
BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources Working Group PM&E Development Teamlet

November 08, 2002
8:30 am – 2:00 pm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
510 Desmond Drive S.E., Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503-1273
360-753-9440

MEETING MINUTES

Mission: “To develop alternative solutions and recommendations, addressing terrestrial and wildlife resource interests for the Baker River Project and its operations, leading to a settlement agreement that:

1. accurately defines and describes the existing environment in relationship to the previous environment;
2. identifies project effects (existing and proposed) leading to development of protection, mitigation, and enhancement options.”

Team Leader: Tony Fuchs, (Phone) 425-462-3553, tfuchs@puget.com

ATTENDEES

Tony Fuchs and Cary Feldmann (Puget Sound Energy), Lauri Vigue (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Don Gay (U. S. Forest Service), Stan Walsh (Skagit Sysem Coop.), Dee Endelman and Bruce Freet (Agreement Dynamics), Martin Vaughn (Biota Pacific), Bob Nelson (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation), Gene Stagner (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next PME teamlet meeting will be on December 5th in Lacy USFWS office.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and review of agenda
2. Review of PME topic list
3. Review of the First Draft Summary Sheets
4. Reviewing and Refining the Remaining Drafts

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5. “Championing” Drafts
 6. Next Steps
 7. Adjourn

NEW ACTION ITEMS

- Marty: Re-write PME 109
- Marty: Draft a salmonid PME
- All: Review interests of their stakeholder group/organization.
- Marty: Check w/Connie re: USFWS interests.
- Tony: Call Ann and Laurel about taking lead on rare plant and noxious weed PMEs
- Marty: Consider a PME proposal for little Baker River and run by Stan, Tony, and Gene (and Arn Thoreen).
- Marty: Re-write action in PME 103 using the goat PME information that Don developed, and send to Don for review.
- Marty: Write up undesirable wildlife PME
- (Team Leader Note: Marty will make recommended edits listed below to the PME sheets and forward updated sheets to respective team leaders. Once they have approved them, Marty will provide a full updated set to working group members).

PME TOPICS LIST

Marty reviewed how he organized and drafted this first cut of PMEs. We discussed how the matrix needs to be updated to complete it. We also discussed the number system and format and agreed on several changes to the format. The “Justification” heading will be changed to “Rational”, and we agreed that within this section we can note agreement/disagreement with project nexus, if we want to (we will try is an see if it works). We also changed the heading of “Advantages” to “Benefits”, and “Disadvantages” to “Considerations”.

REVIEW OF FIRST DRAFT SUMMARY SHEETS

Review of 101

We agreed that in the title of actions there should be no statements of justification, so should read “Manage Lands within the current Project Boundary”

Lead: Tony

Teamlet: Lauri, Don

Participant Priority: leave all blank at this time.

Description of Proposed Actions:

- For all actions, replace “justification” with “Rationale”, “Advantages” with “Benefits”, and “Disadvantages” with “Considerations.”
- Add actions for “Artificial cavity nest structures” (101-H?), and for “Riparian Hardwood Forest enhancement” (101-I?) (Marty writes?)

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- Rationale for 101-A to include “Water level fluctuations w/in drawdown zone can have direct effects on wildlife, including use of habitat.”
 - Rationale for 101-B to include “State-listed species (Sensitive), reservoir fluctuations preclude loon nesting.
 - Rationale for 101-C to include “Lake Shannon reservoir fluctuation can affect osprey nesting success. Old natural osprey nesting sites are falling down.
 - Rationale for 101-D to include “Opportunities to manage/enhance forage are to benefit species. There are seasonal forage needs that are/may be limited in the basin.” Add at the end of the Description “...and other species”.
 - For 101-E, change “kill trees” to “Create/develop snags”, or “Implement snag management program”. Rational to include “The area around Lake Shannon is suspected to have limited snag habitat.”
 - For 101-F, change Description to “Create or enhance wetlands through modifying topography...” Rationale to include “Wetlands are valuable habitat and are of interest to many stakeholders, and are of limited number in the basin. This action may help control non-native species, and improve amphibian habitat.
 - For 101-G, modify Description to say “...multi-storied coniferous forest....” (may be a question about interest in this action).
 - For the new 101-H, rationale should include “birds make cavities in Lake Shannon snags that get flooded out. Creation of safe nesting structures would be helpful in the interim while snags are being developed (101-E).” This entire action could be combined with 101-E.
 - For new 101-I, rationale should include “riparian hardwood forest is limited in amount and distribution in the Basin. May have limited habitat connectivity.

Review of 102

Title: Should read “Manage lands for wildlife outside the existing Project boundary.”

Lead: Lauri

Teamlet: Don, Lauri, Bob, Stan, Tony, Bob Kuntz (?), Patrick (?).

From matrix, add “out of kind” (T2-8), “out of basin, in kind (T4 -?), and add T7-3 to 102-C.

Review of 103

Lead: Tony

Teamlet: Don, Russ (?), Tony, Bob N.

Actions:

- 103-C: Add “public lands” to description.
- 103-H: (T8-4)
- Should modify the action specific to goals with the Goat PME information that Don prepared. Marty will re-write this action and send to Don for review.

Review of 104

Lead: Lauri

Teamlet: Lauri, Gene, Bob N.

Actions:

- 104-A: Add “or other potential programs” to description.

Review of 105

Make title: “Contribute funding to plant and wildlife research fund.

Lead: Tony

Teamlet: Tony, Bob K.

Review of 106

Lead: Laurel (?)

Teamlet: Ann, Laurel

Review of 107

Title should read “Develop and implement a management plan for plants of special status.

Lead: Ann (?)

Teamlet: Ann, Laurel

Review of 108

Lead: Don

Teamlet: Don and Lauri

Review of 109

Keep title but don’t pursue at this time. Tony will be point person to check with the recreation working group on this.

Review of 110

Gene is the point person with the aquatics group for this one. May need to modify title.

Add actions under this PME:

- 110-B: Little Baker River
- 110-C: Lower Baker River Delta

Review of 111

Hold as a placeholder. Tony is point person for the working group.

Add PME 112: Nutritional Enhancement

This PME is dealing with nutritional enhancements, specifically with food sources and available nutrients (related to matrix number T7-4). These could be added as actions under PMEs 101 and 102 if we wanted to organize them that way.

Actions could include:

- Nutritional enhancement program (elk, bears (?), etc.)
- Passage of Salmonids
- Salmonid carcasses

Lead: Don

Teamlet: Don, Gene, Tony

Add PME 113: Undesirable Wildlife

Hold as placeholder. Tony is point person for the working group.

Other Matrix/PME Summary Sheet Changes

- Drop T2-1, T2-9, and T2-10 (on legislative issues, Patrick will prepare something for Solution Team).
- Re-number T2 list on Matrix

HANDOUTS

- Baker River Project: PME Action Item Table.
- PME/Action Item Conversion Table Crosswalk.
- Draft Proposed Terrestrial Resources PME Summary Sheets
- Suggestions for review of the first draft of the Terrestrial Resources PME Summary Sheets

MEETING EVALUATION

There was no formal evaluation.