

Final LEP Meeting Notes

February 25, 2014 / 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. / Skagit Service Center, Burlington, WA



Baker River Project License Implementation

Baker Law Enforcement Plan Meeting

Final Meeting Notes

February 25, 2014 12:30 – 3:00 pm

FINAL MEETING NOTES

Current Team Leader: Pam Garland, PSE (pamela.garland@pse.com) 360-661-2243 / 360-424-2912

Future Team Leader: Tony Fuchs, PSE (tony.fuchs@pse.com) 425-462-3553 / 206-276-1204

PRESENT

Pam Garland, Tony Fuchs, Elizabeth Dubreuil, Miriam Decker, Jacob Venard, and Rick Blanton (PSE); Ryan Valentine and John Ludwig (WDFW); James Griffin, Cindy Orlando, Nikolai Ferrell, Carol Gladsjo, Ray Huffman, and Ann Dunphy (USFS); Scott Rossmiller and Mason Stafford (Whatcom County); Corrina Koenig (Town of Concrete), Chris Kading and Freddy Harrison (Skagit County); and Lyn Wiltse, facilitator and note taker (PDSA Consulting).

2014 LEP MEETING DATE

- October 21 (RRG in the AM and LEP in the PM) at the PSE Skagit Service Center in Burlington

ACTION ITEMS

- Pam Include map of newly acquired properties when sending out these notes.
- Pam Send out contact list for Orientation Packet to all to review / update. *(Done.)*
- Pam Add newly acquired lands (Alder Creek and Burpee hill) to Orientation packet.
- Pam Distribute keys to WDFW and Skagit County LEOs to ensure they have access through gates at Alder Creek and Burpee Hill properties.
- Ryan Encourage WDFW officers to share the real story re the fishery with the camp hosts.
- All Let Pam know if your agency's contracts person has changed.
- All Let Tony Fuchs (see contact info above) know if you have any leads on property for sale that would be suitable for elk forage.
- All Call USFS Patrol Captain James Griffin if you have questions or would like to chat: 425-783-6090 (cell).
- All Keep in mind PSE needs all costs for the season submitted by Dec. 1st of each year.
- Tony Check on DNR gate on the way up to the Alder Creek Property.

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Pam has been promoted to O&M supervisor at Upper Baker. While she will continue to be involved, Tony Fuchs will step into the leadership role of these meetings.

REVIEW OF AGENDA AND MEETING NOTES

The finalized meeting notes from our last meeting on October 15, 2013 have been posted to the PSE website at <http://pse.com/aboutpse/HydroLicensing/Pages/Baker-River-Licensing.aspx>.

LEO REVIEW

Communication:

There is good cell phone reception at boat launches. WDFW lacks a Whatcom County-type radio to communicate with the County. They have some radio channels they use with the FS. Brian will follow up with Rich on this. Perhaps they could cover the cost of the service (~\$30/month) and the FS could cover the purchase cost.

Cell phone boosters are another option. Ray reported the boosters provide coverage for all but about 6 miles of the area, up to mile post 22- 23. We agreed to try the boosters and see how well they work before incurring the cost of a satellite phone. Increasing cell coverage is also important to officer safety.

Patrol Hours:

The Forest Service funded Whatcom. Co. 300 total hours in 2013 and will continue to fund the same number for the 2014 season. Note: The hourly rate for Whatcom Co. officers is now \$73 (up from \$65). Coverage is important on Fridays. Jeremy won't be there. Mason will be off Tuesday/Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday and work the rest of the days. Ray will help work Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday evenings. He will be off Wednesday/Thursday. Mason will be in touch with Ray on scheduling (as he did with Jeremy).

PSE funded Whatcom Co. 160 patrol hours in 2013 and will do the same for 2014. PSE will keep the hours for WDFW at 200 for 2014 (They worked 169 in 2013). PSE has agreed to 100 patrol hours for Skagit County Sheriff's Office.

The Forest Service will support 250 hours and will do the same for WDFW and focus on weekend mornings and scatter throughout the week.

Fishery:

There will be a fishery on Skagit River June of this year. There wasn't one last year. WDFW anticipates a longer season in 2014 and about three times the number of fish. Last year we had \$18K adult fish returns. Expect above the 50K mark. WDFW may increase the catch limit from 2 to 3 to help compensate. Need to get the real story out about what is happening with the fishery.

Dedicated Coverage from Skagit County:

Fred and Chris (Skagit County) have asked Pam to let them know when we need them to patrol around Lake Shannon. PSE has requested dedicated time on opening fishing weekend and also when doing tours. They have also been asking WDFW to help patrol around Lake Shannon. (There has been no presence there the last few years). This will set the tone of having a presence for the rest of the season. There have been problems with vandalism in the past. PSE has maintenance people doing lawn mowing, etc. There have been access issues through the quarry. Some people have been hanging out at the office area. While there is no overnight camping allowed at Lake Shannon, people are allowed to leave their vehicles there. PSE has agreed to up to and not to exceed 100 patrol hours.

EQUIPMENT FUNDED FOR 2014 SEASON

Annual LEP FUND includes 95K / year, \$73K of which is designated to the FS to distribute, and \$22K is designated to PSE to distribute. We agree collaboratively on how these funds should be spent.

We agreed to fund the following equipment for the 2014 recreational season:

- PSE will use a portion of LEP funds to purchase 3 trail cameras (blackout mode) @ \$200 each and a python lock for each @ \$20 each. WDFW will install these at strategic locations on PSE properties (not Forest Service property as the FS wants to study the issue more).
- The Forest Service will also fund Wilson cell phone boosters:
 - 1 for Whatcom County (with permanent antennae) @ \$300.
 - 1 for WDFW (with permanent antennae) @ \$300.
 - 1 for WDFW (portable) for use in boat on Baker Lake @ \$275.
- PSE will fund Wilson cell phone booster for Skagit County (with permanent antennae) @ \$300.

TOPICS FOR NEXT LEP MEETING at 12:30 on OCTOBER 21, 2014

- LEO Review of the Season (Challenges, warnings, citations, other observations)
- Plan for RAM Funding expenditures for 2015 season
 - Hours, Schedule
 - Equipment

HANDOUTS

- June 19, 2013 LEP Meeting Notes
- Draft October 21, 2014 LEP Meeting Agenda

PARKING LOT

- Presentation on management of bear complaint resolution process – triggers and how WDFW manages these – when to release on site or take out of the area, etc.