

Pacific Northwest Regional Infrastructure Team Steering Committee Meeting Summary January 14, 2015

TYPE OF MEETING & LOCATION	In-person meeting at Edith Green Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, Portland, OR. Conference call by Idaho Members.	
HOST	Theresa Hanley, BLM Oregon/Washington Associate State Director	
FACILITATION	Laurie Kline, Senior Communications Specialist, Tetra Tech	
SUMMARY PREPARED BY	Susan Hurley, Wildlife Biologist, Tetra Tech	
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN BOLD & OTHER ATTENDEES	<p><u>USDI-Bureau of Land Management (BLM)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Murphy, Idaho State Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theresa Hanley, OR/WA Associate State Director <p>State Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Murphy, Idaho Branch Chief; Coordinating Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Cheek, Acting Lands Section Chief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robin Estes, OR/WA Program Analyst for Land, Minerals and Energy Resources; Coordinating Staff <p><u>USDI-Office of the Secretary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allison O'Brien, Regional Environmental Officer <p><u>USDI-Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Theresa Rabot, Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Service, Region 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Barry, Deputy Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Stavrakas, Renewable Energy Coordinator <p><u>Idaho State Governor's Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Chatburn, Administrator of Governor's Office of Energy Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Pugrud, Attorney/Project Manager Transmission and Alternative Energy 	<p><u>Oregon State Governor's Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margi Hoffmann, Energy Policy Advisor <p><u>Washington State Governor's Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesus Sanchez, Director of the Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Hitchcock, Assistant Manager, Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance <p><u>Western Governors Association (WGA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Kline, Tetra Tech Communications Specialist and PNWRIT Meeting Facilitator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Hurley, Tetra Tech Biologist and PNWRIT Note Keeper
HANDOUTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout: PNWRIT Steering Committee Agenda for January 14, 2015 • Handout: PNWRIT 2014 Annual Report 	

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Agenda Review, and Introductions

- Theresa Hanley (BLM) welcomed the group and conducted introductions.
- Laurie Kline (PNWRIT Facilitator) reviewed the purpose of the meeting: "chart the course" for 2015 and review the Draft PNWRIT 2014 Annual Report. She noted that the RAPID presentation would be postponed due to the presenter's illness.

Charting 2015 – Objectives and Priorities

- Laurie Kline summarized the results of a Steering Committee poll regarding areas of focus for 2015, which were generated from 2014 discussions. The following focus areas, specifically

related to the PNWRIT's two priority projects (Boardman-to-Hemingway and Vantage-to-Pomona Heights transmission line projects), were identified by those members who responded to the poll:

- Continue to explore and be informed about existing regional landscape-level mitigation initiatives, strategies, and tools (developed by government agencies, NGOs, associations, universities, consultants) that would benefit from the support and endorsement of the PNWRIT and be applicable to the priority projects.
 - Explore opportunities to support and endorse the involvement of Tribes in mitigation and restoration initiatives related to the priority projects.
 - For the priority projects, explore whether mitigation should occur on federal lands (vs. private), and/or in-proximity (vs. regional).
 - Endorse project-specific procedures that refine the decision-making process: e.g., identify the final decision-maker, determine which parties should be involved, etc.
 - Endorse streamlining of review/siting processes related to the priority projects.
 - Explore how to share/implement best practices and lessons learned from the projects.
- The group discussed that these focus areas should be tied to projects, as it is not PNWRIT's role to develop or implement new procedures.
 - Laurie noted that Jesus Sanchez (Washington State Governor's Office) is convening a group in Washington (referred to as the Council for Inter-jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration [CIRC]) to coordinate discussions among state legislators and local, county, state and federal agencies dealing with regionally significant infrastructure projects in Washington. Laurie questioned if it would be appropriate for other states to convene similar groups and raise issues to the PNWRIT as necessary. The group thought this was a good idea, but cautioned that the state groups remain focused on solving issues related to specific projects in their respective states.
 - Laurie asked Robin Estes (BLM) to give a brief summary of mitigation planning on the Vantage-to-Pomona Project. Robin noted that they used the USFWS Greater Sage-Grouse Range-Wide Mitigation Framework (September 3, 2014) as a foundational document for the development of their project-specific framework and that their interagency Sage-Grouse Subgroup meets twice monthly. Ultimately, the project proponent, Pacific Power, will be responsible to develop a project-specific Habitat Mitigation Plan for residual impacts from the project to the Greater Sage-Grouse. She noted that mitigation discussions typically happen late in the permitting process and that it would be good to start them earlier to introduce more predictability for the proponent and the permitting entities.
 - Stephanie Stavrakas (USFWS) mentioned that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has mitigation banks and additional involvement of the Corps might be useful. Margi Hoffmann (Oregon Governor's Office) also mentioned the work the state of Oregon is doing with mitigation banks.
 - Jesus Sanchez referred to his previous experience with a municipality, which inventoried all critical areas needing habitat restoration and estimated associated costs. When a developer proposed a project, the municipality then provided the data upfront to assist in planning.
 - The group further clarified PNWRIT's role in mitigation planning as being tied to the scope of the specific PNWRIT priority projects.
 - John Chatburn (Idaho Governor's Office) noted that he would appreciate a technical briefing to the PNWRIT Steering Committee on installing various sizes of transmission lines underground. Stephanie added that both federal regulator and contractor perspectives should be discussed in the technical briefing paper.
 - The group discussed the potential for tribal involvement in the PNWRIT, in the context of the priority projects. Jesus Sanchez mentioned that the Tribes have been involved with BPA's Big

Eddy project. The group thought it would be valuable to hear about that project as a case study in lessons learned. Robin Estes mentioned that there could be opportunities to connect interested parties (e.g., Tribes, project proponents, and Native Plant Societies) on mitigation projects associated with the two PNWRIT priority projects in the near future.

- The group agreed to maintain focus on the Boardman-to-Hemingway and Vantage-to-Pomona Heights Projects for 2015. Jesus mentioned adding updates on Washington State's CIRC discussions, and keeping tribal involvement as an adjunct topic.
- The group decided they would have April, July, and September meetings, and ad hoc meetings as needed in 2015. Tentative dates for these meetings are April 28 (Boise, Idaho), July 22 (Portland, Oregon), and September 17 (Olympia, Washington). Additionally, the State of Oregon plans to host a Boardman-to-Hemingway Project meeting in the February/March timeframe, which the PNWRIT would attend.

2014 Annual Report

- Laurie opened the floor to request feedback on the 2014 Annual Report, asking the group if it accurately summarized key decisions and accomplishments.
- The group again discussed the importance of keeping the focus on identified challenges and lessons learned from regionally significant priority projects.

Next Steps, Tasks, and Next Meeting

- Laurie will work with appropriate parties to get the agenda and planning started for the Boardman-to-Hemingway meeting.
- Laurie thanked the group for their open dialogue, and the meeting was adjourned, with the next meeting tentatively planned to be in Boise, Idaho in April 28, 2015.

Action Items

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
Distribute Draft January meeting notes for review and comment	Susan Hurley/Laurie Kline	Week of January 26-30
Distribute Revised Annual Report for finalization.	Laurie Kline	Week of January 26-30
Plan the Boardman-to-Hemingway meeting. This meeting will be held in Boardman, Oregon.	Laurie Kline with Margi Hoffmann	February 2015
Develop technical presentation and white paper on undergrounding transmission lines.	Tetra Tech	April 2015
Plan the PNWRIT April meeting. Determine if Idaho is sponsoring the April meeting.	Laurie Kline with John Chatburn	February 2015
Schedule webinar on WGA RAPID tool.	Laurie Kline with Tara Low and Chris Scolari	April
Plan a case study presentation on tribal involvement in the Big Eddy Project.	Laurie Kline with Jesus Sanchez and Allison Brooks	April
Explore established regional mitigation banks for potential application to the projects.	Robin Estes, Tamara Gertsch and Jason Sutter	Throughout 2015