



BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Recreational & Aesthetic Resources Working Group

February 24, 2003

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

USFS Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters
21905 64th Ave. West
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

AGENDA

1. Review / revise minutes / agenda
2. Review action items
3. PME's (February 4th teamlet report)
4. PME review:
 - 220 - Aesthetics
 - 230 – Roads / Access
5. Studies:
 - General study status update
 - R16: Visioning Study
6. Land Use information status
7. Cross Resource Workshop preparation
8. Set agenda / location for next meeting
9. Evaluate meeting



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USFS Office, Mountlake Terrace WA 98273

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Mission: *“To develop alternative solutions and recommendations addressing recreation, education and aesthetic resources related to the Baker River Project and its operations leading to a settlement agreement.”*

Team Leader: Andy Hatfield (PSE): email is andrew.hatfield@pse.com and phone number is (360) 853-8341.

PRESENT: Chris Lawson and Alex Cohen (Huckell/Weinman Associates), Ann Dunphy (US Forest Service), Brian Adams (Skagit County), Lauri Vigue (WDFW), Jim Eychaner (IAC), Andy Hatfield (PSE), Bruce Freet (Environmental Agreements), Lyn Wiltse, facilitator and Mary Jean Bullock, notetaker (PDSA Consulting).

2003 SCHEDULE

Mar.24, Apr.28, May 19 (third Monday), Jun 23, Jul 28, Aug. 25, Sept.22, Oct 27, Nov. 17 (third Monday), December 15 (third Monday). Assume Forest Service Office in Mountlake Terrace.
CONFERENCE CALL LINE: ALL WERE REMINDED, ESPECIALLY DURING THESE WINTER MONTHS, THAT THE CONFERENCE CALL LINE WILL BE OPEN DURING ALL THESE MEETINGS. PLEASE CALL 1-866-280-6429 AND ENTER PARTICIPANT CODE: 144995 #.

All meetings are from 9:00 to 2:30 unless otherwise specified.

Agenda – USFS Office/Mountlake Terrace.

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NOTE: BRING LUNCH; BE PREPARED TO WORK THROUGH

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NEW ACTION ITEMS

- ALL: Get Chris feedback on R12 outline by March 7.
- Chris: Check results of Non-Highway. Vehicles Survey (NOVA) to supplement info from R9.
- Ann & Andy: Work on Visioning roll-up and send to PSE. Ann is reviewing feedback from Kathy Ludlow on essence statements.
- Brian: Check to see when the next County Comp Plans (land use) are expected to be out.
- Andy: See if Forest Service Plan GIS layers are included in R2's map set (ROS, VQD, scenic corridors).
- Andy: Talk with Tony about posting a zoning map (showing urban growth) along with land use maps at the cross-resource workshop.
- All: Let Andy know if you have questions re pictures/CD.
- Ann & Andy: Prior to March meeting work on defining project-related roads and critical roads from a recreational perspective.
- Chris: Check with Tony re: R-2's study information on sites impacted by human use (Hamer's report for vegetation cover type study, rare plant, dispersed recreation).
- Chris: Send out R-12 report outline to Working Group members for review.
- Andy: Call Susan, Saul, Cindy re: workshop attendance and let Lyn know asap.
- Chris: see that Tony gets these maps prior to March 20 Team Working Group meeting.
- Andy: Bring Anderson maps to March 24 meeting.
- Lauri: Discuss with the Terrestrial Working Group how to handle sensitive data reports.

REPORT ON OLD ACTION ITEMS

- Chris: Buttoned up with Ann, Andy, and Jim regarding R12 "observation" part of report. Chris put together an annotated outline for the report and is waiting for feedback.
- Andy: Distributed a CD of all the pictures he has taken for the R5 study plan. The CD also contains an Excel Index and a pdf file listing locations. The pdf file map is incomplete – missing the locations

of the last few shots.

PME DISCUSSION

Teamlet Report:

Andy reported that the teamlet met February 4 and discussed safety and roads. They kept discussions to a high level. At that meeting, Chris shared maps for R11 and R15.

LAND USE INFORMATION STATUS

Chris distributed a summary of current land use information. Chris feels like we have basically collected most of the land use information required by FERC. Much of this information was published in the Initial Information Packet and the Initial Consultation Document. *On the "Land Use/Management Study Status" document, Lauri requested the third bullet on the second section, page one, be stricken. This statement has no relevance to the material being presented.*

Current land use information is a critical step in guessing what future land use patterns might be. There was discussion around the scope of the land use survey. Ann suggested that there were GIS layers not reflected in the merged land allocations (scenic corridors, ROS and VQO). These are from the 1990 Forest Plan and are still in effect.

We will review the land use and zoning maps at the workshop and note additional needs.

PME REVIEW:

220 – AESTHETICS

Andy distributed the latest version of this draft PME for review. Much of this will depend on the aesthetics study that is still underway (R-5).

230 – ROADS/ACCESS

Andy distributed the latest version of this draft PME for review. Comments were integrated into this version since the teamlet meeting February 4. Public access to Lake Shannon is a priority with this group. Next Steps: Integrate information from the studies (R9 and R13) and figure out what our definition of "project related roads" will be. We also need to review road-to-trail conversion potential. We have various categories of impact that applies (direct, indirect, etc.).

Types of road use include:

- Administrative
- Recreational – campground, launch ramps, trail heads
- Scenic drives (subset of dispersed use)
- Access to and from developed facilities on the reservoir
- Access to non-project related areas in the Basin.

Lauri will share the information the Terrestrial Working comes up with re: road use in the basin (for elk study). We need to determine what roads are valuable from a recreational standpoint.

Ann mentioned that in the Watershed Analysis, some roads are slated for closure/change in a maintenance level.

We'll look at the information we've got to see if it is sufficient. If it isn't, we may want to do a study.

R9 Electronic Monitoring

Chris reported that this draft study report should be out by end of February (March 7 at the latest). This report will include daily tallies, days of the week and vehicle classifications.

R12 Site Inventory

Working Group members should provide feedback to Chris by March 7 on the outline/content of this study report. The timing of the report will depend on the amount of narrative put in this report. The report could be out as early as the third week of March.

R13 VISITOR SURVEY

Chris got the 3rd stage results from Hebert on February 7. They did some general data clean up. They also provided some additional information as requested by this group. This report should be out for review by Working Group members by mid March (if not sooner).

Manual traffic counts from this study were included in the R9 report. The observation records-occupancy rates for dispersed sites will be included in the R12 report. This should be out by mid March. Additional information will be out by late March.

R14 SECONDARY DATA

Continuing- nothing new to report.

R11/15 CAPACITY/SUITABILITY ANALYSIS

Alex showed us the new maps that R-2 put together, including the initial constraint layers reviewed by the February 4th teamlet. The IAC appreciates the responsiveness to this study request.

The draft interim study report is due out late March. In the meantime, R-2 will be putting the trail link identifiers on the composite maps and preparing the matrix of constraints for the potential development nodes. They will also add constructed facilities, wetlands, bald eagle nests and development nodes for the Lake Shannon boat ramp. *The issue was also raised if these maps are distributed to the public, what types of sensitive information can be displayed? Lauri will check with the Wildlife and Terrestrial Working Group on sensitive wildlife information.*

R16 NEEDS ANALYSIS

Draft report material is waiting for review. We will need to integrate the updated information from R13. Chris guesses this will be out for review by the end of March (without the Visioning exercise write-up) We need to see that underserved and un-served needs have been considered.

March Workshop:

Prior to the Workshop

A CD listing all the PME's that each research Working Group is considering along with a draft agenda for the March Workshop was out on February 19th.

Participants will be asked to fill out a pre-workshop worksheet to consider how to resolve conflicts, etc.

PSE will send out their proposal (with elements of Working Group PMEs) for review on Feb. 26. This proposal is a subset of the PMES brainstormed in the Working Groups and takes into account the interests of stakeholders in the process.

Lauri will share the information the Terrestrial Working Group comes up re: road use in the basin (for elk study). Ann mentioned that in the Watershed Analysis, some roads are slated for closure/change in maintenance level. We'll look at the information we've got and see if it is sufficient. If it isn't we may want to do a study.

CROSS RESOURCE WORKSHOP

March 4, Tuesday (afternoon only)

1:00-5:00 High level PMEs presentations by a member of each Working Group (Cultural, Terrestrial, Aquatics, Recreation, Economics/Operations)

Chris has graciously accepted our request that he do our presentation.

Probable Attendees: Andy, Brian and Chris

March 5, Wednesday (all day)

Dee will begin with a review of the background of our process to date. She will then do a brief training session on interest-based negotiations to kick things off.

Then we will walk through PSE's Proposal, highlighting pieces that have cross-resource implications e.g., the proposed reservoir management regime. Joel Molander of PSE will explain how PSE came up with its reservoir management plan (share outputs from HYDROPS model runs, etc.)

Then we will split up into small cross-resource groups to:

- Flag impacts on resource (add conflicts to lists already posted from Feb. Working Group meeting)

- List how it affects the organizational interests

- Report back to the larger group

Probable Attendees: Andy, Chris, Lauri, Brian, Susan(?), Jim

March 6, Thursday (all day)

- Finish PSE Proposal (pieces with cross resource implications)

- Review other PMEs with cross resource implications

- Review (amended) list of conflicts

- Brainstorm to resolve conflicts

- Review (amended) list of conflicts

- Brainstorm to optimize synergies

- Plan next steps

Probable Attendees: Andy, Chris, Brian, Jim, Lauri (half day)

HANDOUTS (handouts to be posted on the web will be bolded)

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- Land Use/Management Study Status 2/24/03
 - Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures submitted to Baker River Hydroelectric Project No. 2150 (Reference No. 220) Project Title: Develop and Implement an Aesthetics Management Plan
 - Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures submitted by the Participant for Baker River Hydroelectric Project No. 2150 (Reference 230) Project Title: Provide and Maintain Public Access
 - Cross Resource Workshop, Baker River Hydroelectric Project No. 2150 – Key Conflicts, Key Synergies and Shared Interests/Concerns
 - Studies Update 2/24/03 – R9 Electronic Monitoring’ R12 Site Inventory; R13 Visitor Survey; R14 Secondary Data; R11/15 Capacity/Suitability Analysis (including trails); R16 Needs Analysis
 - Preliminary Work Product, Study R15, Recreational Trail Analysis- Description of Proposed Trail Route Segments, Lake Shannon

PARKING LOT

- Presentation of National Forest Plan
- Land management
- Forest Service presentation of SMS
- Hold periodic “outreach” meetings for feedback from other groups (hiking, horseback riding, etc.)
- Field trip- summer 2003?
- Review USFS Roads Analysis Report- 2003?
- Tie education piece to ALL Working GROUPS
- Access Management Study

EVALUATION OF MEETING

Things Done Well

- Got study results reviewed
- Making good progress
- Starbucks coffee!
- Glad to have Lyn back
- Nice maps

Do Differently Next Time

- Missed Susan
- Brian refusing to be our presenter!

What’s Hot?

- Land ownership
- Cross Resource Workshop
- Study results
- New study requests “yet to be proposed” may not be well received by PSE

Studies Update for Solution Team

- Most study results due out in February now due out in March.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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

NOTE: BRING LUNCH; BE PREPARED TO WORK THROUGH

1. Review/revise minutes/agenda
2. Review Action Items
3. Studies Results
 - Data gaps
 - Next steps
 - % responsibility for PME (USFS/PSE)
4. Debrief March Cross-Resource Workshop
5. Set agenda/location for April 28th meeting
6. Evaluate meeting