



BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Terrestrial Resources Implementation Group Technical Meeting

September 23rd, 2005 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

U.S. Forest Service Office

21905 64th Avenue West

Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

425-744-3236 (office # 425-775-9702)

Conference Call Line: 1-866-297-7238, ID: 874406, Password: 8662 until noon, then
ID: 246832, Password: 6010 after noon for botanical teamlet.

(Please tell Tony (425-462-3553) if you plan to call into meeting)

AGENDA

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| 1. Review notes/agenda/action items from July 20, 2005 meeting |
| 2. Review recent BRICC meeting activities, including schedule for DEIS |
| 3. Land acquisition update <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Issues related to RMEF participation▪ Pre-acquisition surveys, due diligence, etc. |
| 4. Discussion of noxious weeds in relation to acquisition of new lands |
| 5. Update of Terrestrial Resource Management Plan (TRMP) review |
| 6. Review of items from the Botanical Technical TRIG meeting |
| 7. Other? |
| 8. Evaluate meeting and set date and agenda for next meeting |

Baker River Project License Implementation

**Terrestrial Resource Implementation Group
Final Meeting Notes**

September 23, 2005
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

FINAL MEETING NOTES

Team Leader: Tony Fuchs (PSE), 425-462-3553, tony.fuchs@pse.com

PRESENT

Tony Fuchs (PSE); Fayette Krause (The Nature Conservancy); Chris Madsen (NWIFC); Bob Nelson (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation); Kathy Smayda (Smayda Environmental Associates); Lauri Vigue (WDFW), Stan Walsh (SRSC); Lou Ellyn Jones (USFWS); Jason Joseph (Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe); Laura Potash in person and Don Gay by phone (USFS); Lyn Wiltse, facilitator, and Jamie Riche, note-taker (PDSA Consulting, Inc).

NEXT MEETING DATES

Botanical Teamlet Meeting:

TRIG Meeting: October 13, from 9:00 to 3:00 at Forest Service Office (TRMP review only)

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:15 Review Notes, Agenda, Action Items
 Review recent BRICC activities
 Land Acquisition Update
 -- Issues related to RMEF participation
 -- Pre-acquisition surveys, due diligence, etc
 Discussion of Noxious Weeds re: Acquisition of new lands
 Update of TRMP Review
 Botanical Teamlet Items
 Other?
 Evaluate meeting, Set next meeting & agenda

NEW ACTION ITEMS

All – Review Draft TRMP and prepare comments for discussion at Oct. 13 mtg. Route comments around to all if time permits.

Lyn – Talk to Connie re: setting up Oct. BRICC meeting. (*Since this meeting, FERC has issued a schedule noting that the DEIS will be out in November.*)

Tony – Form Elk Acquisition Teamlet w/ members: Bob N., Chris M., Don G., Jason J., Todd W., Lauri V., Marty (Joetta of R-2 to do GIS support).

Tony – Talk w/ Team Leaders of other groups to see that their re-vegetation plans acknowledge that, on federal lands, native plants should be “locally-derived.”

Marty – Plan to bring the TRMP on a laptop w/ projector to the October 13 TRIG meeting.

REVIEW RECENT BRICC ACTIVITIES

Lyn let the group know that the BRICC (Baker River Interim Coordinating Committee) has not met since June because we are still awaiting the DEIS from FERC. Steve Hawking of FERC is seeking permission to share a timeline with us. The 30-day comment period will begin when the DEIS is issued.

Lou Ellyn informed us that Lewis received their DEIS from FERC on Wednesday, September 21. That may be an indication that FERC will issue ours soon.

LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Tony reported that PSE has been in discussions with the RMEF. PSE has set up a contract (soon to be signed) with them. It is a consulting contract for RMEF to assist in discussions leading to the purchase of the desired parcel. If a purchase agreement can't be negotiated, the next step would be to explore buying the development rights, a conservation easement or “life estate” (allowing them to live *there while PSE owns the property*).

This group will be given a thorough update of the status of the negotiations before any papers are signed. The money budgeted is \$1.2 million; RMEF services will come out of this fund, but PSE employee and attorney costs will not be charged to this fund. If, some years down the road or at the end of the license term, PSE decides to *sell* the land, RMEF has the right of first refusal.

Tony led the group through a review of handout: 4.0 ELK HABITAT (Elk Chapter, Draft, September 19, 2005). The group discussed, in particular, our intent that the pre-acquisition habitat assessment be a one-day walk-through assessment. Kathy tracked our edits to this document; we will give Marty a copy of this handout with our edits neatly marked for him to incorporate.

DISCUSSION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS RE: ACQUISITION OF NEW LANDS

The group discussed the language for section 2.4 Evaluate New Parcels to be incorporated into the Project Boundary, including the review of handout: Email from Don Gay to Tony Fuchs, May 18, 2005 (with section 2.4 “Evaluate New Parcels to be incorporated into the Project Boundary” copied onto the back). The group discussed the level of weed treatment activities we would be responsible for on lands acquired under the terms of the settlement agreement. The group also discussed a number of considerations to be evaluated in advance of land acquisition (other land management objectives, treatment levels, costs, etc), as well as the considerations affecting the decision of whether or not to address specific weeds on any given piece of land (the weed's classification, the degree to which the weed affects other resources and

other land management objectives, the parcel's proximity to other resources, available budget, etc.).

Kathy will adjust the language of this section to reflect the concerns brought up during today's discussion. Further review of this article will be done when Marty sends out the TRMP draft (which we will discuss again during our meeting October 13).

UPDATE OF TRMP REVIEW

Tony requested that the group review the draft TRMP and prepare comments for discussion at the October 13 meeting. Route comments around to all if time permits.

USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Wherever the TRMP refers to re-vegetate with native plants, it means "locally-derived" native plants (on federal lands). Off of Forest Service lands, we would use appropriate native plants or desirable non-native species as appropriate to the site.

SPECIES-SPECIFIC PLANS

A set of appendices are being developed to deal with these.

NEXT STEPS

Marty will distribute the next TRMP draft by September 29th so the TRIG can meet again October 13th (sole item for the agenda: TRMP review) and have a "final" draft TRMP out by the end of November.

HANDOUTS

- Agenda

- Representative List

- TRIG July 20 Meeting Notes

- 4.0 ELK HABITAT (Elk chapter, Draft, 19 September 2005)

- Email from Don Gay to Tony Fuchs, May 18, 2005 -- with section 2.4 "Evaluate New Parcels to be incorporated into the Project Boundary" copied onto the back

MEETING EVALUATION

What Went Well

- Finished early

- Don's back!

- Good, straight-forward participation for discussion of issues

- Appreciate Lou Ellyn

- Elk Movement

- Appreciate RMEF!

- Good food

What to Do Differently

- Missed Marty, Cary, Todd, & Carl

- Especially miss Gene

- Water?!

AGENDA FOR FOLLOWING TRIG MEETING
October 13, 2005 at Forest Service Office
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Review next draft TRMP
3. Evaluate meeting