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North Slope Meeting
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 17, 1995
Richland Washington

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EDMC

Attendees

- Liz Block, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Rico Cruz, Nez Perce Tribe
- Janet Ebaugh, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Glenn Goldberg, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
- Randy Hill, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Kathy Leonard, Bechtel Hanford, Inc.
- Walter Perro, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Sally Simmons, Washington State University
- Sandy Simmons, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Linda Tunnell, Dames & Moore

Participants were introduced and a copy of "Alternative planting schemes" was passed out for review and discussion. There were five budget schemes encompassing different alternatives prepared by Army Corps of Engineers.

The plans were prepared with the idea of restoration on PSN 72/82, PSN 12/14, and Bridge Overlook. There are currently 6,000 bunchgrasses salvaged from the ERDF site. There will be at least one more day of salvaging, with the hope of getting another 1,000 plants. The agreed upon plan:

- One pick-up load of transplants (about 150-160 salvaged bunchgrasses) will be put in at Bridge Overlook, plus planting 254 sage tubelings in the road. The tubelings will be planted in clumps of 2 or 3 with 12-foot spacing between the clumps, or singly, and will be staggered to give a more natural appearance. There will be a control area at Bridge Overlook where 30 of the salvaged bunchgrasses will be put in an area of undisturbed soil. Transplants on Bridge Overlook will receive no maintenance watering.
- 6,400 salvaged bunchgrasses will be put in at PSN 12/14, to be evenly spaced, plus planting 2,718 sage and rabbit brush tubelings. The group decided to use PSN 12/14 to do some experiments in the importance of fertilizer and maintenance watering in restoration planting. Two of the pockets will be planted without fertilizer and will not receive maintenance watering in the spring, two pockets will be planted without fertilizer but will receive maintenance watering, and two pockets will be planted with fertilizer but won't receive maintenance watering. The remaining pockets will be planted with fertilizer and will receive maintenance watering. As a control, some of the transplants and tubelings will be planted in an undisturbed area adjacent to the landfill area.
- 600 salvaged bunchgrasses and 150 sage tubelings will be put in at PSN 72/82, with planting primarily around the mound on the south side of the road. Next fall, the north side of the road will be seeded with a mixture of native seed. This area will be covered with tarping to reduce weed infestation until seeding.

Because restoration efforts will be continuing over time at a variety of locations, if some specific questions can be answered on PSN 12/14, it might help to increase success for future restoration. Some of the questions which might be answered:

- Post watering/not
- Do the plants survive better in clumps or singly for sages
- Fertilize or not
- Grasses full/half/quarter density
- Rate of weed invasion
- Mortality of transplants and tubelings
- Seeding success (self seeding)
- Success of later plantings/volunteers
- Does soil disturbance make a difference to plant success/mortality

All designated plants will be watered with 3 gallons of water and fertilized with 2-3 tablespoons of fertilizer depending on the size of the plants, 3-4 inches beneath the roots, when they are put in the ground. U.S. Fish and Wildlife has indicated they may be able to provide a truck, tanker, and water to be used when the plants are planted for 3 of the planting sites.

Fencing was discussed on PSN 72/82, and it was decided to extend existing fencing and additional 500 feet using 4-strand barbed wire mounted on steel posts on either end, for a total of 1,000 feet of additional fencing, in an effort to protect planting from trespass vehicles entering from road L-SW.

Steel fence posts will be used as permanent markers at the corners of the planted areas.

Recountouring and soil amendments were eliminated from the immediate work plan. These items will be discussed in future meetings on the overall restoration plan. Fall planting and monitoring are also discussion items for future meetings.

ACTION: Randy Hill will check into using the USFWS watering truck and fire truck for watering plants during the transplant phase.

ACTION: Janet Ebaugh, Liz Block, Kathy Leonard, Sandy Simmons, Rico Cruz, Glenn Goldberg, Jay McConnaughey, and Don McWethy will set out the markers to indicate which plants will go where on the three restoration sites.

*ACTION: Sandy Simmons will contact Jay McConnaughey and Robert Kent to determine fencing requirements at PSN 12/14.

*For PSN 12/14, several ways were discussed to discourage vehicular traffic on the temporary access road - gates, fence trenches, land mines. During discussions between Jay McConnaughey, Robert Kent, and Sandy Simmons, the decision was made to put up two signs, one at the entrance to the road and one at the edge of the staging pad. The signs will say something like: "Habitat Restoration Area, Do Not Disturb."