

## AGENDA

### Resource Coordination Committee (RCC) Meeting North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project

January 18, 2023  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call in (audio only): 1-563-275-5003  
Phone Conference ID: 339 962 383#

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|--------------|---|
| <b>10:00</b> | <b>Introductions, Member Updates, and Organization News</b>   |
| <b>10:15</b> | <b>Public Outreach (past events / future opportunities)</b>   |
| <b>10:20</b> | <b>Facility and Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fish Creek and Clearwater 2 Pumped Storage</li><li>• Fish protection and passage facilities (tailrace barriers, ladders, screens)</li><li>• Toketee Dam Rehabilitation</li><li>• NTPs or other permitting coordination</li></ul>  |
| <b>10:35</b> | <b>Monitoring Programs &amp; Technical Work Group Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SA 4.1 Soda Springs Fish Passage O&amp;M</li><li>• SA 5 &amp; 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring</li><li>• SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation Monitoring</li><li>• SA 8.2 Slide Bypass reach Habitat Monitoring</li><li>• SA 8.3 Soda Springs Bypass Reach Habitat Maintenance</li><li>• SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring and Predator Control</li><li>• Water Quality Certification Monitoring</li></ul> |
| <b>11:00</b> | <b>Operations and Maintenance Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powerhouse and canal outages – updates, plans</li><li>• Reservoir management – Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs</li><li>• In-Water Work – CW Reconnect log jam removal</li><li>• Other</li></ul>   |
| <b>11:15</b> | <b>SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Program</b>  |
| <b>11:30</b> | <b>SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund</b>  |
| <b>11:45</b> | <b>Other RCC Agency Projects and/or Coordination</b>  |
| <b>11:55</b> | <b>Public Comments</b>  |
| <b>12:00</b> | <b>Meeting adjourned</b>  |

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC No. P-1927)  
Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)  
January 18, 2023 Meeting Summary**

**FINAL 4/12/23; Revised 4/19/23**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)  
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)  
Jedidiah Hancock (USDA-FS)  
Amy Golladay (USDI-BLM)  
Kate Wells (NOAA)  
Jeff Brown (NOAA)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Jason Brandt (ODFW)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Frank Weaver (USFWS)

Other Attendees

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

RCC Members Absent

Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Introductions/Member Updates/Organization News

**USDA-FS:** Pam Sighting is planning to retire in December 2023. Jed Hancock, the newly hired hydropower program manager, will shadow Pam this year to learn the position. There is a transition plan in place. Jed will start with 30% of his time on hydropower and then transition to 100% by mid-summer. At that time, the official point of contact (POC) will change over from Pam to Jed. Both Pam and Jed will be copied on official communications during the overlap. Jen Taylor has taken a new position as a partnership coordinator. Cameron Bratley is taking care of recreation issues on the zone in the meantime, but Pam will be the POC for recreation and forward issues on as needed. They have several open positions (e.g., Outdoor Planner at Toketee and Recreation Technician). During Jed's transitional period, he will be working on the Toketee group campground capital improvements. Jed will be integrated into the RAP processes and meetings.

**NOAA:** Kate Wells reported the retirements of Tere O'Rourke and Jim Muck as well as Chuck Wheeler being on detail in the Pacific Islands (in their Honolulu office). Kate is still the branch chief for the Willamette and is also the interim branch chief for the Oregon Coast. They currently have one and a half biologists in the Willamette Branch. It is an extremely challenging environment,

especially with the loss of Logan Negherbon, who moved on to another agency. Jeff Brown is currently filling in on the RCC as a fish passage engineer. They may do some hiring in the future. Kate will not be the POC for these meetings but will assign that role to one their biologists on the Oregon Coast. Jeff Brown introduced himself. He has been with NMFS for 15 years. His role will be on the technical side and Kate's staff will do the RCC role. [After the meeting Kate identified Michelle McMullin as NOAA Fisheries' representative to the RCC.]

**BLM:** Amy Golladay is the POC. There are no new updates.

**ODEQ:** Chris Stine reported they are recruiting and interviewing for a new director, as Richard Whitman left last year. Heather Tugaw, Umpqua Basin Coordinator, is in rotation as interim assistant director, while Sarah Sauter is the interim Umpqua Basin Coordinator.

**ODFW:** John Zauner is the Hydropower Program Manager. The Southeast Region Hydropower Coordinator position is open. As of January 1, 2023, the fish passage rule revisions have been put into place.

**OWRD:** Craig Kohanek reported he is now the hydroelectric program coordinator. They are looking for a hydroelectric program analyst. They will also soon have a new director. The acting director (deputy director) is Doug Woodcock. The Governor's new natural resource coordinator is Jeff Huntington, a former OWEB and OWRD staff member. Craig has known him for 30 years.

**PacifiCorp:** Jeffrey Brown reported they are hiring for the maintenance manager position. Interviews are taking place next week.

**USFWS:** Frank Weaver reported the Oregon state office has a new state supervisor, Christina Lee, who was previously commissioner of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. There is a legal challenge to the fisher listing decision, which may result in fisher being designated as a candidate species.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The group recapped the public tour in October 2022. There was discussion regarding the timing of the public tour (e.g., during the week vs. weekend), but the group did not decide which direction to go for the 2023 tour. Rich Grost noted that the one tour attendee that was a member of the public and not associated with any agency or group expressed appreciation for the improvements being made and the opportunity to see them as well as the professionals involved.

Rich said one non-public tour was spurred by the public tour announcement, when Brian Benz, professor at Umpqua Community College, brought his natural resources lab class for a tour of the Soda Springs fish passage facility in mid-October.

Rich also provided a one-day tour of the lower end of the hydro project for USDA-FS staff Sophia Kim, Hannah Lagassuy, and a couple other technicians during December. Jason Brandt appreciated that Rich gave that tour.

Steve Albertelli thanked the RCC and especially Jason Brandt for formalizing the approval to share the annual SA 19.2 reports and periodic updates with the public. Jason said some high-profile events

are happening and it is important to release and share the information. He thanked the RCC for agreeing to also provide it. It gives more avenues to use the Rock Creek sampling data as well as Soda Springs data.

### Upcoming Events

In early March 2023, Rich will give a presentation at the American Fisheries Society conference. It will be an update on Soda Springs upstream fish passage, including the lamprey observations and some entertaining video of otter behaviors. He is working with Jason, along with Sam Moyers and Chris Sheely (ODFW) on it.

## **FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES**

### Pumped Storage: Fish Creek and Clearwater 2

Steve Albertelli provided the following pumped storage project updates:

**Fish Creek:** This project is awaiting FERC’s response. We have seen evidence (e.g., inter-agency communications filed in the project record) they are working on it, but there is no indication of timeline. In mid-December, ODEQ issued a final modified 401 certification. ODEQ will follow up with The Conservation Angler and PacifiCorp if there are any additional public comments. He asked Steve if the final step is filing it with FERC. Steve prepared the letter for filing the certification with FERC shortly before this meeting and confirmed that it is the applicant’s responsibility. Chris wanted him to copy the project’s FERC service list on the submittal.

Craig said OWRD has been waiting for Chris to get through the 20-day review period on the certification. He will then put out a final notice and draft amended water rate that will go out for a 45-day review period.

**Clearwater 2:** Studies are being implemented. There is a pending water quality monitoring report for both Fish Creek and Clearwater 2. Some of the cultural surveys were completed last year but the addition of an off-site elk forage plot to replace the existing plot in the forebay expansion area will necessitate additional surveys. Wildlife surveys are ongoing. Steve hopes to have an application ready in June or July of this year.

Rich added that he is working with Meridian Environmental to finalize the water quality and aquatic biology monitoring reports related to both the Fish Creek and Clearwater 2 proposals. Steve said that PacifiCorp had received requests for surveys from ODEQ, USDA-FS, and ODFW in response to the Initial Consultation Document, and all of the requested studies are in progress.

### Comments

Chris said he thought PacifiCorp had envisioned a third project, the expansion of Fish Creek Forebay, and asked if there was a target date or company plans for scheduling it. He asked if it was concurrent with Clearwater 2. Steve said it was a good question considering the initial roll-out of three potential phases in Fall 2021, however there is no current project schedule or proposal for further development of Fish Creek pumped storage beyond the initial “pump-only” proposal covered in the existing license amendment application. PacifiCorp would not proceed with additional development at Fish Creek until the Fish Creek pump-only project has been constructed and is in

operation. It is on a more delayed track than originally envisioned. There is no defined schedule but rather, it is a “wait and see” if the first two stages are beneficial for PacifiCorp customers.

There is a separate, but easily confused, project associated with maintenance of the Fish Creek Forebay. Regardless of whether PacifiCorp receives a license amendment for Fish Creek pumped storage, we still need to maintain the Fish Creek forebay. There are approximately 40,000 cubic yards that need to be removed and disposed of in order to restore the forebay to the design capacity. Scott Schevenius said that bathymetric surveys have been done. The initial results are that the approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sediment has built up over decades into the forebay. We are looking at what it would take to remove it. We will need to dewater the forebay (like we did in 2008-2009 for the Lemolo 2 Forebay). Disposal sites are being investigated, in addition to whether or not the material would be useful in other applications, including quarry reclamation, bulk fill at Toketee Dam rehabilitation, and/or good substrate for planting projects (e.g., elk forage). The dredging is planned for 2024.

Steve said these projects were spurred on by pumped storage but are needed to maintain the hydro project per the North Umpqua license. Pam asked if we know what the material consists of. Scott said it is a mix of silt and gravel. Before they put in the fish screen structure at the headworks, they were getting a lot of cobble diverted from the river, but now that the fish screens are in, it's more silt sluffing off of the hillside into the canal. Steve noted from what they have learned, it doesn't seem to be productive material. Scott said there are no records of any dredging at this forebay (70+ years).

Chris asked about the availability of data on the rate of sedimentation and how that may have changed over time. Scott said our projections would be best guesses as far as rates. Since the fish screens were constructed in 2009 , we have dredged the diversion settling pond several times.

Chris wanted to clarify that any dredging that occurs to restore the existing forebay would be separate from the pumped storage project. Steve confirmed. Chris said that in the application material for the Fish Creek pump-only water quality certification, PacifiCorp included calculations on forebay storage and durations to fill and drain the forebay, and Chris wanted to know whether these calculations were based on the design capacity or the current (i.e., filled in) forebay condition. Steve said it was based on the original design capacity.

Scott said there is another project scheduled to repair the Fish Creek penstock footings, but this is also a maintenance action and not related to development of pumped storage. It was, however, identified in our review of existing facilities in the course of scoping for pumped storage.

### Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

**Fish passage:** Rich reported that overall, everything has been operating well since our last meeting. In the fall, there was a lot of debris management at the tailrace barriers, as well as icing challenges at Fish Creek. The facilities were kept in operation throughout those conditions. High-flow procedures were implemented due to the weather in late December, and the fish passage facilities made it through without incident or damage.

There is substantial maintenance planned at Soda Springs fish screen to maintain all of the actuators, valves, and related screen-cleaning components. Rich said that a recent inventory of actuators showed there are 30 throughout the hydro project upstream of Soda Springs, but 81 on Soda Springs

Dam and fish facilities alone! Intense maintenance periods at the Soda Springs fish screen are planned during February (while the powerhouse is offline) and August (while the fish screen is shut down and dewatered).

### Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

Scott reported that we are in a holding pattern and still waiting for FERC’s approval on the seismic acceleration calculations. Steve noted that PacifiCorp and Forest Service have been continuing to coordinate the annual spotted owl surveys at the Slide Creek quarry, which will be used to generate the bulk fill rock. Steve reported that Mark Reeves, PacifiCorp dam safety project manager, thinks it’s probable that we would be developing rock from the quarry in 2023, and then again in 2024 for the rehabilitation work.

### Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Permitting Coordination

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lapland Housing Purchase	Ongoing coordination
LM2 Plant Fencing	Pending
TL42 2x/1 Replacement	Pending
TL51 1/2 Replacement	Pending
CW Reconnect Log Jam Removal	Pending
FC Pumped Storage Culvert Replacement JPA	Pam will doublecheck status

Steve described the Fish Creek pumped storage culvert replacement permitting. He reiterated that the FCPS project was designed to avoid impacts to jurisdictional waters primarily by designing the penstock intertie to completely span the North Umpqua River. However, during the design process, it was identified that there was an existing road culvert by the switchyard that collects flows and routes them under the road where the penstock intertie will be buried. The culvert feeds the waterfall behind the Toketee powerhouse. Due to the depth of the penstock intertie below the road, the culvert will have to be replaced. Permitting is required because the waters conveyed by the culvert are jurisdictional.

Pam reported that Forest staff specialists are working on the outstanding NTP requests. The transmission structure replacement NTPs are close, with just a few more loose ends before issuance.

**Work Plans/Proposals:** Steve added that historically (over 10 years ago) the RCC would use the January meeting to go over the work plans for the current year’s upcoming projects requiring coordination and/or authorization from USDA-FS and/or BLM. While the group has moved past the early license implementation phase of numerous, date-certain, capital, implementation projects, and now O&M-type projects requiring NTPs trickle in over the course of the year. However, PacifiCorp does make an effort to so identify known upcoming projects at the end of each year pursuant to the Rolling Action Plan processes. Steve provided a list of the known, upcoming projects for which NTP requests have yet to be developed, including the following:

- LM1 Spillway Geotech
- CW1 Penstock Thrust Block
- FC Penstock Foundation Repair
- TOK Right Abutment Geotech

- FC Pumped Storage
- FC Forebay Dredging
- CW1 Dam Automation
- TOK Village Alt. Power Supply
- TOK/TCC Fiber Reroute
- LM2 Trash Rack
- CW1 Utility Poles

Pam reminded PacifiCorp that there are ongoing needs for *Pristiloma crateris* surveys in wet areas.

## **MONITORING PROGRAM & TECHNICAL WORK GROUP UPDATES**

Rich provided the following updates:

### SA 4.1 Soda Springs Fish Passage O&M

The draft annual report was sent out for review on November 30, 2022. Comments were received from all agencies with some being notices of “no comment.” The report is now finalized and awaiting submittal to FERC by the February 1 deadline.

### SA 5 & 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring

The most recent Annual Flow Monitoring Report (for Water Year 2021) was distributed on December 12, 2022. Review with USGS is already beginning on the records for WY 2022. The USGS has increased their staff managing the 19 gage sites related to the hydro project and that has helped them speed up their records review and, therefore, PacifiCorp’s subsequent reporting.

### SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation

Every five years PacifiCorp summarizes the annual monitoring of gravel patches between Soda Springs Dam and Boulder Creek, with the next report due for the period 2022-2026. We will soon have a new set of aerial images to use for future monitoring. They were made during July 2022 and funded by PacifiCorp as a value-added endeavor during Stillwater Sciences’ work related to SA 8.2 monitoring.

### SA 8.2 Slide Creek Bypassed Reach Habitat Monitoring

Monitoring occurs every five years or when deemed appropriate by the TWG. The most recent monitoring occurred in 2022, and the draft report from Stillwater Sciences is in review by the TWG and will be distributed to the RCC upon finalization within a few weeks. The report indicates that the amount of spawning gravel in that reach has been diminishing since two habitat features were built and seeded with gravel in the mid-2000s. High flow events such as the April 2019 event, have mobilized much gravel downstream to other reaches such as the Slide Creek full flow reach.

### SA 8.3 Soda Springs Bypass Reach Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance

The Annual Report for 2022 is awaiting completion of the coho salmon redd counts so that the peak count can be identified for the report before it is submitted to the TWG and RCC. No major maintenance was needed in 2022, however we did perform some minor maintenance by manually

moving about 5 cubic yards of gravel from over the PIT tag antennae (to improve the antennae's efficiency) during August. As with the SA 7.2 project, PacifiCorp also had new aerial images produced for this reach during July 2022 for use in future monitoring.

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

Fish passage is being monitored every week at Soda Springs, and the annual report for 2022 is being drafted for review by the TWG during the spring. There is a lot of data quality control and analysis that goes into the report. ODFW is managing most of the fishery data, while Rich is managing the operational data such as defining periods when the spillgates and/or North Intake were open while the evaluation building was in operation. Jason added that there does not seem to be a lot of adult coho salmon returning to the North Umpqua River this year, but that the fish passage and monitoring programs are operating as they should. Rich and ODFW are drafting the budget for 2023 monitoring which will go to the RCC soon for approval. Rich will schedule a TWG meeting to discuss the budget, predator control, and whether to invest in pit tag antennae program.

#### Water Quality Certification Monitoring

The Annual Report of water quality at the Soda Springs water quality station for WY2022 will be submitted to ODEQ during May, after the USGS publishes the data and Rich has an opportunity to analyze and summarize it.

### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES**

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

In December 2022, Rich sent the schedule of planned outages for 2022 to the RCC. Jeffrey reported that Toketee 1 is currently in outage until January 27, 2023 and that flow is continuing to pass through the Toketee 2 and 3 units. Other planned powerhouse outages include Soda Springs from February 2-23, 2023; Slide Creek from March 6-23, 2023; Clearwater 1 from April 3-20, 2023; and Lemolo 1 from May 2-31, 2023. There is an especially long outage of Toketee 2 from July-December 2023, during which there may be several simultaneous outages of the other Toketee units forcing planned spill into the Toketee bypass reach.

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

Rich gave the following O&M updates:

**Lemolo Reservoir:** The annual report summarizing the 2022 drawdown was distributed on January 11, 2023. It was such a dry fall into December that there were conversations with ODFW, USDA-FS, and the RCC about whether to draw Lemolo Reservoir down below the minimum pool to keep the flow at the Copeland gage above the minimum target flow of 725 cfs. However, in each case rain intervened just in time to preclude the need for that action.

**Toketee Reservoir:** No management changes are planned aside from the periodic periods of planned spill at Toketee Reservoir into the bypassed reach for Toketee powerhouse maintenance needs as mentioned above.



**Soda Springs Reservoir:** No planned changes.

Both PacifiCorp and USDA-FS have received some public inquiries about the Toketee Reservoir Boat Ramp. The USDA-FS is still looking into alternative locations and/or alignment but things are on hold due to the Toketee Dam Rehabilitation project and uncertainties regarding schedule and potential reservoir drawdown opportunities. Rich recently accompanied Evan Leonetti (ODFW) and Scott Lightcap (Healing Waters, a local flyfishing group) around Toketee Reservoir to show them the existing boat ramp situation.

**In-Water Work – Clearwater Reconnect Log Jam Removal:** Rich said there is a need to move about eight logs back from the river channel to restore high flow capacity between the reconnect facility and the Toketee bypass reach of the North Umpqua River. He has consulted with ODFW and USDA-FS regarding the best methods for minimizing impacts to aquatic and riparian habitat. Only two of the logs are large woody debris, and all of them are old and may break apart when moved, so are not suitable for fish habitat projects. The equipment will be well above the water and working with cables to move the logs 20-40 ft up the riverbank and retain it in the riparian zone to function as mammal and bird habitat. The small woody debris will be allowed to flush down the river.

Because there is no fill within ordinary high water mark, there is no DSL permit nor 404 Clean Water Act permit required. All it requires is an NTP from the USDA-FS.

#### Recent EAP Activation

Pam asked to discuss the recent emergency action plan incident. Scott explained that he received an after-hours text about some soft spots on Toketee Dam. He didn't have his Emergency Action Plan book at home, so he initiated a Level 1 EAP instead of the proper Level 0. He drove to the Project and performed a tailboard with the crew, then walked the dam and identified the "soft spots" as side cast piles from previous installation of monitoring monuments. The originating notification had come from a new Hydro employee with no project history. Once they completed the walkthrough, they spoke with Dam Safety staff and explained what was found and what they thought it was. The next day Scott did a photo survey. With confirmation that there was no active threat and the soft spots were known side-castings, the Level 1 EAP was rescinded. There were many lessons learned as this was the first time initiating this level of EAP outside of training. Pam noted that there are four EAP levels: Level 0 – no danger; Level 1 – high flow event; Level 2 – a potential hazardous situation is developing; and Level 3 – a failure is imminent or has occurred (e.g., dam break). The Dam Safety staff member that usually texts everyone was out on vacation during this event. Peter Martins was the acting staff. The notice correctly came to the USDA-FS dispatch but they did not know what the EAP notification was. USDA-FS has a call-out tree (7 or 8 people, but it ended up being 12 people) that was activated. The event occurred at 5:00 p.m. on a holiday – we could not have asked for a better scenario – it was a good test! Peter said we would rather have a false alarm, than have a real incident without an alarm.

#### **SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

The hydro crew has been busy with surveys and restoration effectiveness monitoring. Nineteen Spring Chinook Salmon spawning ground surveys were completed in 7-10-day rotations for approximately 5 miles of Rock Creek for the 2022 spawning ground survey season. The Spring Chinook Salmon total redd count for 2022 was 86 redds with 17 carcasses observed. The total redd

count was down some from the 99 redds documented in 2021 and 154 redds observed in 2020. In terms of red density, we observed approximately 17 redds/mile this past sampling season as compared to 19 redds/mile in 2021, 28 redds/mile in 2020, and 6 redds/mile in 2019. Hydropower staff helped in efforts to remove hatchery salmon at the Rock Creek fish ladder in 2022 utilizing trapping infrastructure at the ladder that has been fixed post-fire. Removal efforts helped reduce the number of hatchery Spring Chinook Salmon spawning upstream of the hatchery diversion. ODFW reported in the October RCC meeting that a total of 407 hatchery Chinook were removed at the Rock Creek hatchery ladder but more were likely removed after that in 2022. Coho Salmon spawning ground surveys appear to indicate reduced spawning in the Rock Creek basin in the 2022-23 spawning season as compared to the record numbers observed in the 2021-22 season. A total of 83 coho salmon redds has been observed this season as compared to 398 total redds in the 2021-22 season and 120 total redds in the 2020-21 season. Looking at redd densities across the 12 stream miles sampled in Rock Creek and tributaries, we observed 7 redds/mile this past sampling season as compared to 33 redds/mile in 2021-22, 5 redds/mile in 2020-21, and 11 redds/mile in 2019-20. It appears that coho numbers across the Umpqua basin are down this season as indicated by ODFW spawning ground surveys and Soda Springs Dam ladder counts. Hydro staff will continue Coho Salmon spawning ground surveys this week and next to ensure there are no new redds and survey counts are zeroed out. There has been an increased interest our Rock Creek data and hydro staff have been working to meet all inquiries.

Hydro staff continue to work on restoration permitting and material acquisition for the 2023 restoration season. Effectiveness monitoring of restoration structures continues. There have been a number of high-water events this winter that have put new and existing instream restoration structures to the test and for the most part they all continue to function well. There has been a little bit of movement of individual large wood pieces that were pushed instream to aggregate downstream during high water events which was not unexpected. Lower Rock Creek structures have shown minimal movement with the widening of the channel and floodplain which is what we want to see. Log jams in East Fork Rock Creek are looking very good, as the larger log jams we placed in-stream have formed additional smaller jams which has dampened high-water flows and collected substrate across the multiple structures. The boulder structures which were part of the initial phase of instream restoration have done an excellent job of collecting substrate and reducing the amount of exposed bedrock in the Rock Creek basin. Most of the boulder structures are buried in gravel now which is providing abundant spawning habitat and water-cooling benefits. Current instream work includes using boulder weir locations for placement of large wood to provide habitat diversity and increase bedload deposition.

Hydro staff worked on an extensive post-fire Rock Creek riparian rehabilitation project, with 1,783 seedlings planted along Rock Creek after mechanical weed suppression/removal. Mechanical weed suppression was used for foliage that has quickly grown back after the fire. Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby and OWEB were utilized to help with seedling procurement and weed removal. The goal is to clear 8 additional riparian areas of weeds in 2023 and plant them with approximately 10,000 seedlings over the next couple of years if the trees are available.

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

Most of projects this year will be done on BLM land. The USDA-FS cannot execute cooperative funding agreements for work done on BLM land. They are working with BLM on how to transfer the funds. Audrey Squires is still responsible for administration of the funding process and will be sending out the request for 2024 projects.

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

Chris said he just received a call from Brian Bartos at FERC, who was inquiring about the Fish Creek pumped storage project. This is another data point demonstrating FERC's progress on that proposed license amendment.

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

**NEXT RCC Meeting:** April 19, 2023. The group consensus was to make it an in-person meeting at Toketee. The meeting will be held from 9:00 A.M. to Noon, followed by a site tour if desired.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.