

LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO
503-412-8401

Location: TEAMS MEETING ONLY

Date: April 8, 2021

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 3/11/21 Meeting Notes
 - Comment & Accept Agenda, 3/11/21 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- 10:15 a.m. Review of Aquatic Fund Process and Schedule/Timeline for 2021/2022 Funding Cycle
- 11:15 a.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
 - ATS Update
 - Fish Passage Update
- 11:45 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>
- 12:00 p.m. **Meeting adjourn**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

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

Phone Conference ID: 867 438 35#

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
April 8, 2021
TEAMS Meeting Only

ACC Representatives Present (13)

Bridget Moran, American Rivers
Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
Janae Brock, Fish First
Steve West, LCFRB
Scott Anderson, NMFS
Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
Joshua Jones (JD), USFS
Jeffrey Garnett, USFWS
Peggy Miller, WDFW
Josua Holowatz, WDFW
Aaron Roberts, WDFW
Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation

Calendar:

May 13, 2021	ACC Meeting	TEAMS Meeting
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Assignments from April 8, 2021	Status
Lesko: Modify Aquatic Fund timeline and resubmit to the ACC at the May 13 th meeting for ACC review and approval.	Complete – 4/12/21
ACC: Rephrase the aquatic fund scoring template questions and send to Erik Lesko via email by April 20, 2021.	Complete – 4/12/21

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 March 11, 2021 meeting notes. The ACC requested clarification specific to the 2020 Bull Trout data review referenced in the following paragraph:

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. 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. in the

Upon confirmation from USFWS, Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) finalized the March 11, 2021 meeting notes and attached the emails as Attachment A that relate to the bull trout data review reference.

Public Comment Opportunity

None

Review of Aquatic Fund Process and Schedule/Timeline for 2021/2022 Funding Cycle

Lesko informed the ACC that requests were made, specifically from the USFS, to review the Aquatic Fund Process Timeline below and discuss any adjustments that can be made for subsequent years to approve projects earlier in order to facilitate project implementation in the summer months, soon after a project has been approved.

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 add'l 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.

The ACC would like to consider not having comments due by early January of each year due to the preceding holidays and staff out of the office or on vacation. McCune expressed that an early announcement of perhaps July of each year is very doable. Lesko will modify the Aquatic Fund timeline and resubmit to the ACC for review and approval before the May 13th meeting.

Review of Aquatic Fund Scoring Template and evaluation questions

Lesko reviewed ACC comments about the scoring template and evaluation questions to provide clarity for subsequent year review.

- Review and discuss how to modify scoring template for design-only projects.
- Rephrase some of the questions that do not land on a 1-10 scale and make them measurable questions.
- ACC can rephrase the questions on their own and then have a discussion at the next ACC meeting and consolidate with Utilities recommendations.
- ACC to add notes when they check the “project of concern” box. Lesko to add comment section to the template.

Lesko to send out revised schedule along with evaluation questions by 4/13/21 for review by the ACC. ACC to send recommended edits of scoring template questions and revised schedule to Lesko by 4/20/21 for discussion at the May 2021 ACC meeting.

Study/Work Product Updates

Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update

Merwin – down 3.5’

Yale – down 13’

Swift – down 23’

Total hole– 40’

Outflow from Merwin dam is 2,600cfs. Natural flows are 4,322 so we are currently in a filling mode.

ATS Update

The ATS is still working on its 2021 annual operating plan (screw trapping, genetic monitoring and fall salmon survey efforts). The ATS will be working on finalizing a draft M&E Plan for review by the ACC later this fall. The ATS continues to meet once each month.

Fish Passage Update

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

During the month of March, a total of 100 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF). The monthly catch was mostly composed of winter steelhead (82.0%) and spring Chinook (16.0%). All hatchery spring Chinook were given to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for broodstock.

The MFCF was operational throughout the month of March, with the exception of March 2nd, when the facility underwent scheduled quarterly maintenance. Flow below Merwin Dam fluctuated between 3,000-9,030 cfs (Figure 1).

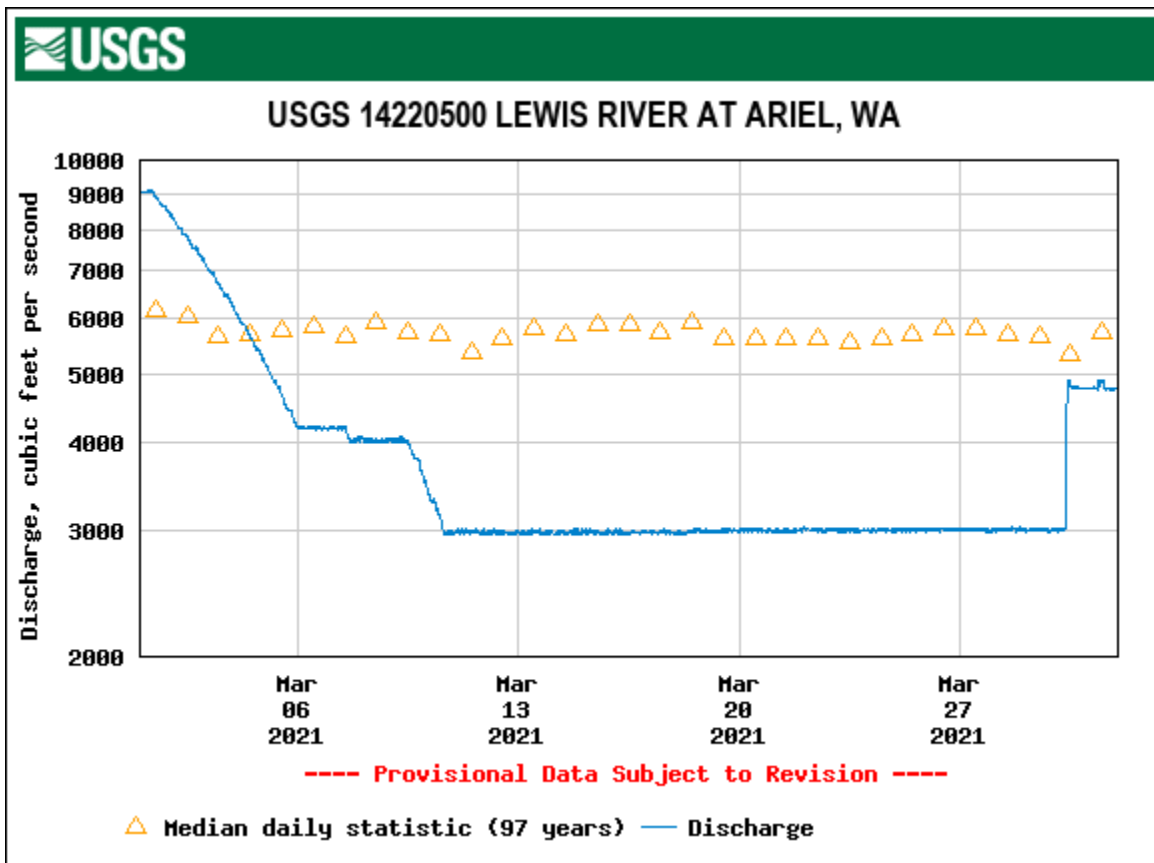


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

Upstream Transport

A total of 61 adult fish were transported upstream of Merwin Dam during the month of March, an increase from February's total of 39. The majority (91.8%) of these fish were winter steelhead (n=56), with a few natural origin (NOR) spring Chinook (n=3) and cutthroat trout (n=2) transported as well. NOR steelhead collection totals in 2021 remain higher than the 2015-2020 average (Figure 2). By the end of March 2021, 83 coho, 77 BWT winter steelhead, 70 NOR winter steelhead, eleven cutthroat trout, and four NOR spring Chinook have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

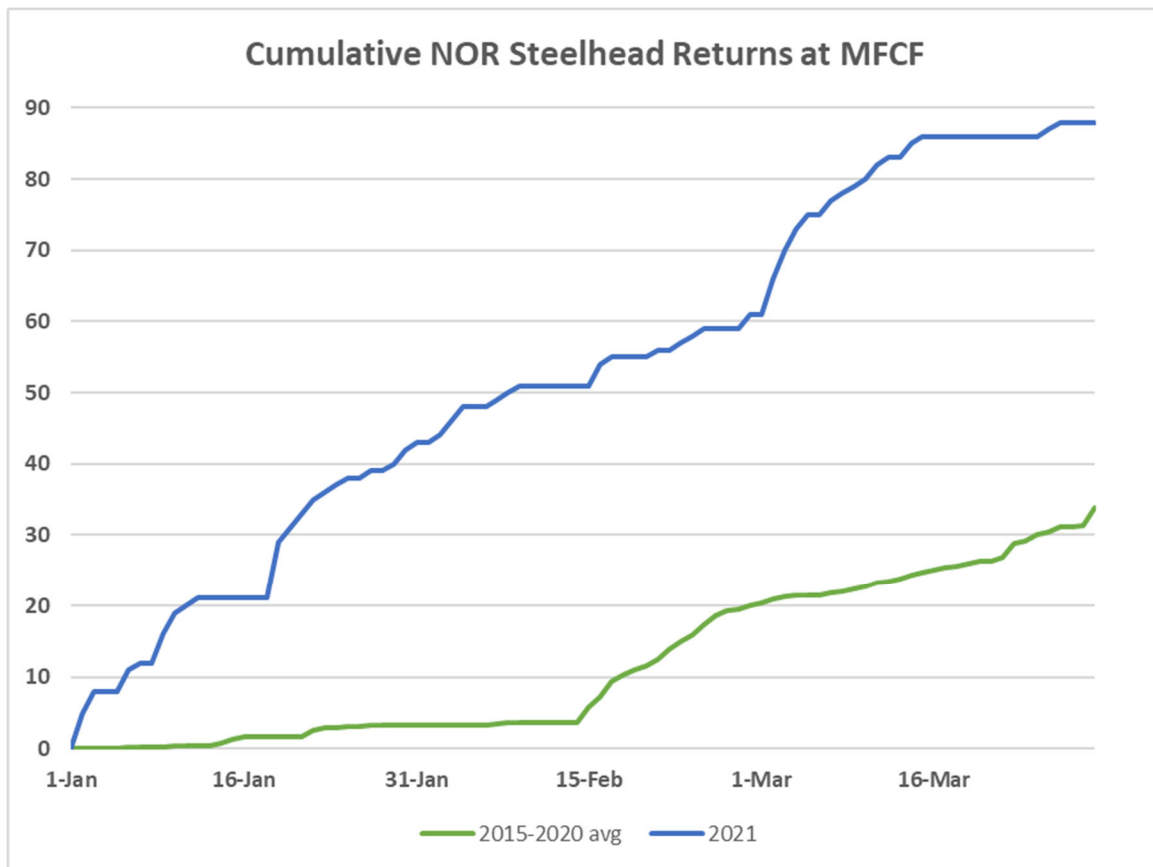


Figure 2. Cumulative number of natural origin (NOR) steelhead collected at Merwin Adult Fish Collection Facility in 2021, relative to the 2015-2020 average.

Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) ran continuously throughout the month of March. A total of 1,949 fish were collected throughout the month, which is an increase from February's total of 1,249. The majority (67.1%) of the fish collected in March were juvenile coho (n=1,309), followed by spring Chinook (n=438), planted rainbow trout (n=143), steelhead (n=31), cutthroat trout (n=27), and bull trout (n=1).

Other

All comments received on the ACC/TCC 2020 Annual Report and associated attachments have been received by the April 5th deadline and will be addressed in the final and submitted to the FERC on or before April 15, 2021.

Agenda items for May 13, 2021

- Review April 8, 2021 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE May 3, 2021**)
- Review and discussion of Aquatic Fund Process and Timeline, and scoring template questions for 2021/2022 Funding Cycle
- Swift Survey's at Northwoods Update
- Study/Work Product Updates

Adjourn 11:00am

Next Scheduled Meeting:

May 13, 2021
TEAMS Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 3/11/2021
- Agenda from 4/8/2021
- **Attachment A** - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (March 2021)

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

March 2021

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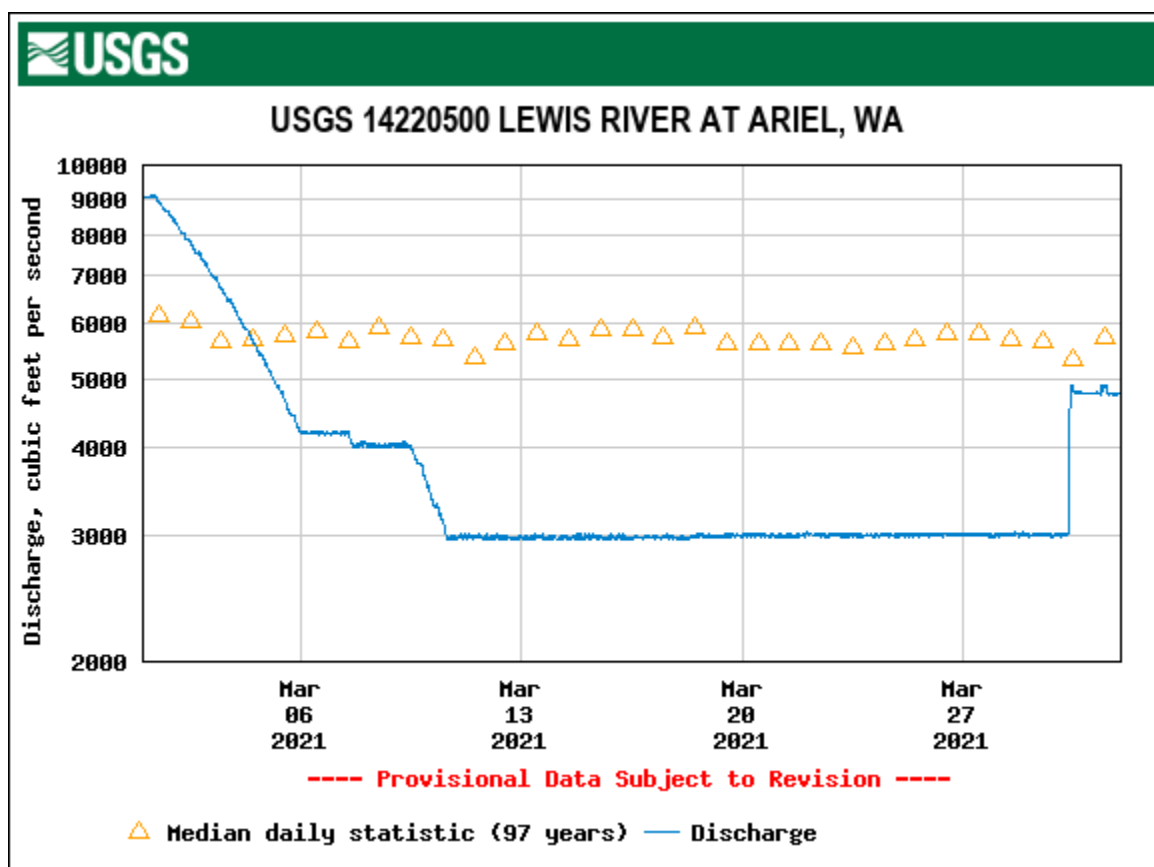


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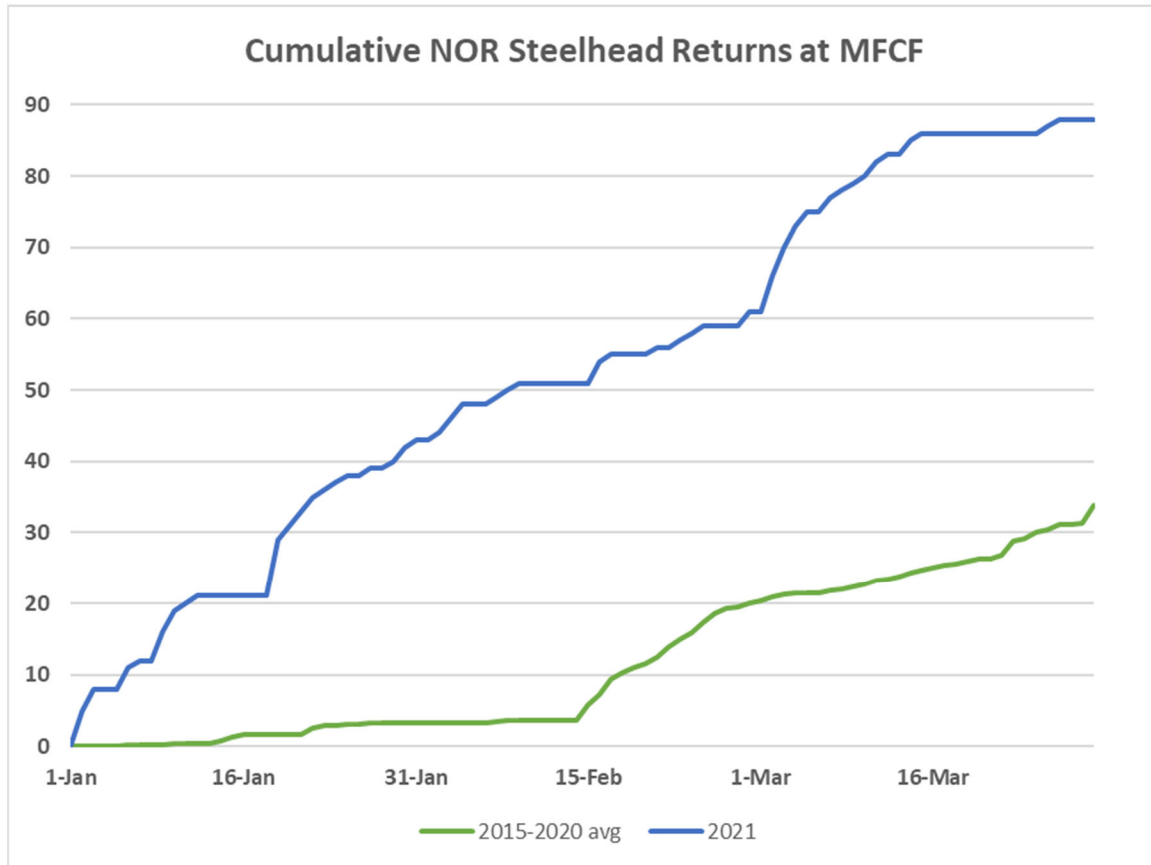


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Fish Facility Report
Merwin Adult Trap
March 2021

[illegible]

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
March 2021

Day	fry	Coho parr	smolt	fry	Chinook parr	smolt	fry	Steelhead parr	smolt	kelt	fry	Cutthroat <13 in	> 13 in	Bull Trout	Planted Rainbow	Total
1	14		9			5			1			1		0	6	36
2		19	5			9		2	0			1		0	3	39
3		29	5		1	2			1			1		0	1	40
4		26	17			9			0					0	0	52
5		42	8			8			1					0	11	70
6		24	18		3	9			0			1		0	3	58
7	4	59	3			3			1			1		0	9	80
8		39	15		2	24			2			1		0	2	85
9		24	6		1	9			0					0	5	45
10	1	61	20			22			2			1		0	6	113
11		25	6			11			0			1	1	0	1	45
12	6	67	10		3	17			1					0	2	106
13		48	10		4	21			1			2		0	6	92
14	2	37	8	1		24			0					0	1	73
15		14	15		1	13		1	0			1		0	2	47
16	1	71	9			25			0					0	6	112
17		65	9			11	1		2			1	1	0	7	97
18	2	34	18		1	15			0					0	8	78
19		49	16			47		1	0					0	2	115
20		36	16			16			0			1		0	5	74
21	7	44	9		3	6			0			1		0	4	74
22		12	8			12			0					0	0	32
23		20	65			20			0			2		0	9	116
24		7	16			16			3		1	2		0	4	49
25	11	10	3			3			1					0	8	36
26		2	6			7			0					0	2	17
27		4	8			8		1	0					1	7	29
28		5	2			8			0			1		0	0	16
29		12	4			6			0					0	6	28
30	1	7	4			8			2			1		0	10	33
31		11	9			24		2	5			4		0	7	62
Monthly	49	903	357	1	19	418	1	7	23	0	1	24	2	1	143	1949
Total	266	3612	874	10	35	795	8	27	91	1	3	149	3	1	216	6091