

# Merwin Upstream Collection and Transport Facility Project



The Merwin Upstream Collection and Transport Facility, located just below the lowermost of PacifiCorp's Lewis River Hydroelectric dams, is designed to allow fish moving upstream to make their way to spawning grounds safely. The goal is to re-ignite migratory fish runs above the three dams.

The facility will do this by creating flow conditions to attract in-migrating fish, typically adult salmon and steelhead. Once the fish are collected, they will be sorted at the facility for transport to the upper Lewis River above Swift Reservoir.

The work is being completed as part of the operating licenses granted to PacifiCorp and the Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2008 after a lengthy settlement process involving more than two dozen agencies, tribes and local groups.

The fish passage project will cost the utilities about \$50 million, and is among the most prominent work underway. But the project is only part of an ongoing commitment that encompasses wildlife enhancement, recreation and flood management.

This project has five main parts:

- Attraction water system
- Fish ladder and hoist
- Holding tank
- Sorting facility
- Truck loading bay

## How does the project work?

Adult fish return to the Lewis River and are attracted to the intake facility by river water coming out at a steady stream, which

mimics a natural current and leads the fish away from the working parts of the dam and powerhouse where the fish could be injured.

The fish follow this current up a short fish ladder that ends in a trap basket on a hoist that delivers the fish to the holding tank and sorting facility. The fish are sorted based on species, origin (hatchery or wild fish), and point of origin if that can be determined (by tags or fin clips).

Once sorted, fish take a short ride in specially designed trucks that take them to the hatchery, or upstream of the dams, to be released and allowed to spawn naturally in the stream beds of the Lewis River and its tributaries.

## Construction timeline

The project began in March 2011 and will be in operation by December 2012.

For more information about our habitat restoration projects on the Lewis River, please visit [pacificorp.com/lewisriver](http://pacificorp.com/lewisriver).

### Merwin Upstream Trap – General Site Plan

#### Phase I

- Corner Trap
- Pump Station
- 400cfs max
- Fish Lift
- Sorting Facility

#### Phase II

- Add entrance or
- Add Pump
- 600cfs max
- Split flows between entrances

