## LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator:	ERIK LESKO 503-412-8401
Location:	TEAMS MEETING ONLY
Date:	March 10, 2022
Time:	9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

#### AGENDA ITEMS

9:30 AM	<ul> <li>Welcome</li> <li>➢ Review and Accept 3/10/2022 Agenda</li> <li>➢ Review and Accept 2/10/2022 Meeting Notes</li> </ul>
10:00 AM	Public Comment Opportunity
10:15 AM	Lewis River Reach 21 Presentation Kate Day
11:00 AM	<ul> <li>Study/Work Product Updates</li> <li>Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update</li> <li>Reservoir Shoreline Development Projects</li> <li>ATS Update</li> <li>FPS Update &amp; Future Fish Passage</li> <li>Decision: FPS Charter</li> <li>Fish Passage Update</li> <li>USFWS update on fish stranding above Swift (tentative)</li> </ul>
11:45 AM	Next Meeting's Agenda Public Comment Opportunity
12:00 PM	Meeting Adjourn

Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: <u>https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html</u>

#### Join on your computer or mobile app

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Or call in (audio only)

+1 563-275-5003,,644857650# United States, Davenport

Phone Conference ID: 644 857 650#

#### FINAL Meeting Notes Lewis River License Implementation Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting March 10, 2022 TEAMS Meeting Only

#### ACC Representatives and Affiliates Present (16)

Bridget Moran, American Rivers Sarah Montgomery Anchor QEA Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Steve West, LCFRB Bonnie Shorin, NMFS Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited Kate Day, USFS Jeff Garnett, USFWS (joined at 10:40 a.m.) Aaron Roberts, WDFW Bryce Glaser, WDFW Greg Robertson, USFS Peggy Miller, WDFW Josua Holowatz, WDFW Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation

#### Guests (0)

None

#### **Calendar:**

March 10, 2022	ACC Meeting	TEAMS
		Meeting

Assignments from March 10, 2022	Status
Erik Lesko and Kate Day: Schedule a site visit to the USFS restoration projects in the Lewis River basin in summer 2022.	Ongoing.
Erik Lesko: Follow up with Todd Olson to see if aquatic invasive signage can be added as a minimization measure in shoreline management approvals (such as for the Camper's Hideaway Dock Expansion project).	Complete 3/22/2022
Erik Lesko: Check on the status of the nutrient enhancement project planned for summer 2022.	Complete. 3/22/2022
Erik Lesko: Check on the operating band for Merwin Reservoir and why the drawdown to 11.2 feet occurred in March.	Complete. 3/22/2022

Assignments from February 10, 2022	Status
Erik Lesko: Revise the questions in the Aquatic Fund Scoring Template to incorporate feedback from 2022 process and provide a revised template for the ACC to consider. Review process recommendations.	Ongoing (May ACC Meeting).
Erik Lesko: Provide monthly updates regarding proposed reservoir shoreline development projects.	Complete (added to agendas).

Assignments from January 13, 2022	Status
Erik Lesko: Present monitoring strategies for fish stranding assessments	
in Swift Reservoir in 2022 with the ACC in April.	ACC Meeting).

Assignments from November 16, 2021	Status
All: Provide comments on the Aquatic Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP) to Chris Karchesky by February 15, 2022.	Complete.
Erik Lesko: Extend the Aquatic Fund period of performance for the Chum Channel Project.	Ongoing. Complete 4/7/2022

#### **Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes**

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and reviewed the agenda. Lesko reordered agenda and added an administrative update.

Lesko reviewed the February 10, 2022, meeting notes. The meeting notes were approved at 9:42 a.m., with clarifying edits from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and PacifiCorp.

#### **Public Comment Opportunity**

None.

#### Reach 21

Kate Day introduced Greg Robertson (USFS) to the ACC, who provided an overview of two projects currently underway that are partially funded by Lewis River Aquatic Funds: the Lower Lewis River Reach 21 project, and Spencer Creek alluvial fan project. Robertson also provided an overview of USFS restoration projects in the Lewis River basin in 2022 and beyond. Slides from the presentation are provided as Attachment A and comments and questions are summarized below.

Robertson said another interesting component of this project was that the contractor delivered more trees than were required, which provided additional large woody material to install in the stream. Wood was placed in the alluvial fan of Rush Creek.

Robertson said this photo from 2021 shows accumulation of wood at the face of the log jam that was installed, and gravel is appearing at the crest of the bar. The following slide shows a lack of wood in this same area prior to construction.

Robertson said this slide shows several large log jams after a high flow event. More wood has been recruited at the face of the jam, including a large cedar tree.

Robertson said the USGS gage above the Muddy River does not include Rush Creek, but generally shows that 2016 had very high flows. Overall, the structures have held up well during high flows and wood continues to accumulate.

Robertson said 500 trees were installed for the Spencer Creek project compared to the proposed number of 200 pieces. The purpose of this project was to increase the stream gradient in the lower reaches of Spencer Creek and increase the scour at the toe of the alluvial fan. Overall, this helps the stream to remain watered throughout periods of low flow.

Robertson said gravels are appearing that will create spawning opportunities. He said it will be interesting to see where redd surveys observe spawning in or near the project area. He summarized the major challenges of the project as very limited space and time to complete the work due to northern spotted owl work timing restrictions.

Robertson summarized upcoming project activities and potential Aquatic Fund projects. Lesko asked if funding has been acquired for all the projects that will be implemented in 2022 except for Campground Creek. Day said legal approval is pending for that project, but the rest of the funding has been acquired.

Day proposed a site visit to the project areas in summer or fall 2022, which ACC representatives present were interested in. Lesko and Day will work to schedule a site visit.

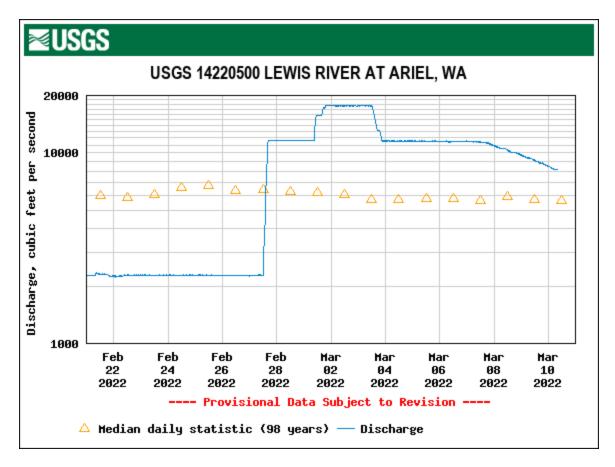
Karchesky asked whether any anecdotal information about fish use of the project area is available. Robertson said he was not there during spawning season. Doyle noted that he observed coho redds in the upper portions of Rush Creek during bull trout surveys.

#### **Study/Work Product Updates**

#### **Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update**

Merwin Reservoir – currently down 11.2 ft Yale Reservoir – currently down 13.5 ft Swift Reservoir – currently down 12.9 ft Total current hole – about 37.6 feet

Lesko said outflow from Merwin is at 8,170 cfs and the minimum streamflow at Merwin is 2,200 cfs. Natural outflow at Merwin is 5,729 cfs. He shared the weekly discharge graph that shows a rain event in late February that resulted in spill at Merwin for a few days.



Miller asked what the operating band is for Merwin Reservoir, as it is a reregulating reservoir. Lesko confirmed it is a reregulating reservoir, and said the elevation is typically consistent. Usually, it is drawn down about four to five feet, and it is currently drawn down over 11 feet. Miller agreed and said she is not sure whether the 11.2-foot drawdown is within the operating band, or if it is drawn down specifically for a project. Lesko said he is not aware of any projects that would be causing this restriction but will check and report back to the ACC. Karchesky suggested it might have to do with the high flows that came through the Swift FSC but this would be good to check on given the forecast for more rain next week.

#### **Shoreline Development Update**

Lesko said ACC representatives had asked him for updates on shoreline development projects in the reservoirs. Lesko said PacifiCorp has a shoreline management permitting (SMP) process for approving projects within the shoreline management zone of all three reservoirs. Once PacifiCorp approves a project, applicants must then apply to state and federal regulatory agencies to seek the necessary approvals and permits to begin their projects. As an ongoing update, Lesko will provide updated to the ACC on new applications to PacifiCorp under the shoreline Management permitting process. There are currently three projects proposed or approved within PacifiCorp's shoreline management jurisdiction (Attachment B).

The first project is a single-family dock replacement project in Swift Reservoir, in the Northwoods area. Lesko said this family applied to rebuild their dock, and PacifiCorp requested further edits to the design and permit package before it can be approved.

The second project is a dock expansion project at Camper's Hideaway in Lake Merwin. It includes an expansion of the boat dock, parking area, repairs, and other activities. He said the

number of new boat slips (> 10) for the dock expansion exceeds PacifiCorp's authority to approve the project and must seek approval by the FERC before approving the project to move forward. Overall, the project intends to double the leased dock area and expand the rental dock area. Lesko showed design drawings for the project (Attachment B). Holowatz noted that the proposed structure type for the dock would not be a permeable or perforated surface and would not allow light through to the water below the structure. Shorin noted that this type of structure will likely not make it through federal permitting. Light-penetrating docks are preferred. Shorin also asked whether there is any signage at the access points regarding boat inspection and cleaning for invasive aquatic species. Lesko said he knows that type of signage is posted at public boat ramps, but as this is a private boat ramp, he is not sure. If signage was needed, PacifiCorp's Recreation Manager would address that. Lesko noted that he will follow up with staff to see if aquatic invasive signage is a requirement for approval of the project. Holowatz noted that Asian clams are already present in Yale Reservoir and agreed that any signage addressing aquatic invasive species would be welcome.

The third project is a dock and gangway in Yale Reservoir that was completed in October 2021. Lesko said this project was for a homeowner to put in a large dock, which includes a 140-foot gangway from the shore to the 940-square foot dock. This dock has a light-penetrating surface, which was a permit requirement. He said he understands that private docks cannot necessarily exclude the public from docking, which often comes up in the permitting process.

Miller thanked Lesko for the updates. She said her office at WDFW only sees permits that go through any FERC-related processes, so there is much occurring in the reservoirs that she would be unaware of. She noted that other programs at WDFW would be involved at different stages of the permitting process. Miller noted that she has seen an increasing encouragement at WDFW for homeowners to consider multi-family docks to decrease the total number of structures and total amount of over-water cover occurring in reservoirs and lakes. Moran and Lesko agreed that this is a preferred approach.

Lesko asked Miller why the projects generally do not have to go through a FERC permitting process. Miller said the FERC license includes an article about issuing easements on project lands, where FERC only needs to be notified if the easement is for more than 10 boat slips.

Sharp thanked Lesko for the update. Sharp said it would be helpful if NMFS could share the applications with the ACC at the permitting stage to provide an opportunity for input or review. He also suggested that WDFW could consider increasing angler opportunities at docks to encourage the capture of predatory fish. Holowatz said any fishing regulation change would present many issues from a policy standpoint, but pikeminnow can be fished for year-round. Shorin asked which agency will have the federal nexus for Endangered Species Act evaluations if FERC authorization is not needed. She suggested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) would have authority due to Section 404 or Section 10. Asher said the Corps biologist said the Corps will not claim jurisdiction or require a 404 or Section 10 permit because the anchors used for the dock structure are pre-cast concrete, which is not considered regulated fill. Shorin said she will consider how the project might have a federal nexus and require ESA consultation because it seems odd that it would not. Miller said, though not a federal nexus, the projects will require a JARPA permit and will go to DNR for approval. Glaser agreed and said JARPAs are processed through WDFW's habitat program, so one of the habitat biologists should be aware of the project and tracking it.

#### Fish Passage Subcommittee Update and Decision Document

Bryce Glaser provided an update from the Fish Passage Subcommittee (FPS). He said the FPS met in February for their standing meeting and focused mainly on finishing edits to the FPS Charter and associated Decision Document. He said the FPS provided the documents to the ACC for review and are requesting a vote of approval today. Glaser reviewed the Charter and Decision Document (Attachment C). The Charter describes the role of the FPS in relation to the ACC and their scope. The Charter includes background information on the FPS and describes that they will work on issues related to future fish passage, such as planning, evaluating studies and design options, and new technologies. The FPS provides a technical subgroup to help inform the ACC. The Decision Document is the approval mechanism for the ACC to direct the FPS to execute what is described in the Charter. Glaser said the FPS representatives have all reviewed and approved of the Charter and draft Decision Document, and asked PacifiCorp staff whether they have read it and are prepared to vote on it today. Lesko and Karchesky said they have reviewed the documents and do not object to moving to a vote.

The ACC voted to approve the Decision Document, and votes are recorded in the Decision Document. Members present who voted during the meeting included: Moran, Asher, Byrne, Day, West, Sharp, Lesko, Shorin, Garnett, and Glaser.

Lesko said he will distribute the Decision Document for a 7-day ACC review and fill in the remaining gaps in the document.

Glaser said the other update from the FPS is that they are in a data-gathering mode and working to pull information together that was used to inform past fish passage activities, like the Swift FSC and upgrades to the Merwin adult collector. Miller said it is likely that the FPS will request information from PacifiCorp and asked what the best venue for those requests is. Lesko said the ACC is the right venue, and specific requests can be emailed to PacifiCorp (himself, Karchesky, Todd Olson, and Montgomery).

#### **ATS Update**

Erik Lesko said the ATS is currently working to finish the 2022 AOP. Additional work has been needed to finalize the genetics protocols, which WDFW has been working on, and the monitoring and evaluation section, which Anchor QEA is helping with. Lesko now expects a review draft to be available by the end of March. Though the draft has taken longer to pull together than expected, it is a significant rewrite of the monitoring and evaluation section and makes significant progress in addressing needs of the H&S Plan.

Karchesky noted that the Aquatic Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP) is with the Services for final approval and should be submitted to FERC by the end of the month.

## Merwin Fish Passage Update (see also Attachment D for the November Fish Passage Report)

Chris Karchesky reported that the Merwin Trap was currently in operation. A brief planned outage to the facility's lift and conveyance system occurred the week of February 28 to prepare for late winter steelhead broodstock collection. Late winter steelhead have begun returning to the facility, and to date, 110 fish have been taken upstream. Approximately 10 fish have been taken for broodstock. Collections are anticipated to increase through March and April. Spring Chinook are also returning—so far, three have been collected and one natural-origin fish has been taken for brood. Collections are expected to increase as the season progresses. Holowatz noted that the

spring Chinook run is estimated to be 2,300 fish to the Lewis River basin, after mainstem fisheries are accounted for. He noted the fishing season for adult Chinook will close on April 30.

## Swift Floating Surface Collector (see also Attachment E for the December Fish Passage Report)

Chris Karchesky reported that the Swift Reservoir FSC was currently in operation. A high-water event occurred earlier in the month that resulted in a high debris load, though fish passage continued throughout the high debris due to improvements made to the facility in summer 2021. He said coho parr are the majority of fish being collected and are entering the facility in above-average numbers, which is consistent with the expectation for this broodyear. Consultant staff will be on site the week of March 14 to set up for the collection efficiency evaluation. Short outages may be required to set up hydrophones.

#### Lewis River Fish Passage

See Attachment F.

Josua Holowatz noted that there is a large run of eulachon in the Lewis River and Cowlitz River, which has brough significant eagle and pinniped activity to the area and its tributaries. He noted the fishery was very successful with over 166,000 pounds of smelt landed.

#### Lewis River Future Fish Passage

Lesko said he does not have an update from PacifiCorp on future fish passage.

#### Services Update on Fish Stranding Above Swift Dam

Jeff Garnett said the USFWS received requested data from PacifiCorp and continue to work through the data. Shorin said NMFS is similarly continuing to review data and noted ongoing workload constraints at NMFS.

Lesko said as he continues to develop the protocol to address stranding in Swift Reservoir in 2022, he may look for NMFS and USFWS to provide input at the draft stage. He said as they continue to review the data, please let him know if there are any data that would be helpful to collect in 2022 in anticipation of future potential Biological Opinion conservation measures.

#### **Administrative Updates**

Lesko said he has submitted an extension for the Chum Channel project, a change order, and funding approval for the Swift Camp Creek project, which PacifiCorp's legal team is working to process. Day asked about the status of the nutrient enhancement project in 2022. Lesko said he also submitted an extension for that funding and will check on its status.

The Lewis River 2021 Annual Report will be available for the ACC's 30-day review around April 15.

Lesko asked the ACC for any feedback regarding the Teams meetings, handouts, and notes. ACC representatives present concurred that virtual meetings are best for now, and if in-person meetings resume in the future, it will still be necessary to have a virtual call-in option. Lesko said that virtual meeting will continue through 2022, and that the ACC can revisit the meeting format at the end of the year.

Day said that Kyle Wright (USFS) will fill her position on the ACC temporarily, starting on March 28, while she is on temporary assignment in the Wenatchee office assisting with fire recovery activities. She said Wright is a hydraulics and fisheries engineer and will join the ACC

for approximately 4 months. She will still be the main point of contact for any contracting or legal needs.

#### **Public Comment Opportunity**

None present.

#### Agenda Items for April 14, 2022

- Review March 10, 2022, Meeting Notes
- Swift Stranding Update (potential)
- Aquatic Fund Scoring Template Updates
- Study/Work Product Updates

Adjourn 11:30 am

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

April 14, 2022	
Teams Call Only	
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	

#### **Meeting Handouts & Attachments**

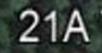
- $\blacktriangleright$  Meeting Notes from 2/10/2022
- ➤ Agenda from 3/10/2022
- > Attachment A USFS Aquatic Funds Projects Update
- > Attachment B Shoreline Development Project Updates
- > Attachment C Fish Passage Subcommittee Decision Document Approving Charter
- Attachment D Merwin Adult Trap Collection Report (February 2022)
- Attachment E Swift FSC Facility Collection Report (February 2022)
- Attachment F Lewis River Fish Passage Report (February 2022)

# Gifford Pinchot National Forest

AQUATICS FUND PROJECTS UPDATE GREG ROBERTSON, FISHERIES BIOLOGIST MARCH 10, 2022 AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

# Lewis River Reach 21

- On the Ground Completion Fall 2018-19
- Total Cost- \$357K (\$175K ACC funds, \$179K USFS In-kind, \$3K partner In-kind)
- Challenges- Limited operating space/staging area, short instream work window and NSO LOP



E

# k Confluence

# FY 18 Reach 21 project

# Top Cross Section 2



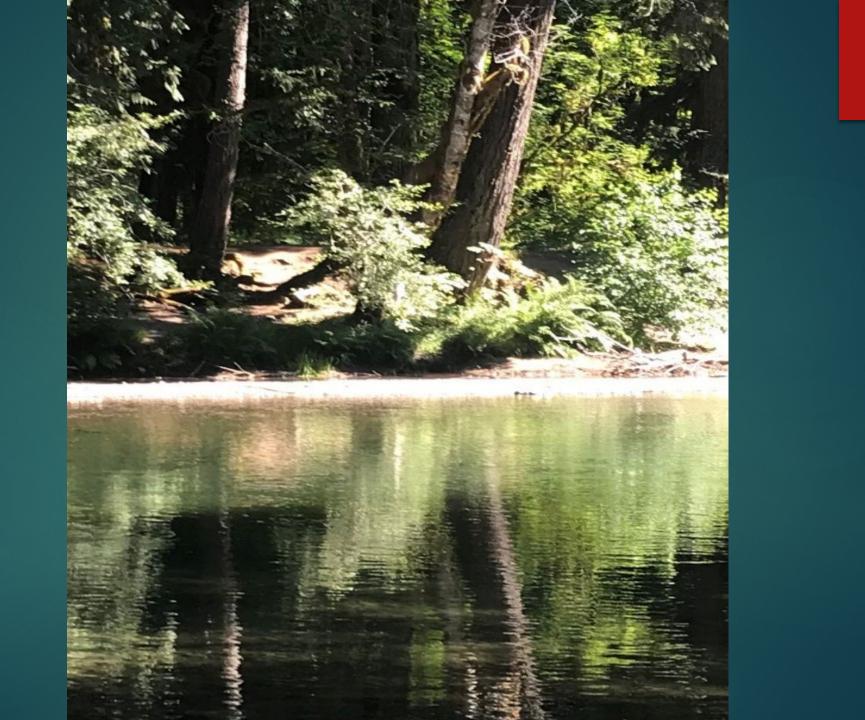








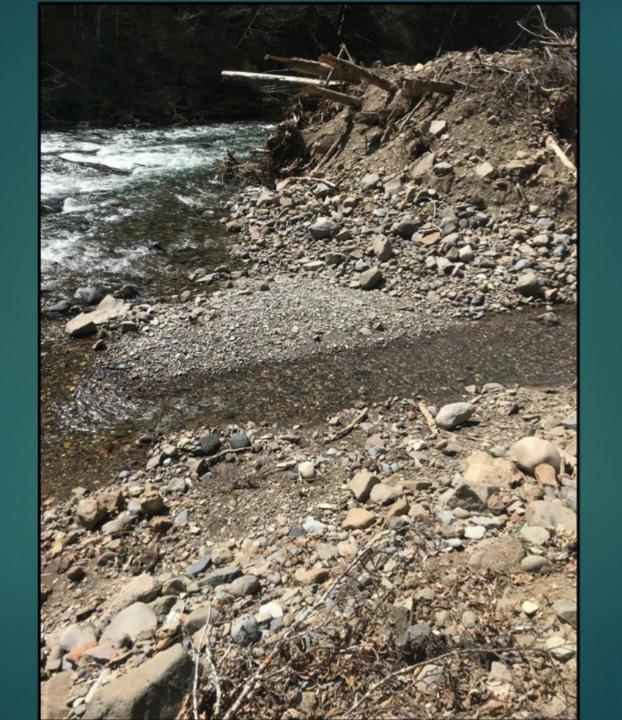


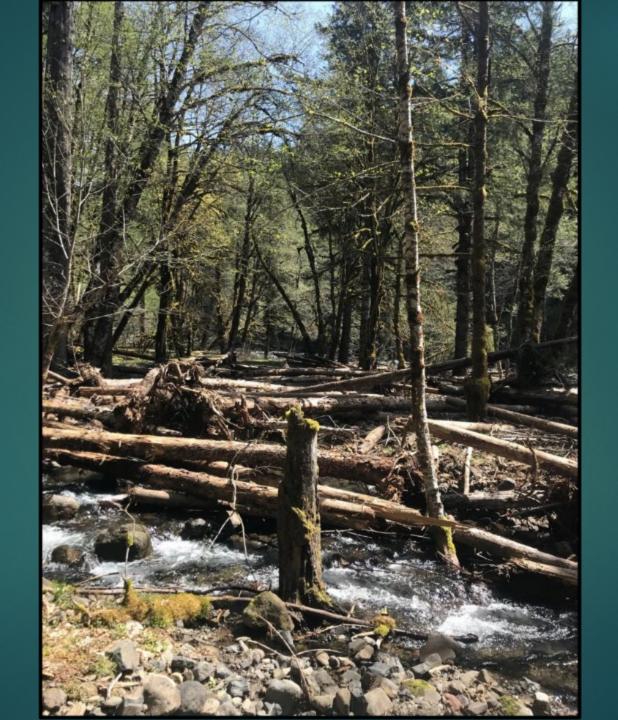


USGS Gaging Station Name:		Lewis above Muddy		
		PEAK	PEAK_FLOW_	
		FLOW	VALUE_Q(cfs)	
	1	2016	28200	
	2	1934	27000	
	3	1974	27000	
	4	2021	19400	
	5	2007	18700	
	6	1973	17200	
	7	1972	16400	
	8	2008	15900	
	9	2018	15700	
	10	1963	15600	
	11	1965	15200	
	12	1967	15200	
	13	2011	14600	
	14	1970	14100	
	15	1961	13100	
	16	2009	12200	
	17	2013	11800	
	18	2017	11800	
	19	1931	11600	
	20	1968	11300	
	21	1933	10300	
	22	2014	9990	
	23	2012	9710	
	24	2020	9580	

# Spencer Creek

- On the Ground Completion Fall 2018
- Total Cost- \$181K (\$94K ACC funds, \$83K USFS In-kind, \$4K partner In-kind)
- Challenges- Limited operating space/staging area, short instream work window and NSO LOP

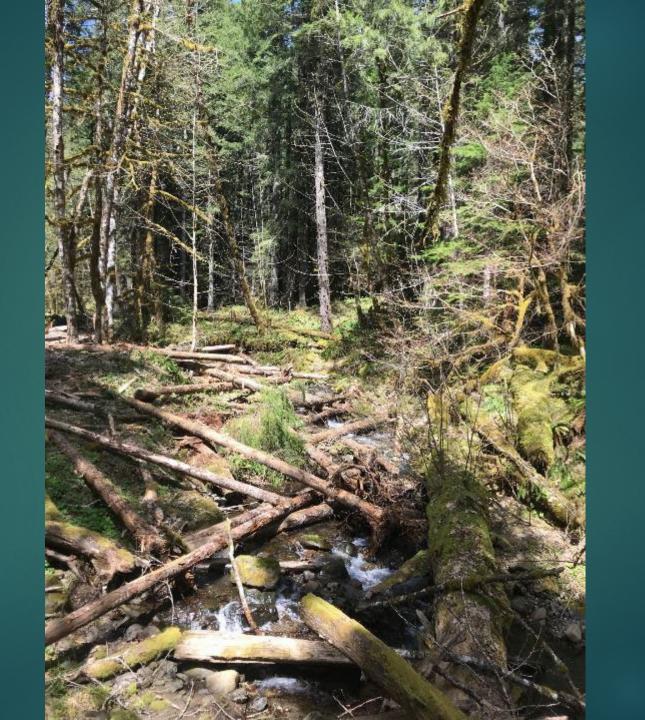
















### 2022 Project Plans

- Clear/Clearwater Creek are being awarded for initial feasibility analysis and design in 2022
- Contracts for Rush Creek Restoration and Pepper Creek Hydrologic Stabilization awarded to Aquatic Contracting for implementation in 2022
- Swift Campground Creek Culvert Replacement designs in contracting process for design in 2022 pending final contract and funding award from PacifiCorp

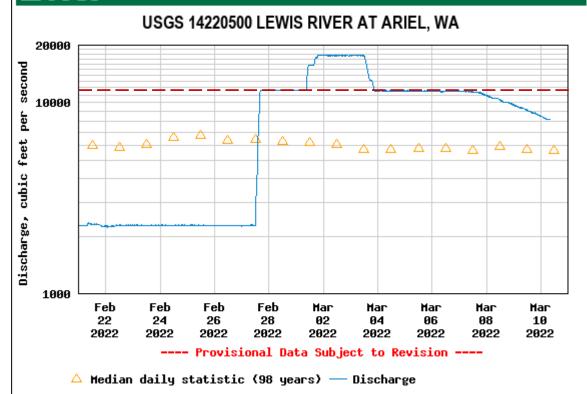
### ▶ Where we are going in 2023 and beyond...

- Clear/Clearwater Creek construction implementation in 2023 pending funding
- Lewis River 21, 22, and beyond corridor being worked on internally within USFS (trail, trail bridges, dispersed camping, etc.)
- Swift Campground construction 90 rd. AOP implementation pending funding 2023-24

# Reservoir and Flow Update

- Swift Reservoir 987' (-12.9')
- Yale Reservoir 476.5' (-13.5')
- Merwin Reservoir 228.4' (-11.2')
- Total Reservoir draft = 37.6'
- Merwin outflow = 8,170 cfs
- Minimum streamflow (@ Merwin) = 2,200 cfs
- Natural flow (@Merwin) = 5,729 cfs

### ≊USGS



# Shoreline Development Projects

DEVELOPMENT	APPLICANT	LOCATION	STATUS
Dock Replacement	Travis and Elisa Primm	Northwoods, Swift Reservoir	Permitting
Dock Expansion	Camper's Hideaway	Merwin Reservoir	Permitting
Dock and Gangway Installation	Scholtes	Yale Reservoir	Completed (Oct 2021)

### Travis and Elisa Primm, Northwoods, Swift Reservoir:

The applicants have submitted an application to replace their existing single family dock with a new single family dock comprised of two sections. The first measuring 20' by 10' and the second measuring 10' x 10'.

PacifiCorp has reviewed the proposed project and provided preliminary approval for the applicants to move forward with obtaining all permits and approvals from any required jurisdictional entities.

Recently, the applicant has indicated that they will be making modifications to their plans. Once received, the modifications will be routed internally for further review.



### Lake Merwin Campers Hideaway, Lake Merwin:

- 1. Replace portions of two fixed wooden piers/gangways (existing supports to remain) with aluminum structures above the existing supports.
- 2. Replace two sets of stairs with aluminum stairs and handrails.
- 3. Replace thirty-three feet of wooden retaining wall with Tidewall Vinyl Sheet Piling with fencing along the top.
- 4. Replace four support posts with six cement anchors and chain on the north dock.
- 5. Replace two support posts with chain to existing cement anchors on the south gangway.
- 6. Remove one canoe rack and replace with a new canoe rack in a different location.
- 7. Add an additional parking area approximately 115' x 130'.
- 8. Replace broken portions of their existing boat ramp and extend the same.
- 9. Add an additional 92' x 6' gangway and 72-slip boat dock extension to their existing 72-slip boat dock (Lease Dock).
- 10. Add an additional 20-slip boat dock extension to their existing 54-slip boat dock (Rental Dock).

*Items 1 – 8: PacifiCorp has reviewed these proposed projects and provided preliminary approval for LMCH to move forward with obtaining all permits and approvals from any required jurisdictional entities.* 

Items 9 – 10: Because the proposed project would accommodate more than 10 watercraft at a time, PacifiCorp lacks license authority to authorize such use. PacifiCorp has engaged with FERC and requested they review the proposed project and determine the acceptability to continue the permitting process or reject the same.

# LOCATION OF CAMPERS HIDEAWAY DOCKS

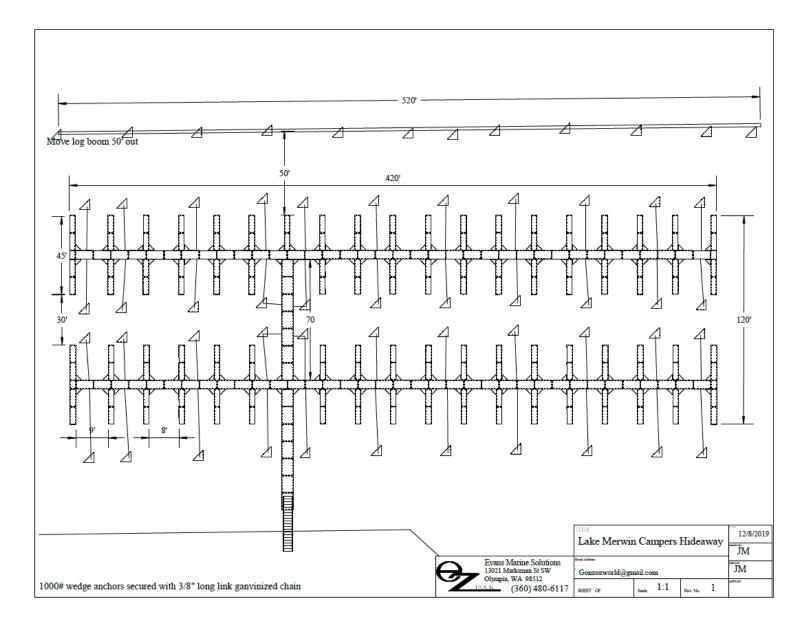


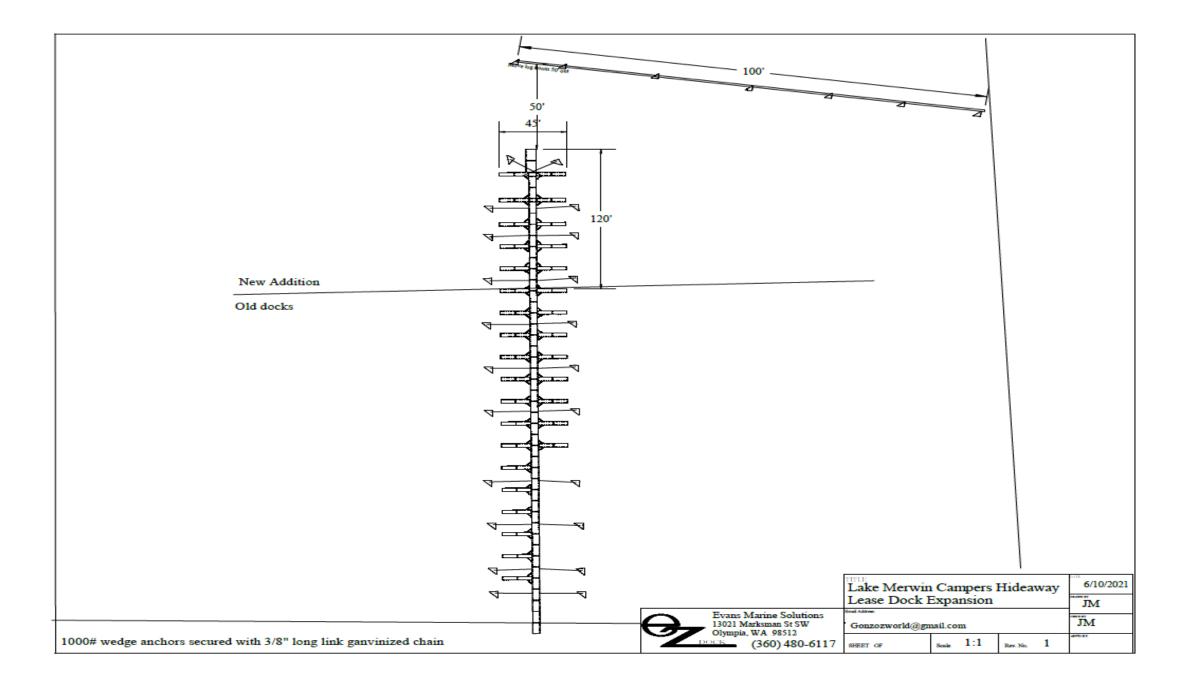


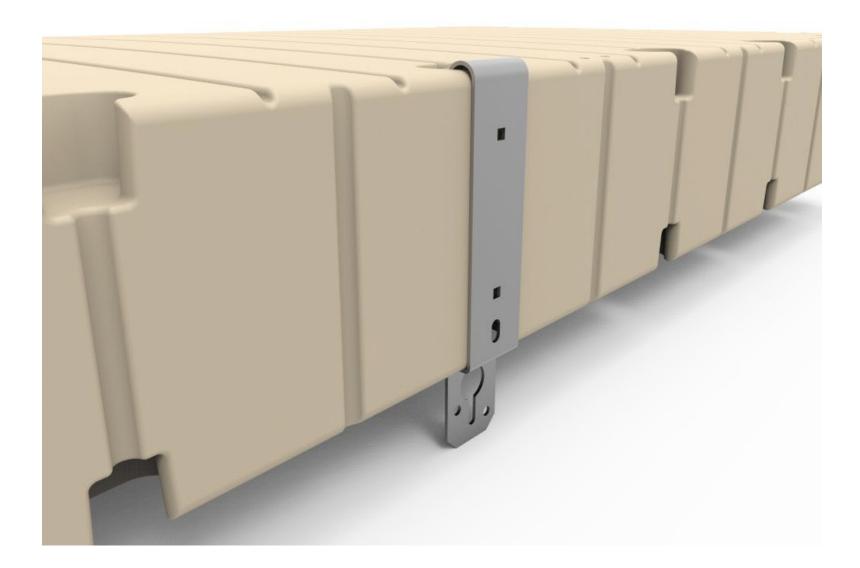


### EXISTING

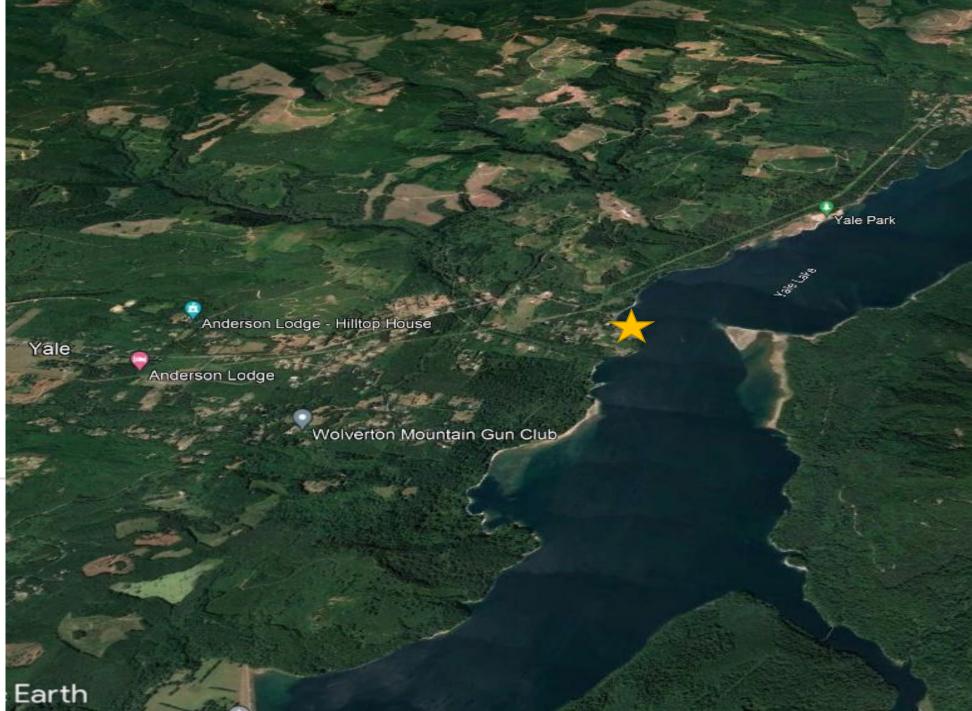
PROPOSED



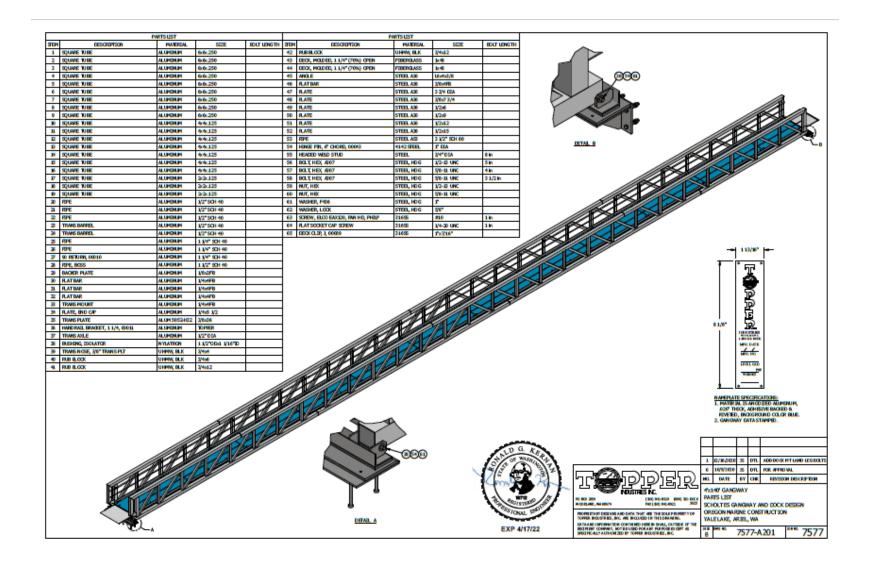




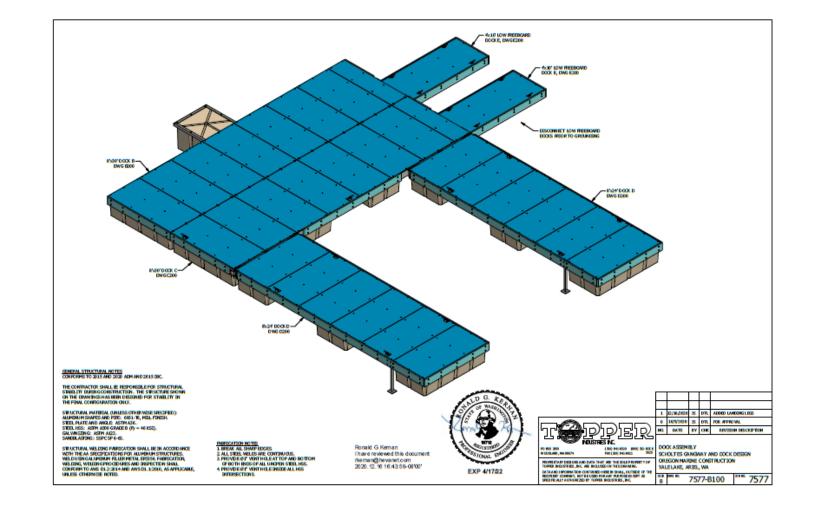
# SHCHOLTE DOCK AND GANGWAY



## 140' X 3' GANGWAY



## 940 SQUARE FEET, STEEL FLOATING DOCK



#### North Fork Lewis River Project Request for Decision

#### North Fork Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee Charter

#### **Part A – Decision Summary** (to be completed <u>after</u> decision is made)

Date of Decision:	03-17-2022
Expected Implementation Date of Action (if applicable):	03-17-2022
Expected completion date of action (if applicable):	Not Applicable

#### > **Decision Summary** (brief summary of decision or action made by Committee)

The Services determined that passage, as required in the current license, remains appropriate. Based on the letters, the Aquatics Coordination Committee (ACC) voted unanimously to form a Fish Passage Subcommittee (FPS). The FPS has developed a charter for ACC approval documenting the ACC directive, and FPS roles and responsibilities, scope of work, membership, meeting protocols, recommended documentation for communication with the ACC, and milestones and measures.

The ACC voted unanimously to approve the Fish Passage Subcommittee charter as attached without modification.

#### Part B – Decision Request (to be completed by Representative(s) requesting decision)

#### 1. Representatives and Affiliations

The FPS submits this Request for Decision for ACC consideration. The FPS is composed of:

Organization	Primary Contact/Alternate Contact
American Rivers	Bridget Moran/
Cowlitz Tribe	Eli Asher/ Rudy Salakory
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	Steve Manlow/ Steve West
Trout Unlimited	Jonathan Stumpf/ Jim Byrne
Yakama Nation	Bill Sharp/ Elaine Harvey
US Forest Service	J.D. Jones/ Kate Day
NOAA	Logan Negherbon/ Scott Anderson
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jeffrey Garnett
PacifiCorp	TBD
Cowlitz PUD	TBD
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Bryce Glaser/ Josua Holowatz
Fish First	Janae Brock

#### 2. Description and Justification of Request

• Requested Action: What specifically is the Committee to decide?

The FPS requests ACC approval of the Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee Charter.

The Services determined that passage, as required in the current license, remains appropriate (Service's letters dated October 27 and December 23, 2021). The ACC voted unanimously to form a Fish Passage Subcommittee (FPS) on October 14, 2021. Based on the Services letters, the decision template (2021-01) was revised by the ACC without objection on January 11, 2022.

The FPS developed a charter for ACC approval documenting the ACC directive, and FPS roles and responsibilities, scope of work, membership, meeting protocols, recommended documentation for communication with the ACC, and milestones and measures. Membership is fluid and participation is not limited to those mentioned in the charter. Milestones and measures will be identified as more information becomes available.

By approving the Request for Decision, the ACC will recognize and support the ACC directive established in the FPS Charter.

#### 3. FERC or Settlement Agreement Requirement(s)

- What relevant FERC or SA articles justify this action? [Articles xx]
- 1) 2004 Lewis River Hydroelectric Project Relicensing Settlement Agreement (SA) Section 14 <u>Coordination and Decision Making</u>.
  - Section 14 directs the Licensees to convene an Aquatics Coordination Committee to coordinate implementation of the aquatics PM&E Measures.
  - Section 14.2.3 <u>TCC and ACC Functions</u> (f) gives the ACC ability to "...establish subcommittees to carry out specified committee functions and responsibilities described in this Section 14.2.3, and establish the size of, membership of, and procedures for any such subcommittees".
  - Section 14.2.3 TCC and ACC Functions (e) directs the ACC to establish procedures and protocols
- Decision template No. [2021 01] Creation of North Fork Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee:

At the October 14, 2021 ACC meeting, representatives voted in favor of the request to form a Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee. Formal approval of the FPS was granted on October 22, 2021, after an additional 7-day review period was provided without objection. The decision document was later updated and finalized by the ACC on January 11, 2022, to incorporate the Services final determination letter regarding Yale and Merwin fish passage dated December 23, 2021. The decision template was revised without objection.

#### **Request No.** [2022 – 01] **Request Date:** [02-16-2022]

- 3) Terrestrial and Aquatic Coordination Committees Structure and Ground Rules Revised June 2020
  - The Structure and Ground Rules specify:
    - "If a Representative would like the ACC to consider a specific proposal, that Representative will...prepare and provide a Request for Decision template for distribution to the..." ACC.
    - A request for Decision templated should be prepared for "...any decisions that may deviate from the Settlement Agreement intent or goals, affect existing recovery, or management goals and actions..."
  - Although the FPS Charter does not deviate from the SA intent or goals, the FPS Charter Directive will support the development of passage recommendations that will benefit recovery therefore, the FPS submits this Request for Decision for ACC approval.

#### Part C – Committee Decision (to be completed by the ACC)

#### 4. Committee Decision

- Was the decision made by consensus (as defined in the Committee ground rules)? Yes, including 7-day additional review time for absentee representatives.
- Document voting record and tally (if applicable)

All Representatives in attendance at the

Yes = 10 No= 0 Abstain= 0 7-Day Additional Review = **no objections received** 

Representative Present	Vote
Bonnie Shorin, NMFS	Yes
Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Yes
Kate Day, USFS	Yes
Jeff Garnett, USFWS	Yes
Bryce Glaser, WDFW	Yes
Erik Lesko, Utilities	Yes
Bridget Moran, American Rivers	Yes
Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation	Yes
Steve West, LCFRB	Yes

#### 5. Justification for Committee Decision

• What information (i.e., empirical data) and how was this information used to inform decision?

The ACC used the Services appropriateness (October 27, 2021) and final determination letter (December 23, 2021) regarding fish passage at Yale and Merwin projects (FERC No. P-935 and P-2071).

#### 6. Contingencies or Conditions of the Decision

- Is decision contingent on other actions or information? No
- Is implementation of decision contingent on specific actions or information? No
- Are there any conditions attached to this decision? None

#### 7. Additional Information or Notations

The final Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee Team Charter is attached.

#### Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee Team Charter

#### **Directive:**

The Fish Passage Subcommittee (FPS), under the direction of the Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC), will assist in the development and review of remaining upstream and downstream passage facility designs and transport plans provided by PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD. The FPS in conjunction with the ACC will review PacifiCorp's development of an implementation schedule and timeline that identifies each significant step in the process, starting from study selection and extending through completion of the facility.

The FPS under the direction of the ACC will consider lessons learned from the operation and infrastructure of Swift Downstream Collector and Merwin Adult Collection facilities in the development and review of remaining upstream and downstream passage facilities. New information and technologies will be shared with the Aquatic Technical Subgroup (ATS) for their consideration to improve juvenile and adult collection efficiency and survival at Swift Downstream Collector and Merwin Adult Collection facilities.

#### **Roles:**

*Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee:* The FPS operates as a recommending body to the ACC on implementation of Section 4 of the 2004 Lewis River Settlement Agreement and strives to facilitate efficiency and an open flow of information for decision documentation and subcommittee management and operate within the established ACC Structure and Ground Rules.

The role of the FPS is to review existing facilities and provide the ACC with an assessment of those systems, identify data gaps, suggest studies, review new technologies, recommend changes to the Transportation Plan and develop recommendations for future juvenile and adult fish passage systems in the Lewis River. The FPS will review materials and provide the ACC with recommendations and rationales for decision making.

*Lewis River Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC)*: The ACC will consider recommendations provided by the FPS.

*PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD (Utilities)*: Members of FPS/ACC and will consider recommendations provided by the FPS/ACC.

#### Scope of Work:

The FPS will advise and make recommendations to the ACC on the Utilities' development of the implementation schedule and timeline that identifies each significant step in the process, starting from study selection and extending through completion of the facility. The FPS will assist with development and review of design/procedural documents and make

recommendations to the ACC for the following program facilitation elements, including but not limited to:

- Scope fish passage technologies/alternatives
- Review engineering designs and make recommendation to the Utilities.
- Implementation strategies
- Fish passage plan/adult transport scenarios
- Other duties as assigned by the ACC

#### Membership:

The FPS is open to all ACC members and technical representatives. As of November 2021, the core organizations on the sub-committee include:

Organization	Primary Contact/Alternate Contact				
American Rivers	Bridget Moran/				
Cowlitz Tribe	Eli Asher/ Rudy Salakory				
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	Steve Manlow/ Steve West				
Trout Unlimited	Jonathan Stumpf/ Jim Byrne				
Yakama Nation	Bill Sharp/ Elaine Harvey				
US Forest Service	J.D. Jones/Kate Day				
NOAA	Logan Negherbon/ Scott Anderson				
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jeffrey Garnett				
PacifiCorp	TBD				
Cowlitz PUD	TBD				
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Bryce Glaser/ Josua Holowatz				
Fish First	Janae Brock				

ACC and technical representatives may participate as interested or be added as a core member.

#### Meetings:

The FPS will be guided by the existing ACC Structure and Ground Rules. FPS meetings will be held monthly. The FPS will meet primarily on a virtual platform and in person, if needed. If there are no meeting topics to discuss, no meeting will be held that month. An effort will be made to announce all FPS meeting topics to the ACC and technical representatives 7 days before the meeting. Meetings will occur at key decision points to develop and review Lewis River fish passage guidance documents, evaluate alternatives, review emerging data, review design development, and, in conjunction with the ATS, assess program performance and needs for the new facilities. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed.

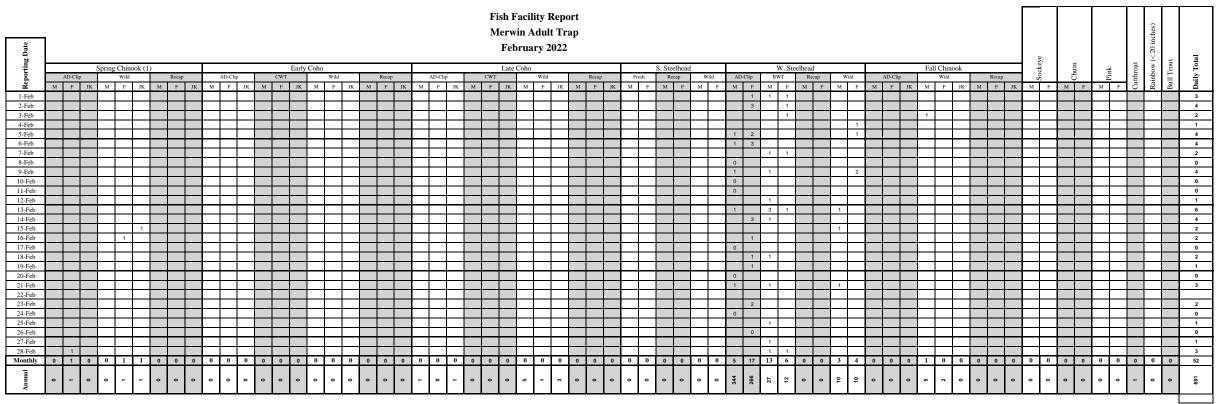
Summary notes for each sub-committee meeting will be prepared and made available to ACC members. The notes will include a summary of major discussion points, decisions discussed, alternatives considered, summary of progress on milestones, and next steps.

#### **Recommendation Documentation:**

Recommended Decision Documents, supporting materials and presentations will be prepared by the sub-committee and copies disseminated to the ACC one week in advance of ACC meetings as needed to support decision making. All decision points will be formatted as a Decision Document.

#### Milestones and measures-

TBD



1 Only hatchery verses wild distinctions are currently being made. All hatchery fish are labeled as "AD-Clip".

2 Total counts do not include recaptured salmon.

#### Fish Facility Report Swift Floating Surface Collector February 2022

		Coho			Chinook			Steel	head			Cutthroat		Bull	Planted	
Day	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	kelt	fry	<13 in	> 13 in	Trout	Rainbow	Total
1	2	369	8		3	11			0			2		0	0	395
2		314	18		13	9			0					0	0	354
3	1	129	19		4	9		1	1			1		0	0	165
4		143	15		2	14			2			1		0	0	177
5		85	15			5			0					0	0	105
6	4	219	73			28			3					0	4	331
7	1	200	31			12			0			1		0	3	248
8		102	17		2	10			1			1		0	0	133
9	1	77	15		6	20	1		0					0	0	120
10		194	4		3	17			0					0	0	218
11		119	16		3	21			1					0	0	160
12		585	32		3	13			1					0	1	635
13		574	15		2	20			0					0	1	612
14		100	2			9			0					0	1	112
15		53	3			3		1	0			1		0	0	61
16		90	4		2	1			0					0	0	97
17		34	3		2	3			0					0	0	42
18		27	2		1	1			0					0	1	32
19		234	6		1	6			0		2			0	3	252
20		62	0			2			1			1		0	0	66
21		95	9			4			0					1	0	109
22		241	32		11	12			0			1		0	2	299
23		449	53		10	33			0					0	4	549
24		188	11		3	23			0			1		0	0	226
25	1	295	27		6	19			3					0	0	351
26	2	358	22		3	14			0					0	3	402
27	1	297	13		7	19			1					0	3	341
28	1	124	8		3	6			1					0	2	145
Monthly	14	5757	473	0	90	344	1	2	15	0	2	10	0	1	28	6737
Total	52	8932	893	0	118	732	5	4	55	0	2	39	5	2	55	10894

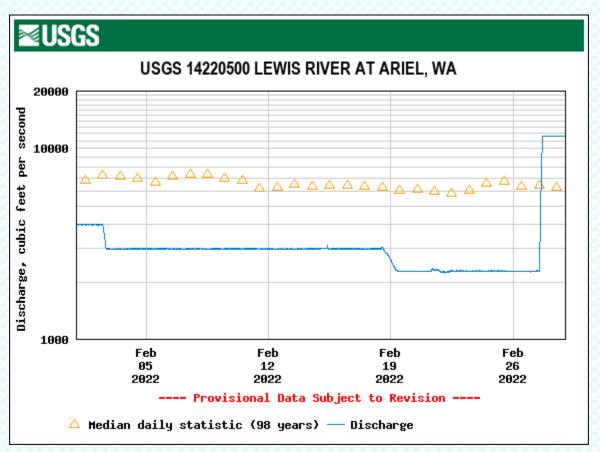
### Lewis River Fish Passage Report

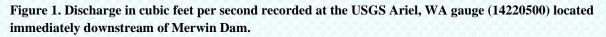
### February 2022

#### Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

During the month of February, a total of 52 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF). Similar to January, winter steelhead were the most prevalent species collected this month (n= 48), followed by Spring Chinook (n= 3) and Fall Chinook (n= 1). Two of the three Spring Chinook collected in February were of natural-origin, and were transported upstream of Swift Dam per the Hatchery and Supplementation Program guidelines. The one hatchery-origin Spring Chinook collected was transported to Speelyai Hatchery for broodstock.

The MFCF was taken out of service February 21 - 22 for scheduled quarterly maintenance, otherwise the facility remained in service throughout the month of February. Flows below Merwin Dam were generally stable until February 27<sup>th</sup>, when flows increased due to heavy precipitation and high project-wide inflows (Figure 1).





No fish captured at the Merwin Trap during February had been previously PIT tagged. For 2022, one cutthroat and one wild winter steelhead captured by Merwin Trap were previously PIT tagged. The cutthroat was tagged at Merwin Trap and transported above a Swift Dam on 4/8/21, later captured by the FSC and transported below Merwin Dam on 5/26/21, then recaptured by Merwin Trap and again sent above Swift Dam on 1/16/22. The one wild winter steelhead was tagged at the FSC and transported below Merwin Dam on 5/4/2020, then captured by Merwin Trap and transported below Merwin Dam on 1/28/2022.

#### **Upstream Transport**

A total of total of 20 adult fish were transported upstream in February. Blank Wire Tag Winter steelhead composed the majority of the fish transported upstream (n=16), followed by NOR winter steelhead (n=2) and Spring Chinook (n=2). For calendar year 2022 to-date, 51 winter steelhead (36 BWT/15 NOR), eight NOR coho, two NOR spring Chinook, and one cutthroat trout have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

#### Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) ran continuously throughout the month of February. A total of 6,737 fish were collected during the month, representing a roughly 61 percent increase over last month's total. Similar to January, the majority of the fish collected were juvenile coho (n= 6,244), followed by spring Chinook (n= 434), hatchery rainbow trout (n= 28), steelhead (n= 18), and cutthroat trout (n= 12). One juvenile Bull Trout was collected this month and returned to the reservoir. February's monthly collection totals are the second highest of any February since the commissioning of the facility in 2013 (Table 1).

	Februa	ary Collection	Totals by Run	Year at the Sv	vift FSC	
Run Year	Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Cutthroat	TOTAL	
2013	100	34	1	7	142	
2014*	0	0	0	0	0	
2015	5,917	554	8	98	6,577	
2016	6,600	1,058	45	83	7,786	
2017	753	9	1	5	768	
2018	429	1,001	27	90	1547	
2019	151	60	2	4	217	
2020*	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 1: Total number of out-migrating juvenile salmonids (by species) collected at the Swift FSC during the month of February since 2013.

2021	928	179	36	51	1,194
2022	6,244	434	18	12	6,708

\*Swift FSC was not operational

The observed length frequency distributions for juvenile coho and spring Chinook were consistent with those previously observed during the month of February: consisting mostly of smaller (mostly previous brood year fish) combined with a few larger "hold-overs" coming out for coho (Figure 2); and for spring Chinook, a wide distribution consisting of multiple brood years (Figure 3). Too few juvenile steelhead were collected in February to make a meaningful length frequency distribution.

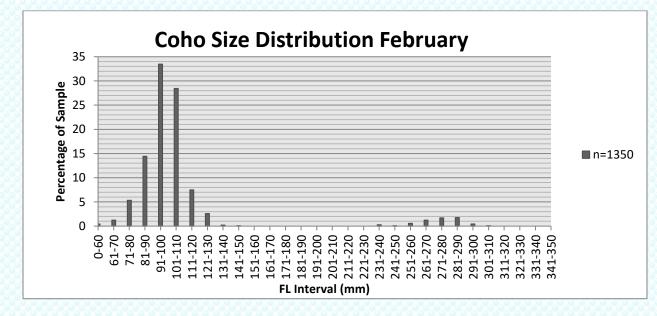


Figure 2. Observed length frequency distribution of coho collected at the Swift FSC during the month of February, 2022.

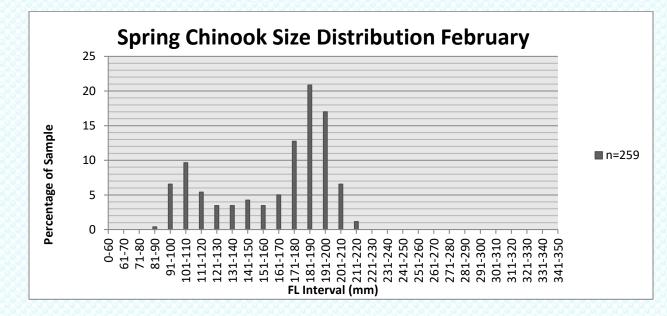


Figure 3. Observed length frequency distribution of Chinook collected at the Swift FSC during the month of February, 2022.

A total of 5 PIT tagged juvenile coho and 1 PIT tagged adult wild winter steelhead were captured by the FSC in February. Of the 5 coho, 3 were tagged at the FSC in spring of 2021 and released at the head of Swift Reservoir for ODS, the other 2 coho were tagged at the Eagle Cliff Screw Trap in spring of 2021 as part of number of fish entering the reservoir and ODS studies. The one wild winter steelhead was tagged at Merwin and released above Swift Dam on 12/19/21, this fish was considered a 'fall back' and was returned to Swift Reservoir. To date a total of 14 juvenile coho, 2 juvenile steelhead, 2 adult winter steelhead, and 2 cutthroat were captured at the FSC after being previously PIT tagged. The two adult winter steelhead were considered 'fall backs' and were returned to Swift Reservoir. All other PIT tagged fish were transported and released into the Woodland Release Ponds.