



---

## **BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE**

### **Recreational & Aesthetic Resources Working Group**

October 27th, 2003  
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Regular Working Group

USFS Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters  
21905 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. West  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

### **AGENDA**

1. Review Notes/Agenda/Action Items
2. Update on R5: Visual/Aesthetics Studies
3. Update on Lake Shannon Development Feasibility Study
4. Update on Study Reports:
  - R11/15 (Capacity Suitability Analysis)
  - R12 (Dispersed Site Inventory)
  - R13 (Recreation Visitor Surveys)
  - R16 (Recreation Needs Analysis)
5. Status of Forest Service Access Management EA
6. A14a: Shoreline Erosion Review (report from Oct. 16 mapping exercise)
7. Koma Kulshan Outdoor School Report
8. Set agenda for November 24 Meeting
9. Evaluate Meeting





---

## BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

### Recreational & Aesthetic Resources Working Group

October 27, 2003  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
USFS Office, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98273

### FINAL MEETING NOTES

**Mission:** *“To develop alternative solutions and recommendations addressing recreation, education and aesthetic resources related to the Baker River Project and its operations leading to a settlement agreement.”*

**Team Leader:** Andy Hatfield (PSE): andrew.hatfield@pse.com, (360) 853-8341.

### PRESENT

Chris Lawson (Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc.), Ardis Bynum-on phone and Ann Dunphy (US Forest Service), Susan Rosebrough (National Park Service), Patrick Goldsworthy (North Cascades Conservation Council), Dave Reid (PSE), Bill Spain and Michael Romero (EDAW), Saul Weisberg and Don Burgess (North Cascades Institute), Andy Hatfield (Puget Sound Energy), Lyn Wiltse, facilitator, and Mary Jean Wiltse, notetaker (PDSA Consulting).

### 2003 SCHEDULE

**Note:** *Our next meeting will be at the USFS/NCI Building at Sedro-Woolley, November 24. The focus of that meeting will be finalizing (at least at the conceptual level) the PME's rewritten by Ardis and sent out for review by November 10.*

November 24, December 15 (third Monday), January 26, February 23, March 22. All meetings are at the Forest Service Office in Mountlake Terrace from 9:00 to 3:00 unless otherwise noted..

---

---

CONFERENCE CALL LINE: ALL WERE REMINDED, TO CALL IN ON THE CONFERENCE CALL LINE WHEN UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON: *1-877-441-4895 AND ENTER PARTICIPANT CODE: 287020#*

**INTRODUCTIONS:** The group welcomed Bill Spain and Michael Romero from EDAW who were with us to give a presentation on the preliminary results of the R5 Aesthetics Study.

**October 27, 2003 Agenda**

9:00am to 2:30pm

1. Review Notes/Agenda/Action Items
2. Presentation on R5: Visual/Aesthetics Studies
3. Update on Lake Shannon Development Feasibility Study
4. Update on Study Reports:
  - R11/15 (Capacity Suitability Analysis)
  - R12 (Dispersed Site Inventory)
  - R13 (Recreation Visitor Surveys)
  - R16 (Recreation Needs Analysis)
5. Status of Forest Service Access Management EA
6. A14a: Shoreline Erosion Review (report from Oct. 16 mapping exercise)
7. Koma Kulshan Outdoor School Report
8. Set agenda for November 24 Meeting (REVIEW OF PME LANGUAGE DRAFTED BY ARDIS)
9. Evaluate Meeting

**NEW ACTION ITEMS**

- ALL: Ardis will send out a PME re-write by November 10. Review this and send your comments to Andy to distribute to all. Do this in preparation for getting conceptual agreement and finalizing wording where possible at our November 24 meeting.
- Andy: Send out PME table and cost estimates (from Solution Team Meeting) to all.
- Michael: Send Andy Aesthetics presentation to email out to absent members.
- Andy: Distribute updated contact list and snail mail to Patrick.
- Andy: Discuss putting expected posting dates for all studies on the website (for all Working Groups). All hard copies of draft reports are included in the public document room at the PSE Bellevue Office.
- Chris/Andy: Distribute CD's with locked R12 database tied to GIS to team members. A draft of this database is posted on the FTP site. We need to get a replacement GPS reading for one site. Andy will button up with Tony re: possible additional dispersed that may need to be included.
- Ann and Ardis: Come up with proposal on how to address development node characteristics, capacity issues, and settings for R11/15.
- Andy: Re-send instructions for accessing the FTP site, along with a list of what is posted there (recreationally) by November 2.
- Chris: Send out new results file on R12 asap.
- Dave: Bring "uplifting mosquito poems" to our next meeting.
- Andy: Bring pumpkin pie to meeting at Sedro-Woolley on November 24.
- Andy/Ardis/Ann: Draft agenda for detail of November 24 PME review.
- Andy: Work with Don re: internet hookup for November 24 meeting.

- 
- 
- Chris, Jamie, EDAW folks: By November 21, prepare status of reports and email to Andy to distribute prior to our next meeting.
  - Dave and Ann: By November 21, prepare status of KKOS and USFS Access Management EA and email to Andy to distribute prior to our next meeting so he can distribute to team members prior to Nov. 24 meeting.
  - Ann: Check with RSO and RRM for overflow percentage for Horseshoe Cove (how it was reached, etc.)

### **REPORT ON OLD ACTION ITEMS**

- Andy: Sent R5 Survey Methodology (with locations) to Ann.
- Andy: Checked with Tony re: locations of Hamer fire ring sites. (See discussion below).
- All: Saw if you could attend the Terrestrial Working Group meeting at Mountlake Terrace on October 16 to review a mylar overlay map of the high, medium, and low erosion areas called out in the study to evaluate potential cross-resource considerations. (Andy will send out the invitation asap.)
- All: Got Andy your comments on R16: Needs Analysis by October 14.
- Andy: Saw that R9 Report (Electronic Monitoring) got posted to the website by October 6.
- Andy: Set up meeting with Jamie and Brian, then with Cary re: Lake Shannon Development Feasibility and access associated with it.
- Andy: Talked with Mark re: when he could get the R5 (Aesthetics) report out.
- Chris: Talked with Joetta re: priorities for Recreation Studies (R12 is first priority, then R11/15.) and got an idea of a schedule for next iteration of study reports.
- Andy: Sent out electronic copies of R13 comments/responses along with notification of conference call on September 26 from 10:00 to 1:00.
- Lyn: Checked with Team Leaders to see that all are handling conversion to NAVD '88 consistently. All reports are either using converted elevation data or noting the conversion in an errata sheet.

### **UPDATE ON LAKE SHANNON DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY**

Andy and Jamie met with Brian Adams, Bob Vaux Skagit County Parks Director, and Patrick Dylan Parks Planner/Landscape Architect to show them the same presentation that Jamie did for this group last month.

Based on their feedback, we will be narrowing the primary focus for this to the existing site and the 3 mile creek site (on the east side of the lake). Skagit County's core interest is to provide legal access to Lake Shannon to get boats on the Lake.

Andy then met with Cary and Jamie to see if it would be feasible to put a boat launch on PSE property down at the forebay near the dam (across from the net pens). It appears that it wouldn't be possible to do this without "spilling onto" Glacier-owned lands. Glacier is concerned about liability issues around their quarry. There might also be noise and road conflicts. Andy will get together with Cary and Brian to discuss this further and report back at our next meeting.

We also need to keep the perspective that the license will be 30-50 years in length. The quarry might not be in operation that long.

Jamie is preparing a formal report on this.

## REVIEW COMMENTS ON STUDIES

Study #	Title	Notes/Next Steps
R-R5	Visuals and Aesthetics Study	<p><b>PRESENTATION ON R-5: VISUAL/AESTHETICS STUDIES</b></p> <p>Mark Greenig was unavailable today, so EDAW consultants Bill Spain and Michael Romero presented an update on the aesthetics/visual Resources report. Michael is a landscape architect and was responsible for the existing conditions inventory and description and did that portion of the presentation. Bill Spain is a recreational planner and was responsible to the recreation aesthetics survey. He presented that piece. They distributed hard copies of a PowerPoint presentation they prepared to guide this discussion. For this survey the USFS staff, PSE staff, and EDAW staff selected 28 photos to characterize the reservoir from a series of locations from various pool levels. Selected photos were randomly sequenced and placed into binders to be used during field work. This was done to decrease the likelihood that a respondent would recognize a scene at different pool levels. Bill distributed one of the binders used for team members to review.</p> <p>The survey staff ended up with 186 valid completed surveys. Scenes observed at all pool elevations were viewed positively. There was very weak positive correlation of .132, indicating only a very slight preference with higher pool elevations. The initial interpretation of results is that the Project is viewed positively by most users regardless of pool level, however there is a slight preference for higher pool levels.</p> <p>Tentative Schedule for report completion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11-24-03: Draft to Group to review over 3 weeks</li> <li>12-15-03: Group comments back to PSE</li> <li>12-22-03: Final to PSE</li> <li>1-2-04: Final to Louis Berger</li> </ul> <p>Andy will email this report to all team members along with the draft version of these notes.</p>
R-7	Recreation Use Survey – Literature Review	Subsumed in R14 study.
R-9	Recreation Use Survey – Electronic Monitoring	This report is final and has been posted on the Baker relicensing website.
R-11/15	Recreation Capacity and Suitability Analysis, <i>Current draft April, 2003</i>	Chris sent a request for map and table updates to R2. These should be ready by the end of October. Chris will then incorporate additional updates to complete these reports.

		We'll get an update of progress at our next meeting.
R-12	Dispersed Site Inventory, <i>Current draft April, 2003</i>	(Combined with R11/15) Andy showed us a map of both reservoirs, according to terrestrial polygons showing fire rings in sites that weren't included in our dispersed site inventory. Note: These fire ring sites were discovered by Hamer Environmental folks who were on their hands and knees searching for rare plants. We don't have GPS locations for these fire rings. We only have identification of the polygon they belong to. Andy will review these maps in more detail. Assuming he finds nothing that needs our immediate attention, we agreed that our response would be to address these sites within the context of the annual dispersed site monitoring.
R-13	Recreation Visitor Surveys, <i>Current draft March, 2003</i>	There was a conference call on September 29 to address comments on this report. Based on these comments, we will re-process results of this report and edit the report text accordingly. We will get an update of where we are in this process. In the meantime, Chris will distribute the newly revised results file and begin editing the report thereafter.
R-14	Secondary Data Collection	(Not discussed at 9/22 meeting.) Ongoing.
R-16	Recreation Needs Analysis, <i>Current draft April, 2003</i>	Chris walked us through his responses to Ann's comments on this draft study report. Ann provided clarification as needed. <i>Additionally, revision to the R16 report is dependent upon usable input from the aesthetics study and HYDROPS output for the proposed operation (pending resolution of the question of whether/how we present Information on future reservoir operations). Based on assumed resolution of that question at the November meeting and the assumed availability of aesthetics and HYDROPS results, mid-December will be the target for a revised R16 report.</i>

## STATUS OF FOREST SERVICE ACCESS MANAGEMENT EA

Ann reported that the Forest Service is studying effects of various alternatives. They are looking at the Forest Service lands in the Baker Basin, including Road 12. Some areas of controversy are the roads and trail in the Rainbow Ridge, Swift Creek, Boulder Creek and Baker River areas. Ann will keep up posted.

## A14A: SHORELINE EROSION REVIEW

Ann is talking with Greta about recreation concerns with high erosion sites. These will be addressed on a site-specific basis in an Erosion Management Plan. We will monitor rates of erosion overtime.

---

---

## **KOMA KULSHAN OUTDOOR SCHOOL REPORT**

Dave reported that Christie Fairchild is putting together a report on the fall classes, which concluded October 18. He'll get this report out prior to our next meeting. We will entertain questions/comments at our November 24 meeting.

### **HANDOUTS (Bolded handouts will be posted to the Baker Relicensing Website)**

- **EDAW PowerPoint Presentation: Update on the Aesthetics/Visual Resources Report**
- Preliminary Sketch of Lake Shannon Forebay Boat Launch Site – by Jamie Van De Vanter
- Review Comments and Responses R16 Needs Analysis, April, 2003 DRAFT STUDY REPORT

### **PARKING LOT**

- Land Management
- Hold periodic "outreach" meetings for feedback from other groups (hiking, horseback riding, etc.)
- Field trip - summer 2003?
- Review USFS Roads Analysis Report - 2003
- Tie education piece to all Working Groups
- Access Management Study?
- Integration of Elk/Grizzly study data.

### **STUDIES SUMMARY FOR SOLUTION TEAM**

- Aesthetics Study will be out by the end of November
- Capacity/Suitability – Re-working data and should be out early December (need this information for PDEA and rationale for PME's)
- Needs Analysis – Integrating comments into final draft report – awaiting data in proposed reservoir operations and aesthetics study information.
- Dispersed site inventory Recreation Visitor Surveys are nearly complete. Look for them before the Holidays.

### **EVALUATION OF MEETING**

#### **Things Done Well**

- Good participation/attendance

#### **Things to Do Differently Next Time**

- Missed Jim, Lauri and Brian
- Email out reports/status of reports ahead of time, so we can focus on PME's
- Ran out of coffee
- Fruit plate and pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

#### **What's Hot?**

- Size of PME package
- PME timing
- Reservoir rule curve
- Lots of multi-tasking!



---

---

## **November 24, 2003 Agenda**

9:00am to 3:00pm

USFS/NCI Building at Sedro-Woolley (in the Baker Room)

BRING LUNCH: BE PREPARED TO WORK THROUGH

***Note: The focus of this meeting will be PME review. Therefore, updates on studies will be sent out to team members prior to this meeting and they will not be discussed at this meeting except where there are specific questions/concerns.***

9:00 – 9:10 Review Notes/Agenda/Action Items

9:10 – 9:20 Questions/Comments on Study Reports sent out prior to this meeting

- R5: Visual/Aesthetics Studies
- R11/15 (Capacity Suitability Analysis)
- R12 (Dispersed Site Inventory)
- R13 (Recreation Visitor Surveys)
- R16 (Recreation Needs Analysis)
- Koma Kulshan Outdoor School Report
- Status of Forest Service Access Management EA

9:20 – 11:30 Begin PME language review (aim is to get conceptual agreement on each)

11:30 – 12:00 Lunch Break

12:00 – 2:45 Continue PME Review

2:45 – 2:55 Set agenda for November 24 Meeting

2:55 – 3:00 Evaluate Meeting

Note: A prioritized list of the specific PMEs that will be reviewed in this meeting will be distributed with the meeting notice and agenda for the November meeting.