

**ID TEAM MEETING
March 29, 1994**

ATTENDEES

Bill Hauser
Gerry Sanger
Karen Klinge
Rod Kuhn
Tim Holder

HANDOUTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Agenda
Walcoff Figures

Bill - a couple of items which need to be considered are currently funded work and timeframe. I picked out the things which affect me. I am having trouble with titles.

I need a better understanding in order to do cumulative effects. Do we need to talk about writing formats in describing an action? There are certain concerns I want to discuss under each action.

Karen - the pattern that Bill has been doing so far makes a lot of sense.

Bill - should I blow out all the subheadings or leave them in?

Rod - we only have four levels defined right now. Maybe I should look at creating a fifth and sixth level of headers.

Rod diagramed the following:

Structure of Chapter 4 Resource Impacts

- Description - Project
 - Suitable Site
 - Project Consideration
- Potential Applications
- Potential Effects
 - Beneficial
 - Drawbacks
- Conclusions
 - Short-term
 - Long-term

Karen - a lot of mine won't have differences between areas. There are no geographic constraints.

Rod - the TC is sensitive to the aerial distributions of these things.

Bill - I am careful to avoid using PWS unless I really mean PWS. You could list everything and go through a check off.

Karen - for the no action section, I have started with harbor seals. They are one species where we don't have any estimate of recovery. One problem is there are many ways to define recovery when the resource has recovered. For harbor seals, I listed the three most talked about definitions of recovery:

- 1) when the population has increased by 300 individuals (you regain what was lost)
- 2) when the population has returned to its 1970 abundance
- 3) when the population is comparable to those in nonoiled areas

Each of these means something different. Your mechanism should be based on what you are trying to gain.

Rod - our goal for recovery from a NEPA standpoint is how we are changing from where we are now.

Karen - when measuring how effective something is, it depends on what the endpoint is you are trying to get back to. We need to state what recovery means.

For pink salmon, the injury from the spill is egg mortality. The expected recovery is not based on when that egg mortality disappears, and it is not based on egg mortality as a metric of recovery.

Rod - you are using those numbers as what we define as long term.

Bill - I just define long term.

Rod - from a NEPA standpoint, we don't need to define recovery. The only benefit we have is what has been published so far. The brochure didn't have answers for all the questions. You could assume long-term effects based on what we know about the species in the past 20 years.

Tim - you make assumptions.

Karen - I won't try to guess. We could talk about the benefits of certain activities. There are some things that could be done to reduce other factors of mortality.

Rod - if they do nothing, you have some sort of trajectory that has to be assumed. We don't know if we are flat or on a down trajectory. You would have to talk with other people to find out what to assume.

Bill - the approach I am taking is to say I can demonstrate that a tool does work.

Gerry - the problem with birds, murrelets especially, is the estimates of population are so far in error. I don't see any damage right now.

Rod - recovery/nonrecovery is not the sole cut on why we are studying some of these critters. Murrelets are something people have a concern for, so we are studying the impacts to them.

From a NEPA standpoint, we need to say what the benefit is going to be to the population for protecting the habitat.

Bill - it may not be worth a lot other than to say that the critical habitat for murrelets can only happen through protection.

Gerry - all the moreso because private land is being heavily logged and affecting murrelet habitat. I don't know what else I can say.

Rod - from a habitat standpoint, there are some suitable site characteristics. There are some limitations as to where they occur in the area. The benefit will be when we can plug all this in with the habitat group.

Gerry - maybe I need to spell out some of the problems of estimating. We don't know the productivity rate.

Bill - why don't you just take the word of the people that made the Restoration Plan and brochure. Based on the information we got, this is what is going to happen.

Rod - you can get in a lot of quagmire but you can stay out of it. A lot of these factors cancel each other out and are baseline to either case. There isn't any greater level of precision. There are so many variables with willing sellers and willing buyers.

Bill - we won't guess what parcels are going to be purchased. We will just assume they are scattered throughout the spill area. Some parcels have no value for fish and high value for birds.

Rod - habitat protection is going to be the missing piece.

As much as we can, we should be semi-quantitative of what high, medium, and low mean.

Tim - for any given resource, you need to say what the future is going to be without any proposed action. Then it is a relative change to whatever that assumption is. Make an assumption even when you don't have data. It is the relative difference that is the important part.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

It is not everything that we have done or plan to do. It is what we are proposing plus what other people are doing. The key to cumulative effects is what else is going to be going on besides what we propose in any of our alternatives. It is what the world would be like outside of our stuff. In looking at where we are affecting things, what other activities could affect the resources? For the resources we are analyzing, what could affect those? The analogy they use is a watershed. If there are other landowners doing something beside your watershed, what is the total effect on that stream?

Rod diagramed the following:

Cumulative Effects

- Bering River Coal Development
- Road to Whittier
- Road to Cordova
- Lower Cook Inlet Oil
- Subsistence Changes - Fish
- Earthquake
- 19-year Climatic Cycle
- Volcanic
- Cordova Harbor Dredging
- Trans-Alaska Gas Pipeline
- Subsistence - Sea Otters
- Pac Fish
- Endangered Species Act
- Changes in Management Structure

Bill - because we include things, doesn't mean they are going to happen. If we include something, we say if it is implemented, it will have some effect on management.

Rod - in cumulative effects, you are not looking at what nature dishes out. You are dealing with "other actions".

Bill - any change in the management strategies will affect the ecosystem.

Rod - what we are trying to do is come up with what we are going to use as our

prediction of the future.

Rod - I have gone through Chapter 3 which is back from the editor. I need each person to read through their part to see if things are on or off base. Exercise some control in marking up the copy.

Gerry - how do we provide the requested information?

Rod - I need to have the information so Barbara can put it in.

Gerry - Spies says that draft reports are not official data.

Karen - you could note that it is preliminary analyses.

Rod - we don't want to do a lot of ibids or other things that might be found in a more scholarly work.

Bill - there are some things so goofy that I don't think we should even consider.

Karen - the use of EVOS can get awkward.

Rod - the MMS revisions are color coded: citations- pink, acronyms-yellow, figures and tables-blue. We don't have to accept all the revisions. We have to be consistent across resources.

I printed out the figures left over from the Walcoff document and distributed copies. If anyone sees a need to use any of them, they are on the computer.

I received a call from DNR asking what type of GIS maps would be needed.

Karen - it would be helpful to have a private-land map, showing where the parcels are.

Rod - DNR has \$5,000. It is not a problem to have the maps done.

Bill - the size, color and type of maps depend on what we are trying to convey.

Karen - we may need oiled shoreline maps dealing with where intertidal work might be done.

Rod - artwork is another matter altogether. If you have some clean artwork, we could cut it and put it in.

You can incorporate it if it is useful to your section.

We are starting to sort through Chapter 4.

We are closing in on the budget (5%). The currently funded budget flies in the face of what some of the attorneys want us to do. The bottom line is we analyze from the beginning of this Draft Restoration Plan.

Tim - will I be expected to participate in public meetings?

Rod - not necessarily.

I anticipate the pace will pick up in mid-July.

Meeting adjourned.