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Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 4:39 PM

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Subject: Baker River Coordinating Committee update for May and directions for June 8 meeting

BRCC members

As there hasn't been a request for an in-person meeting or conference call for this month, below is an update of the past month's Baker River Project Resource Group activities. Our next face-to-face meeting will be a joint ARG and BRCC meeting with a tour of new facilities June 8, beginning with the ARG meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Baker Lodge. A BRCC agenda will follow. We will continue to reserve the 4th Wednesday each month for a conference call or face to face meeting.

Directions to Baker Lake Lodge

Traveling from I-5 North or South:

Take the Burlington/Anacortes (State Route 20) exit #230.

Follow State Route 20, the North Cascades Highway heading East towards and then past Sedro Woolley to milepost 82

Go North (left) on Baker Lake Road for approximately 13 miles

Go East (right) on the Baker Dam Road for approximately 1 mile

Baker Lake Lodge is located on the South (right) side, across from the Kulshan Campground

For the Meeting we have the Conference Call Line available: 1-888-228-0484, ID: 6058, Password: 12345

A WebEx link has been reserved: (WebEx use for this meeting is still to be determined)

Thanks,
Cary

CRAG - Cultural Resource Advisory Group

The CRAG met on May 12 at the Skagit Service Center. Members discussed HPMP deadlines and project updates. CRAG members have until June 1st to get the latest comments to PSE. PSE will take these to complete the final HPMP. This will be sent to CRAG for final 30 day review prior to submission to FERC by Oct 30th.

"Project updates included the Lower Baker FSC, Powerhouse, and Dam Crest Improvement. An APE for the FSC was agreed to and the discussion centered around looking at the Historic District components in whole. Cultural surveys in these projects will begin as necessary."

ARG - Aquatic Resource Group

The ARG met on May 11th at PSE's Snoqualmie Operations Center. PSE provided the latest updates on the Hatchery and Adult Fish Trap construction projects. PSE provided a photo review of the UB Hatchery Renovation. The project is on schedule for substantial completion by June 1 of this year. Attention will then turn to the renovation of Spawning Beach #4.

On the adult trap, PSE reported on the recent testing of the fish lock. On May 4, a piece of steel rotated, blowing a gate out of its rails. The slide gate, vertical crowder, and removable barrier were damaged. A new slide gate is being fabricated while the crowder and removable barrier have been removed for repair, taking into account lessons learned. The repair should be completed and the trap watered up by no later than June 1. PSE feels that the project will still be completed by June 1.

PSE reported on the study PSE conducted per Article 407. The study evaluated whether valves or other measures should be used to provide flow continuation during unanticipated Project outages. April and September inflow scenarios were used as the extremes for purposes of the study. The study found that both ramping and minimum instream flow compliance could be achieved with existing and planned facilities and without additional flow continuation facilities. However, an economic evaluation of flow continuation found the facility to benefit the project, so a flow continuation valve equal to the size of the new powerhouse capacity will be included.

The license calls for two 750 units in order to continue to use the old penstocks in the existing powerhouse. Upon further review of cost assumptions, soil conditions and space constraints of the old site, the powerhouse site was relocated and single 1,500 unit will be appropriate for that purpose at a lower cost. It was determined that all downramping sequences, under any outage condition, can be met with the new flow continuation (synchronous bypass) valve. As an added environmental benefit, the valve provides continuous flow during an outage and allows for load balancing without affecting flow. It also provides a "greener" way to balance flow (vs. firing up a combustion turbine). PSE will be pursuing a license amendment to allow the powerhouse to be relocated from the original site. The report is out for the official 30-day review; comments are due to Kim Lane by June 4, 2010. PSE reported on activities from the Fish Passage Technical Working Group, including early data on the 2010 UB FSC flow preference study underway, and the Lower Baker FSC design development.

The FPTWG is reviewing the 30% design for the new floating Surface Collector at Lower Baker. The sockeye juvenile outmigration has surpassed daily and season records set last year establishing a new season high each day. The new daily high record of 84,398 was set on May 5, and a season total so far of over 400,000. Sockeye Spawning Beach 4 has produced 3.4 million sockeye fry thus far and artificial incubation production has yielded another 1.6 million sockeye.

PSE provided an update to the ARG on the study of potential operational protocols to drawdown the Baker Project to target elevations consistent with Articles 106 and 107. An update on the use of the models will be provided in July. ARG feedback will be continually sought throughout the process.

PSE reported on Article 104, 2010 management protocols for Baker Basin native Char. The main difference for 2010 is

that bull trout are being PIT-tagged and transported (upon recapture) to locations consistent with their genetic origin. A new bull trout angling program has been initiated for Lake Shannon.

The Article 505 Aquatic Riparian Habitat Working Group met May 6th. They focused on finalizing the 505 plan and developing the process for reviewing and approving 505 project proposals. They are scheduled to meet again the afternoon of the TRIG meeting June 3 at the PSE office in Burlington.

The ARG and BRCC will join for a meeting on June 8th at the Baker Lake Lodge, followed afterward by a tour of the following fish facilities: UB FSC, hatchery and LB adult trap. ARG conference calls and in-person meetings are planned to alternate each month for the remainder of 2010.

RRG - Recreation Resources Group

- Next scheduled meeting-Tuesday, June 15 at Skagit Service Center
- Formal review periods for the Aesthetics Management Plan (AMP, SA 302) and the Law Enforcement Plan (LEP, SA 318) are complete
- PSE and AECOM are responding and adding comments to Final Plan.
- Both plans to be e-filed with FERC by June 30
- VanDeVanter Group working on a draft design for screening at UB project, as per AMP
- Annual reports are in process for 2009
- Water Safety Plan, SA 304, tear sheet maps are in draft design.

TRIG- Terrestrial Resource Implementation Group

The next scheduled TRIG meeting will be on June 3rd from 9 A.M. until noon, followed by the ARHWG teamlet meeting, at the PSE Skagit Service Center in Burlington.

The TRIG met on May 6th for a short, one hour meeting, due to the ARHWG teamlet meeting that took place the rest of the day. FERC has accepted the TRMP (Article 501 and all its appendices, i.e., all of the terrestrial article plans) and Article 410 without changes, so we are good to go for implementation of the plans. The initial comment period is over for the first batch of draft annual reports. The next set of drafts will be out the end of July for formal review.

A recent two-day mapping field trip to the Alder Creek property (purchased at the end of 2009 with SA 503 funds) was focused on the habitat breaks related to wetlands and slopes. Assessments were based on soil composition, plant species, and hydrology. Updated base map information was presented to the group. Several areas are conducive to management for elk. In particular, there is a fairly large section on the south side of the western parcel that is generally level with young, small trees. There are also several areas in the eastern parcel that are already grass, including a non-wetland pasture that is currently getting heavy elk use, and there are other areas that just need to have the canopy opened up. In developing the site specific management program it was proposed that interested folks get together in teamlets to identify their specific interests and objectives for the property in advance of the TRIG's planning work, specifically, wetland, deciduous forest, and elk objectives. Don Gay (USFS) volunteered to be a lead contact for folks interested in Elk; Brock Applegate (WDFW) took Wetlands; and Marty Vaughn (Biota Pacific) took Forest issues (with the hope of finding another volunteer to take it on).

The TRIG also talked about the best approach for the TRIG's land search process. A proposal is to maintain the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) contract for 2 days/month of Ray Crosswell's time and set aside funding for 1-2 days / month of Ira McDaniel's (PSE real estate) time. Tony will bring details, including cost, to the June 3 TRIG meeting.

Canada geese are nesting on a few of the Osprey artificial nests (as reported last month), they are also nesting on two of the three loon platforms. Haley Edwards (PSE) will monitor, research options, and update the TRIG at the next

meeting.

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