

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC No. P-1927)  
Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)  
April 19, 2023 Meeting**

**FINAL**

**RCC Members or Alternates Present**

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Jedidiah Hancock (USDA-FS)  
Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)  
Michelle McMullin (NOAA)  
Amy Golladay (USDI-BLM)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Jason Brandt (ODFW)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Frank Weaver (USFWS)  
Jeff Brown (NOAA)  
Martin Sanchez (OWRD)

**Other Attendees**

Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)  
Jeffrey Brown (PacifiCorp)  
Debbi Smith (PacifiCorp)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, MEMBER UPDATES, ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS**

**USDA-FS:** Jed Hancock is working 70% of his time on hydropower, with remaining time committed to disaster relief projects. FS issued the request for proposals for the mitigation fund with a May 31 deadline. Reach out to Audrey Squires with NFF to submit, or contact Jed or Pam with any questions. FS working on NTP list now. They are waiting on cultural clearance for the access road on Transmission Line 46. The cultural staff have been busy completing disaster relief items. The sign at Toketee Village has not been cleared yet. The FS should have the first quarter expenditure reports ready for PacifiCorp in the next couple of weeks. Douglas County Sheriff's Office has been receiving an influx of emergency service calls related to Umpqua Hot Springs. There are discussions to get something in place to help resolve that issue.

**NOAA:** Michelle McMullins introduced herself. She is a fisheries biologist in the Roseburg office, who has been with NOAA since 2005. Kate continues to be the interim branch chief for the Oregon Coast. The West Coast region of NOAA fisheries will have a new regional administrator, Jennifer Kwan, beginning on Monday, April 24th. Barry Thom was the previous regional administrator who oversaw NOAA operations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California. The petition to list the Oregon Coast Spring Chinook ESU was accepted by NOAA, and the ESU is now considered as a candidate species. NOAA is proceeding with the status review. At the conclusion of their status review, they'll make a finding as to whether listing the Oregon Coast Spring Chinook Salmon ESU as endangered or threatened is warranted – usually a 12-month process.

**USFWS:** The USFWS received a court complaint about the fisher listing decision they made a few years ago. USFWS are currently in the process of dealing with that, and there should be a decision on how they're going to proceed on that soon. He asked the group to keep their ears open for anything pertaining to fishers in the near future, and he would provide the group any updates.

**BLM:** Review of a need for special use authorizations for t-line access roads outside of the FERC boundary has been moved to the back burner. The realty specialist will be retiring at the end of the year, and her supervisor will be retiring in nine days.

**ODEQ:** Leah Feldon has been appointed as director. The deputy director spot was backfilled on an interim basis by the Eastern region administrator, Shannon Davis. The new deputy water quality administrator is Mike Kaczynski. They're backfilling a lot of executive management positions. Marilyn Fonseca, the other half of the 401 team, is retiring at the end of May. Chris has submitted paperwork to leave DEQ in July. He said there might be some hiccups in the middle part of the year and suggested buttoning up any loose ends that might occur between now and the middle part of the year. The 401 program is also down one nationwide spot. He wasn't sure if he would be at the July RCC meeting, He and Steve could speak offline about addressing outstanding issues in the meantime.

**ODFW:** One possible issue that would impact the project is that Alan Ritchie, the Passage and Screening Coordinator in Salem is retiring at the end of the month. ODFW is currently looking for his replacement. Jason believes that ODFW would have someone coming in to fill their SE Hydro Coordinator position soon. The NW Hydro Coordinator position also remains unfilled on a permanent basis.

**OWRD:** Ron Kohanek introduced Martin Sanchez, who is backfilling Mary Grainey's position following her retirement. Ron said OWRD have a lot of things going on as the legislature is very interested in water suddenly. Ron turned it over to Martin to introduce himself. Martin said he grew up in Fort Klamath, OR, and he went to high school in Chiloquin, so he is familiar with water law issues.

**PacifiCorp:** PacifiCorp has hired a new Maintenance Manager, Chris Southwick. Chris was previously with ODOT, so he is familiar with a lot of the agency regulators in this area. PacifiCorp is dealing with a lot of staffing challenges. Due to the Klamath Dam removal projects, some of their operation staff are supporting that effort. There are several operator and maintenance positions open, or will be soon, so there will be a lot of new faces on the North Umpqua work crew. Steve Albertelli mentioned Beth Bendickson is no longer the Project Coordinator for the group. She is now mostly responsible for the Lewis River project. Debbi Smith is the new Project Coordinator. Debbi introduced herself saying that prior to PacifiCorp, she worked at SWCA Environmental Consultants. She was a Sr. Formatter, Section 508 Accessibility Specialist, and also provided support for Microsoft Office applications. Before that, she worked at WECC as a Compliance Program Coordinator. Debbi will be taking the notes for these meetings moving forward.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH (PAST EVENTS/FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES)**

### Upcoming Events

Jeff said Rich gave a tour to Dennis Feero's South Umpqua High School science class since the last meeting. They will be hosting a Glide High School tour that will be filmed for marketing material promoting a pre-apprenticeship program. The film will be used to promote the program to other high schools in the area. Jed Hancock said that typically there would be a filming permit that can

sometimes be really quick to get for educational activities. Jed will put them in touch with someone to get the permit for filming. Jeff Brown said they would be going to the fish passage at Soda Springs Dam, Soda Springs Power Plant, and the overlook area at the Clearwater 2 forebay. Jeff gave a summary of the pre-apprenticeship program that he is spearheading. They're trying to help the local community and workforce development by working with the Electrical Training Center of the IBEW in Central Point to make an Electrician Pre-Apprenticeship Course specifically tailored to high school students, with a focus on getting it out to the rural classes in school districts that don't have STEM electives. They've already received \$1,000,000 in state funding to develop a mobile training center. The instructors will be professional electricians from the training center teaching those courses. The mobile classroom will be used at remote locations like Glide High School. It initially started there last year, and now they will have a mobile platform to better facilitate equitable learning. Jeff said he would be meeting that evening with Riddle and Days Creek High Schools to roll it out there, and was also looking at additional high schools to roll the program out to. They noted that PacifiCorp doesn't own the program but is putting a lot of considerable resources into supporting it.

## **FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES**

### Fish Creek and Clearwater 2 Pumped Storage

Steve Albertelli provided the following pumped storage project updates:

**Fish Creek:** FERC issued an EA for the Fish Creek Pumped Storage License Amendment Application with a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). They gave no indication of when to expect the final order for the license amendment, but the FONSI appears to make it seem imminent. FERC D2SI still have to review and approve the final design that has yet to be provided. The layout and routing is all pretty well set, but the pump turbine itself is still in flux.

**Clearwater 2:** Because there are similar technologies as Fish Creek proposed and involved in the concept design, it has stalled a bit. The current plan is to have a license amendment application possibly late summer or early fall. The routing and general concept are pretty well set, but the actual pump turbine design and siting within the pump house is still in flux. PacifiCorp have been implementing the water quality, fisheries, and wildlife studies proposed in the initial consultation document. PacifiCorp committed to do the water quality, water quality modeling, and fisheries studies every year pre project, and then for three years post project, so whether the license amendment application comes out this year or later, they'll continue to keep doing those studies. Steve noted that since their last meeting, Jason and Chris received the updated water quality and/or aquatic biological monitoring reports and stated that they are supposed to be providing those by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year that they conduct the monitoring. Steve questioned that if this process really drags out and they've already collected multiple years of data showing nothing new across those years, they might reconvene on whether it's worthwhile or necessary to keep going each year, but the plan now is to continue to implement those programs annually.

Steve thanked the RCC for their patience and involvement in the processes so far, noting it's been very helpful having the group involved early and often, and for being as engaged they are.

### Fish Protection and Passage Facilities (Tailrace Barriers, Ladders, Screens)

Jeff Brown said PacifiCorp had a contractor onsite that performed a significant amount of actuator repairs at the end of January, and they are going to come back when the system is dewatered in

August to perform some additional underwater valve work. They are also progressing with a finishing screen modification. They are also still working on low-level outlet modifications and some other miscellaneous repair work to make sure all systems are operating as designed.

Jason provided a report on a significant event at the Fish Evaluation Building last week. ODFW found some debris plugging up the sorting bars where the juvenile fish drop through the bars into the holding tank where they are sampled, counted, weighed, and monitored. Those sorting bars also pass adults down into the adult trap, and large debris is usually passed through so it doesn't end up in the juvenile trap or juvenile holding tank. The sorting bars got plugged completely, and there were some fish that got trapped in the debris and died. The event occurred sometime early Wednesday night or early Thursday morning. The holding tank has HIGH and LOW water level alarms that will result in callouts to PacifiCorp and ODFW staff, but the water levels remained within tolerance during the debris event. Overnight is usually when fish are more apt to move, and the juveniles are more likely to out-migrate. The night-time hours in April have historically been a big out-migration time, so they often see peak out-migration numbers for the different species and life stages in April. During that time, ODFW's monitoring efforts include night-time monitoring and checking for potential debris issues. Also, if there are significant numbers of fish, it's good to work them up as they come in. In addition, since bigger juvenile fish will prey on smaller fish, ODFW usually tries to have somebody there when they believe there's going to be a big pulse of fish coming through. Unfortunately, the debris event was unexpected, with little debris observed the previous night and stream flows dropping, and not something that has been observed in the previous years of sampling at the FEB.

ODFW observed 11 deceased Coho smolts, which compared with previous years data, is not likely to represent more than 2% of all Coho smolts exposed to the fish passage facilities which is the threshold identified in PacifiCorp's incidental take statement. Following the debris event, ODFW implemented additional overnight monitoring to ensure additional build-up and/or blockages did not occur. ODFW staff and Rich Grost will collaborate on potential additional corrective actions to reduce the likelihood of such future events.

#### Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

Steve said they are anticipating construction on that Toketee Dam rehab in 2030 to 2032. As far as near-term activities to inform that design process, PacifiCorp plans to perform the geotechnical exploration of the right abutment, including along Toketee-Rigdon Road, in 2024. PacifiCorp is still negotiating the seismic acceleration calculations with FERC, who has determined that a Board of Consultants is necessary for the project. PacifiCorp is working with DOGAMI on a permit. DOGAMI will not issue a permit to PacifiCorp without a reclamation plan for the quarry, but the FS quarry will remain active after PacifiCorp's operations. Therefore, PacifiCorp is at an impasse with DOGAMI without additional support from FS. PacifiCorp will coordinate a response to DOGAMI with FS.

#### NTPs or Other Permitting Coordination

At Toketee Control Center, on Toketee School Road, PacifiCorp proposed to install a "Gate Ahead" sign along the road so those who are used to driving down that road and not having a barricade or impediment in the middle of the road will be alerted to the fact that that's there now.

Clearwater reconnect log jam removal has been completed since last meeting. Steve said they need to send a completion notice for that.

PacifiCorp has received a number of NTPs that are yet to get started due to PacifiCorp’s changeover in maintenance manager, the crew limitations Jeff identified, and the ongoing winter weather making it so they haven’t been able to do a lot on ground activities out there yet.

<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	Completed
FC Pumped Storage Culvert Replacement JPA	Pam will doublecheck status

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

Steve provided the following updates:

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

Addressed above.

### SA 5 & 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring

PacifiCorp continues to have icing issues in the Lemolo 1 bypassed reach below Lemolo Dam. PacifiCorp is implementing an additional buffer over minimum flows to compensate for the loss in level indication during icing events.

Several of the bypassed reaches went through the spring transition and increase in minimum flows, and those are being attained successfully.

### SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation Monitoring

In a holding pattern. Jason Brandt said that after the report about the Slide Creek bypassed reach, he thinks there may need to be discussion in the future about potential gravel augmentation there.

### SA 8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat Monitoring

In a holding pattern.

### SA 8.3 Soda Springs Bypass Reach Habitat Maintenance

In a holding pattern.

### SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring and Predator Control

The ladder monitoring is going well. Winter Steelhead returns have been slow, which is expected with higher and colder flows. Monitors have observed high outmigration numbers, noting that this year is on-track for the pace of higher years. ODFW observed Sockeye Salmon outmigrants for the first time, but we are still waiting for juvenile Lamprey. ODFW observed 6 Sockeye moving upstream through the ladder. The 19.2 report is almost ready for the RCC; a draft is out to the TWG for review.

Jason believes they should have the green light for e-fishing for predators in Soda Springs Reservoir, and he doesn’t think there are any COVID-related restrictions to deal with anymore. He’s hopeful they can get the e-fishing boat out sometime this year, but the extremely high water is probably going to delay that.

### Water Quality Certification Monitoring

Chris said he received the annual water quality monitoring report at the end of March. Review is underway and he expects to get a response to that this week. He noted that there weren't any surprises in it.

## **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES**

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

Jeff Brown stated that powerhouse maintenance is going on at Clearwater No. 1. The anticipated return-to-service date is Friday, April 21, 2023.

There will be GSU maintenance at Lemolo No. 1 from May 1 through May 5, but the plant will still be able to run online, just running at very low megawatts. The plant will be offline from May 6 through June 1 for regular maintenance.

There will be a 3-unit outage at Toketee from June 12 through June 18. On each side of that, there will be a couple days ramping in to spill from Toketee Reservoir. After the 3-unit outage, a Toketee 2 outage will extend through the end of the year to December 15<sup>th</sup> for a major overhaul.

Soda Springs fish passage will be dewatered August 7 through 31.

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

#### **Lemolo Reservoir:**

Jeff Brown was unsure how full Lemolo was at this point. The flushing program is still enabled for the winter season at Lemolo 1 forebay. O&M crews are going to try some new methods to sweep the bottom of the forebay during the planned outage to remove some of the sediment and organic debris.

#### **Toketee Reservoir:**

No updates.

#### **Soda Springs Reservoir:**

No updates.

Jeff Brown noted that new trash rack rake systems are to be installed at several of the forbays this year. They are still waiting on manufacturing and for capital approval of the projects. Steve noted that, while the rake itself is in the water, there's none of the typical hallmarks of what they would call in-water work. There's no removal, fill, or other impacts to jurisdictional waters. Clearwater No. 1 forebay is planned for install this year. PacifiCorp reviewed with Pam and determined there was no new ground or habitat disturbance. The installation of the rack system and the footings is all in existing disturbed areas and/or on top of gravel or concrete.

## **SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Jason stated that the ODFW crew finished spawning ground surveys for coho salmon in Rock Creek and documented 17 carcasses and a total of 83 redds in 2022/23 surveys, which was much less than in 2021-22 (398 redds) and 2020-2021 (120 redds). This is a significant reduction.

Coho Salmon spawning activity was observed in Stony Creek, a tributary to Rock Creek, for the first time. Surveys show Coho Salmon returns to the Umpqua Basin were low compared to previous years, particularly in the South Umpqua.

Spawning ground surveys showed some summer Steelhead had returned to the Rock Creek Basin, particularly above the ladder and sorting station. Spawning ground surveys were completed in February with 23 redds documented in Rock Creek and 0 redds observed in East Fork Rock Creek. Winter Steelhead spawning ground surveys were initiated earlier this month (April) with 3 redds observed in the 9-11 mile reach of Rock Creek. High water and poor visibility have made for poor survey conditions and hindered the surveyors' ability to stay on survey rotation, but they can't complain about cooler stream temperatures and consistent higher flows. As observed last year, peak spawning may be a little later this year as compared to previous years due to the cooler water temperatures, so expecting to see additional spawning into May. Lamprey surveys will be done in May and June.

Jason reported that preparations for ODFW's in-stream restoration work for the upcoming in-water work period of June, July, and August are well on the way, and the crew has been working on obtaining necessary permits for in-water work from the USACE, DSL, DEQ, and Douglas County planning. ODFW is working with landowners along Rock Creek for access permission, which is going well. The crew held an on-site meeting with the new FIA (Forest Investment Associates) representatives to discuss potential projects on FIA land in Rock Creek Basin. FIA has been a very good partner in the past for Rock Creek restoration and it's very important to continue that partnership. Effectiveness monitoring of existing restoration structures during low- and high-water events continues to evaluate how the structures handle a range of flows, especially high-water events this spring. ODFW identified a need to look at existing side channel projects, and to look for potentially new side channel opportunities, which they believe are important for the future of restoration in Rock Creek. It is important to have side channels that are areas of refuge during high water and provide additional foraging and macroinvertebrate production areas that are good for the restoration portfolio.

The ODFW hydro team has been working on a potential Rock Creek ladder project. There's a juvenile bypass system in that ladder, and there's been boulder movement below the outfall. It's been determined that those boulders should be moved to make sure fish aren't landing on them, causing potential injuries. They are working with contractors that may potentially have equipment to move those boulders and do some rip rap work below the dam.

They've been helping with riparian planting in the Rock Creek basin. Jason reported that over 2,000 trees have been planted in riparian areas along Rock Creek, and they plan to continue with that effort.

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

Jed Hancock noted RFPs are out, and proposals are due May 31. FS is partnering with NFF on a direct transfer of funds from PacifiCorp that would allow NFF to leverage funding to get more work done. FS is also looking at working with the BLM on some different ways of approving projects on BLM lands in batches instead of as one-offs to facilitate the funding process. Jen Taylor is now working with the Forest leadership team and external partners to maximize mitigation fund benefits.

### **OTHER RCC AGENCY PROJECTS AND/OR COORDINATION**

Mike Korn stated BLM had hired two new fish biologists, so there's now 3 to better focus on fisheries: Wes Burton, Jerrad Goodell, and Jeff McEnroe. BLM is finishing some projects in their campgrounds ahead of recreation season. Post-fire restoration continues at the confluence of East Fork Rock Creek and mainstem Rock Creek.

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

**NEXT RCC Meeting:** July 19, 2023, onsite including the regular quarterly meeting and conference call for off-site attendees from 10:00 to 12:00 and an optional tour of Project facilities from 12:00 to 15:00.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 A.M.