To: Croxton, Dave[Croxton.David@epa.gov]; Owens, Kim[Owens.Kim@epa.gov]; Cope, Ben[Cope.Ben@epa.gov]
From: Rueda, Helen
Sent: Wed 2/19/2014 3:46:42 PM
Subject: Pend Oreille PUD FERC

The Ecology lead for FERC is Pat Maguire, but he is new and not really up to speed on what is going on with Pend Oreille PUD's implementation. I talked to Karin Baldwin, the lady at Ecology in Spokane who mostly wrote the TMDL. She is back working on TMDLs and is going to be at the meeting on the 17th. I asked her if she knew anything about what the Tribe was dissatisfied with in the PUD implementation. This is what she had to say:

- The PUD contributed money to decommissioning a dam on Sullivan Creek, but, because this structure is downstream of the PUD dam, this did not count toward their FERC implementation (apparently it counted towards Seattle City Light's implementation). Sounds like the PUD may have discovered this after they paid the money.
- The Tribe has expressed interest (in the past) about restoration work in side channels to the river to create cold water refugia. This makes me think of the side channel just upstream of the Reservation that has such a warming effect on the river in that reach.
- In her past discussions with Joe Maroney he had expressed interest in the dam operators coming up with creative solutions to the fish habitat issues in the Pend Oreille, but did not have specific projects or ideas himself. (This is similar to what Macie Mangold, the previous FERC coordinator at Ecology, said about asking the Tribe for implementation projects and they couldn't come up with anything specific.)
- Karin's husband works for the Tribe. A couple weeks ago he volunteered to do mountain whitefish egg mat surveys. These fish apparently lay their eggs on the bottom of the river. In 30 egg mats there were only two eggs found. Karin's impression was that the Tribe would like to restore their fishery, and not necessarily just their bull trout fishery.
- Though Karin did not mention the Tribe's position on it, she talked about the shoreline re-vegetation plan that is part of the TMDL implementation. This has proven very controversial. (We saw an example of this with the Kootenai Tribe wanting to consult on the TMDL because some Tribal members owned property along the river and did not want to be told how to manage it.) Though the TMDL model shows that riparian shade would not decrease river temperatures noticeably, it would help stabilize the banks which are glacial outwash and very erodible. Wakes from boats and other recreational craft cause a lot of erosion.
- In so far as Albeni Falls Dam is concerned the Tribe is interested in restoring bull trout passage. They are using the $24 million they got from BPA to
    - Purchase upland sites and pay for studies of upland bull trout habitat
    - Lowering the reservoir in the winter
    - Trying different flow regimes to see what improves conditions for fish

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