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## BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

### Cultural & Historical Working Group PME Meeting

December 9, 2002

12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Baker Lodge

### MEETING NOTES

**Mission:** *“To develop alternatives and recommendations addressing cultural, historical and archeological resources for the Baker River Project relicensing process.”*

**Team Leader:** Jessie Piper (425) 462-3609, [jpiper@puget.com](mailto:jpiper@puget.com)

**PRESENT:** Jessie Piper (Puget Sound Energy), Connie Freeland (Puget Sound Energy), Bruce Freet and Dee Endelman (Agreement Dynamics), Scott Schuyler and Cliff Edwards (Upper Skagit Tribe), Frank Winchell by phone (FERC), Rob Whitlam (WA Office Archaeology & Historic Preservation), Jan Hollenbeck (US Forest Service), Bob Mierendorf and Ryan Booth (National Park Service), Lyn Wiltse, notetaker (PDSA Consulting, Inc.)

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a cross-working group meeting during the first week in March 2003. Part of our purpose in meeting today is to prepare for the cross resource meeting so we will be able to articulate our interests clearly to other working groups. The meeting in March will also provide us an opportunity to review (from a cultural perspective) the preliminary PMEs being proposed by other Working Groups.

### AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 9 - BAKER LODGE

1. Review agenda and introductions
2. Facilitator feedback: Understanding of issues so far
3. Introduction to dialogue on resources
  - How will this information be used?
  - This is a dialogue about ideas- no one is committing their organization to any specific outcome.
4. Dialogue on resources
  - Archaeological sites

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- Historic buildings
  - TCPs and sacred sites
5. Dialogue on resources
- How can we protect/mitigate/enhance the resources
6. Where do we go from here?
- Writing up results from today's discussions
  - Communicating with other groups
  - Action Plan

### **NEW ACTION ITEMS**

- Lyn: Type up notes and send to Dee.
- Jessie: Pull descriptions of legal context for the work of this group and send to Dee.
- Dee: Revise list of issues, etc. based on notes from today's meeting, incorporate legal references from Jessie.
- Jessie: Send out notes from this meeting to working group members to review prior to next working group meeting on January 14 (with revised list of issues, other handouts, legal references, etc.).
- Scott: Pull together list of tribal issues associated with PME's (to present at January 14 Working Group Meeting.).
- Bruce and Dee: At January 14 meeting brief group on PME's of interest from other working group.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

We welcomed Cliff Edwards, member of Upper Skagit Tribal Council.

### **LIST OF ISSUES**

We reviewed/revised a preliminary list of issues put together by Dee with input from Ardis and Jessie. We added:

- Resources to Protect: Wildlife (including mountain goats which are considered sacred to the Sauk-Suattle. Scott noted that all wildlife including also elk, deer, and bears are considered sacred to the Upper Skagit Tribe.
- Plan Development: Monitoring in the future (comprehensive).
- Resources to Protect: Preservation of historic properties.
- Treaty resources: On USFS lands interested in protecting/enhancing these.
- Cultural associations with wildlife, fish, vegetation (Scott would like to define more for the group).
- Organize to explain how we're different and how what we do fits in with other working groups.
- Effects of reservoirs: Chemical alterations (saturation, etc.), physical displacement/transportation, erosion and deposition, physical alteration (water wear) of artifacts (dependent on material type), seasonal access to cultural sites, changing the defining features or characteristics of historic places and TCPs
- Impacts: TCP introduces a whole range of impacts we can't capture at this point (awaiting survey results) e.g., sites whose values include solitude- recreationists, etc. could disturb.
- Vision site- changes in view shed
- Hot springs - increase in visitors (example of impacts to culturally-important areas).

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**RESOURCES: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

- Stabilize sites
- Restrict accessibility (physical, re-route, educate, etc.)
- Data recovery (excavation, detailed descriptions, photo documentation)
- Decide improvement through consultation process
- Confidentiality of sites
- Re-design/alter project (for avoidance)
- Engineer an armoring/protection
- Education/public awareness
- Patrolling sites
- Monitoring (video surveillance)
- Scheduled visits/record
- Develop GIS database (erosion)
- Curation (long-term, permanent preservation)
- Training (staff, tribes)

**RESOURCES: HISTORIC BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES (ARCHITECTURE)**

- Move them
- Adaptive re-use (e.g., school to community, etc.)

**RESOURCES: TCPS/SACRED SITES**

- Confidentiality
- Enhancing resources (e.g., planting certain plants, prescribed burning, habitat improvements)
- Restricting access/enhancing access
- Maintaining tribal access
- Ongoing consultation with tribes
- Redesign projects (scheduling timing to not impact cultural rite)
- Public awareness/education – e.g., cultural aspects of plants and goats
- Financial remuneration to tribes

**TRAILS, ETC.**

- Maintain historic trails with significant design characteristics
- Replacing/reconstructing footbridge
- Enhancing species (e.g., re-establishing huckleberry fields)
- Land acquisition for habitat
- Unanticipated discoveries /plan (being done)
  - Monitoring
  - Training of staff
  - Protocol
  - Ongoing consultation with tribes

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## **COMPLIANCE**

- Forest laws (Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie Forest Plan as amended)

## **PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

- Dispute resolution procedure
- Implementation Group
- Repatriation
- Curation Plan
  - We need to develop a curation plan
  - It needs to consider tribal facilities
  - Adherence to NAGPRA procedures for federal lands

## **HANDOUTS**

- Agenda
- Draft list of issues from Cultural/Historic Resources Working Group Discussions (put together by Dee from input from Jessie and Ardis)
- List of Baker River Operations and Maintenance activities that would be of concern from a cultural resources standpoint (put together by Jessie)

**Cultural/Historical Resources Working Group  
Draft List of Issues Drawn from Group Discussions  
December 2002**

**Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

- Compliance with federal cultural resource laws & regulations
- Consistency with Forest Service laws and regulations
- Meet FERC responsibility regarding tribal consultations

**Plan Development**

- Develop Cultural Resources Management Plan (Historic Properties Management Plan)
- Create PSE/USFS agreement on cultural resources so tribes know who has authority
- Develop curation plan
- Include repatriation clause in curation plan
- Develop historic buildings & structures district
- Impacts and use of future technologies

**Project Activities**

- Concern about effects of general Project O&M activities on cultural resources
- Development of training for Baker River Project personnel
- Unanticipated discoveries

**Types of Impacts**

- Concern about erosion and deposition (effects of reservoir drawdown)
- Concern about vandalism to cultural sites
- Concerns about damage to archaeological sites from off-road vehicles and other recreational activity
- Concerns about future recreational developments
- Concerns about disturbance of burials

**Resources to Protect**

- Protect, mitigate, and enhance cultural resources
- Protect sacred sites and ceremonial bathing sites
- Protect cedar, berries, baskets making sites and medicinal plants that are current as well as traditional cultural properties

- Protect mountain goats
- Protect resources from prehistoric & early historic (contact) periods
- Other sites, artifacts that may be there that we don't know about yet
- Other tribal interests expressed: use of downed cedar, firewood, native plants, controlled burning to enhance berries

### **Relationships**

- Coordinate with other working groups
- Helping other working groups to understand cultural implications
- Be sure that Tribes are heard and develop & maintain open and ongoing communication and relationships
- Resolving conflicts when they come up

### **Education**

- Develop education and interpretation opportunities to develop public respect & appreciation for culture/history of area
- Telling the history of the valley
- Offsite education (e.g., websites)