



BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Aquatic Resources Working Group

March 8, 2001

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Puget Sound Energy's Everett Office
CFS Training Room
1122 75th St. S.W., Everett, WA

AGENDA

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| 1. Review agenda and minutes |
| 2. Review action items/parking lot |
| 3. Discussion of article: Ecological Connectivity in Alluvial River Ecosystems |
| 4. Study Request Submittals for 2001 |
| 5. Report from Study Request Technical Working Group |
| 6. Set agenda for next meeting (April 12) |
| 7. Evaluate meeting |

March 8, 2001

Driving Directions to PSE's Everett Office:

- 1) From I-5 (southbound or northbound) take the State Route 526 exit (Mukilteo exit) – this exit from I-5 is several miles south of downtown Everett**
- 2) Exit from State Route 526 to Seaway Blvd (upon exiting you will be headed north on Seaway Blvd.).**
- 3) Turn right onto 75th St. SW**
- 4) PSE office is on the right about ½ mile after turning onto 75th St. SW**



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March 8, 2001

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

PSE Office, Everett, WA

MEETING NOTES

Aquatics Working Group Mission: “To identify issues and develop solutions and recommendations addressing fish and aquatic resource interests related to the Baker River Project and its operations, leading to a settlement agreement.”

Fish Team Leader: Nick Verretto, 425-462-3441, nverre@puget.com

PRESENT:

Karen Kloempken (WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife), Fred Seavey (U.S. Fish & Wildlife), Stan Walsh (Skagit System Cooperative), Bill Reinard (Wildcat Steelheaders Club), Arn Thoreen (Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group), Rod Sakrison (WA Dept. of Ecology), Brady Green (U.S. Forest Service), Nick Verretto (PSE), Doug Bruland (PSE), Cary Feldmann (PSE), Chuck Ebel (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Phil Hilgert (R2 Resource Consultants), Lyn Wiltse (facilitator - PDSA Consulting)

Note: The April 12 meeting will be at the WDFW office in Mill Creek.

Directions to WDFW's Mill Creek regional office: from I-5, take Exit 183 onto 164th Street Southeast. Continue eastbound about 1.5 miles. At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Mill Creek Boulevard. The office is on the left about 1 ½ blocks north, directly across from the Bank of America. Parking is limited, so car-pooling is recommended. Limited parking is available on the street and diagonally across from the office at the shopping center.

Agenda March 8, 2001

9:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

PSE Office in Everett

Note: New Starting Time - 9:00 a.m.

1. Review agenda and minutes
2. Review Action Items Article/Parking Lot
3. Discussion of article: Ecological Connectivity in Alluvial River Ecosystems
4. Study request submittals for 2001
5. Report from Studies Technical Working Group
6. Continue discussion on recommended studies for 2001
7. Set agenda for next meeting (April 12)
8. Evaluate meeting

FUTURE DATES AND LOCATIONS

The team decided to continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month, from 9:00 to 2:30 for 2001: Apr. 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, etc.

For the April 12 meeting, the group will meet at the WDFW office in Mill Creek. Locations of other meetings will be determined on a month-by-month basis.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

- All: Submit new study requests to Nick by April 5, if possible
- All: RSVP to Connie at cfreel@puget.com regarding Lower Baker tour on 3/28 ASAP
- Karen: Send Nick directions to WDFW Mill Creek office for next meeting
- Chuck: Notify team members when delta field survey
- Phil: Meet with USFS and DOE to develop instream flow study request proposals

REPORT ON OLD ACTION ITEMS

- All: Got study requests for 2001 field season to Arnie by February 18.
- Arnie: Sent hard copy of map lists of gage sites and handouts of the Fish Passage Technical Working Group
- Karen: Had Gary e-mail spreadsheet to Don

OLDER ACTION ITEMS

Jon V.: Check with Brady Green re: Watershed Analysis presentation at December 14th meeting - (on hold for now)

Gary: Bring hard copies of sockeye presentation

PRESENTATION OF THE ARTICLE: ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN ALLUVIAL RIVER ECOSYSTEMS AND ITS DISRUPTION BY FLOW REGULATION

Arn Thoreen of the Skagit River Enhancement Group facilitated a discussion of the article that he distributed last month. He supplemented the discussion with historical maps of the Baker River, showing how dam operations have resulted in the impacts of the Little Baker River. The focus of the discussion

was on the effects of dam operations and how they have diminished fish habitat and functions over the years.

STUDY REQUEST SUBMITTALS/STUDY REQUEST TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Stan, Nick, Arnie, Karen, Bill, Chuck, Rod, Brady and Cary formed a technical working group to review study requests and make recommendations on which ones should be done in the 2001 field season. They also looked for opportunities to combine studies and/or throw out studies in cases where they purport to collect data that are already available. They got together on February 22nd to review all 2001 field season study requests and make recommendations to this group.

| Study # | Title | Notes/Next Steps |
|----------------|--|---|
| A01a | Reservoir Tributary Habitat Surveys | Proceed with Study Plan |
| A01b | Reservoir Tributary Biological Surveys | Proceed with Study Plan *Need to address native char protocol *Is 2 years enough? Adaptive management? |
| A01c | Reservoir Tributary Delta Surveys | Phil: Work with Stan and Chuck (A15, A14) to complete Study Request Form |
| A02 | LB River Habitat Mapping | Proceed with Study Plan *Intent to do this during outage (before end of May) *Aim to work with Phil on this |
| A04 | LB/Skagit River Flow Coordination, Gaging | Just do it! (As soon as DNR allows) *Still awaiting permit from DNR *Tie with A12 and A09 |
| A09 | Skagit River Flow and Habitat Assessment (HIGH PRIORITY) | Phil, et al, refine Study Request *Focus is on fish habitat/Carry out study to pipeline? |
| A12 | Instream Flows for Biodiversity | Phil, et al, will refine Study Request *Look at how to maintain/restore ecosystem functions (time independent) |
| A21 | Skagit Wild & Scenic River ORV | Phil et al, will refine Study Request *Subset of A12/May not need field studies (1978 to present) |
| A10 | Baker River Delta Habitat | Chuck will do it! |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | Assessment - Char | *Will include slope of the delta *Chuck will do manual check at 707,720, and intermediate. Will supplement with aerial photos |
| A15 | UB Delta Scour | Stan: Finish Study Request *Aim is to study, scour and fill Upper Baker Delta in areas where sockeye spawn |
| A06 | UB Passage Design Baffle Modif. | Nick: Proceed! (Technical Working Group will discuss study *Designs complete by next week. Need plan to be functional by May ^{1st} . |
| A08 | UB Passage System Evaluation - Biological | Combine with A06 |

LIST OF MEETING HANDOUTS

Survey Requests:

- Revised Study Requests:
Study title: Skagit Wild & Scenic River Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Study title: Water Quality (update)

PARKING LOT

- Communication Plan to enlist “reluctant” members
- Reservoir/watershed:
- Consider moving meeting locations around -- closer to Olympia?
- Copies of Section 7 of the Federal Register (Corps authority and responsibility)
- Update on annual flood control agreement
- Clean Water Act and FERC
- Clean Water Act and ESA
- Coastal Zone Management Act (How it interacts with other mandates)
 - State Shoreline Management Act
 - Federal Clean Water Act
 - Federal Clean Air Act
 - State Environmental Policy Act
- Watershed Analysis presentation by Brady Green at a later date
We need a strategy to integrate this analysis into the process
- Feedback on “Salmon on the Baker River” document
Different perspectives
Discuss posting reviews on web
- Presentation on Northwest Forest Plan including Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (USFS) at a date to be defined later

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- Presentation on Flood Control by USACE/County

EVALUATION OF MEETING

Well-Dones

- Food was good
- Like variety
- Made progress
- Arn's presentation
- Had fun
- Nice room
- Forest Service presence - thanks Brady!
- Good facilitation!

Opportunities to Improve

- Why mix caffeine/decaf coffee?
- Need real sugar
- DNR needs to issue permit!
- Being locked out of building

Tentative Agenda for Next Meeting

April 12, 2000

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Washington Department Fish & Wildlife Office, Mill Creek, WA

Bring Lunch

1. Review agenda and minutes
2. Review Action Items
3. Status from Fish Passage Technical Working Group
4. Studies Update
 - New
 - Status of Existing
5. Set next agenda
6. Evaluate meeting

NOTE: March 28th tour. Meet at 10:00 a.m. PSE Office in Concrete. RSVP to Connie at cfreel@puget.com