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## **BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE**

### **Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources Working Group Meeting**

**July 17, 2002 (8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)  
(Bring Sack Lunch)**

**U.S. Forest Service Office  
21905 64th Avenue West  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043  
425-744-3236 (office # 425-775-9702)**

### **AGENDA**

Review notes/revise agenda/action items
Report on June Field Trip
Solution Team Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field trip debrief</li><li>• Public meeting debrief</li><li>• Settlement Process Development</li></ul>
Report on Existing Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status of previous studies</li><li>• Teamlet reports – T16 Rare Plants</li><li>• New Requests/Plans</li></ul>
Review/Amend Norms and Parking Lot
New Study Requests (?), New Teamlet meetings?
Set agenda/location for August 21 (22 <sup>nd</sup> ?) meeting, September meeting date
Evaluate meeting



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## BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

### Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources Working Group

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### FINAL 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, [tony.fuchs@pse.com](mailto:tony.fuchs@pse.com)

### ATTENDEES:

Stan Walsh (Skagit Systems Cooperative), Patrick Goldsworthy (North Cascades Conservation Council), Gene Stagner (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), Tony Fuchs (Puget Sound Energy), Lauri Vigue (Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife), Ann Risvold (U.S. Forest Service), Bob Kuntz (National Park Service), Tom Hamer (Hamer Environmental), Martin Vaughn (Biota Pacific), Cary Feldmann (Puget Sound Energy), Kristen Schuldt (Puget Sound Energy), Dee Endelman (Agreement Dynamics)

### SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

August 21<sup>st</sup>, September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup>

### AGENDA

Mountlake Terrace, WA

July 17, 2002, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

1. Review notes/revise agenda/action items
2. Report on June Field Trip
3. Solution Team Update:

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- Field trip debrief
  - Public meeting debrief
  - Settlement Process Development
4. Report on Existing Studies:
    - Status of previous studies
    - Teamlet reports – T16 Rare Plants
    - New Request/Plans
  5. Review/Amend Norms and Parking Lot
  6. New Study Requests (?), New Teamlet meetings?
  7. Set agenda/location for August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, September meeting date
  8. Evaluate meeting

#### **NEW ACTION ITEMS**

- Tony: Edit June meeting notes with Lauri's comments and redistribute to team
- Tony: Send updated Study Index to all team members
- Marty: check with Lia re: the list of possible mixed forest species she prepared
- Tony: Send out pdf format of vegetation type cover and Seral Stage maps (when complete)
- Tony: T6 and future study comments he will cc comments to all members for information purposes only
- Tony: Have Sarah provide map for additional wetland field trip, attend if she can
- Tony: Set up wetland field trip
- Gene: Lewis River settlement matrix (READ document) is available at <http://newwww.pacificorp.com/Article/Article16220.html>
- Settlement Teamlet: Tony, Lauri, and Ann or Don – verify the issues and predigest possible solutions
- Dee, Tom and others: Send electronic versions of handouts to Tony in order to post to website
- Marty: Propose how to handle Lake Shannon aspect of historic vegetation map
- Lia: Let Marty know why she sees 16 species, Marty only has 14
- Tom: Get revised study plan of T6 to review at September meeting
- All: Comment on Elk Habitat Mapping study request and send to Tony for discussion with Chris
- Elk Teamlet: Tony, Patrick Stan, Marty, Lauri, Don Gay and Bob Nelson – meet with Chris to resolve issues re: study request on Elk Habitat Mapping
- Tony: Email Elk Teamlet with meeting date/time
- Marty: Write study request for Phase II of Historic Vegetation – without project scenario

#### **OLD ACTION ITEMS**

- Patrick: Researched applicable early County maps and there was nothing useful
- All: Reviewed the Draft T6 Noxious Weed Study Plan and provide comments to Tony, which he forwarded on to Tom Hamer
- Marty: Distributed copies of the most current T7 Historic Vegetation study plan to all

All old action items were completed, except those carried forward to new action items.

#### **JUNE WETLAND FIELD TRIP**

- Visited Wetland areas

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- Behind West Pass Dike where hydrology relates to reservoir
  - One with own hydrology – good potential for enhancement
  - Complex near mouth of Sandy Creek - lots of diversity in upper area (were looking at wetlands related to reservoir)
  - Lauri suggested need some monitoring – mapping is done (T5)
  - Group discussion for phase 2 - are there monitoring activities to do to determine project effects and monitoring to evaluate areas for enhancement?
  - The group questioned the need for wetland monitoring.
  - Marty suggested and group will consider this hypothesis – monitor if we anticipate significant change to reservoir regime that would affect wetlands. With current regime, it's stable wetland situation, meaning that the wetlands currently exist the way they are due to current regime.
  - What constitutes “significant change”?
  - What happens during growing season?
  - Would it be worth looking at additional wetlands and at high water level of ones we looked at last month?
  - Group agreed they should add an action item to plan looking at wetland maps in August and have another field trip then answer the question re: hydrological monitoring

#### **SOULTION TEAM UPDATE/TIMELINE**

- Tony reported that
  - Public meetings “kicked off” timing for relicensing
  - Applied for ALP – expect approval (team leader note, FERC approved ALP request on 7/19/02)
  - Comment period for ICD is almost over
  - SD1 is also out for comments
- Dee gave a presentation on the Solution Team’s settlement process. She presented a series of handouts outlining the concepts for the settlement process, and presented the following timeline:
 

• 1 <sup>st</sup> draft PME’s	10/02
• Solution team has draft PME’s ready	4/30/03
• 1 <sup>st</sup> draft settlement agreement	7/13/03
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft settlement agreement	10/29/03
• Final agreement	3/2/04
• Submit final agreement	4/30/04
- Settlement process discussion: The group voiced concerns about studies still needing to be done, timing, integrating PME proposals, etc. Dee asked if this working group was willing to follow the Solution Team’s settlement process, and over the next three months, to spend time to identify PME options and prepare a draft by October. Some work would be done between meetings, but at working group meetings no more than 90 minutes per meeting will be spent on settlement. The working group took a vote on their willingness to enter into this process using the following measurements:

#### **Reaching Consensus (Between A & D = Consensus)**

- A. I enthusiastically support the decision; I believe its our best effort
- B. I find the decision wholly acceptable

- C. I can live with the decision, but I'm not enthusiastic about it.
- D. I don't really like the decision, but I won't stand in the way of it's adoption if the rest of the group supports it. I'd like my concerns know. However, once the decision is made I'll support it.
- E. I don't agree with the decision and I feel strong resistance for its adoption.
- F. I don't believe the group has come together at all behind the decision. We need more discussion and work before any decisions adopted

- Settlement vote outcome and concerns:
  - Of the 9 people who voted, the total votes were: A = 3, C = 2, D = 4
  - Are we putting the cart before the horse?
  - Are we taking away valuable time from study plan development?
  - Are we going to cut out important studies as a result of this process?

## TEAMLET REPORTS / REPORTS ON EXISTING STUDIES

Study #	Title	Notes/Next Steps
T2	Vegetation Mapping in Project Area	R2 – translation of polygon/cover type ID's from spreadsheets to by done by July 19 <sup>th</sup> . QA/QC to follow.
T4	Analysis Species Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamer will focus on this (only 10% done currently).</li> <li>• Species list handed out along with Analysis Species Literature Search Procedure handout and group reviewed them.</li> <li>• Re: unknown species – not critical path item right now.</li> <li>• Ann conveyed Don's concerns need deadlines, also "species to be determined list" – may be able to drop for some habitat types. Group agreed the teamlet could decide.</li> <li>• Lauri suggestion: Bat survey.</li> <li>• Literature summaries will be done this fall.</li> <li>• Lia will provide examples of some species review by the next meeting.</li> </ul>
T5	Wetland Inventory Study	Discrepancies in some of wetland identifications. Joetta is reconciling, it's minor. Wetlands inventoried in the T5 study are mapped together with cover types from the T2 study.
T6	Noxious Weed Assessment and Control Plan	Not discussed at this meeting.
T7	Historic Vegetation of the UB and LB Projects	Marty will add references for predictive model – Lauri will get a copy of BLM reference to Marty. GLO input done July 16th for Lake Shannon. Digitizing of delineated overlays from AESI for Baker Lake finished by July 31.
T11	Oregon Spotted Frog Inventory	Taking info from spreadsheets and plotting coordinates. Final report will be done by August 30 <sup>th</sup>
T13	Survey and Manage Terrestrial	By September 7 <sup>th</sup> final report will be done (assuming Joetta

	Mollusk Survey	can get maps to Hamer)
T15	Basin Vegetation Mapping	By end of next week draft will be available. Mapping and Seral Stage draft maps are ready for review.
T16	Project Area Rare Plant Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started field work after special workshop (see update on handout). Tom reported that it looks like they'll finish on time.</li> <li>Groups response to Sarah's questions (in handout): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re: 51 sites in inundation zone – group suggested they be attempted in the fall after rest of survey (if there signs of vegetation Sarah should look)</li> <li>Okay not to show survey route as long as survey boundaries are delineated on maps (assume complete survey w/in boundary)</li> <li>Should she conduct rare plant survey on SE end of Baker Lake? – Sarah will coordinate with Ann and Ann will make the determination</li> <li>Group concurred: Hamer to identify grasses only to level of genus unless easily to sp.</li> <li>Ann noted that Hypogymnia need to be taken to species level – it's on the USFS Survey and Manage species list.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sarah needs list of all sites to be surveyed – her numbers aren't matching up.</li> <li>Tony explained that dispersed recreation sites were selected during a teamlet with Ann, Lauri and Erin. Wetland sites were ones where hydrology influenced by reservoir</li> </ul>
T17	Amphib. Studies in Reservoir Fluctuation Zone	Taking UTM coordinates from spreadsheets and plotting coordinates. Final draft report will be done by September 15 <sup>th</sup>
R-T09	Recreation Use Study	Not discussed at this meeting.
R-T10	Recreation effects on Mt. Goat Habitat Use	Not discussed at this meeting.
R-T12	Grizzly Bear Spring Foraging Habitat Value	Not discussed at this meeting.
R-T18	Breeding Bird Surveys	Not discussed at this meeting.
R-T19	Habitat Evaluation Studies	Not discussed at this meeting. (other than that Lauri would like to try to move this study forward, and is on agenda for next meeting).
R-T20	Wildlife Use in the Reservoir Drawdown Zone	Not discussed at this meeting.

## NEW STUDY REQUESTS

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- Elk Habitat Mapping request distributed by Tony
  - Marty will write study request for Phase II of Historic Vegetation – without project scenario

### **DATES OF UPCOMING WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES**

- Additional wetland field trip – August 15<sup>th</sup> Lauri, Ann, Tony, Marty
- Settlement Teamlet meeting – July 30<sup>th</sup> in Olympia 10am to 3pm
- Date for feedback on issues – July 26<sup>th</sup>
- Elk Teamlet meeting – to be determined

### **HOT ITEMS FOR SOLUTION TEAM**

- Should studies be posted on PSE website?
  - Requests
  - Plans
  - Indexes
- We are not slacking! These are tough issues we're dealing with

### **HANDOUTS**

- Flowchart of Iterative Process for getting the PME's done (from Solution Team)
- How to RESOLVE Issues Jointly (Agreement Dynamics)
- Draft Summary of Terrestrial Resource Issues
- List of original Issues/Interests
- Memo to Baker Team Leaders from Dee Endelman re: Framing the Issues for Collaborative Problem Solving
- T16 Rare plant study update
- Analysis Species Literature Search Procedure
- Baker River Project Terrestrial Analysis Species
- Process for elevating issues to the Solution Team

### **PARKING LOT**

- Conceptual Mitigation Approach (P/M/Es)
- Review time frame/goals of working groups/milestones
- Definitions of “project boundary”, “project effects”, “previous environment”, “project area”, NEPA definitions
- Watershed Analysis Presentation
- Land Management – Do study?
- Make list of all available relevant data. Create a subset of those data for Tony to always bring to meetings for group to continually reference.
- Are transmission lines in or out of FERC boundary?
- Changing Climate Patterns
- Determine land management allocations within Project boundary

### **MEETING EVALUATION**

#### **Well-Dones**

- Gene was here

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- Dee was good
  - Positive energy

#### **Opportunities to Improve**

- Missed Lyn (Mother Hen)
- No Krispy Kremes

### **TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR OUR AUGUST 21 MEETING**

**Mountlake Terrace, Washington**

**8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Bring a sack lunch and we'll work through!

1. Review notes/agenda/action items
2. Settlement Process Development
3. HEP study discussion
4. Revisit Study List
5. Report on Existing Studies
  - Status of previous studies
  - Teamlet Reports
  - New Requests/Plans
5. Review/Amend Norms and Parking Lot
6. Set agenda/location for September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting
7. Evaluate meeting