

LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO
503-412-8401

Location: TEAMS MEETING ONLY

Date: March 11, 2021

Time: 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 2/11/21 Meeting Notes
 - Comment & Accept Agenda, 2/11/21 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- 10:15 a.m. 2020/2021 Lewis River Aquatics Fund; PROJECT SELECTION
- 11:45 a.m. Break & Working Lunch**
- 12:00 p.m. 2020/2021 Lewis River Aquatics Fund; PROJECT SELECTION
- 1:00 p.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
 - ATS Update
 - Fish Passage Update
- 1:15 a.m. ➤ Next Meeting's Agenda
➤ Public Comment Opportunity
- Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at:
<https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html>
- 1:30 p.m. **Meeting adjourn**

Microsoft Teams meeting

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[+1 563-275-5003](tel:+15632755003).,86743835# United States, Davenport

Phone Conference ID: 867 438 35#

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
March 11, 2021
TEAMS Meeting Only**

ACC Representatives Present (19)

Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Bridget Moran, American Rivers
Janae Brock, Fish First
Steve West, LCFRB
Scott Anderson, NMFS
Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp
Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited
Kate Day, USDA FS
Jeffrey Garnett, USFWS
Peggy Miller, WDFW
Sam Gibbons, WDFW
Joshua Holowatz, WDFW
Bryce Glaser, WDFW
Aaron Roberts, WDFW
Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation

Calendar:

April 8, 2021	ACC Meeting	TEAMS Meeting
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Assignments from March 11, 2021	Status
McCune: Provide an additional 7-day review period to ACC for aquatic fund selected projects.	Complete – 3/11/21
Kate Day (USFS): Email additional information to the ACC relating to USFWS recommendations for the Rush Creek Project and 2020 Bull Trout data review for further consideration.	Complete – 3/11/21

Assignments from December 10, 2020	Status
Lesko: Follow up first of the year with Harding to discuss fish stranding survey schedule.	Ongoing

Assignments from August 13, 2020	Status
Romanski: Jim Byrne (Trout Unlimited) requested Tim Romanski (USFWS) investigate why it was decided in 2005 and find out how and why the Merwin trap design was settled on and specified.	Ongoing

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:35am and reviewed the agenda. Lesko also reviewed the February 11, 2021 meeting notes. The ACC approved the February 11, 2021 meeting notes at 9:42am.

Public Comment Opportunity

None

2020/2021 Lewis River Aquatics Fund; PROJECT SELECTION

The following entities below submitted scoring templates in advance of the ACC meeting which was reviewed today in detail in accordance with the ACC Structure and Ground Rules document:

- American Rivers
- Cowlitz Tribe
- LCFRB
- Trout Unlimited
- US Forest Service
- PacifiCorp
- Cowlitz PUD
- WDFW

In addition, the ACC comments and voting spreadsheets will be populated for inclusion with these meeting notes and the 2021 Aquatics Fund Annual Report.

Lesko reminded the ACC participants of the following:

“Consensus” for funding of a project is defined per the Lewis River Settlement Agreement definition: ““Consensus” means that all Parties participating in a committee or other decision-making group consent to a decision. Consent does not necessarily imply that a Party agrees completely with a particular decision, just that the Party is willing to go along with the decision rather than block the action.” If consensus is not achieved at the meeting, additional meetings will be scheduled and conducted as soon as possible.

If the ACC wants to block a decision the ADR process is spelled out in the ACC Structure and Ground Rules document (**Attachment A**).

McCune provided confirmation of the aquatic funds available as of 12/31/20:

Lewis River License Implementation					
Lewis River Aquatics Fund - Resource Projects					
Sections 7.5.1, 7.5.3, 7.5.3.1 & 7.7					
Release Date	Funds Received	Expense	Interest	Balance	Notes
12/31/2019				\$ 2,814,405.02	
4/30/2020	\$ 306,706.48	\$ -	\$ 37,369.73	\$ 3,158,481.23	0
12/31/2020	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,874.48	\$ 3,052,355.71	0
			Total Spent to Date:	\$ (2,404,281.00)	
			Balance Remaining:	\$ 3,112,150.81	

Lewis River License Implementation					
Lewis River Aquatics Fund - Bull Trout					
Sections 7.5, 7.5.1, 7.5.3, 7.5.3.1, & 7.7					
Release Date	Funds Received	Expense	Interest	Balance	Notes
12/31/2019				\$ 806,264.55	
12/31/2020	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,943.48	\$ 834,905.83	0
Total Spent to Date:				\$ (234,547.92)	
Balance Remaining:				\$ 834,905.83	

Lesko reviewed the individual scores and combined scores as more fully detailed in **Attachment B**, 2021 Aquatic Funding Scores.

COMBINED SCORES (from all score templates received)																								
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Scores (use only whole numbers, 0-10 with 10 being best)														Project of Concern?	TOTAL PROJECT		
		1	2	3	4	5	Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)			Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Score		% of max. Score	Rank	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14									
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	7	7	6	7	9	6	9	8	10	9	9	8	6	3	X	98.68	70%	4
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	7	8	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	4	6	7	6	X	104.17	74%	3
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	10	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	9	7	9	10	9		122.88	88%	1
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	9	7	7	8	8	8	7	9	8	9	8	7	X	112.15	80%	2	

= 1 or more representatives indicated a NoGo

X = 1 or more representatives indicated as a POC

The following ACC decisions below were reached at the March 11, 2021 ACC meeting for the four (4) projects identified below. To accommodate those ACC participants not in attendance or for those who requested additional information, the Utilities provided an additional 7-day review and comment period until close of business Friday, March 19, 2021. Kate Day (USFS) will email additional information to the ACC relating to USFWS recommendations for the Rush Creek Project and 2020 Bull Trout data review for ACC further consideration (see **Attachment C**). Any ACC representatives who opposed the Rush Creek Side Channel project will confirm their decision within the additional 7-day review period at which time McCune will notify the applicants of the final ACC decisions.

ACC comments/concerns for each project can be viewed in more detail in **Attachment B**, 2021 Aquatic Funding Scores.

Applicant	Project Title	Decision to Fund	Funding
USDA Forest Service	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	Approved	\$333,520 (Resource funds)
USDA Forest Service	Rush Creek Side Channel	Not Approved, reserving an additional 7-day review period to reconsider.	\$192,850 (Bull trout funds)
USDA Forest Service	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	Approved	\$ 48,210 (Resource funds)
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG)	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	Approved; conditioned on ACC and/or ATS approval regarding allocation, location and timing of carcass and analogs.	\$143,966 (Resource funds)

Break 11:10am
Reconvene: 11:20am

Study/Work Product Updates

Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update

Merwin – down 7.5’

Yale – down 13.3’

Swift – down 30’

Total hole– 50.46’

ATS Update

The ATS is working on annual reporting and the largest item on their plate currently is the 2021 Annual Operating Plan and improving screw trapping down stream of Merwin dam.

The goal is to get the M&E Plan ready for ACC review late summer or early Fall 2021.

Screw traps at the lower river Golf Course site (downstream of Merwin Dam) were installed on March 10 and are currently operating. The Eagle Cliff trap will be installed in approximately two weeks as repairs are completed on the cone shaft by EG solutions in Eugene, OR. PacifiCorp, at the recommendation of the ATS, will provide notification on their website describing the purpose, location and timeline of the traps for the general public. The notice will be published on the website later this month.

Fish Passage Update

Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that day to day operations are beginning to smooth out from the winter storms, getting things fixed from freezing. Currently Merwin has been moving along. Right now, we are in winter steelhead season and about 113 fish have been transported upstream. A majority of returning late winter steelhead are of natural origin; the remaining fish are program, or BWT late winter steelhead. 5 spring Chinook have returned, 2 were NORs and 3 were hatchery fish. NORs are going upstream at this point and hatchery fish are transported to Speelyai hatchery for broodstock. PacifiCorp is getting equipment set up for the collection efficiency study at the floating service collector. Sound testing will be conducted this week and hopefully we will be tagging fish mid to late next week.

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations ([Attachment D](#))

During the month of February, a total of 57 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF). The first spring Chinook of 2021 was collected at the MFCF on February 16th, 2021. This fish was of natural origin (NOR) and had been previously PIT tagged at the Swift Floating Surface Collector (FSC) as an out-migrant in March 2018. All other fish collected at the MFCF in February were winter steelhead.

The Merwin Dam Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) was taken out of service on February 10, 2021 due to extreme winter weather. As part of this effort, the Merwin Trap fish lift and conveyance system was temporarily turned off to prevent freezing and snow loading of critical equipment. The attraction flow at the Merwin Trap remained on so fish could enter the trap while the conveyance system was off. The lift and conveyance system were returned to service on February 15, 2021 after weather conditions improved. In addition to the weather-related outage, the attraction water from Merwin Fish Hatchery was diverted away from the MFCF from February 1st-8th to accommodate repair work to the supply pipeline. Flow below Merwin Dam was generally increasing throughout the month, fluctuating between 5,350-9,030 cfs (Figure 1).

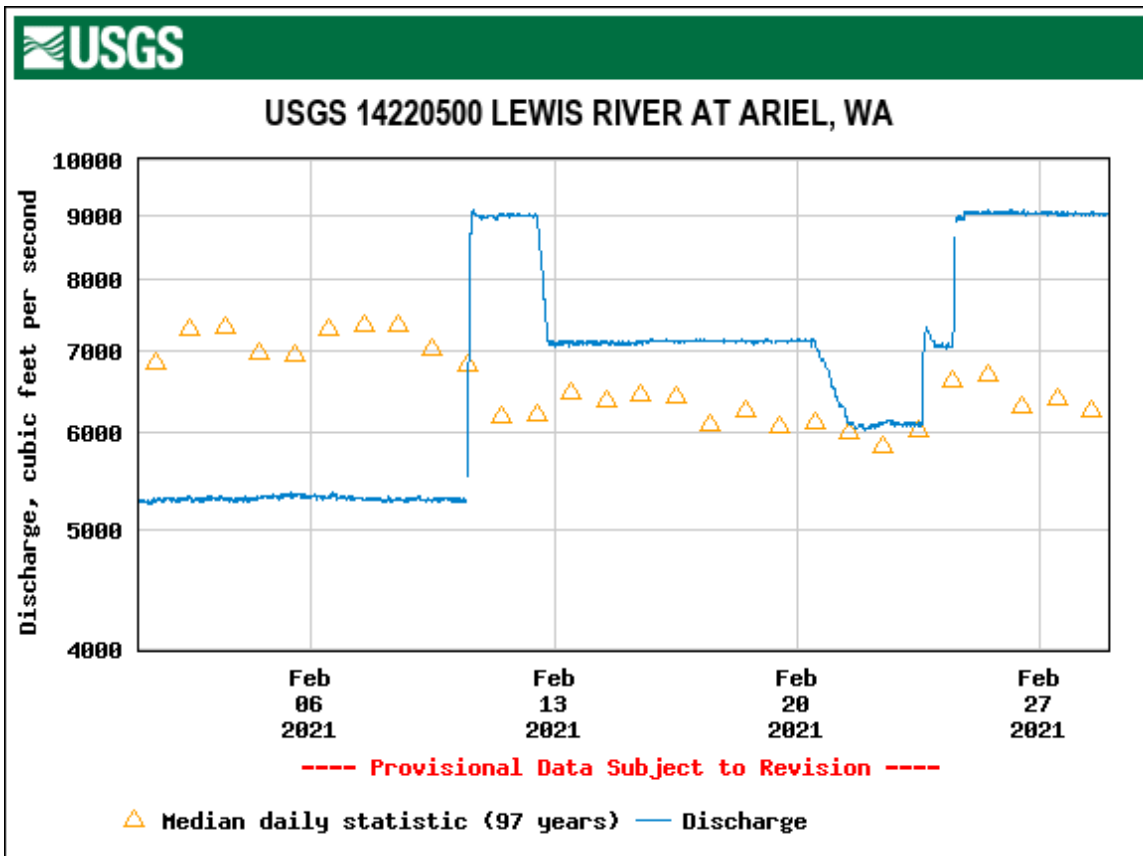


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

Upstream Transport ([Attachment D](#))

A total of 39 adult fish were transported upstream of Merwin Dam during the month of February. Of these, all but one was winter steelhead (26 Blank Wire Tag, 14 NOR). While the total number of adults transported upstream decreased slightly from those in January, NOR steelhead collection in 2021 remains notably higher than the 2015-2020 average (Figure 2). The first spring Chinook adult of 2021 was also transported upstream in February. Year-to-date in 2021, 83 coho, 57 NOR winter steelhead, 26 BWT winter steelhead, eight cutthroat, and two spring Chinook have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

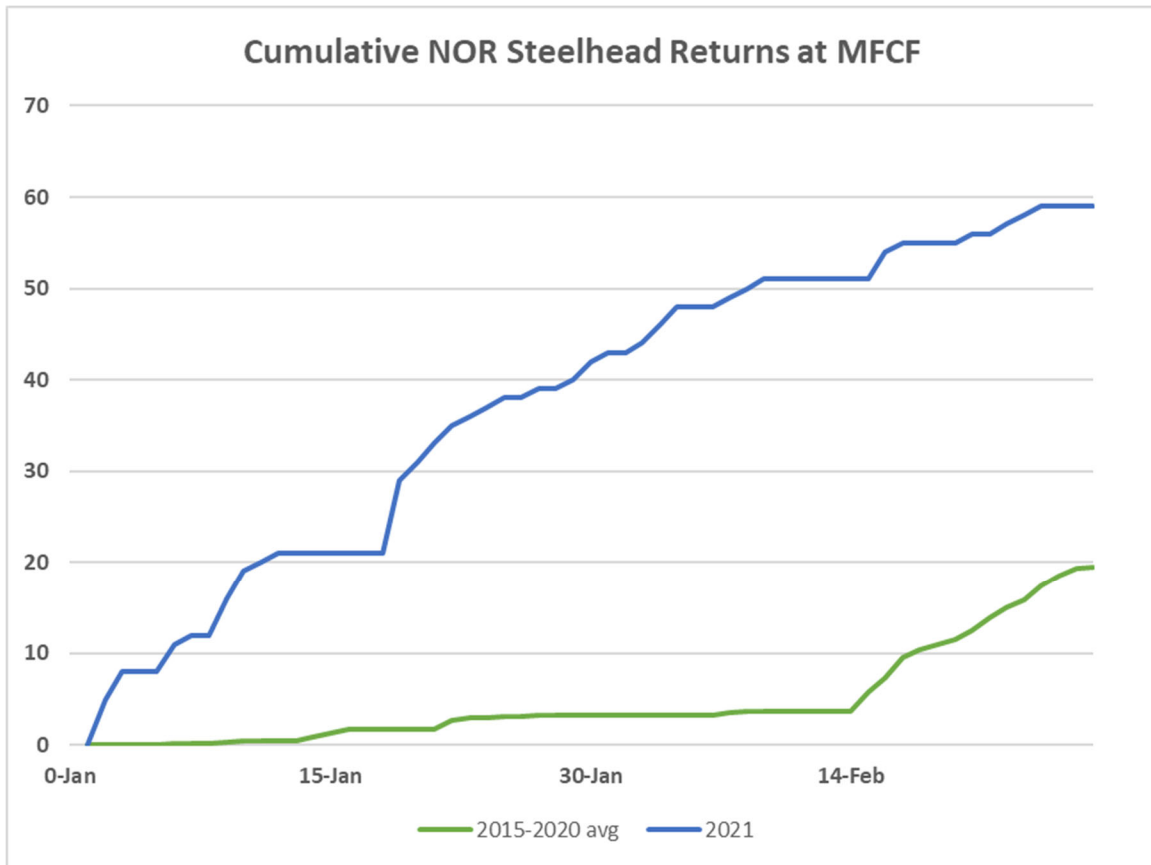


Figure 2. Cumulative number of natural origin (NOR) steelhead collected at Merwin Adult Fish Collection Facility, relative to the 2015-2020 average.

Swift Floating Surface Collector (Attachment D)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was taken out of operation on February 10, 2021 due to extreme winter weather and freezing conditions (Figures 3-4). It was returned to service on February 16, 2021. A total of 1,249 fish were collected throughout the month, which was down from January’s total of 2,893. The majority of the fish collected in February were juvenile coho (74.3%) and Chinook (14.3%).



Figure 3. Ice buildup on the Net Transition Structure (NTS) at the Swift FSC following the February winter storm.



Figure 4. Windswept icicles on light posts on the Swift FSC.

Other

The ACC/TCC 2020 Annual Report and associated attachments are out to the Committees for a 30-day review and comment period. Comments are due by close of business April 5, 2021.

Agenda items for April 8, 2021

- Review March 11, 2021 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE March 29, 2021**)
- Review of Aquatic Fund Process and Schedule/Timeline for 2021/2022 Funding Cycle
- Swift Survey's at Northwoods
- Study/Work Product Updates

Adjourn 1:00pm

Next Scheduled Meeting:

April 8, 2021
TEAMS Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 2/11/2021
- Agenda from 3/11/2021
- **Attachment A** - Aquatic Funds – Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures, Sept. 2020
- **Attachment B** - 2021 Aquatic Funding Scores
- **Attachment C** - Bull Trout Review Email Communication, December 8 – 12, 2020
- **Attachment D** - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (February 2021)

Aquatic Funds – Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures

Prepared by PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD

September 2005 (revised January 2009, September 2013, August 2016,
August 2017, April 2019 and September 2020)

1.0 Introduction

On November 30, 2004 PacifiCorp, Cowlitz PUD, and a number of interested parties reached a Settlement Agreement (SA) concerning the relicensing of the Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects. Listed within the agreement was an article for PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD to establish a Lewis River Aquatics Fund. Specific language from the Settlement Agreement is as follows:

Aquatics Fund. PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD shall establish the Lewis River Aquatics Fund (“Aquatics Fund”) to support resource protection measures (“Resource Projects”). Resource Projects may include, without limitation, projects that enhance and improve wetlands, riparian, and riverine habitats; projects that enhance and improve riparian and aquatic species connectivity that may be affected by the continued operation of the Projects; and projects that increase the probability for a successful reintroduction program. The Aquatics Fund shall be a Tracking Account maintained by the Licensees with all accrued interest being credited to the Aquatics Fund. PacifiCorp shall provide \$5.2 million, in addition to those funds set forth in Section 7.1.1, to enhance, protect, and restore aquatic habitat in the Lewis River Basin as provided below. Cowlitz PUD shall provide or cause to be provided \$520,000 to enhance, protect, and restore aquatic habitat in the Lewis River Basin as provided below; provided that Cowlitz PUD’s funds may only be used for Resource Projects upstream of Swift No. 2, including without limitation the Bypass Reach. The Licensees shall provide such funds according to the schedules set forth below.

7.5.1 PacifiCorp’s Contributions.

a. PacifiCorp shall make funds available as follows: on each April 30 commencing in 2005, \$300,000 per year until 2009 (a total of \$1.5 million).

b. For each of the Merwin, Yale, and Swift No. 1 Projects, PacifiCorp shall make one-third of the following funds available as follows after the Issuance of the New License for that Project: on each April 30 commencing in 2010, \$300,000 per year through 2014 (a total of \$1.5 million); on each April 30 commencing in 2015, \$100,000 per year through 2018 (a total of \$400,000); and on each April 30 commencing in 2019, \$200,000 per year through 2027 (a total of \$1.8 million); provided that, for any New License that has not been Issued by April 30, 2009, the funding obligation for that Project shall be contributed annually in the same amounts but commencing on April 30 following the first anniversary of Issuance of the New License for that Project.

c. *PacifiCorp shall contribute \$10,000 annually to the Aquatics Fund as set forth in Section 7.1.1.*

7.5.2 *Cowlitz PUD's Contributions.* *Cowlitz PUD shall make or cause to be made funds available as follows: \$25,000 per year on each April 30 following the first anniversary of the Issuance of the New License for the Swift No. 2 Project through the April 30 following the 20th anniversary of the Issuance of the New License for the Swift No. 2 Project (a total of \$500,000); and a single amount of \$20,000 on the April 30 following the 21st anniversary of the Issuance of the New License for the Swift No. 2 Project.*

7.5.3 *Use of Funds.* *Decisions on how to spend the Aquatics Fund, including any accrued interest, shall be made as provided in Section 7.5.3.2 below; provided that (1) at least \$600,000 of such monies shall be designated for projects designed to benefit bull trout according to the following schedule: as of April 30, 2005, \$150,000; as of April 30, 2006, \$100,000; as of April 30, 2007, \$150,000; as of April 30, 2008, \$100,000; and on or before the April 30 following the fifth anniversary of the Issuance of all New Licenses, \$100,000; and such projects shall be consistent with bull trout recovery objectives as determined by USFWS; (2) fund expenditures for the maintenance of the Constructed Channel (Section 4.1.3) shall not exceed \$20,000 per year on average; (3) if studies indicate that inadequate "Reservoir Survival," defined as the percentage of actively migrating juvenile anadromous fish of each of the species designated in Section 4.1.7 that survive in the reservoir (from reservoir entry points, including tributary mouths to collection points) and are available to be collected, is hindering attainment of the Overall Downstream Survival standard as set forth in Section 3, then at least \$400,000 of such monies shall be used for Resource Projects specifically designed to address reservoir mortality; and (4) \$10,000 annually shall be used for lower river projects as set forth in Section 7.1.1. Projects shall be designed to further the objectives and according to the priorities set forth below in Section 7.5.3.1.*

7.5.3.1 *Guidance for Resource Project Approval and Aquatics Fund Expenditures.*

a. *Resource Projects must be consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and, to the extent feasible, shall be consistent with policies and comprehensive plans in effect at the time the project is proposed. These may include, but are not limited to, Washington's Wild Salmonid Policy, the Lower Columbia River Bull Trout Recovery Plan, and the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan (LCFRB 2004).*

b. *The Aquatics Fund shall not be used to fund Resource Projects that any entity is otherwise required by law to perform (not including obligations under this Agreement or the New Licenses for use of the Aquatics Fund), unless by agreement of the ACC.*

c. *The Licensees shall evaluate Resource Projects using the following objectives:*

(1) *Benefit fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, with priority to federal ESA-listed species;*

(2) *Support the reintroduction of anadromous fish throughout the Basin; and*

(3) *Enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin, with priority given to the North Fork Lewis River.*

For the purposes of this Section 7.5, the North Fork Lewis River refers to the portion of the Lewis River from its confluence with the Columbia River upstream to the headwaters, including tributaries except the East Fork of the Lewis River.

The Licensees shall also consider the following factors to reflect the feasibility of projects and give priority to Resource Projects that are more practical to implement:

(i) *Whether the activity may be planned and initiated within one year,*

(ii) *Whether the activity will provide long-term benefits,*

(iii) *Whether the activity will be cost-shared with other funding sources,*

(iv) *Probability of success, and*

(v) *Anticipated benefits relative to cost.*

7.5.3.2 Resource Project Proposal, Review, and Selection.

(1) *By the first anniversary of the Effective Date, the Licensees shall develop, in Consultation with the ACC, (a) a strategic plan consistent with the guidance in Section 7.5.3.1 above to guide Resource Project development, solicitation, and review; and (b) administrative procedures to guide implementation of the Aquatics Fund. Both may be modified periodically with the approval of the ACC.*

(2) *Any person or entity, including the Licensees, may propose a Resource Project. In addition, the Licensees may solicit Resource Projects proposals from any person or entity.*

(3) *The Licensees shall review all Resource Project*

proposals, applying the guidance set forth in Section 7.5.3.1. The Licensees shall provide an annual report describing proposed Resource Project recommendations to the ACC. The date for submitting such report shall be determined in the strategic plan defined in subsection 7.5.3.2(1) above. The report will include a description of all proposed Resource Projects, an evaluation of each Resource Project, and the basis for recommending or not recommending a project for funding.

(4) The Licensees shall convene a meeting of the ACC on an annual basis, no sooner than 30 days and no later than 60 days after distribution of the report set forth in Section 7.5.3.2(2), for Consultation regarding Resource Projects described in the report.

(5) Licensees shall modify the report on proposed Resource Projects, based on the above Consultation, and submit the final report to the ACC within 45 days after the above Consultation. Any ACC member may, within 30 days after receiving the final report, initiate the ADR Procedures to resolve disputes relating to Resource Projects. If the ADR Procedures are commenced, the Licensees shall defer submission of the final report on Resource Projects to the Commission, if necessary, until after the ADR Procedures are completed. If the ADR Procedures fail to resolve all disputes, the Licensees shall provide the comments of the ACC to the Commission. If no ACC member initiates the ADR Procedures, the Licensees shall submit the final report to the Commission, if necessary, within 45 days after submission of the final report to the ACC.

14.2.4 TCC and ACC Decision-Making Process and Limitations

(D) In no event shall the TCC or the ACC increase or decrease the monetary, resource, or other commitments made by PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD in this Agreement; override any other limitations set forth in this Agreement; or otherwise require PacifiCorp to modify its three Projects' facilities without PacifiCorp's prior written consent or require Cowlitz PUD to modify its Project's facilities without Cowlitz PUD's prior written consent, which consent may be withheld in the applicable Licensee's discretion.

PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD will be responsible for compiling Pre-Proposals, draft final Proposals and final Proposals and making initial recommendations to the Lewis River Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC). The ACC will play an important role in the discussion and final selection of projects. The ACC will be responsible for completing the evaluation form for the Pre- and final Proposals. The Settlement Agreement calls for the Licensees to obtain the views of and attempt to reach consensus among the ACC; therefore,

it is critical that the ACC have the ability to reach consensus on funded projects in a timely and well thought out manner.

2.0 Purpose

The intent of this document is two-fold. First the document briefly identifies goals of the aquatic fund, provides evaluation guidance at a program level, and then outlines more specific evaluation components of resource projects such as priorities, technical questions, and policy questions. Second, this document identifies the steps to be undertaken to implement the Aquatics Fund. Process forms are included as appendices.

3.0 Funding Process Considerations

3.1 Aquatics Fund Goals:

The goal of the fund is to support resource protection measures that may include, without limitation, projects that enhance and improve wetlands, riparian, and riverine habitats; projects that enhance and improve riparian and aquatic species connectivity that may be affected by the continued operation of the Projects; and projects that increase the probability for a successful reintroduction program.

The reintroduction outcome goal of the comprehensive aquatics program contained in Section 3 of the SA is to “achieve genetically viable, self-sustaining, naturally reproducing, harvestable populations above Merwin Dam greater than minimum viable populations (“Reintroduction Outcome Goal”)”.

3.2 Project Evaluation Guidance at a Program Level

The ACC and Licensees shall consider the following factors in the review of potential aquatic projects:

Proposed Projects:

- Benefits to priority fish species and stocks reintroduced to or originating from upstream of Merwin Dam, with emphasis on Spring Chinook. Resource Projects must have specific objectives and expected outcome(s) that help attain the purposes of the Aquatic Fund.
- Resource Projects must be consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws.
- Resource Projects, to extent feasible, shall strive to be consistent with policies and comprehensive plans, such as the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan, in effect at the time the project is proposed.
- Aquatics Fund monies shall not be used to fund projects that any entity is otherwise required by law to perform, except by agreement of the ACC.
- ACC shall evaluate Proposals based upon: (1) “benefit to fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, with priority to ESA-listed species”, (2) “support the reintroduction of anadromous fish throughout the basin”, and (3) “enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin, with priority given to the NF Lewis River”. (See **Figure 1** for geographic scope of Fund)

- ACC shall consider factors that reflect the feasibility of projects and give priority to resource projects that are more practical to implement. ACC shall consider following factors: (i) “whether the activity may be planned and initiated within one year”, (ii) “whether the activity will provide long-term benefits”, (iii) “whether the activity will be cost-shared with other funding sources”, (iv) “probability of success”, and (v) “anticipated benefits relative to cost”.
- Resource Project must use Best Management Practices (BMPs). The ACC may identify suggested sources of BMPs, but applicants must identify what sources they are using for BMPs and how they will protect resource values.

Process Considerations (or requirements):

- Any interested party may submit resource project Proposals for funding.
- If the organization of an ACC representative proposes a project for funding, he or she may participate in the ACC review of the Utilities evaluation of proposed projects, however they may not champion their own projects(s) and must remove themselves if a conflict of interest arises. The intent is to allow an ACC representative to participate in the process, but to also make sure that no favoritism (perceived or otherwise) is given to ACC members.
- Entity receiving Aquatic Funds must meet all state or federal permitting requirements for their project.

3.3 Evaluation of Resource Projects

Given the expected number of potential Aquatics Fund Resource Proposals to be submitted and the cap on funding, a mechanism to review and evaluate projects is needed. In general evaluation criteria can be grouped into six areas to reflect the feasibility of projects and give priority to Resource Projects that are more practical to implement. All proposals must meet the 5 priority objectives to be accepted (i.e., all 5 objectives must receive a rating of 'GO'). Accepted proposals will be evaluated and scored using the scoring template that includes 14 questions over 4 weighted categories. Reviewers will assign a score (1- 10) for each question based on the merits of the proposal. Finally, each reviewer will provide a categorical rating for each project to identify the level of overall support for each project.

3.3.1 Consistency with Priority Objectives (Go or No-Go):

Given the importance that a proposed project be consistent with Fund priority objectives, proposed projects will be initially be evaluated as a “Go” or “No Go” against this specific priority objectives. If during this initial review (1st Stage) the project receives a ‘No Go’ for any priority objective, the proposal will be dropped from further evaluation and funding. The Licensees shall document this determination in its recommendation’s scoring template to the ACC.

Priority Objectives:

1. Benefit fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, with priority to federal ESA-listed species?
2. Support the reintroduction of anadromous fish throughout the Basin?
3. Enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin, with priority given to the North Fork Lewis River?
4. Is the proposal consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and plans to the extent feasible?
5. Are any funds requested that would otherwise be required by law to perform?

Evaluation categories and questions:

Specific questions are provided for each of the 4 evaluation categories. Reviewers rate each question with a score of 1 to 10 (10 being the best) (see Appendix B). All reviewer scores for each category are summed and averaged to calculate a combined category score for each proposal. A weighting multiplier is applied to each combined category score to calculate a combined weighted score for each of the four categories. Weighted scores are then summed to assign the final project score. Each proposal is then ranked based on the highest to lowest final project score. Total points available = 140 (14 questions at 10 points possible each).

In completing the evaluation of accepted proposals and reporting recommendations to the ACC, PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD will combine all scoring templates received from each ACC representative organization to calculate an overall score for each proposal.

3.3.2 Proposed project benefit to priority fish species and stocks (Chinook, Steelhead, Coho, Bull Trout, Chum, and Sea-run Cutthroat) and/or properly functioning conditions (35 % weight):

- Does the project provide direct benefit(s) to priority species and habitat reaches?
- Does the project lead to or provide tangible, on the ground benefits?
- Does the project address a limiting factor(s) to the target species without adversely impacting other species, life history stages, or habitat processes?

3.3.3 Scientific validity and technical quality of proposed project (30% weight):

- Does the proposal apply appropriate and proven methods, designs and technologies?
- Does the project describe and consider long term benefits and influences (e.g., watershed processes, hydro operations, climate change, etc.)?
- Are the project objectives identified appropriate and justified given the proposed scope and schedule?
- How might other habitat protection, assessments, or restoration actions in the watershed impact the project?

3.3.4 Ability for the project proponent to successfully implement proposed project (20% weight)

- How qualified and experienced is the project team in successfully completing projects of similar scope, nature, and magnitude?
- What constraints or contingencies affect project implementation (permitting, legal, location, funding, etc.)?
- Is the probability of success high, medium or low?

3.3.5 Cost effectiveness and timeliness (15% weight)

- Are the total costs justified based on expected short and long-term benefits to fish?
- Is the project self-maintaining once completed? If not, how will maintenance be achieved?
- Are project costs reasonable by work effort and type (administration, permitting, goods and services, rentals, labor, contracts, etc.)?
- Will the project be cost shared or implemented in collaboration with other funding sources or parties (e.g., matching contributions, in-kind participation, grants, etc.)?

4.0 Funding Process

4.1 General Process

Per the Settlement Agreement, PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD will make money available to the Aquatics Fund in the spring of each year as identified in **Table 4.1**. There is the potential that following the Fund Process non-distributed monies may remain in the account. Likewise project withdrawals may not occur as expected due to withdrawal of a project or other circumstance. The ACC will be advised of the Aquatics Fund financial status throughout the year. Any monies not distributed shall remain in the Fund, will gain interest, and will be available for the following year's use unless ACC parties agree to conduct a second Fund process within that same year.

Although the funding process schedule in the first year of the program may be modified, in subsequent years it will generally be conducted in the fall and early winter. In late August of each year PacifiCorp together with Cowlitz PUD will notify potential fund applicants, a list of whom PacifiCorp together with Cowlitz PUD developed in consultation with the ACC, that the Utilities are seeking Draft Full Proposals for the following year's funding (see Table 4.1 for activity timeline). Such notice shall inform the potential applicants of the need to (1) complete a Draft Full Proposal form, and (2) submit it to PacifiCorp by mid-November. The notice shall also identify that projects will be evaluated by the following objectives (Settlement Agreement 7.5.3.1(c)):

- (1) Benefit fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, with priority to federal ESA-listed species;*
- (2) Support the reintroduction of anadromous fish throughout the Basin; and*
- (3) Enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin, with priority given to the North Fork Lewis River*

Applicants will be requested to complete a Draft Full Proposal form that briefly describes the proposed project, expected results and benefits, and implementation details (see **Attachment A** for form). Upon receipt of a Draft Full Proposal, PacifiCorp will acknowledge receipt to author. It is the responsibility of the author to assure delivery of Proposal to PacifiCorp.

PacifiCorp will compile and provide Cowlitz PUD and the ACC copies of Draft Full Proposals for review and evaluation in **mid-November**. To minimize any bias, individual reviewers (subject matter experts from the Utilities and the ACC) will evaluate and score all Draft Full Proposals. Based on the number of projects, individual project cost, and funding available, PacifiCorp together with Cowlitz PUD will notify applicants of the ACCs selection for further consideration. Upon receiving notice that a project has been selected for further consideration, the applicant will have until **early February** to complete and submit a final full Proposal (see **Attachment A** for form). Shortly thereafter, Resource Project proponents will be given time at the **December ACC meeting** (“Proposed Project Information Meeting”) to present their projects and answer any questions.

Following the **December ACC meeting and proponent presentations**, the ACC will provide the applicant any additional questions or request for clarification in written format by early **January**. PacifiCorp will forward any requests to the Proponent. The proponent will provide Final Full Proposals to PacifiCorp by late **January** (ACC requests for clarification need to be included as an Appendix)

Any changes to construction methods, design and/or siting should be incorporated into the final full proposal using track changes. The ACC will evaluate and rank the Proposals and provide a scoring template to PacifiCorp by **early March**. PacifiCorp will distribute a combined master scoring template to ACC shortly thereafter. Parties agree that the scoring template provides initial responses and entities may change their responses at any time up to the final decision point. The scoring template will be provided to ACC representatives no later than 7 days prior to the Funding Selection meeting.

To allow timely selection of projects, the ACC will conduct a Funding Selection meeting. The meeting is to be no sooner than 30 days and no later than 60 days after distribution of the scoring template. The purpose of the meeting is to reach consensus on those projects that are to receive funding from the Lewis River Aquatics Fund. It is the intent of the Settlement Agreement Parties that the ACC shall strive to operate by consensus and in the case of the Aquatics Fund, strive to reach agreement on Resource Projects to be funded. “Consensus” for funding of a project is defined per the Lewis River Settlement Agreement definition: “*Consensus*” means that all Parties participating in a committee or other decision-making group consent to a decision. Consent does not necessarily imply that a Party agrees completely with a particular decision, just that the Party is willing to go along with the decision rather than block the action.” If consensus is not achieved at the meeting, additional meetings will be scheduled and conducted as soon as possible.

Participation by ACC representatives is imperative at the Funding Selection meeting. Each ACC representative must participate, or in the case of a known absence, provide a written proxy or a written response for the project(s) voting. If a representative is absent due to unforeseen circumstances the Utilities will contact absent representative and identify the

consensus outcome of the Funding Selection meeting. If the absent representative objects to the meeting outcome, the Utilities will immediately schedule and conduct another ACC meeting.

At the Funding Selection meeting, the facilitator shall not allow questions to be asked of the Project proponent. The intent of the meeting is to have thoughtful discussions on the merit and benefit and funding of proposed projects rather than allowing a proponent additional time to promote their project. This process should ensure equal consideration to all projects whether the proponent is present or not. Once the ACC has consensus on the list of projects to receive funding, the Utilities will notify the project owners and submit the list to the FERC. (*Note: FERC defers project selection to the ACC*).

As provided in the Settlement Agreement, any disputes are to be resolved as expeditiously and informally as possible, and that issues within the scope of the ACC are discussed in those committees before being referred to the ADR Procedures. Any disputes among ACC members shall be resolved in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

For each selected FERC approved project, PacifiCorp will distribute funding according to an invoiced time and materials basis, with a not-to-exceed amount for the total project. Project proponents will be responsible to include a report of activities for invoiced amount. Upon project completion and prior to final invoice payment, project proponent, the utilities representatives, along with ACC representatives if they so choose, shall visit the project and conduct a project close-out review.

5.0 Review of Funding Process

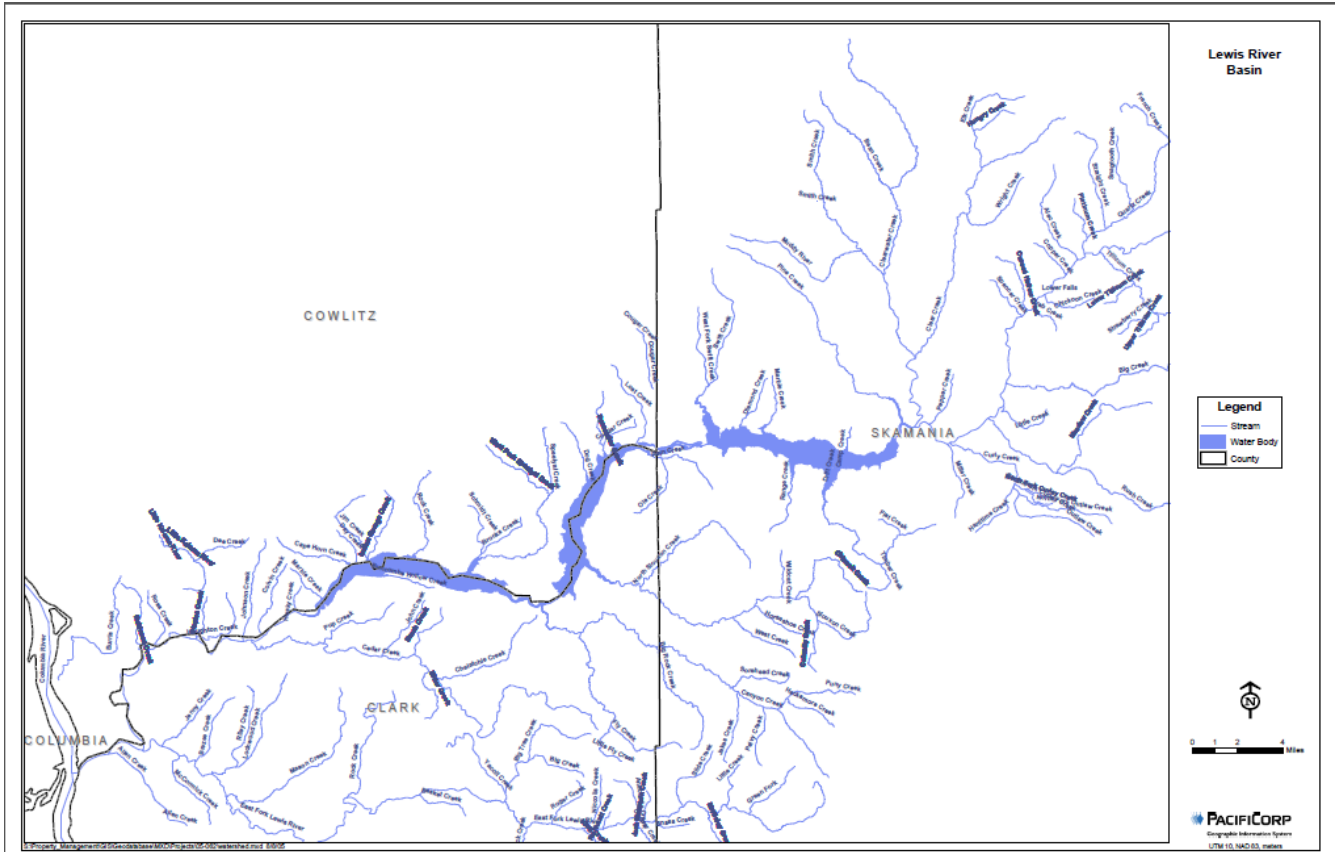
This document has been prepared in Consultation with the ACC representatives to meet identified obligations in the Settlement Agreement. As provided in the Settlement Agreement, this document which includes both the Aquatic Fund strategic plan and administrative aspects may be modified periodically with the approval of the ACC.

Lewis River Aquatic Fund Process Timeline

Activity	Target Milestone Date
Request for proposals distributed along with landowner acknowledgement form	September 4
Draft Full Proposals due to ACC	November 20
Conduct Proposed Project Information Meeting (<i>applicant presentations</i>)	December ACC meeting
ACC members submit written request for clarification of project information if questions not answered in previous meeting/presentation.	January 4
Final Full Proposals due (ACC requests for clarification need to be included as an Appendix)	January 29
Final Full Proposals submitted to ACC for 30-day review and evaluation	February 1
ACC scoring template due to Utilities	March 1
Distribute combined master scoring template to ACC	March 5
*Conduct Project Selection Meeting	March 11 ACC meeting
Provide additional 7-day review period for absentee ACC participants, if needed	Third Thursday in March
Submit Project Selection Report to FERC	By April 15th

*Project applicants not permitted to attend this meeting.

Figure 1
Geographic Scope of Aquatic Fund



Attachment B – Sample Scoring Template

AQUATIC FUNDS PROJECT SCORING TEMPLATE


Project Number	Project Name	PRIORITY OBJECTIVES					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	TOTAL PROJECT								
		GO or NO-GO					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14		Score	% of max. Score	Rank						
		1	2	3	4	5	Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)																							
2021-01							10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		140	100%	1
2021-02							9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9		126	90%	2
2021-03							8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8		112	80%	3
							7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7		98	70%	4
							6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		84	60%	5
							5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		70	50%	6
							4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		56	40%	7
							3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		42	30%	8
							2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		28	20%	9
							1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		14	10%	10

QUESTIONS

- Q1 Does the project provide direct benefit(s) to priority species and habitat reaches?
- Q2 Does the project provide tangible, on the ground benefits?
- Q3 Does the project address a limiting factor(s) to the target species, life history stage, or habitat process?
- Q4 Does the proposal apply appropriate and proven methods, designs and technologies?
- Q5 Are the project objectives identified appropriate and justified given the proposed scope and schedule?
- Q6 Does the project describe and consider long term benefits and influences (e.g., watershed processes, hydro operations, climate change, etc.)?
- Q7 What constraints or contingencies affect project implementation (permitting, legal, location, funding, etc.)
- Q8 Is the probability of success high, medium or low?
- Q9 How qualified and experienced is the project team in successfully completing projects of similar scope, nature, and magnitude?
- Q10 How might other habitat protection, assessments, or restoration actions in the watershed impact the project?
- Q11 Will the project be cost shared with other funding sources (e.g., matching contributions, in-kind participation, grants, etc.)?
- Q12 Are project costs reasonable by work effort and type (administration, permitting, goods and services, rentals, labor, contracts, etc.)?
- Q13 Are the total costs justified based on expected short and long term benefits to fish?
- Q14 Is the project self-maintaining once completed? If not, how will maintenance be achieved?

COMBINED SCORES (from all score templates received)

Project Number	Project Title	Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)																			Project of Concern?	TOTAL PROJECT		
		Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)					Score	% of max. Score	Rank
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14				
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	7	7	6	7	9	6	9	8	10	9	9	8	6	3	X	98.68	70%	4
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	7	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	4	6	7	6	#DIV/0!	104	1	3	
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	7	9	10	9		122.88	88%	1	
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	9	7	7	8	8	8	7	9	8	9	9	8	7	X	112.15	80%	2

 = 1 or more representatives indicated a NoGo

X = 1 or more representatives indicated as a POC

AQUATIC FUNDS PROJECT SCORING TEMPLATE

ACC member Organization: Utilities														Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)										TOTAL PROJECT		
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	Score	% of max. Score	Rank		
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14						
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	8	6	8	6	7	4	9	9	9	9	7	4	4	2		91	65%	4	
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	8	9	5	8	8	5	7	9	10	2	4	4	5		100	71%	3		
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	6	10	10	9	9	8	10	10	10	8	2	8	10	8		120	86%	1		
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	9	10	7	6	7	5	9	5	8	9	8	8	9	4	X	105	75%	2		

ACC member Organization: American Rivers														Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)										TOTAL PROJECT		
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)*					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	Score	% of max. Score	Rank		
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14						
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	10	10	10	6	8	10	10	8	9	10	9	9	10	8	6		124	89%	3	
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	10	10	10	9	10	10	8	8	8	8	5	7	9	8	7		118	84%	4	
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	7	10	10	10	10	10	8	9	9	9	7	9	10	9	8		126	90%	2	
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	10	10	10	9	10	10	9	10	9	10	10	10	9	10	9		134	96%	1	

ACC member Organization: LCFRB														Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)										TOTAL PROJECT		
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	Score	% of max. Score	Rank		
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14						
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support						4	5	4	5	6	5	8	8	10	5	10	8	8	4		81	58%	4		
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design						9	9	9	8	7	8	7	8	8	7	6	9	9	7		113	81%	3		
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization						9	10	9	8	9	7	10	9	10	8	10	10	10	10		126	90%	2		
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project						10	10	9	9	10	10	8	9	10	9	10	10	9	9	7		128	91%	1	

ACC member Organization: USFS														Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)										TOTAL PROJECT		
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	Score	% of max. Score	Rank		
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14						
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	6	7	7	6	10	9	10	10	10	10	9	7	6	6	6		110	78%	4	
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	9	8	10	10	10	10	9	9	10	7	6	8	9	9		125	89%	3	
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	9	9	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	10		130	93%	1	
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	9	9	9	9	9	10	8	8	10	10	7	10	10	7		126	90%	2		

ACC member Organization: Trout Unlimited														Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)										TOTAL PROJECT		
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	Score	% of max. Score	Rank		
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14						
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	2		130	93%	2	
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	5	5	5	8	3	4	6	6	5	2	3	2	3	3	X	65	46%	3		
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	10	10	8	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	7	10	10	9		134	96%	1		
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	NOGO	GO	GO	NOGO	GO	3	6	1	3	5	3	1	6	8	4	9	9	2	8	X	60	43%	4		

ACC member Organization: WDFW														Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)										TOTAL PROJECT		
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	Score	% of max. Score	Rank		
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14						
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	6	7	7	8	8	3	8	5	9	9	9	8	5	3	1	X	86	61%	4	
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	5	8	8	9	8	7	8	9	8	5	8	8	4		101	72%	3		
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	9	9	8	8	9	6	8	8	8	8	7	8	8	8		110	79%	1		
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	8	8	8		110	79%	2		

ACC member Organization: Cowlitz Tribe														Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)										TOTAL PROJECT		
Project Number	Project Title	Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Project of Concern?	Score	% of max. Score	Rank		
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14						
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	2	4	2	4	9	2	9	8	9	9	9	9	9	1	1		69	49%	4	
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	7	7	9	9	9	9	7	8	8	6	6	3	7	9		108	77%	3		
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	4	9	9	9	9	9	7	8	9	9	7	9	9	7		114	81%	2		
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	9	9	9	7	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	9	9	9		122	87%	1		

General

LCFRB	Design only projects while approved for submittal are not easily scored with existing template questions. Reviewer has to predict benefits with potentially only a conceptual design in place. For example, benefits to fish are not part of a design phase of the project. May need to modify template for design only proposals.
Utilities and AM. Rivers	Questions that do not lend themselves to numeric scores - how should these be scores as zeros or 5 (neutral) would adversely affect the total score and possibly whether the project is approved. See American Rivers comments.
Utilities	Should be a notes section to describe specific concerns to include why a project is marked as a project of concern

SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support

Type: "Build"
 Sponsor: LCFEG
 Total Cost: \$258,701
 ACC Request: \$ 143,966
 Match: \$105,735

Utilities	Benefits are not long-term
Utilities	permitting not approved by WDOE yet for analog placement
Utilities	Group has already been implementing project with good results
Utilities	Carcass placement is prioritized DS of Merwin (upper = 8000, lower=12000)
Utilities	Locations need to be resolved downstream of Merwin as habitat projects prioritize mainstem NFK Lewis over all other tributaries - not clear yet from proposal
Utilities	Truck lease = \$41,000 ACC funds - seems excessive. Don't equipment and tools already exist? Asking 5K
TU	I am on the board of LCFEG. To avoid conflict of interest I recuse myself. \$144 K, not sure if yearly or total (4 year) cost.
LCFRB	Project could be considered a "short term fix", but does not "restore normal watershed processes", as outlined in the subbasin plan.
LCFRB	implementation and results.
LCFRB	Project has significant match, and has substantial volunteer effort. Great public outreach and education opportunity.
LCFRB	seems low.
LCFRB	The subbasin plan does not directly contemplate nutrient enhancement as providing significant benefits to broader salmon recovery, relative to other recovery actions that produce longer term and sustained benefits.
LCFRB	The benefits of nutrient enhancement for rearing salmon were assessed in the Lower Columbia region in the Lower Columbia IMW and for rearing steelhead in the Wind River. Long-term growth and survival benefits for rearing coho salmon were not found in the Lower Columbia IMW, and the Wind River study did not consider long-term survival benefits. While broader ecological benefits may accrue based on the literature, regional results suggest survival bottlenecks other than short term

Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design

Type: Design Only
 Sponsor: USFS and CFC
 Total Cost: \$345,520
 ACC Request: \$333,520
 Match: \$12,000

Utilities	support reintroduction goal of the Agreement
Utilities	Cost share is relatively small and all in-kind (\$12,000 of \$333,520 design project)
Utilities	Implementation costs are likely in the millions and pose a risk with commitment of design only funds
TU	\$334 K just for planning is expensive. Too vague in descriptions. Limited access in mid and upper reaches. Previous projects failed.
TU	Why not have USFS do the engineering instead of contracting out?
LCFRB	Treatment of 13.9 miles of T2 stream reaches.
LCFRB	Direct benefits to SpCh (Primary), Coho (Contributing), and Winter Steelhead (Contributing and historical "Core").
LCFRB	High SRP for Coho and Medium SRP for SpCh.
LCFRB	Significant Coho spawner activity; minor SpCh spawner activity.
LCFRB	High Multi-Species Priorities incl. "riparian conditions", "stream channel habitat structure", and "off-channel and side channel habitat". This project should target all of these priorities.
LCFRB	Key habitat quantity is identified as a primary limiting factor for all three species.
LCFRB	Cost seems high for a design, but equals approx. \$24,000/ mile.
LCFRB	Certainty of success appears to be high, as this is a design only. Given that stream surveys have occurred in the area, and prior restoration efforts have occurred nearby, it appears that field work can be accomplished. This project builds on prior investments.

Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization

Type: Design/ Build
 Sponsor: USFS
 Total Cost: \$64,306
 ACC Request: \$48,210
 Match: \$16,096

Utilities	Project has benefits to coho and steelhead, but not Chinook. Therefore, it is limited in its benefits by species and geographic area.
Utilities	adds 2 miles of habitat for reasonable cost (no brainer)
Utilities	synergies with nutrient enhancement proposal if both approved
Utilities	Lower priority Tier 3 reach
TU	\$48.2K total cost. USFS \$16 K in-kind costs. Opens ≈ 2 miles of adult salmon habitat.
LCFRB	Opens up approx. 2 miles of stream habitat of modeling "Type F" stream habitat, per WDNR FPA website. Note: this model assumes all fish, and does not differentiate between resident and anadromous fish. Additional modeling indicates that SpCh and Coho occupy area within .75 miles; winter steelhead are modeled to occur within .2 miles.

LCFRB	EDT model only accounts approx. 0.4 miles of Pepper Ck, which is over a mile DS of the proposed fish barrier culvert.
LCFRB	Application indicates that juvenile coho were surveyed below the culvert, which makes sense, as coho tend to rear in this type of habitat, and the stream is low gradient.
LCFRB	This proposal appears to be more of a watershed process-based approach with most benefits being more indirect. The subbasin Plan identifies sediment as the #1 primary limiting factor for coho, SpCh, and winter steelhead. This proposal directly addresses this limiting factor as well as channel stability, which is influenced by sediment.
LCFRB	Barrier removal proposals tend to be very straightforward, and are generally dictated by regulatory agencies, incl. the USFS. While the application does not contain sufficient
LCFRB	information/ plans for design and permitting, we assume that the "typicals" provide enough information to understand what the eventual project will be. Certainty of success is very high.
LCFRB	Cost is low, and includes approx. 25% match. Two miles of road stabilization is substantial for a basin this size.

Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project

Type: Design/ Build
Sponsor: USFS

Total Cost: \$325,900
ACC Request: \$192,850
Match: \$133,050
Species: Bull Trout Funds

Utilities	X Decomissioning FS 65 may not achieve priority objectives by not providing direct benefits to priority species. The road crossing is upstream of falls and proposal would be stronger without this task, no separate budget provided for this task.
Utilities	High risk project to bull trout, however it has received approval of USFWS and BT working group with the addition of adaptive management and post project monitoring.
Utilities	Side channel creation may enhance coho spawning and rearing more than bull trout?
TU	Limited discussion of BT/CO interaction study. Need completed study prior to habitat reconfiguration. \$193 K seems expensive. After additional 7-day review period TU spoke with other Trout Unlimited members, we (TU) have reached a conclusion. Although we do not approve the 2021 USFS -- Rush Creek habitat project; we will not stand in the way.
LCFRB	Project would "reactivate" 3,145 lineal feet of channels; 870' in channel 1, and 2,275' in channel 2
LCFRB	Hydrologically disconnects Forest Road 65.
LCFRB	Removes two road crossings, which will improve natural watershed processes.
LCFRB	Rush Ck. is Tier 3; however, this proposal is specific to Bull Trout.
LCFRB	Project appears to provide additional benefits to Coho and winter steelhead, as SRP is Low and Medium, respectively.
LCFRB	Project elements will benefit both adult and juvenile life stages (Coho and steelhead) by improving "key habitat quantity", as outlined in the subbasin plan.
LCFRB	Cost is reasonable, and match is substantial (>40%)
LCFRB	Certainty of Success (COS) is difficult to determine, as working in the alluvial fan came prove difficult. However, even in the event of a catastrophic failure, it likely does not mean substantial loss of habitat.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

- 1 **Benefit fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, with priority to federal ESA-listed species?**
- 2 **Support the reintroduction of anadromous fish throughout the Basin?**
- 3 **Enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin, with priority given to the North Fork Lewis River?**
- 4 **Is the proposal consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and plans to the extent feasible?**
- 5 **Are any funds requested that would otherwise be required by law to perform?**

Am Riv Not a binary question. Does not make sense

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

- Q1 Does the project provide direct benefit(s) to priority species and habitat reaches?
- Q2 Does the project provide tangible, on the ground benefits?
- Q3 Does the project address a limiting factor(s) to the target species, life history stage, or habitat process?
- Q4 Does the proposal apply appropriate and proven methods, designs and technologies?
- Q5 Are the project objectives identified appropriate and justified given the proposed scope and schedule?
- Q6 Does the project describe and consider long term benefits and influences (e.g., watershed processes, hydro operations, climate change, etc.)?
- Q7 What constraints or contingencies affect project implementation (permitting, legal, location, funding, etc.)
- Q8 Is the probability of success high, medium or low?
- Q9 How qualified and experienced is the project team in successfully completing projects of similar scope, nature, and magnitude?
- Q10 How might other habitat protection, assessments, or restoration actions in the watershed impact the project?
- Q11 Will the project be cost shared with other funding sources (e.g., matching contributions, in-kind participation, grants, etc.)?
- Q12 Are project costs reasonable by work effort and type (administration, permitting, goods and services, rentals, labor, contracts, etc.)?
- Q13 Are the total costs justified based on expected short and long term benefits to fish?
- Q14 Is the project self-maintaining once completed? If not, how will maintenance be achieved?

TU added..."without adversely impacting other species, life history stages, or habitat processes?"

Am Riv This is not a 1-10 question

Am Riv Also not a 1-10 question

Am Riv This is a binary question, not 1-10 scale

Am Riv The first part of this question is binary. The second part of this question is not a 1-10 scale question

McCune, Kimberly (PacifiCorp)

From: Le, An M <an_le@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Jones, Joshua -FS
Cc: Romanski, Tim; Scafidi, Carolyn
Subject: Recommendations for the Rush Creek Project

Hello JD,

We appreciate all the discussion on the Rush Creek Project thus far, and you meeting us in the field to show us the project site. The project has the potential to improve conditions for bull trout within the project area, and increase the amount of spawning and rearing habitat available for bull trout use. As we discussed in the field, we recommend that you incorporate several different measures into the project to maximize conservation benefits to bull trout.

First and foremost, we strongly recommend the incorporation of adaptive management into the project. Regular and consistent monitoring efforts (shared with the USFWS for feedback), and the flexibility to modify plans and project design elements over time will be essential to realize the full potential conservation value of the project. Given the initial outcomes of the project, various aspects of the project could benefit from adaptive management to ensure the project will have the intended benefits to bull trout, including the change in water levels within Rush Creek and the reactivated side channels, access to bull trout spawning and rearing habitat, and the amount and quality of complex fish habitat from large wood added to streams.

In the field, we also discussed closing portions of the project area to fishing and recreation, and creating educational signage about bull trout significance and listing status. We recommend the inclusion of this component into the proposed project to decrease the potential take of bull trout within the project area.

Finally, additional research and targeted monitoring on interactions between bull trout and Coho salmon, and differences in habitat preferences between the two species may also increase the conservation value of the project. This information can help determine if negative interactions between the two species are of concern, and more effectively target project design at benefitting bull trout, if needed. Knowledge gained on the subject may also benefit future projects in locations where the two species co-occur.

Thank you for all the great conversation on the project so far! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Best Regards,
An Markus Le
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102
Lacey, WA 98503
Email: An_Le@fws.gov
Phone: (360) 753-7767

McCune, Kimberly (PacifiCorp)

From: Lamperth, Jr, James S (DFW) <Jamie.Lamperth@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:22 AM
To: Robertson, Greg- FS
Cc: Jones, Joshua -FS; Day, Kate -FS
Subject: RE: LRBTRT - 2020 Bull Trout data review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey Greg,

Hope all is well with you.

Good to hear the project is moving along. I will make this the first item on our January meeting agenda to get the conversation started. I like the idea of letting everyone mull it over and then reconvene with ideas. So, I'm thinking you can present the project, next steps, etc, we can discuss it for a bit, and then set a date to talk about it again. Does that work? Maybe a 30 minute slot? Let me know.

Talk soon,
--Jamie

Jamie Lamperth
Fish Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Ecology and Life Cycle Monitoring Unit
804 Allen St., Suite 3
Kelso, WA 98626
360.846.8554

From: Robertson, Greg -FS <greg.robertson2@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Lamperth, Jr, James S (DFW) <Jamie.Lamperth@dfw.wa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Joshua D -FS <joshua.d.jones@usda.gov>; Day, Kate -FS <kate.day@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: LRBTRT - 2020 Bull Trout data review

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Hi Jamie,

The USFS is moving forward with the Rush Creek side channel project with the blessing of the USFWS if provisions are added to the project design. We had a productive field site visit with the USFWS in regards to the project objectives and

to get recommendations. Now we want to bring in the Bull Trout Workgroup to further the discussion to make this and future bull trout projects successful.

USFWS recommendations from the site visit:

- An adaptive management plan for the project
 - “to ensure the project will have the intended benefits to bull trout, including the change in water levels within Rush Creek and the reactivated side channels, access to bull trout spawning and rearing habitat, and the amount and quality of complex fish habitat from large wood added to streams.”
- Fishing Closure and Signage
 - “closing portions of the project area to fishing and recreation, and creating educational signage about bull trout significance and listing status. We recommend the inclusion of this component into the proposed project to decrease the potential take of bull trout within the project area.”
- Research and Targeted Monitoring of Coho and Bull Trout Interactions
 - “additional research and targeted monitoring on interactions between bull trout and Coho salmon, and differences in habitat preferences between the two species may also increase the conservation value of the project. This information can help determine if negative interactions between the two species are of concern, and more effectively target project design at benefitting bull trout, if needed. Knowledge gained on the subject may also benefit future projects in locations where the two species co-occur.”

Can we start the conversation at our next meeting if we have time? Or at least present it so folks can mull it over and come back with ideas? I’ve looped in our new Fisheries Program Manager, JD and Kate our new Watershed Program Manager.

Thanks,

Greg

From: Lamperth, Jr, James S (DFW) <Jamie.Lamperth@dfw.wa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:08 AM

To: Al-Chokhachy, Robert <ral-chokhachy@usgs.gov>; Amanda Froberg <afroberg@cowlitzpud.org>; byrnejim7@gmail.com; JEREMIAH.DOYLE@PACIFICORP.COM; Glaser, Bryce G (DFW) <Bryce.Glaser@dfw.wa.gov>; Holowatz, Josua A (DFW) <Josua.Holowatz@dfw.wa.gov>; Hudson, Michael <michael_hudson@fws.gov>; Jones, Joshua D -FS <joshua.d.jones@usda.gov>; Litz, Marisa N (DFW) <Marisa.Litz@dfw.wa.gov>; Robertson, Greg -FS <greg.robertson2@usda.gov>; Romanski, Tim <tim_romanski@fws.gov>; Steve Manlow <smanlow@lcfwb.gen.wa.us>; swest@lcfwb.gen.wa.us

Subject: LRBTRT - 2020 Bull Trout data review

Hey Folks,

Hope everyone is doing well.

It’s that time of year again to review Lewis River bull trout data. We will be going over the data collected in 2020 via a virtual meeting.

Below is a Doodle Poll with dates for the 2nd and 3rd weeks of January. Once I hear back from everyone I will send out a follow up email with the date we have chosen.

https://doodle.com/poll/myd5uqs6k76cicr2?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Thanks,

Jamie Lamperth
Fish Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Ecology and Life Cycle Monitoring Unit
804 Allen St., Suite 3
Kelso, WA 98626
360.846.8554

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Lewis River Fish Passage Report

February 2021

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

During the month of February, a total of 57 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF). The first spring Chinook of 2021 was collected at the MFCF on February 16th, 2021. This fish was of natural origin (NOR) and had been previously PIT tagged at the Swift Floating Surface Collector (FSC) as an out-migrant in March 2018. All other fish collected at the MFCF in February were winter steelhead.

The Merwin Dam Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) was taken out of service on February 10, 2021 due to extreme winter weather. As part of this effort, the Merwin Trap fish lift and conveyance system was temporarily turned off to prevent freezing and snow loading of critical equipment. The attraction flow at the Merwin Trap remained on so fish could enter the trap while the conveyance system was off. The lift and conveyance system was returned to service on February 15, 2021 after weather conditions improved. In addition to the weather-related outage, the attraction water from Merwin Fish Hatchery was diverted away from the MFCF from February 1st-8th to accommodate repair work to the supply pipeline. Flow below Merwin Dam was generally increasing throughout the month, fluctuating between 5,350-9,030 cfs (Figure 1).

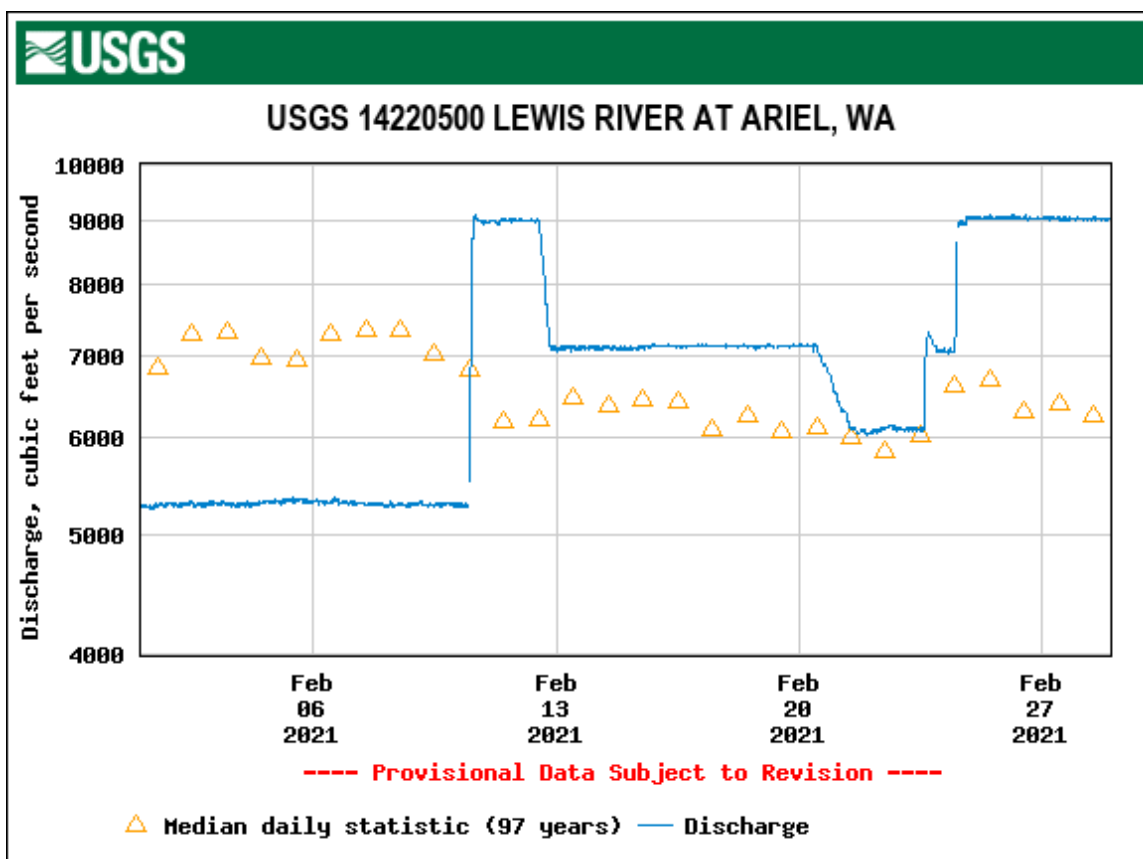


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

Upstream Transport

A total of 39 adult fish were transported upstream of Merwin Dam during the month of February. Of these, all but one were winter steelhead (26 Blank Wire Tag, 14 NOR). While the total number of adults transported upstream decreased slightly from those in January, NOR steelhead collection in 2021 remains notably higher than the 2015-2020 average (Figure 2). The first spring Chinook adult of 2021 was also transported upstream in February. Year-to-date in 2021, 83 coho, 57 NOR winter steelhead, 26 BWT winter steelhead, eight cutthroat, and one spring Chinook have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

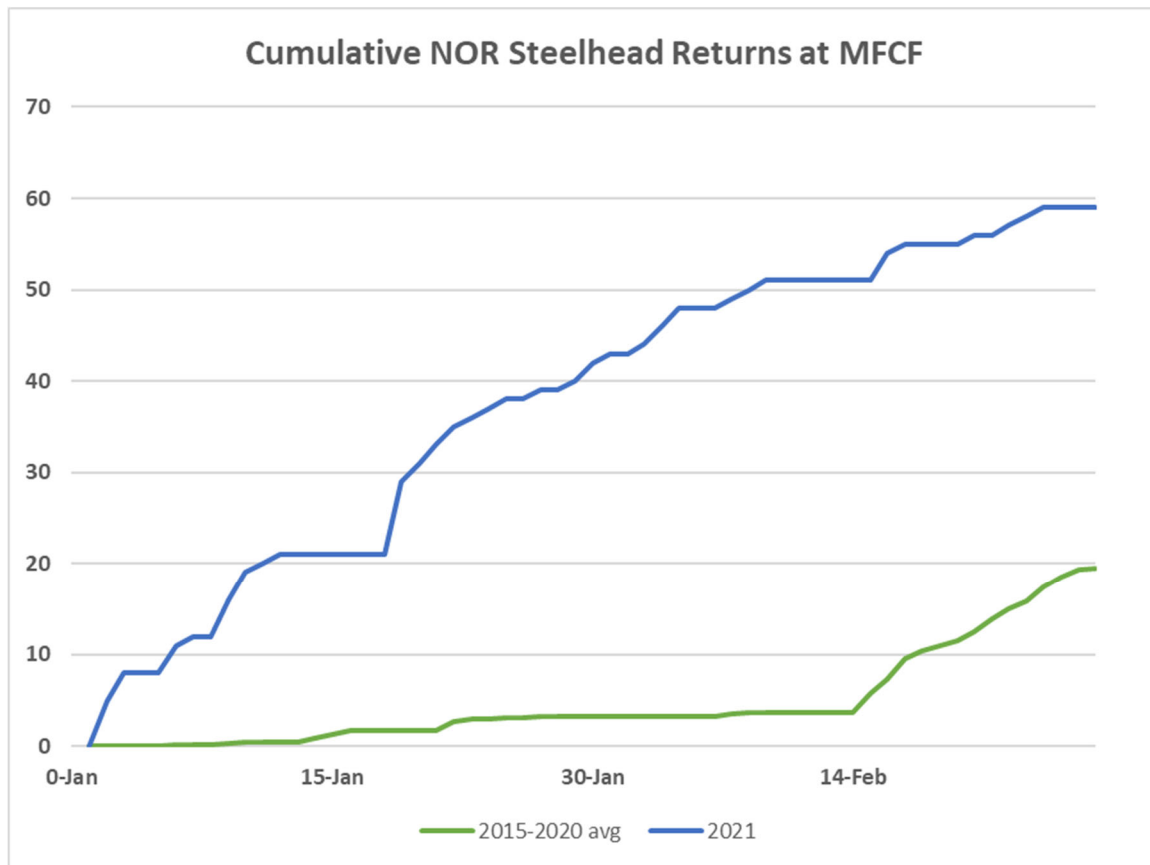


Figure 2. Cumulative number of natural origin (NOR) steelhead collected at Merwin Adult Fish Collection Facility, relative to the 2015-2020 average.

Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was taken out of operation on February 10, 2021 due to extreme winter weather and freezing conditions (Figures 3-4). It was returned to service

on February 16, 2021. A total of 1,249 fish were collected throughout the month, which was down from January's total of 2,893. The majority of the fish collected in February were juvenile coho (74.3%) and Chinook (14.3%).



Figure 3. Ice buildup on the Net Transition Structure (NTS) at the Swift FSC following the February winter storm.



Figure 4. Windswept icicles on light posts on the Swift FSC.

Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
February 2021

Day	Coho			Chinook			Steelhead				Cutthroat		Bull Trout	Planted Rainbow	Total	
	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	kelt	fry	<13 in				> 13 in
1	2	14	12			7			0			3		0	2	40
2	2	4	8			15	3	4	2			1		0	0	39
3	1	19	18			15			3			5		0	2	63
4		28	56		1	10		1	0			9		0	5	110
5		47	17			6			3					0	3	76
6	3	35	19			16		1	0					0	3	77
7	3	41	15			7			2	1		5		0	4	78
8	2	43	7			8		1	1			1		0	2	65
9		38	7			5		1	0			5		0	3	59
10		32	9			14			0			5		0	4	64
11																
12																
13																
14																
15																
16																
17		61	3		3	6			1			2		0	3	79
18		55	0			3			1			4		0	2	65
19		34	2		1	8			0					0	0	45
20		17	3			1			0					0	0	21
21	6	28	7	3	3	9		1	2			2		0	2	63
22	1	28	9			4			1					0	3	46
23		48	20	1	3	2			2			1		0	2	79
24	9	19	16	4		7		1	0			4		0	4	64
25		18	4			2			0			1		0	3	28
26	2	13	4	1		2			1		1			0	4	28
27		18	9		1	2		1	1					0	2	34
28	1	4	7			9			1					0	4	26
Monthly	32	644	252	9	12	158	3	11	21	1	1	48	0	0	57	1249
Total	217	2709	517	9	16	377	7	20	68	1	2	125	1	0	73	4142