

6-17-09 Meeting Summary – Approved 7-15-09
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Bill Gamble (USDA-FS)

Also Present

Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)

Absent

Chris Stine (ODEQ) – Proxy given to Dave Harris
Jim Thraikill (USFWS)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Pam Sighting (USDA_FS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

USDA-FS: Interviews are being scheduled for the Diamond Lake Recreation Staff replacement; hope to have someone in place by latter half of August. Also, Alan Hubbs (Fire Management Office) has been hired and will be in place in the latter half of July. He comes from the Sawtooth National Forest.

RCC Action: Review and approve 5/20/09 draft meeting summary. *Tentatively approved (pending USDA-FS and USFWS approval) Beth will send e-mail to Pam Sighting and Jim Thraikill requesting formal approval.*

Public Information Opportunities – *none at this time.*

Video Update – Monte Garrett indicated that PacifiCorp intends to hire videographer Mark Brown again this year to begin capturing footage of this year's major projects, in preparation for a revision of the *North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project Continuum* video. Next year Mark will get construction footage of the Soda Springs Fish Passage project.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

The USDA-FS recently issued the following NTPs:

- Lemolo 2 Canal Shutoff and Drainage
- Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging
- Lemolo 2 Reroute Exploratory Borings
- Part 8 Signs
- Toketee Trash Rack
- O&M Vegetation Management
- Watson Ridge Communication Project

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage System)

The radio, programming and power issues have now been resolved to provide adequate communication for the canal shut-off and drainage system; however, the PLC is not operating well with the new radios. PacifiCorp is continuing to work on this issue. No date has been scheduled yet for a performance test, but Monte will coordinate a test date with interested RCC members in the near future.

Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System

With all permits and NTPs are in hand, construction is underway. There is a comprehensive road closure in effect. This project, along with the Lemolo 2 Dredging and Lemolo 2 Overhaul projects, has required an outage of the Lemolo 2 development that will last until November 17.

Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging/Lemolo 2 Plant Overhaul

The dredging will start in August. Todd Weekly was awarded the contract. More than 2,000 trout have been salvaged from the Lemolo 2 forebay and canal, due to the need for draining the forebay for several construction projects this year, and liberated to Lemolo and Toketee reservoirs. Predators are moving in and efficiently taking care of the fish that cannot be salvaged. Dave Harris said the ODFW had fielded about five calls from anglers concerned about the draining of the forebay, but they were pleased to learn of the salvage efforts. Rich Grost described the recent unusual turbidity events occurring coincident with the canal shutdown and forebay draining. Thanks to good USFS recon, most of the public now understands the turbidity was due to intense thunderstorms and runoff erosion originating from the Rattle Fire area.

Stan Vejtasa said he had a flurry of e-mails regarding concerns from tree cutting for placement of dredge spoils. He knows that PacifiCorp reduced the timber harvest from 15 to 8 acres, to minimize

the impact. He also said he sent an e-mail to concerned public indicating that all possible efforts had been conducted to safeguard natural resources.

Lemolo 1 Forebay

The excavation work for the forebay construction is underway. The plant will be shut down in the fall to make the connection of the forebay to the penstock. PacifiCorp is still awaiting the notice to proceed from FERC.

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier (Baffle Prototype Test)

The test is being implemented at this time by AECOM, Weekly Bros., and PacifiCorp staff. Prototype baffle plates have been attached to the picket panels at two bays to measure the hydraulics in an attempt to meet NMFS criteria. If this phase of testing shows promise, the next step will be to assess debris management and cleaning before full-scale modifications are pursued.

Soda Springs Fish Passage

In the meeting with FERC PRO on June 16, PacifiCorp reviewed the preliminary design and schedule in preparation for filing construction plans and specifications to the agency. FERC's role will be more significant in this project, because so much work is being done to the dam. Considerations include the facilities' effect on dam stability during high flows, flooding, and downstream effects of flooding. FERC is expected to require additional analyses to address these concerns.

The most current plans indicate additional riparian disturbance is needed from that originally permitted for the fish return pipe, evaluation facility, and outflow structure to the river. Changes amount to an additional 0.1 acre of surface area disturbance and increases in the amount of removal and fill, along with more riprap to stabilize the bank upon which the structures will be placed. A minor modification will be sought for the DSL, ACOE, and NPDES permits. FERC should be able to provide approval for the 2009 work (the instream flow facility to the flow line) in August, so work can be completed in September.

Ed Meyer suggested that riprap be minimized along the riverbank, and inquired about another set of facility design plans for further review of changes that may have occurred since plans were accepted by the agencies in March. Monte said updated design plans should be available by mid-July.

Watson Ridge

The project has been fully approved (permits and lease). The road is being cleared for the access site. Weekly Bros' is stockpiling trees for eventual use in future habitat enhancement project (to be determined). PacifiCorp will circle back later this year on best use of material.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity

PacifiCorp is moving forward in developing the final engineering designs for approval and scheduling by the end of this year. Few sites will be completed this year; most construction will occur from 2010 through 2016. Some simple reconnections will be completed in 2009.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute)

Monte will send a request for prospective dates to TWG members for the first TWG meeting soon. It will be sometime in late August. We have a 2007 conceptual design and will move forward with that design with PacifiCorp's design consultant.

Monte inquired about his recently sent e-mail regarding concurrence about rescheduling the construction date to 2016, to better fit with the busy construction schedule over the next several years (Soda Springs fish passage, Slide tailrace barrier, and other projects). Bill Gamble said he hasn't heard any concerns within the USDA-FS. Monte requested everyone to review and respond to the e-mail.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

19.2 monitoring program –smolt traps are still operating at Copeland and Soda Springs (Calf was stopped due to low water) but the catch is dropping off so the crew is checking them on a two-day cycle. The recent thunderstorms and flow spikes have not hindered trapping. They're floating the North Umpqua River today to get a steelhead count. The crew will soon be shifting to the brook trout eradication work above Stump Lake on a daily basis. The Lake Creek snorkel survey for tui chub (Lemolo Lake related) will be delayed until August/September. No additional ODFW personnel will be available for the fish population monitoring above Soda Springs' dam. It's still predicted to take place in August/September.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design – PacifiCorp is waiting for the design consultant firm to come onboard. The first TWG design meeting will likely be in August. Monte will send an e-mail next week with date choices for the meeting. This year we want to move as far as we can on a conceptual design or even a little further. The current schedule is to complete the design and permitting in 2010 and construct in 2011.

Lemolo Reservoir (met 6/16)

RCC Action: Approve Lemolo Reservoir Experimental Water Levels 2009 – Modification 2 (per Rich's e-mail dated 6/16/09). Approved 6/17/09 (Jim Thrailkill (USFWS) offered support through e-mail; the rest of the RCC approved verbally).

Update on Tui Chub removal: Scott Lamb was happy with the recent reservoir levels providing good trap sites and allowing him to use the dock and boat ramp. He caught nearly 40,000 tui chub in

the first week. After the thunderstorms and weather cool-down, he's now only getting 100 or so a day. The trapnetting is anticipated to continue at least thru July even with low catches, in case there is a later spawning attempt by tui chub.

Due to delays in accessing the Title II funds from the USFS, the TWG supports funding Scott Lamb's efforts through June 15, 2009 using PacifiCorp funds and USDA-FS 19.3 funding, so that Scott can pay off some incurred debt (e.g. trapnet purchases, labor) and continue his work. Bill Gamble added that it would be great to help Scott Lamb out with financial cash flow.

Ariel Hiller inquired about Title II funds. Bill Gamble explained that part of the delay was to seek competitive bids because Scott's business is a "for profit" outfit. They received three bids; Scott's was the lowest, and he was selected to receive the grant. Budget categories also had to be reworked to meet USFS requirements. Funding will go from USFS through PUR to Scott so that other delays can be minimized.

Rich reported that from the Lemolo 2 fish salvage, 999 wild brown trout (522 greater than 10" – the size big enough to prey on tui chub) were recently put into Lemolo Reservoir. ODFW has stocked hatchery catchable rainbow trout in the reservoir.

Joe Eilers has done one round of water quality monitoring, with another scheduled for this coming weekend. He also completed the hydroacoustic sampling of fish numbers over Memorial Day weekend. Rich, ODFW, and USFS did the related fish sampling with experimental gillnets last week. Also last week, the first pilot run of experimental removal with the electrofishing boat captured only 81 tui chub for 3 hours of effort. This will be tried again when chub numbers increase in the shallows (as evidenced by observations or larger trapnet catches). Dave Harris will keep us informed on the planned ODFW stocking of fishwick trout from Rock Creek hatchery (semi-wild rainbow trout stock.) At this point, he's not sure if or when it will happen.

Public Comments – Stan inquired which section of the Settlement Agreement L2R pertained to. [SA 6.1 Ramping; also mentioned in the 401 Water Quality Certification]. He mentioned that he supports the proposed construction schedule change to allow effort to be more efficiently focused on the important fish passage projects. He also inquired about ramping, wondering if it would cause additional ramping during construction. Because the Lemolo 2 plant would be down during construction of the headworks of the L2R project, construction is not expected to cause additional ramping.

The next RCC Conference Call is scheduled for July 15, 10:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned.

Bendickson, Beth

From: Grost, Richard
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 11:36 AM
To: Bendickson, Beth
Subject: FW: RCC action: Lemolo Reservoir experimental water levels 2009 -- modification 2

Beth -- for attachment to the RCC notes, this is the email string describing the modification the RCC approved today.

Richard Grost
 Aquatic Scientist
 PacifiCorp, NUHP
 541-498-2617

From: Grost, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 4:47 PM
To: Ariel Hiller; Bendickson, Beth; Chris Stine; Craig Kohanek (ron.c.kohanek@wrdd.state.or.us); Dave Harris; Ed.Meyer@noaa.gov; Garrett, Monte; Jim Thraillkill; Pam Sichting; rob_burns@fws.gov; dave.s.williams@wrdd.state.or.us; Donnell, Joe; Grost, Richard; Stephanie.Burchfield@noaa.gov
Cc: al johnson; Bill E Gamble; cstreet@fs.fed.us; Curtis G CUDE; Joseph Eilers; Laura E Boswell; Laura Jackson; mejones@fs.fed.us; Paul Heberling (HEBERLING.Paul@deq.state.or.us); Samuel Moyers; Terry Westfall
Subject: RCC action: Lemolo Reservoir experimental water levels 2009 -- modification 2

RCC -- at our April meeting we approved the "Experimental WSE Management of Lemolo Reservoir for 2009", and later modified by email as described below. Today (6/16/09), the Lemolo Reservoir TWG agreed to support a further minor modification proposed by PacifiCorp last week per below email. The upshot is that the Experimental target WSE range for 2009 from May 23 to June 26 is proposed to be 4143 +/- 2 ft instead of the original target of 4142 +/- 2 ft. Please review the below string, and be prepared to discuss tomorrow for RCC approval of this (mostly retro-active) modification. Thanks,

Richard Grost
 Aquatic Scientist
 PacifiCorp, NUHP
 541-498-2617

From: Grost, Richard
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 2:39 PM
To: 'TWG Lemolo Reservoir'
Subject: Lemolo Reservoir experimental water levels 2009 -- modification 2

TWG -- PacifiCorp hereby proposes a second minor modification to the "Experimental WSE Management of Lemolo Reservoir for 2009" agreement from April 15 (below). Rather than operate at 4142 +/- 2 ft during the current period (May 23-June 26), we proposed a higher level of 4143 +/- 2 ft (same as last year, and same as after June 26). The reservoir has been within 0.5 ft of 4145 ft MSL since May 23, and is currently 4144.6 ft (higher than 4144 due to sustained snowmelt inflows combined with water management related to the Lemolo 2 shutdown and CSD work). The proposed change is supported by ODFW and Scott Lamb (excellent trapnetting level plus better dock and boat access). Please respond with a brief message of support and/or any questions, thanks.

Rich Grost
 Aquatic Scientist, NUHP
 PacifiCorp Energy
 541-498-2617

6/22/2009

April 15, 2009 TWG Proposal: Experimental WSE Management of Lemolo Reservoir for 2009

The goal of deviating from normal water surface elevation (WSE, in feet above mean sea level) targets is to maximize the efficiency of trapnetting adult, spawning tui chub, while otherwise minimizing the amount of additional shallow spawning habitat available to tui chub and slowing the development of spring algae blooms, while retaining some flexibility for seasonal storage and power generation. The proposal is to manage for the following WSE targets:

- 1) April 24-26: 4138+ (opening weekend, fish planting, resort boat ramp fully usable and Poole Cr ramp partially usable)
- 2) April 27-May 17: no constraints except 0.5 ft/day drawdown limit (as normal)
- 3) May 18-June 26: 4142 +/- 2 ft (trapnetting begins May 18)
- 4) June 27-Labor Day: 4143 +/-2 ft (same target and range as in 2008, trapnetting concludes in August)
- 5) Labor Day through March 2010: 4114 ft min pool (drawdown period, lower limit to compensate for lower summer pool)

Note that part 1 and 2 are similar to what is currently allowed, but the intent is to minimize the WSE while allowing reasonable boat access. Part 3 and 4 are deviations from the normal summer pool limits of 4145-4148.5 ft to achieve the goals during trapnetting. Part 5 is a deviation from the normal minimum pool of 4123.5 ft to compensate for the volume of water (generating capacity) sacrificed by not filling the reservoir during spring snowmelt.