

North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1927-008

Issue:

Forest worked **collaboratively with eight parties** to **relicense** the **185-megawatt project** covering **3,200 acres** in the **headwaters** of the North Umpqua River on the Umpqua National Forest. The Project provides habitat to several **salmon** species and is above **33.8 miles** of **Wild and Scenic River**.

Background:

- ❑ Project was **built between 1947 and 1956** under the terms of a 50-year license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- ❑ Forest Service participated in the **relicensing process since 1991** to determine the new license conditions necessary for protection and utilization of the Umpqua National Forest.
- ❑ **Eight-party settlement agreement** was signed in June 2001.
- ❑ FERC issued a **new license** for the Project in November 2003.
- ❑ The **license was appealed** to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by local environmental groups in May 2004.
- ❑ The Ninth Circuit Court **ruled in favor** of the FERC and Forest Service in September 2005.
- ❑ The FERC license **became final** on October 25, 2005.
- ❑ Forest Service, in consultation with other parties, has **developed eight management plans** ranging from recreation to transportation and stream gaging to aesthetics.
- ❑ **Implementing the Settlement Agreement measures** could cost PacifiCorp approximately \$29.4 million annually with power benefits of about \$39.7 million.

Examples of Opportunities:

- ❑ PacifiCorp funds operation and maintenance of campgrounds within the boundary of the Project.
- ❑ The Forest receives **\$250,000** each year to offset the project's adverse impacts to aquatic, terrestrial and other natural resources.
- ❑ The Forest will receive **\$8 million** in eight disbursements over a 24 year period.
- ❑ Eight wetlands will be enhanced or newly constructed
- ❑ Constructing a **fish ladder** at Soda Springs Dam will result in **6.6 miles of historical habitat for anadromous fish** by 7th anniversary of the new license.
- ❑ Constructing **tailrace barriers** to keep anadromous fish from being injured or killed by jumping at the false attraction flows from powerhouse tailraces.



Site for section 8.3 of the settlement agreement that was constructed and developed 12,000 - 17,000 square feet of spawning habitat below Soda Springs Dam.

Opportunities *(continued)*

- ❑ Construction of **screens** to keep fish out of canals, penstocks, and generators.
- ❑ Instream flows **increased** under new license.
- ❑ Several streams will be **reconnected and flows returned** to their historic channels.

Parties to the Settlement Agreement:

- ❑ PacifiCorp
- ❑ USDA – Forest Service
- ❑ USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service
- ❑ USDC – National Marine Fisheries
- ❑ USDI – Bureau of Land Management
- ❑ Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- ❑ Oregon Department of Water Resources
- ❑ Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

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