



BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Hydrological & Water Resources Working Group

July 13, 2000

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

US Forest Service/Park Service Office
2105 Highway 20
Sedro Woolley, WA

AGENDA

1. Review/revise agenda and minutes	9:30 - 9:35
2. Review action items	9:35 - 9:40
3. Discuss communication plan	9:40 - 10:00
4. Review process for utilizing issues and interest information	10:00 - 10:20
5. Continue interests and issues development	10:20 - 11:00
6. Break	11:00 - 11:10
7. Continue interests and issues development	11:10 - 12:20
8. Set agenda, location and time for the next meeting (8/10/00)	12:20 - 12:25
9. Evaluate meeting	12:25 - 12:30

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US Park Service/Forest Service Headquarters
2105 Highway 20
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MEETING NOTES

Team Leader: Bob Barnes (Puget Sound Energy) (425) 462-3096, rbarne@puget.com

PRESENT

Jon Vanderheyden (USDA- Forest Service), Gary Sprague (WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife), Stan Walsh (Skagit System Cooperative), Rod Sakrison (WA Dept. of Ecology), Bob Newman (WA Dept. of Ecology), Jerry Louthain Consultant to City of Anacortes, and Skagit PUD (Economic & Engineering Services, Inc.), Reed Glesne (National Park Service), Polly Fischer (Puget Sound Anglers), Bob Barnes (PSE), Jackie VanderVeen, Fred Seavey, (USFWS), Lyn Wiltse, facilitator (PDSA Consulting).

NEW ACTION ITEMS

- All: - Let Bob Barnes know (ASAP) if you will be attending the August 10 tour of the project
- Bob: - Add Bill Reinhard (Wildcats), Skagit River Watershed Council and Planning, Forest Concerns
for the Upper Skagit, and Land Trust contacts to meeting minute distribution list.
 - Invite key people and offer for them to participate in these meetings via conference call, if that is easier for them
 - Create detailed Tour Itinerary with approximate times to the meeting minutes
 - Bring half and half for coffee
 - Update the original issues and interests list (from April Overview Meeting)
- Polly: - Invite Fidalgo Fly Fishers to September Meeting
- Jon: - Check with ID team re: their process
- Fred: - Bring sample models for structure

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- Bob - Contact list of folks who should participate on the team and share. He still has more to contact: DNR, town of Concrete, American Rivers County, USGS, National Resource Conservation Service Corps will selectively participate as will NMFS. Seattle City Light will be a primary resource.

Bob suggested that we contact resources as appropriate, depending on the agenda. Concern was expressed over the need for NMFS participation.

INTRODUCTIONS

The team welcomed Fred Seavey from US Fish and Wildlife).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following topics will be covered at the Overview Team Meeting (July 25, from 10:00-noon) at the Cotton Tree Inn in Mt. Vernon, WA:

- Working Groups
- Solutions Team Formation
- Process Team Budget

It was also announced that there will be a public tour of Baker River Project on Saturday, July 22nd.

Conference call information: Call 360-424-2925 (Barb Gassler-PSE, Mt. Vernon Office). Leave your phone # and the team will call you for conference call if you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to participate.

AGENDA REVIEW

The team reviewed the agenda and added discussion of the tour to precede discussion of issues and interests.

JULY 13 MEETING AGENDA

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| 1. Review/revise agenda and minutes | 9:30 - 9:35 |
| 2. Go through action items | 9:35 - 9:40 |
| 3. Discuss communication plan | 9:40 - 10:00 |
| 3. Outline content of tour of Baker River Project | 10:00 - 10:20 |
| 4. Continue Interests and Issues Development | 10:20 - 11:00 |
| 5. Break | 11:00 - 11:10 |
| 6. Continue Interests and Issues Development | 11:10 - 12:20 |
| 7. Set agenda, location and time for the next meeting (9/14) | 12:20 - 12:25 |
| 8. Evaluate meeting | 12:25 - 12:30 |

TOUR FOR HYDROLOGY AND FISH RESOURCES WORKING GROUPS

The team decided to do their tour on August 10, 2000. They will meet at the PSE office and Visitor Center in Concrete at 9:00. They will finish around 4:00 p.m.

SUGGESTED TOUR AGENDA

1. Mouth of Baker River

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- See Lower Baker Channel
 - Adult Fish Trap
 - Lower Baker Powerhouse
 - Lower Baker Dam
 - LB Gulper
 - Net pens
2. Upper Baker
- UB Powerhouse and Dam
 - West Pass Dike
 - Depression Lake
 - UP Gulper
 - New Spawning Beach (4)
 - Trout Pond
 - Water Intake for Fish Facilities
3. Baker Lake
- Delta and drawdown zone—(shoreline)
 - Baker River
 - Old spawning beach (1-3)
 - Boulder Creek
 - Relationship to Mt. Baker
 - Road network in Basin/Watershed
 - Camping impacts to fish/water quality (Shannon Creek)
4. Other Hydro Plants
- Komakulshan Power House

WHO ELSE SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

In order for the team to successfully accomplish its mission, it was suggested that the following entities participate:

USGS (as a resource)	Skagit River Watershed Council/Planning
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Forest Concerns for the Upper Skagit
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Land Trust
Town of Concrete	
Dept. of Natural Resources (Aquatic)	
Corps of Engineers	
NMFS	
Seattle City Light	
USFWS	
County (including beneficiaries of flood protection)	
American Rivers	

MEETING NORMS

The team added an additional norm to its list of norms. Changes are bolded. They will continue to revise this list over time so it suits the needs of the team:

25. At end of each meeting, we will always review agenda and assign a person to call contact resource person and debrief/preview topics they would be interested in.

ISSUES/INTERESTS

The team reviewed the list of issues developed at the April 26 Overview Team Meeting and added to the list they began to generate at the June meeting:

Interests

- Protection, preservation, perpetuation, of fish and wildlife in their natural habitat
- Fish don't get stranded
- Economic viability
- Flood control
- Fulfilling legal mandates (CWA, CZMA, FPA)
- Combo of CWA and CZMA, FPA, and ESA, FWCA, Forest and Park, ...
- Impacts on terrestrial, water quality, aquatic resources, and recreational resources
- Loss of spawning habitat
- Loss of access to tributaries
- Loss of habitat
- Protection of life and property
- Consequences of operating the reservoir to provide flood protection
- Loss of natural stream processes
- Protection of existing water rights
- Time constraints- I might be left out of the process
- Town of Concrete and Skagit Valley municipalities meeting financial and legal responsibilities
- Potential loss of cultural, recreational, and natural resources
- Drinking water quality
- Possible conflicting outcomes due to multiple simultaneous processes external to re-licensing.

Issues

- Lake productivity, limnology
- Minimum flows
- Marine derived nutrients
- Ramping rates
- Relationship between flood control and water level manipulations for (reservoir) impoundments (ecological considerations)
- Erosion
- Recreational considerations
- Fish migration (upstream and down)
- Water releases for restoration projects
- Impacts of operation on water flow (moved to issues, from interests)
- Potential contaminant sources in basin for snow chemistry, air pollution, recreation impacts to water quality.
- Parameter Effects (pH, etc.)
 - Impacts on water quality

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- Impacts of reservoir operations
 - Watershed discharge rate (peak and low flow)
 - From land use
 - Impacts water quality
 - Impacts of glacial flux on flow and water quality relationships to project operations

There were concerns raised regarding the structure (or lack thereof) to be used for identifying interests and issues and how they will be used. It was also suggested that the working groups set their own decision-making methodology. There was also a concern re: time frame for PSE request of FERC for the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP).

PARKING LOT

- Communication Plan to enlist “reluctant” members
- Reservoir/watershed:
- “Hydrology 101”
- Project description

EVALUATION OF MEETING

Well Dones:

- Stuck to agenda
- Good treats
- Facilitation of shift in focus/direction of discussion
- Time spent on process

Opportunities to Improve:

- Lyn should pause to allow team members time to collect their thoughts
- Started and ended 12 minutes late
- Missing half and half for coffee
- Spent too much time discussing tour and not enough time on issues/interests
- Spent too much time discussing process

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

September 14, 2000 Agenda

9:30 - 12:30

PSE Office in Mt. Vernon, WA (or ALTERNATE LOCATION????)

(Meeting Location will be the Cottontree Inn, Mt. Vernon)

1. Review/revise minutes
2. Introductions
3. Action Items
4. Tour debrief
5. Review draft of communication protocol and draft procedures document
6. Issues/interests (Ed Schild, Director of PSE’s Energy Production and Storage to speak?)
7. Evaluate meeting