



BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources Working Group Meeting

**September, 2001 (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
(Bring Sack Lunch)**

**U.S. Forest Service Office (new!)
810 S. R. 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-7500**

AGENDA

Review notes/revise agenda
Action items
Study Plan Updates: T2, 4, 5, 11, 13, 15, 17
Review Study Requests for 2002
Potential Study Requests for 2002?
Solution Team Technical Working Group Update
Review Parking Lot
Consider Carl's Northwest Forest Plan/Watershed Analysis presentation (for October meeting?)
Set agendas and locations for the October 16 (WDFW Office, Mill Creek WDFW Office) and November 15 (NWIFC office in Lacy) meetings.
Evaluate meeting

BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources Working Group

September 18, 2001

9:00 am – 2:00 p.m.

“Federal” Building (USFS, NPS, NCI, etc.)
810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

FINAL MEETING NOTES

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 (Puget Sound Energy), Lauri Vigue (WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife), Martin Vaughn (Biota Pacific), Tom Hamer (Hamer Environmental), Robert Kuntz (National Park Service), Fred Seavey (U.S. Fish & Wildlife), Stan Walsh, (Skagit Systems Cooperative), Lyn Wiltse, facilitator (PDSA Consulting)

SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

October 16 Mill Creek WDFW office – Start at 9:00 a.m.

November 15 NW Indian Fisheries Commission office in Lacey- Start at 9:00 a.m.

December 18 Mountlake Terrace

January 24, 2002 ***Switch to 3rd or 4th Thursday of each month for 2002?***

Starting in January 2002, this group will likely shift to each 3rd Thursday. In January we would meet on the 17th.

AGENDA

September 18, 2001, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring a sack lunch and we'll work through!

1. Review notes/agenda
2. Action Items
3. Study Plan Updates: T2, 4, 5, 11, 13, 15, 17
4. Review Study Requests for 2002
5. Potential Study Requests for 2002?
6. Solution Team Technical Working Group Update
7. Review Parking Lot
8. Consider Carl's Northwest Forest Plan/Watershed Analysis presentation (for October?)
9. Set agenda and location for October 16, WDFW Office, Mill Creek Start at 9:00 a.m., and November 15th (NWICF office in Lacy) meetings.
10. Evaluate meeting

UPDATE ON WATERSHED ANALYSIS

The FS Watershed Analysis will be out to contributors for final review by month-end. Carl Corey will present relevant sections to this group at our October meeting. He will also discuss the Northwest Forest Plan.

SOLUTION TEAM UPDATE

The Technical Working Group is still making edits to the Communication Protocol and Process Documents. The next Solution Team Meeting will be October 24, at the Forest Office Mountlake Terrace

NEW ACTION ITEMS

- Tony, Tom, Don: Look at re-writing RT-12 – Look at vegetation studies results for reference.
- Tony: Work with Lauri to draft study request for Phase II of T-5
- Tony: Contact Laurel and Bill re: RT3, RT6 re: Can they revise/consolidate the study requests for the group to review and then be better prepared to address questions at our November meeting?
- Lyn: Call Patrick re: schedule change and climate information.
- Tony: Get draft T15 data from Joetta (after she gets the DNR & Crown Pacific cover types).
- Fred: Send Group list of federally listed species of concern.
- Bob: Send Tony list of species of special concern in the Park so he can distribute to team members.
- All: Prepare any new 2002 study request forms and get to Tony before end of September.

REPORT ON PAST ACTION ITEMS

- Ann: Confirmed with Don our September 18, meeting at USFS office at Sedro-Woolley
- Lauri: Reserved Mill Creek/ Lacey locations for October and November meetings.
- Tom: Emailed handouts to Tony to include within the minutes.
- Tom: Updated T5 study to include edits, sent to Tony who sent out as Working Group Approved.
- Tom: Updated T4 matrix and sent to Tony to distribute to members for comment/review.

STATUS OF:

T2: Vegetation Mapping in Project Area

Tom distributed an update outlining the cover types mapped as of September 12. They expect to complete the upland forest vegetation mapping on Baker Lake by the week of September 30 and Lake Shannon by week of October 28. They will complete grass-sedge communities and wetlands in the spring of 2002. We agreed to add a new cover type: UPLAND FOREST-WETLAND MOSAIC.

T15: Basin Vegetation Mapping

Joetta (R2) has reviewed the Forest Service cover types. She has the contacts for DNR and Crown Pacific. She hasn't gotten data from them yet. We'll get an update at our October meeting.

T5: Wetland Inventory Study

Tony distributed the Working Group Approved Final Study Plan. We reviewed the three drawdown cover types added to 3.1.1

NOTE: Fred suggested we do a study on downstream influence of project operations on Skagit wetlands (from Aquatics Working Group).

T11: Oregon Spotted Frog Inventory

No spotted frogs have yet been identified. Identification at the tadpole stage is very difficult. We will be raising some tadpoles and enlisting the help of an expert to identify others. This study will be complete in the spring of 2002.

T13: Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Survey

Will get started October 1-15 for this two-week survey.

T17: Amphibian Studies in Reservoir Fluctuation Zone

Tom distributed an update. We'll review results at our November meeting and determine additional sampling areas for the spring. These areas might include streams that were:

- Too dry or high to sample
- In previously inundated reaches.

T-4: Analysis Species Assessment

Tom distributed an update on this assessment. We reviewed the Analysis Species Matrix. The "High Economic Value" column will include YES for all game species. Lia will continue to fill out the matrix for species known to be present in the Basin. We will prioritize species to study according to our flow chart. We will then run the entire list by tribal representatives to see if there are any additional species that need to be added. We hope to have this list complete by year-end.

CONTINUATION OF EXISTING STUDIES - 2002

T-2: Vegetation Mapping in Project Area

T-4: Analysis Species Assessment (potential for minor modification)

T-5: Wetland Inventory Study

T-13: Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Survey

T-15: Basin Vegetation Mapping (only if existing information is not adequate)

T-17: Amphibian Studies in Reservoir Fluctuation Zone

POTENTIAL NEW STUDIES FOR 2002

- STUDY REQUESTS:
 - T-5(b): Wetland Monitoring (No study request, but need one, second phase of T5)
 - T-6: Noxious Weed Assessment and Control Plan
 - T-7: “Potential” (future) Vegetation of the UB and LB Projects
 - T9/10: Recreation Use/Mountain Goat Enhancement (develop concept)
 - T12: Grizzly Bear Spring Foraging Habitat Value
 - T16: Project Area Rare Plant Survey
 - T18: Breeding Bird Survey (could be a modeling effort, potential for measuring Project impacts to habitats and development of a PM&E, could include species beyond the “analysis species” list, and could be used to monitor compliance with land management issues)

POTENTIAL 2002 STUDIES (no Study Requests at this time)

- Elk foraging - Chris
- Drawdown Zone Wildlife Use - Tony
- HEP - Lauri
- Land Management – Could be 2003 – (Recreation Working Group Land Use Study)
- Riparian Habitat – Lauri
- Spotted Owl, etc. (Section 7) – info needed for consultation (timing?) - Fred
- Lower Skagit Wetlands - Fred
- Settlement Agreement – Tony (could include PM&E proposals, land acquisition - opportunities in Skagit Basin, etc.)

HANDOUTS

Progress Reports on:

- T2: Vegetation Mapping In The Project Area (FERC boundary)
- T11: Spotted Frog Surveys
- T17: Progress Report On Amphibian Surveys
- T4: Analysis Species Assessment

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

MEETING EVALUATION

Well Dones:

- We’re moving forward
- Tom’s progress reports
- Federal building -hosts
- Good food
- Fred’s presence
- Got out early

Need for Improvement:

- Listen first – then respond
- Missed Patrick, Bob, Don, Ann, Chris, Carl

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Office, Mill Creek, Washington

October 16, 2001, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring a sack lunch and we’ll work through!

1. Review notes/agenda
2. Action Items
3. Solution Team Update
4. Update on ongoing studies
5. Carl’s Presentation: Northwest Forest Plan ad Watershed Analysis
6. RT-16 Rare Plant Survey
7. Land Use Update (Recreation Working Group)
8. 2002 Studies Update
9. Set agenda and confirm location for November 15 meeting
10. Evaluate meeting

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR THE NOVEMBER 15, 2001 MEETING

- RT6: Noxious Weed Survey
- Data Management – November meeting?