

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)
Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
Meeting and Public Tour
October 8, 2025**

FINAL

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Jason Brandt (ODFW)
Jedidiah Hancock (USDA-FS)
Vanessa Rose (ODEQ)*
Martin Sanchez (OWRD)*
Valerie Thompson (ODEQ)
*Members attended remotely

Other Attendees

Debbi Smith (PacifiCorp)
Jeff Brown (PacifiCorp)
Drew Marine (PacifiCorp)
Kurt Stuehler (PacifiCorp)

INTRODUCTIONS, MEMBER UPDATES, ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

Steve noted that, with the exception of Jed, the RCC representatives from the federal agencies were absent due to the ongoing federal government shutdown. Drew Marine, Pacific Power external communications specialist, is attending the meeting and tour to engage with media attendees. Steve noted the passing of Chris Stine, former ODEQ representative to the RCC, and his contributions to the implementation program.

USDA-FS: Jed explained that, during the government shutdown, there are individuals like him who are exempt based on active management or executive order. In his case, energy and minerals are some of his responsibilities that provide exemption. Alan Grubb, who's a partnership coordinator, recently took a job in Montana as a District Ranger. This affects the FS' capacity and limits progress on grants and agreements.

DFW: Jason mention that ODFW has been one person down in the hydro crew for a couple of years. ODFW will be backfilling the position as half-time hydro and half-time fish division. The position was posted last week, and ODFW had a surprising number of applicants.

DEQ: Valerie noted the Umpqua basin temperature TMDL water quality management plan that DEQ is developing is going into the rulemaking process. Steve is a member of the rules advisory committee for that effort. DEQ has been trying to make sure that those working on the TMDL plan are paying attention to the 401 certification requirements of the Project.

Jason asked how the hydro project fits into the TMDL and water quality management plan. Steve noted that the TMDL allotted 0.3 degrees C of gain for the human use allowance to the Project. However, how that is monitored for compliance is complicated when you've got a spider web of a project and not just one dam and reservoir. Sarah Norpchen, who filled in as an RCC member for a time a few years back, is managing the plan development for DEQ, and she has made it clear that DEQ is not trying to write us into a corner with the plan but provide PacifiCorp opportunities to

develop a monitoring plan consistent with the water quality certification for DEQ's review and input. There was a public meeting last week, and the water quality management plan draft is available for review. DEQ is working on many other TMDLs. DEQ is seeing tighter budgets and hiring freezes.

WRD: Martin said that WRD is in the process of converting quite a few old hydroelectric water rights to in-stream water rights and reauthorizing some hydro projects, mainly in the Southwest region. Craig Kohanek's temporary assignment of six months will be over in mid-November.

PacifiCorp: Jeff noted that PacifiCorp also has some end of the year additional cost controls, like hiring freezes and travel restrictions. There are no vacant positions that are critical to the team right now. Rich is out during the month of October.

PUBLIC OUTREACH (PAST EVENTS/FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES)

The group discussed efforts to promote the public tour this year. Jason confirmed that ODFW shared PacifiCorp's press release on social media. Forest Service was constrained by the government shutdown. Twenty-seven people, including agency staff, are signed up for the tour, which is less than last year's record number of 40 but more than most years in the past. We have a big group from Partnership for Umpqua Rivers. No response from tribes or tribal members.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

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

PacifiCorp is still working on upgrades to the tail race barriers at Slide Creek. There have been problems with the tail race barrier crane, which is being repaired. PacifiCorp is monitoring flows and will restrict flow through the plant as the panels get plugged up until the crane is repaired and the panels are upgraded. PacifiCorp expects that it will take three to four weeks to get the crane repaired.

There's sediment built up in front of the Fish Creek fish screen settling pond, which is fairly routine. It's been dredged several times since it's been built. There had been a lot of trouble with the permitting as discussed at several RCC meetings. Part of the complication with that planned work is maintaining the fire water in Fish Creek forebay. PacifiCorp may get to a point, if we get the permits in time, that PacifiCorp asks to be relieved of that requirement ahead of an official close to fire season. PacifiCorp has already asked ODFW and NOAA Fisheries about an extension for the in-water work window to accommodate the delayed permitting and extended fire season. PacifiCorp is waiting for the permits and for the end of fire season, but then it'll be up against the back end of that in-water work extension of December 15th.

Fish Creek Pumped Storage

FERC has not responded to the license amendment application. Valerie and Steve have talked, but there's no formal response from DEQ about the request for modification of the water quality certification.

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

PacifiCorp continues with engineering work that will influence the scope of rehabilitation with FERC. PacifiCorp is investigating several options to address the high hazard classification at Toketee Dam.

NTPs or Other Permitting Coordination

Jed made a big effort to issue several NTPs ahead of the federal government shutdown and help get several dam safety projects and other projects authorized. The only outstanding NTP request is mowing the transmission line ROWs. Upcoming projects include housing remodels at Slide Creek, water supply line replacement at Clearwater Village, Fish Creek flume replacements, and erosion remediation at LM2-31 at the sag pipe.

Forest Service is going to be looking at including herbicide application in the ROW mowing NTP. Jed is waiting for some mitigations from the botany specialist.

Jed noted that there is a need to put more large woody debris on the wildlife crossings. Steve noted that PacifiCorp and contractors would install wood from projects as it is available. Steve will reinforce this requirement from NTPs with PacifiCorp project managers and contractors.

Jed noted that wildfire was much lighter this year. The Emigrant Fire is still being fought. The fire fighters cut a lot of trees, which are being transported now. This necessitates some post-fire road maintenance. Jeff noted that there is a very noticeable positive impact of restoration efforts on the road from the Lemolo No. 1 forebay to the powerplant. Jed confirmed that a road decommissioned by PacifiCorp but that was opened for fire fighting has been reclosed and decommissioned. There is more road restoration work to be done.

Steve noted that closure checkpoints continue to be somewhat problematic. Guards have not acknowledged PacifiCorp's waiver at times or acknowledged when the closure was rescinded. Some of those events are pretty minor, but sometimes the field workers are restricted and will have to stop and call the general foreman or somebody to provide a second authorization. The guards are commissioned law enforcement officers at those checkpoints. Jed and Steve agreed that the waiver template was successful this year in allowing PacifiCorp to continue operations rather seamlessly during closures this year.

PacifiCorp thanked Jed for the Forest Service's advanced coordination and notification on prescribed burns.

Low Impact Hydropower Institute Recertification

The LIHI recertification is final. The certification is backdated to 2022, but it's good for 15 years, which goes almost to the license expiration.

MONITORING PROGRAMS & TECHNICAL WORK GROUP UPDATES

SA 4.1 Soda Springs Fish Passage O&M

Kurt provided an update on the biennial maintenance of the fish passage. It was a fairly typical outage. PacifiCorp installed new hardware on the primary cleaners including trucks, rollers, and bearings. All were due for some replacement parts. The South got a new cable; the north did not, but it was retensioned. PacifiCorp worked on the elevated desedimentation valves on the

secondary screen cleaners to improve performance removing debris from the ramp on the invert. PacifiCorp completed other general maintenance on valves, rebuilt the fish hopper, and installed new stop log hoists.

SA 5 & 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring

Monitoring continues to go as planned. The USGS has been out quite a bit ahead of the shutdown doing different monitoring. PacifiCorp had to adjust flows in Soda Spring bypass post-gravel augmentation because the water surface elevation increased by about 3 feet. The gravel will settle out. There were no real time reporting events since the last RCC meeting. There were some minor events that were below the threshold that'll be in the final year-end report, including in the Lemolo 1 bypassed reach due to work on Lemolo Dam low level outlet, unintended operation of the Obermeyer weir at Slide Creek, and a brief maintenance issue at Soda Springs plant.

SA 8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat Monitoring and the SA 8.3 Soda Springs Bypass Reach Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance

Gravel installation in July 2025 included 290 cy in the Slide Creek bypassed reach near the dam and 950 cy in the Soda Springs bypassed reach (670 cy at the fish screen, 50 cy in the upper pool tailout, and 230 cy in the lower pool tailout). The habitat is already being used by spawning fish. The group discussed ongoing coordination and assessment of ongoing gravel needs in light of 19.3 funding. Forest Service will assess whether they have the capacity to manage gravel augmentation in 2026 or whether they will request additional management from PacifiCorp to be reimbursed from the 19.3 account. Rich has been managing contracting, but now that the 7.2 and 8.3 accounts are spent, there is not an obligation for PacifiCorp to manage gravel augmentation funded by the 19.3 federal mitigation fund. The group discussed the need for increased coordination between gravel installation contractors and PacifiCorp operations to avoid blocking access to facilities.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring and Predator Control

Jason sent an update on ladder counts through September. There's an uptick in spring Chinook movement in September, but there are still many hatchery Chinook in the counts. There was no collection at the Fish Evaluation Building (FEB) in August due to the maintenance. Numbers have been low, but Jason's hypothesis is that the large flow event in the spring flushed many juvenile migrants as observed in past years. Jeff requested that ODFW contact him instead of Rich regarding maintenance needs at the FEB. Last week, ODFW removed approximately 30 brown trout from Soda Springs Reservoir for a research study.

Water Quality Certification Monitoring

Soda Springs Monitoring Station is operating as planned.

The group discussed the temperature TMDL water quality management plan in additional detail and the need for PacifiCorp to prepare a monitoring plan. Steve explained some of the inaccuracies and complications of information in EPA's TMDL, including the inclusion of forebays and assumptions that Fish Creek diversion operates year-round. PacifiCorp anticipates four years of temperature monitoring will be required in the monitoring plan, which is expected to be due in 2028 or 2029 following finalization and adoption of the water quality management plan. Valerie noted that DEQ's language in the plan is trying to leave room for PacifiCorp to propose monitoring that is tailored to on-site conditions and consistent with the Project water quality certification. Steve will provide updates on rules advisory committee meetings at future RCC meetings.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Powerhouse and Canal Outages (updates, plans)

Clearwater 1 down for biennial maintenance and canal lining. Jeff noted several automation projects that have been completed or are nearing completion. Clearwater 1 intake and Stump Lake controls are now automated. Lemolo 1 low level automation and 60” outlet valve, joining the previously installed 24” valve, will be completed before the end of the year. The Toketee log chute actuator will be automated by the end of the year. PacifiCorp will also complete the automated back-up power project at Slide Creek dam. Toketee 2 outage is nearing the end. Upcoming improvements include the Soda Springs debris boom and automated trash rack at Clearwater 2 forebay.

In response to a question from Jed, Jeff and Kurt described planned patching of the Toketee flowline with fabricated stakes.

Reservoir Management (Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs)

The seasonal drawdown of Lemolo is in-progress. Jason noted that ODFW is pulling weir boards from Diamond Lake.

The group discussed additional debris at Poole Creek shoreline that may be associated with the historic dump. Jed will follow-up with Forest archaeology program, and Steve will discuss with Russ Howison. Steve’s understanding was that it was additional debris outside of the capped site and would just require localized clean-up.

In-water Work

Steve reiterated that dredging at Fish Creek fish screen was awaiting permits. In 2026, some of the flume refurbishments may have footings that are in jurisdictional waters or wetlands that will be reviewed for coverage by Nationwide Permits and/or DSL exemptions.

Jason inquired about the status of PacifiCorp’s Erosion Control Plan monitoring and the memo for detailing a process for removing low priority sites from the annual reporting. Steve noted that the annual report was complete and will be posted to the Project website. Hunter will schedule a meeting to follow-up with ODFW, ODEQ, and Forest Service regarding the memo.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Equipment was mobilized to the Rock Creek basin on July 1 and was ready to go at the start of the in-water work period. Last year’s preparatory work facilitated access and implementation. ODFW completed the work in approximately one month. The work included 1,561 boulders in stream at 33 sites. Twenty sites received enhancements to existing structures. Thirteen sites were new. Six sites were required to replace fire-damaged structures. The new structures were boulder-only structures (i.e., no large wood due to observed damage from fire and high flows). Sourcing boulders has been easier than obtaining large wood. There are several large wood jams in river that will eventually blow and pass downstream, so we don’t want to add to that. Gravel is increasing behind the in-water structures. ODFW is growing riparian trees for future planting. Water levels were too low to continue spawning surveys. ODFW is culling hatchery spring Chinook and summer steelhead fish at the Rock Creek hatchery fish ladder. ODFW reviewed on-Project implementation projects and reported that everything looks good.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND

Forest Service completed transfer of mitigation funds to BLM for 4 to 5 years of projects. Jed is working on displaying 19.3 projects spatially to identify project area gaps and tell the story of work completed to date. The Forest identified Steamboat as the priority watershed for near term mitigation fund projects, focusing on shovel-ready projects with completed NEPA documents. In November there will be work on Copeland Creek and Fish Creek to add large wood. The Forest will pause requests for proposals due to capacity constraints, but there is a backlog of previously submitted projects. There will be a call for funding/implementation partners to join Forest-identified and -defined projects.

OTHER RCC AGENCY PROJECTS AND/OR COORDINATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

NEXT RCC Meeting: January 21, 2026, from 9:00 to 12:00.

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm.