of modelling. FERC doesn't get involved in the consultation process unless someone specially requests they be involved

because of a conflict. FERC observes the process up to the filing of a license amendment application, at which point they get involved.

If everything goes smoothly with no controversial study results or disagreements, we could be at license amendment application filing at this time next year. The timeline is not defined by FERC regulations.

Pam asked if there will be an initial consultation document filing. Steve confirmed that FERC would receive a copy. The main stakeholders are the RCC agencies and the Tribes. Because it's a three-stage consultation, there is a public notice component (invitation, newspaper notice, etc.).

Recap of steps:

- Initial consultation document
- Joint agency public meeting (with an MS Teams link)
- Study requests
- Study implementation
- Draft License Amendment Application (60-day comment period by statute)
- Final License Amendment Application
- FERC determines scope and need for NEPA document
- FERC's License decision

The Geotech will be consistent with the level of investigation at Fish Creek.

There will be a suite of studies and PM&Es, including but not limited to:

- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan implementation
- Geotechnical investigations
- Water quality monitoring (similar to Fish Creek)
- Water temperature modelling
- New fish screen at intake
- Fish and macroinvertebrate survey and monitoring
- Proposal for more hatchery production to mitigate potential entrainment of fish less than five inches
- Elk forage plot mitigation
- ESA consultation with USFWS
- Sensitive species surveys
- Timber cruise and tree survey in forebay expansion area
- Wetland delineation
- Botanical surveys
- New archeological surveys
- Painting of the new conduit and pump house consistent with the Aesthetics Management Plan color palette

Steve asked if there were any last thoughts.

Chris inquired about Phase 3 (Fish Creek Forebay expansion). Steve said that conceptually PacifiCorp has a plan to expand Fish Creek forebay and add a bi-directional pump-turbine but that

will come much later. We plan to first construct and implement the pump-only development at Fish Creek before moving on to a Fish Creek Forebay expansion and pump-turbine. Stages 1 and 2 were back to back; Stage 3 is a little further down the line.

Rich added that even though these things move quickly, we are trying to remain ahead of any expectation for monitoring (e.g., deployment of thermal graphs, sondes, and spawning surveys). Prior to the June 8 meeting, we'll already have equipment in the water. We are working with the water quality modelling contractor to make sure they get the information they need and to tap into all the knowledge we've gained in the last 30 years about what monitoring locations will provide the most useful data. Chris said the season for gathering information doesn't wait, and he appreciates PacifiCorp's attempts to be comprehensive and proactive with monitoring. If PacifiCorp wants to consult early, DEQ is willing to have discussions so PacifiCorp is obtaining the needed data regardless of regulatory schedules. Steve thanked Chris, and added that PacifiCorp is trying to plan very comprehensively and inclusively (e.g. frequency, scope, etc.) to provide all the useful info that stakeholders could possibly want.

NEXT RCC Meeting: July 20, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.