



Wallowa Falls Project Relicensing
June 11, 2013

Recreation Meeting
Meeting Summary

Start Time: 9:00 a.m.	End Time: 3:00 p.m.
Subject: Review user-created trails around the campground and discuss the need for additional management: (some eliminated and some hardened) and linked (via signage) to WWNF trails (see Agenda at the conclusion of this summary)	Attendees: See attendance list at the conclusion of this summary

Assignments
Mark Greenig (CH2M HILL) to begin Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) – see below under next steps.
Sweyn (USFS) to get 2012 Eagle Cap Wilderness visitation number to Mark (CH2M HILL).
Todd (OPRD) to provide 2012 park use data to Mark (CH2M HILL).

Introduction

Following introductions, Russ Howison (PacifiCorp) conducted a safety tailboard, reviewed agenda, and briefly reviewed recommended measures related to recreation and aesthetics that were identified in the Draft Study Progress Reports (Draft Technical Reports) for Recreation and Aesthetics that were filed with the FERC.

One additional point of discussion not on the agenda was covered. The group discussed the potential of OPRD purchasing some portion of the land that PacifiCorp currently leases to OPRD for use as the Park Maintenance Facility and the Little Alps Day Use Area. In general, OPRD is interested in discussing potential acquisition of PacifiCorp lands in the area such as the Park Maintenance Facility, Little Alps Day Use Area, and/or Pacific-Park Campground to create/ensure permanent public access and recreation opportunities.

The group discussed several options for moving forward in developing the Recreation and Aesthetic Technical Reports, and Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP). A draft RRMP should be completed by September 2013 for inclusion in the Preliminary Licensing Proposal (Draft License Application). The Preliminary Licensing Proposal will be filed with FERC on October 1, 2013. Final Technical Reports will be filed with the Final License Application in February, 2014.

Option 1: Develop an RRMP and add additional information to Final Technical Reports that address:

- Roles and Responsibilities of PacifiCorp, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and OPRD in managing public access and recreation use in the general vicinity of the powerhouse. Campground, Trails, other day and overnight opportunities.
- Recreation improvements on lands directly related to the FERC project boundary (Pacific Park campground and trails on PacifiCorp lands that connect with the WWNF).
- Signage and interpretation program.

Option 2: Complete items in Option #1 plus complete conceptual planning/design work for the Little Alps area to better link it to Pacific Park campground. Improvements in the Little Alps Day Use Area will not be required in the new FERC license.

Option 3: Prior to submittal of the license application, PacifiCorp and OPRD come to an agreement regarding the long term lease or sale/transfer of PacifiCorp lands near the Wallowa Falls Project to OPRD. If this option were to happen, PacifiCorp could complete the signage and interpretation program, but may or may not complete the recreation improvements (depending upon negotiation results between the two entities).

Next Steps

1. Jim Hutton (OPRD) and Assistant Director of OPRD will visit the project area in July and further consider options related to lease/purchase of PacifiCorp land. There is an opportunity to meet with Russ on-site in August.
2. Mark Greenig will create an outline for the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) that:
 - a) Describes proposed improvements to Pacific Park campground with the assumption that the two existing trail-race channels will be removed (which will eliminate the need for “bridges” to cross from the Pacific Park over the eastern tailrace to access the Little Alps area).
 - b) Describes the removal of barbed wire between Pacific Park and the Little Alps Area.
 - c) Describes improvements at the dam site.
 - d) Describes improvements at the “cross over trail” (placing stepping stones in the trail below the dam between the access road and the East Fork Trail.
 - e) Describes a signage/interpretation program (types of signs [directional/informational], potential informational topics, appropriate locations, size/appearance of signs/kiosks)
3. The group provides feedback to the items in #2 and gets back to Mark and Russ by end of July.

4. Develop a preliminary draft recreation management plan (RRMP) to share with the group by the end of August based on feedback from the group (#3 above) and “new” developments that occur over the summer. We will ideally get a preliminary draft agreed to by OPRD and USFS by mid-September so it would be ready for filing the PLP on Oct 1 (when a draft RRMP will need to be submitted to FERC).

Noise Recording

Noise levels from areas in the vicinity of the Project were recorded by Mark Greenig (CH2M HILL) on June 12, 2013 between 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM using an Ono Sokki LA-221 Sound Level Meter. (See **Figure 1 below for the locations of selected noise recordings**). The weather was clear with occasional breezes. The Project Powerhouse was releasing between 11 and 12 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water into the Project tailrace. The release of water creates the bulk of the noise (the “hum”) associated with the Project Powerhouse.

To provide some context related to the decibel readings that were collected, the following was obtained from the Center of Hearing and Communication website. It provides examples of the decibel levels of commonly heard sounds.

Points of Reference of Common Sounds - measured in dBA (or decibels)

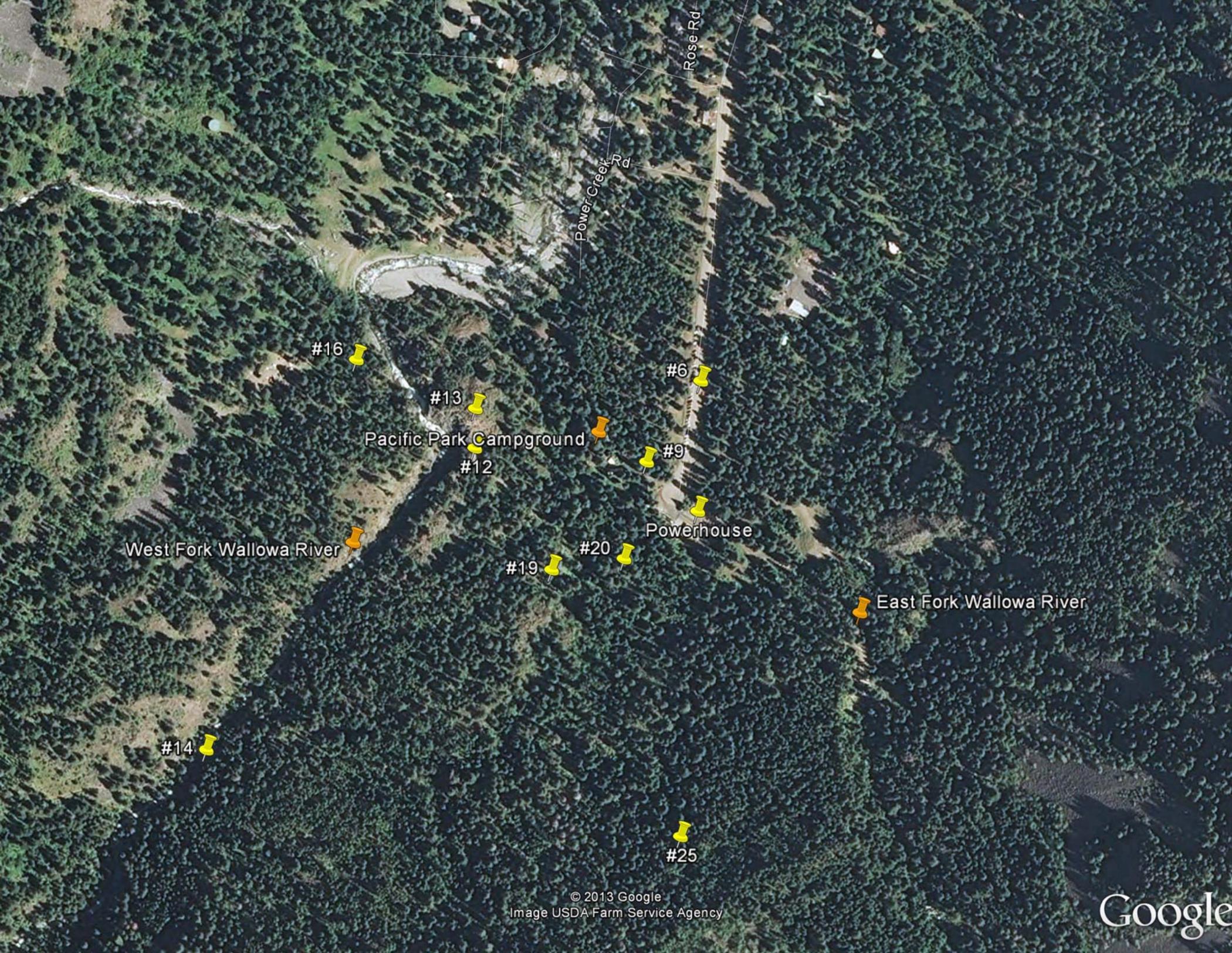
- 0 The softest sound a person can hear with normal hearing
- 10 normal breathing
- 20 whispering at 5 feet
- 30 soft whisper
- 50 rainfall
- 60 normal conversation
- 110 shouting in ear
- 120 thunder

Source: Center of Hearing and Communication: Accessed via internet at - <http://www.chchearing.org/noise-center-home/facts-noise/common-environmental-noise-levels>

Noise Readings Near Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project				
Location #	Location Description	dba	Project Heard?	Notes
<i>Wallowa Lake Highway north of Project</i>				
1	Next to Project Powerhouse fence.	69	Yes	Sound of water released from Project (the “hum” of water being released - which is the “sound” of the Project Power plant) very audible.
2	25’ from fence.	65	Yes	Same as above.
3	50’ from fence.	61	Yes	Less than above.
4	100’ from fence.	55	Yes	Less than above. Could hear flowing water from other sources (probably the East Fork of the Wallowa River [East Fork] and Project tailraces [tailraces]), but sound of Project Powerhouse water

				release most audible sound (unless vehicles drive by).
5	200' from fence.	51	Somewhat	Sound of flowing water (West and East Forks) and Project tailraces started to compete with Project Powerhouse water release for listening attention.
6	400' from fence – see Figure 1.	51	Barely	The sound of flowing water was clearly heard from this location and Project Powerhouse water release barely heard.
<i>Pacific Park Campground</i>				
7	Entry gate	64	Yes	Mix of sounds from Project Powerhouse water release and flowing water from tailraces.
8	Entry road & eastern bypass reach	70	Barely	Flowing water of tailraces was very audible sound, Project Powerhouse water release was barely heard.
9	Bottom of slope near start of social trail. Approximately 260' from Project Powerhouse – see Figure 1.	54	Yes	Sound from Project Powerhouse water release was more audible than flowing water of bypass reach.
<i>Trails west of Project Powerhouse</i>				
10	Social trail – intersection with other social trail.	49	Yes	Could hear Project Powerhouse water release (and other sounds) but the sound was somewhat muted in this location surrounded by forest.
11	Approximately mid-point to ridgeline trail.	46	Somewhat	Much of noise from Project Powerhouse muffled by forest.
12	Intersection of hillside social trail with ridgeline social trail. Approximately 0.15 mile from Project Powerhouse.	57	Barely	Flowing water from West Fork was most audible sound, could barely hear Project Powerhouse water release.
13	Flat area east of overlook on “knob” at north end of ridge. Approximately 0.14 mile from Project Powerhouse – see Figure 1.	55	Yes	Terrain blocked much sound from West Fork and Project Powerhouse water release could be clearly heard.
14	On top of overlook.	55	No	West Fork most audible - could not hear Project Powerhouse water release.
15	West Fork Trail bridge over West Fork	75	No	Very high flows of West Fork were clearly heard. Could not hear Project Powerhouse water release.
16	Chief Joseph Mountain Trail.	36	No	Middle of thick forest, no wind, was no perceptible sound from flowing water or the Project Powerhouse water release.

17	First Chief Joseph Trail overlook area. Approximately 0.25 mile from Project Powerhouse – see Figure 1.	51	Barely	Location where could first hear Project Powerhouse water release from the trail, but West Fork most noticeable sound.
18	Chief Joseph Trail – near where trail turns to BC Creek.	59	No	Could hear West Fork and BC falls, but not Project Powerhouse water release.
<i>Connection trail between West Fork and Wallowa Lake Trailhead area that passes through PacifiCorp land.</i>				
19	Intersection of ridge trail and connection trail. Approximately 0.9 mile from Project Powerhouse – see Figure 1.	47	Yes	Sound from Project Powerhouse water release was more noticeable than the sound of the West Fork.
20	Immediately southwest of, and almost in sight of, Project Powerhouse. Approximately 250 feet from Project Powerhouse – see Figure 1.	51	Yes	Sound from Project Powerhouse water release was clearly heard and sound from Project Powerhouse generator could be heard.
21	Immediately east of Project Powerhouse.	48	Yes	Both sounds described above could be heard.
<i>East Fork Trail</i>				
22	Within sight of powerhouse.	48	Yes	Sounds of Project Powerhouse water release and East Fork were heard about evenly.
23	Intersection of trail and forebay access road.	48	Yes	Same as above.
24	Overlook of East Fork	48	No	East Fork clearly heard, Project Powerhouse water release not heard.
25	On switchback facing north. Approximately 0.21 mile from Project Powerhouse – see Figure 1.	46	Yes	Could hear both Project Powerhouse water release and East Fork.



Pacific Park Campground

Powerhouse

West Fork Wallowa River

East Fork Wallowa River

Rose Rd

Power Creek Rd

#16

#13

#6

#12

#9

#14

#19

#20

#25



AGENDA

Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project Relicensing
FERC Project No. P-308

Recreation Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2013

USFS Trailhead\Little Alps State Park – Wallowa Lake, Oregon

Introduction and Safety Brief – Russ Howison, PacifiCorp **8:00 am – 8:15 am**

Recreation Resources – Group **8:15 am – Noon**

1. Trail Management and Needs: Review user-created trails around the campground and discuss the need for additional management: (some eliminated and some hardened) and linked (via signage) to WWNF trails. Specific items are listed below.
 - a. Harden and improve one or more of the user-created trails that provide access from the campground to the top of the adjacent ridge and to the WWNF.
 - b. New signage and maps at and near the campground to direct people to new improved trails that were user-created and encourage them to use developed trails.
 - c. Remove (replant, add rocks or logs to block) to eliminate and discourage the use of user-created trails.
 - d. Construct a more formal lookout area in area on top of the ridge that provides views of Wallowa Lake and the West Fork Wallowa River gorge.
 - e. New signage near the Wallowa Lake Trailhead (work with WWNF) to better identify trail options on PacifiCorp lands in the Study Area for recreationists to consider (for example encourage them to visit the waterfall near the lower penstock trestle).
 - f. Provide a registration box or kiosk in the campground at the beginning of a refurbished trail to the ridge so that people using the trail who will enter the Eagle Cap Wilderness can register (this location would also be convenient for WWNF staff to collect registration forms because it would be located near the Wallowa Lake Trailhead).
 - g. Need to address how winter recreationists cross the Project catwalk over the dam to access the East Fork Trail after using the forebay access road to reach the forebay area.

2. Campground and State Park Management and Needs: Explore ways to better integrate the Little Alps Day Use Area and Pacific Park for more efficient facility management and to better meet user needs (Little Alps is currently underutilized).
 - a. Consider joint management of the campground and Little Alps Day Use Area (perhaps a campground host) with OPRD. Consider ADA improvements that would be of value to recreationists using either or both facilities.
 - b. Consider development of a one-night, group camping area (similar to those at Wallowa Lake State Park) at Little Alps Day Use Area for people to use to “bivouac” the night before entering the Eagle Cap Wilderness or the night after returning from their trip.
 - c. Make minor improvements to Pacific Park Campground related to better site definition for parking vehicles, campsites, privacy, ADA ramps to vault toilets, etc.
 - d. Work with PacifiCorp to hire/support a seasonal campground host at Pacific Park Campground to help control the campground, the proposed bivouac group site and the rest of the Little Alps Day Use Area.
 - e. Add electricity to the Little Alps restroom.
 - f. OPRD is concerned about the future of the Little Alps Day Use Area if in the future PacifiCorp does not renew its lease with OPRD.

Lunch

Noon – 1:00 pm

Aesthetic Resources – Group

1:00 pm –2:30 pm

1. Discuss how the upper Project facilities (forebay, dam, spillway, catwalk, intake structure housing, dam laydown and storage area, and some portion of the upper penstock trestle) that are located within the WWNF may be enhanced to meet the VQO of retention that was assigned to the lands in which they are located. The facilities have been inconsistent since the current Forest Plan was adopted in 1990 and are currently inconsistent. Specific items to discuss and review in the field are identified below.
 - a. Plant vegetation between the East Fork Trail and the shoreline area near the forebay to improve screening of views of the forebay, dam, spillway, catwalk, dam laydown area, and storage area from people using the trail. Modify the intake structure to make it more attractive and similar in character with the storage shed (cabin) in the laydown area.
 - b. Treat (stain) the timber support members of the upper trestle that are light in color a darker color so that all support timbers are the same color.

- c. These measures will help reduce visual impacts in accordance with USFS policy. They will not make the Project facilities meet a VQO of retention.
2. Discuss ways to improve the appearance of lower Project facilities (the powerhouse, substation, fenced yard, and entrance to Pacific Park) that are seen from the upper end of the Joseph-Wallowa Lake Highway, the Wallowa Lake Trailhead, and the Little Alps Day Use Area. Specific items to discuss and review in the field are identified below.
 - a. Powerhouse – partially screen this area (and make more attractive) with landscaping along the portion of the fence abutting the Joseph-Wallowa Lake Highway turnaround.
 - b. Modify or replace chain-link fence on the side abutting the Joseph-Wallowa Lake Highway turnaround area with a more attractive fencing material or, at a minimum, black-coated vinyl chain-link fence (if this option is chosen, replace the entire chain-link fence with black-coated vinyl fencing).
 - c. Add interpretive signage near this facility for the public to read that will explain the history and function of the Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project, Pacific Park, the local trail system, and other features.
 3. Take initial readings of Project-generated noise levels and discuss next steps.

Meeting Wrap Up and Next Steps - Group

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Adjourn

3:30 pm

Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Dam Relicensing
Recreation Meeting
June 11, 2013 – 9:00 am –3:00 pm
USFS Trailhead\Little Alps State Park
Wallowa Lake, Oregon

Participant Name	Agency/Company
Russ Howison	PacifiCorp Energy
Mark Greenig	CH2M Hill
Todd Honeywell	OPRD
Jim Hutton	OPRD
Chris Stine	USFS
Daniel Gonzalez	USFS
Sweyn Wall	USFS