

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)  
July 20, 2022 Meeting Summary****FINAL 10/10/2022**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)  
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)  
Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
John Zauner (ODFW)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)  
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)  
Jeffrey Brown (PacifiCorp)  
Travis Mackie (Cow Creek)

RCC Members Absent

Frank Weaver (USFWS) – Proxy to ODFW  
Jason Brandt (ODFW)  
Logan Negherbon (NOAA) – Resigned on 6/30/22

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**Introductions/Member Updates/Organization News

**USDA-FS:** As of June 6, 2022, they are officially back in the office. Staff are allowed three days of telework per week. Pam noted that Douglas and Lane Counties are back in the high risk category for COVID transmission. The USFS is expecting to be in the new co-located office with BLM by September 2023.

**BLM:** Amy Golladay is on detail to Coos Bay for a few months. They are ending the area response phase of Archie Creek Fire restoration activities but continuing restoration and reforestation activities in the Rock Creek basin. No staffing changes to the field office, but there are a lot of vacancies.

**ODEQ:** No staff changes. Agency Director Whitman will be leaving by the end of year, as will the NW Regional Director, Deconcini. There will be a lot of agency turnover by the end of year.

**ODFW:** They are trying to fill three hydropower coordinator positions (Northwest Region will be filled shortly, but they are still trying to fill the Central and Northeast Oregon positions).

**OWRD:** They are hiring at an unprecedented rate for field services in the southern region, including water masters in Jackson and Josephine Counties., Mary Grainey’s last projects were the instream water right announcements and the passage of the rules for decommissioning, which affect PacifiCorp’s Powerdale project and the Boy Project on Umatilla. Craig is the sole hydropower coordinator. There are a lot of new applications for in-conduit and pumped storage hydropower.

**PacifiCorp:** Jeff Brown thanked the USFS for donating the 3-D relief map that’s now in the Toketee Control Center reception area. Two new operators have been hired, and the crew is now up to full staffing.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

**May 9, 2022:** Dennis Feero brought his high school science class up for a presentation and tour, as he has in many previous years. Rich said it was a small but engaged group of students.

### Upcoming events

**August 23, 2022:** Douglas County Commissioners project tour. Pam suggested discussing law enforcement challenges with the Commissioners. Jeff noted that wire theft is currently rampant on the project.

**October 5, 2022:** Annual public tour

*Action Item:* Beth will schedule the annual tour and RCC meeting for October 5, 2022. The meeting will take place from 9AM – 11AM with the tour following from Noon to 3PM.

## **FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES**

### Pumped Storage: Fish Creek and Clearwater 2

Steve provided the following project updates:

**Fish Creek:** Comments on the draft water quality certification are due by July 22, 2022. The 90% design is almost complete. A meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2022 to review the 100% internal design. Steve will send out the request for notice to proceed to the USFS by late August or early September. Pam asked about the survey window for snails as she didn’t want there to be a missed opportunity.

Regarding FERC’s environmental analysis (EA), John Zauner asked if there would be a comment period and if so, how long would it be? Per Steve, it will depend on the scope of analysis. If FERC issues an EA, there will be a comment period. It’s a different process for licensing and relicensing vs. a license amendment. John also asked about the timeline for Fish Creek. Steve replied that FERC had accepted the final license application and that it is ready for EA. It didn’t meet the thresholds for 3-stage consultation nor a capacity amendment. PacifiCorp did provide a draft to the RCC for 30-day review and comments before it went to FERC.

**Clearwater 2:** The Initial Consultation Document (ICD) was submitted to FERC on April 29, 2022. The joint agency meeting was held on June 8, 2022. Comments on the ICD and/or study request are

due to PacifiCorp by August 8, 2022. Steve said PacifiCorp's formal response to study requests, including any results of accepted studies, will be addressed in the subsequent License Amendment Application. PacifiCorp will informally respond ahead of the application to any agency requesting studies. PacifiCorp is already forging ahead on implementation of the studies proposed in the ICD. There are a suite of water quality monitoring and fisheries surveys and well as cultural resources and biology surveys. Rich added there is field auditing and downloading of water quality data occurring every-other week, and fish population sampling and spawning surveys at various intervals around all sites potentially affected by pumped storage proposals. Surveyors have not observed rainbow trout spawning in these areas and virtually no spawning habitat. There will be another round of spawning surveys in October/November, but there have been no substantial changes to information presented in the ICD nor surprising discoveries as of yet. Pam asked if the study categories are out of the Code of Federal Regulations. Per Steve, yes. Steve requested that the agencies not wait until the last minute if they are going to request studies. FERC will ultimately determine whether any requested study is justified or not, though PacifiCorp is making every attempt to implement any reasonable study request. If PacifiCorp does not implement a requested study, explanations for the rationale are required in the application for FERC review.

John added that if study requests aren't formatted consistent with FERC's requirements, there is a chance FERC won't accept the study request. One important component of a request is how much the study would cost. It's really important to get the format correct for FERC to accept it. Steve said the study requests are supposed to come to PacifiCorp and not FERC. FERC won't get involved until they are requested to do so because of a disagreement, or once PacifiCorp files the License Amendment Application. The expectation is that we will still be able to file a License Amendment Application in the second quarter of 2023. The hope is still to construct the Fish Creek pump only facility in 2023, but there are certainly a lot of puzzle pieces to fall into place for it to become a reality.

Pam asked Steve if he could identify the milestones and timeline once the application is submitted and when the agencies can comment? Is that when the conditions come into play under the Federal Power Act? Steve replied that it would come at the stage when FERC readies it for EA. There is a submission of the draft License Amendment Application to the agencies for 60-day review. PacifiCorp will reply to those comments in the final License Amendment Application to FERC, and that's when FERC gets involved. John asked about the timeline of when the draft License Amendment would be sent out to the agencies. Steve said it depends on what study requests are received. If, say, there were specific studies with seasonal survey requirements, it would push out the timeline. If not, the final License Amendment for Clearwater 2 would be distributed to stakeholders for review in the first quarter of 2023.

Steve said he appreciated everyone's comments.

### Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

**Fish passage:** Rich reported that all facilities are operating normally. The only planned maintenance is de-energizing Soda Springs fish screen during September 12-30, 2022. There is no dewatering involved; it will just be turning the power off so we can trace wiring and verify wiring diagrams for future work.

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

Scott reported they are still waiting on word from FERC regarding seismic acceleration calculations. It's a lengthy process. He has yet to hear anything back from them. He asked Pam about the Slide Creek quarry survey he submitted and said he hasn't had time to schedule a meeting to discuss the Slide Creek quarry abutment.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>DOGAMI Permit Application</i>	Awaiting review and signature
<i>Slide Creek new housing (discussion w/PC &amp; 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
<i>Toketee Turnaround</i>	Pam forwarded mitigation to wildlife folks; hasn't heard back.
<i>CW2 PS Geotech</i>	Pam will doublecheck status
<i>Fish Creek Forebay Geotech</i>	Pam will doublecheck status
<i>Clearwater Shop Hazard Trees</i>	Pending
<i>Lemolo 1 spillway wetland delineation</i>	

Rich said that in early August, pending receipt of the ACOE permit, PacifiCorp would conduct the proposed dredging of the Clearwater 2 impoundment, as approved by a prior NTP. This sediment removal is scheduled for early August.

**MONITORING PROGRAM & TECHNICAL WORK GROUP UPDATES**

Rich provided the following updates:

SA 4.1 Soda Springs Fish Passage O&M

There is a planned outage for electrical tracing. This was discussed above.

SA 5 & 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring

The flow monitoring annual report for WY2020 was submitted in early June. He is working on the WY2021 report pending receipt of the data from USGS.

SA 7.2 Soda Springs Bypassed Reach Gravel Augmentation

Stillwater Sciences is making a new set of aerial photographs of the North Umpqua River from Boulder Creek to Soda Springs Dam to aid in the monitoring of gravel patches and redds for the current five-year report interval project. PacifiCorp donated the cost of this work as a value-added effort to aerial photography being done for the SA 8.2 project.

### SA 8.2 Slide Creek Bypassed Reach Monitoring

This is year five of the current five-year monitoring interval. Consistent with feedback from agencies, Stillwater Sciences was contracted to repeat the round of monitoring they've done in previous intervals. They are using a drone to make new aerial photos base maps of the reach, then will return in September to measure and map the habitat attributes.

Pam said to make sure to call the Roseburg Interagency Dispatch before flying drones to give them a heads up on what days you expect to fly. You can give them a time window (e.g., five days). Rich said Stillwater's planned dates are July 27-29, 2022, with additional field work scheduled for September 5-9, 2022.

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

SA 8.3 will also benefit from the SA 8.2 drone flight work and new aerial photos. Because the gravel is still impeding the ability of the buried PIT tag antennae to read tagged fish, a small amount of gravel (e.g. 10 cy) may be moved off from the antennae during August when steelhead eggs are all hatched out of it. Chris asked if there a plan to avoid burying the antennae in the future. Rich said it was a combination of a crude initial gravel placement exacerbated by low winter flows that have failed to move the gravel since it was placed in 2020, and that future gravel placements will be better supervised to avoid a repeat. To avoid it, we need to provide more direction to the operators when they spread gravel and make sure they feather it off the antenna. The antenna hasn't had local tuning, and it's due for an onsite tune-up. John asked if we were using SA 19.2 funds to repair it. Rich said it was built with SA 19.2 funding.

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

Video monitoring of adult upstream passage continues and is going very well. Downstream monitoring of juveniles continues with no hiccups. Predator removal has continued periodically in Soda Springs Reservoir since April of this year, with the total so far being about 50 more brown trout removed, mostly during a couple of high-turbidity periods following late spring rains. Spring Chinook are beginning to hold in the reservoir now so predator removal efforts have been reduced for the summer.

Regarding the PIT tag antennae used to estimate survival of juvenile fish, West Fork Environmental is proposing to visit the site to assist with gravel movement, perform maintenance of the existing antennae and test some new antennae options for consideration. Rich will put together an email with Jason, Sam, and Chris to explain the scope of work for sending out to the RCC for approval to use the SA 19.2 fund for maintenance and field work. John questioned the use of SA 19.2 funds, and Rich explained that the antennae is an integral part of the SA 19.2 program and was built using SA 19.2 funds and is managed using SA 19.2 funds. John inquired whether the antenna was required by the Settlement Agreement or License. Rich said the License requires the Study Plan, which includes many of the elements of predator control and juvenile fish monitoring. It doesn't state that a pit tag antenna has to be built across the river bed, but this antennae style and location was identified in 2008 as the most cost-effective method for monitoring in-river tagged fish.

## Water Quality Certification Monitoring

The Soda Springs water quality station continues to operate reliably and document that parameters are within state criteria. Chris asked how monitoring was going for pumped storage areas. Rich noted that water quality monitoring was going well and that there hadn't been any vandalism of monitoring equipment as of yet. The Meridian water quality crew is on site today and tomorrow to download data, check sondes, and do field audits. We've been able to successfully deploy and manage about 22 thermographs and 12 datasondes. Draft reports should be available by years end.

## **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES**

### Powerhouse/Canal Outages (updates, plans)

Jeff reported that maintenance work at Toketee 3, Clearwater 2, and Lemolo 2 has been completed. A minor Slide Creek outage is currently underway. The outage for all three Toketee units has been pushed to September due to some safety challenges. The Fish Creek outage is scheduled for later this summer. The Clearwater 2 impoundment dredging is scheduled for August 1-12, 2022. There is a Soda Springs fish screen electrical outage scheduled for September 12-30, 2022. Next week's Clearwater 2 powerhouse outage for transformer maintenance will last a week.

Jeff reported they are struggling with wire theft. Vandals have been cutting down poles to get to the wire and taking ground and/or control cables from the power poles.

Pam asked about the Clearwater 2 impoundment dredging. Steve said there is a Notice to Proceed (NTP) for the same activity from several years ago, and Pam confirmed via email that a new NTP was not necessary. Pam inquired about the spoils. Rich said they plan to place them in the very wide bermed area between Mowich Creek and the plant to dry out, after which they will be hauled to Lemolo Quarry per the NTP. Pam said she'll check on that NTP as it may need to be revisited and updated. Four years ago we didn't have the same biologist. Steve will forward her a copy of the NTP. There was recently a separate, new cultural review form completed for the project.

### Reservoir Management (Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs)

Rich gave the following updates:

**Lemolo Reservoir:** The lake is at normal summer recreation levels. It's been relatively stable in the high 4700s.

**Toketee Reservoir:** Operating at the temporary, dam safety restricted pool level.

**Soda Springs:** Operating normally between about 1,805-1,806 feet.

**Fish Creek Firefighting:** On July 10, 2022, PacifiCorp ceased diversion into Fish Creek canal as the inflows to the dam approached the minimum bypass reach flow of 130 cfs. We had filled the forebay before closing the headgate, but the forebay is now dropping at about 0.1 ft/day. In order to keep the forebay full for firefighting, we would have to begin diverting about one-half CFS. Pam said that annually the USFS requests diversion of up to approximately one CFS into the Fish Creek waterway to keep Fish Creek available for emergency firefighting use. It's important because it's on the south side of the highway. She sends out an annual request to the RCC for approval. She asked,

with Logan Negherbon now gone, do we need to get NOAA approval? Steve said he could mail Kate Wells and explain that we need NOAA approval. It benefits PacifiCorp to keep the liner moist. Power is not generated from Fish Creek; water in the forebay would only be used for emergency firefighting until inflows to the dam rise again later in the year. Pam will follow up with Kate.

Chris inquired about the water level drop in the forebay. Rich said it was studied in detail during 2008, and that most of the drop is due to seepage into Boyden Springs (a tiny seep which flows to the North Umpqua) while evaporation causes a negligible amount. In years when we haven't maintained diversion through the low flow season, the forebay dwindles to two puddles. In past years, the whole middle area has been a desert of dry sediments. The sweet spot elevation is 3,020 to 3,022 feet to be deep enough for firefighting yet low enough to not lose excessive water to seepage. In past years, we calculated the diversion needed to maintain these pool elevations at 0.37 feet per second on average. We are confident that up to one CFS is adequate for water level maintenance. Rich said the point is keeping the water available for immediate initial attack on any local fire.

PacifiCorp staff noted that the sooner the emergency diversion is implemented, the easier it is to maintain the level, with minimal impact to Fish Creek, as opposed to needing a higher diversion rate to refill the forebay if it is allowed to drop very low.

## **SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

John provided Jason's update, as follows:

The hydro crew finished up steelhead spawning ground surveys in mainstem Rock Creek and tributaries with a peak winter steelhead redd count of 18 and 5 live fish observed in the 2021-22 season. Those numbers were down some from what was observed in 2020-21. Three live summer steelhead were also noted in the spawning ground surveys.

The hydro crew continued effectiveness monitoring of existing instream habitat structures with the higher than usual flows throughout May and mid-June. Most of the instream structures seem to have made it through the winter and spring high flow events while performing as desired dampening flows and collecting substrate.

The hydro crew was onsite to direct riparian management area hazard tree falling on Roseburg Resources Company-owned land in the Shoup Creek, Harrington Creek, Stoney Creek, Cobble Creek, East Fork of Rock Creek, Mace Creek and Rock Creek subbasins. These stream locations were places where a machine could not access. Roseburg Resources Company agreed to give ODFW the hazard trees, with ODFW SA 19.1 funds covering the cost to have the trees directionally cut instream versus what Roseburg Resources Company would have done dropping the trees upland parallel to the streams. Approximately 175 dead trees were cut with ~95% dropped instream into groups for stream complexity and jams. This was a big restoration bonus getting trees instream where we could not access the stream with machines for standard restoration projects.

The hydro crew was hard at work getting ready for this season's in-water restoration work period, including staging 400+ 30'-60' logs, primarily from the Rock Creek hatchery tree removal effort, along Rock Creek for instream use. The crew is currently working hard on restoration efforts, with the goal of restoring 60 sites with 70+ instream structures across 7+ stream miles in mainstem Rock, East Fork Rock, McComas, Kelly, Taylor, Shoup, Miller, Harrington, Stoney and Mace creeks.

Instream restoration structures should slow water to help aggrade adult spawning gravel, promote sinuosity, increase lateral connection to floodplain and off-channel juvenile overwintering habitat while increasing scour pools for juvenile rearing and increase pool-riffle ratios. Additions of logs and full trees with root-wads hold existing gravel and increase cold water refugia for both holding summer adults and juveniles.

### **SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND**

Pam reported that projects totaling \$500,000 were reviewed last month. The total was down from the annual allotted amount of \$1M. The project list will be forwarded to Alice Carlton for approval. Once approved, Pam will have the funds ready to go in FY2023 which begins October 1. She added that some of the funds get distributed via the Good Neighbor process.

**OTHER RCC AGENCY PROJECTS AND/OR COORDINATION:** *None at this time.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *None at this time.*

**NEXT RCC Meeting:** October 5, 2022 (rescheduled from October 19).

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 A.M.