

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects Settlement Agreement
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC)
Meeting Agenda**

Date & Time: Thursday, May 10, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Place: Merwin Hydro Control Center & Woodland Release Ponds
105 Merwin Village Court
Ariel, WA 98603

Contacts: Erik Lesko: (503) 412-8401

Time	Discussion Item
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review Agenda and ACC 4/14/17 Meeting Notes ➤ Comment & Accept Agenda and 4/14/17 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Opportunity
9:20 a.m.	Lewis River Acclimation Program - Release Strategy and Monitoring Plan Recommendations from H&S Subgroup
10:00 a.m.	Review & Approve USFS Aquatic Fund Project Extension Requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spencer Creek Alluvial Fan and Channel Rehabilitation ○ Lewis River 21 Phase I
10:15 a.m.	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H&S Plan Update ○ Merwin Upstream Passage – Status ○ Swift Floating Surface Collector – Status ○ Acclimation Pond Removal - Status
10:45 a.m.	Safety Orientation for Field Tour & Break
11:00 a.m.	Depart for Field Tour¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Woodland Release Ponds
11:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Next Meeting's Agenda ➤ Public Comment Opportunity Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Join by Phone
+1 (503) 813-5252 [Portland, Ore.]
+1 (855) 499-5252 [Toll Free]

Conference ID: 2625672

¹ Please bring rain gear, hard hat, safety glasses and sturdy walking shoes for the Release Ponds tour.

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
May 10, 2018
Merwin Hydro Control Center

ACC Representatives Present (14)

Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
 Mark Ferraiolo, PacifiCorp
 Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
 Tom Wadsworth, WDFW
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Aaron Roberts, WDFW
 Ruth Tracy, USDA Forest Service
 Greg Robertson, USDA Forest Service
 Steve West, LCFRB
 Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited
 Tim Romanski, USFWS (via conference)
 Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe (via conference)

Guests (1)

Josh Holowatz, WDFW

Calendar:

June 14, 2018	ACC Meeting	HCC
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Assignments from May 10, 2018	Status
Lesko - Provide summary of 2018 AOP activities to ACC including results from radio telemetry and morphological smolt sampling at the hatcheries by the next ACC meeting on July 12, 2018.	
Karchesky - Create a draft memorandum for the H&S subgroup to review outlining a revised plan for the spring Chinook supplementation program over the next 5 years. The memorandum will address reallocation of the upper basin juvenile acclimation fish to being released below Merwin Dam, evaluation of juvenile release and tagging strategy, ongoing and revised monitoring program, and seed planting.	Complete – 6/14/18

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and reviewed the agenda. Lesko asked if the ACC would like to add any topics. No additional topics were requested.

Lesko also reviewed the April 12, 2018 meeting notes. Tom Wadsworth (WDFW) requested a few clarifying changes and Ruth Tracy (USFS) requested the last paragraph on page 4 in reference to the Lewis River In-Lieu Fund Update modified as follows:

Some ACC representatives would like to have been informed earlier, and in writing, about PacifiCorp's plan to contact Agency leads. In general, most ACC members prefer not to review/comment on the memorandum/draft outline until such time that the Services (NMFS and USFWS) make their decision, which is currently expected no later than August 23, 2018.

The meeting notes were approved with all requested changes at 9:25 a.m.

Public Comment

None

Lewis River Acclimation Program – Release Strategy and Monitoring Plan Recommendations from the H&S Subgroup

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC attendees that the H&S Subgroup recommended releasing the 100,000 juvenile spring Chinook salmon formerly allocated for the upper basin acclimation sites downstream of Merwin Dam in 2018. Rich Turner (NMFS) was in attendance at the last April 26, 2018 H&S Subgroup meeting and supports this recommendation. Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp) also noted that he had contacted Bob Rose (Yakama Nation) May 9, 2018 to review the H&S Subgroup recommendations and to see if Rose had any additional feedback regarding this potential decision. Rose indicated that he abstains from any formal comment or decision on this matter, and trusts that ACC is making the correct decision in support of the resource given the information available. Rose also conveyed that information regarding estimates of natural production from releases of adult spring Chinook into the upper basin along with their habitat utilization would be useful for future management actions. Comparison with the current Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) Model data and estimates of actual carrying capacity will directly shape program goals and expectations.

The 100,000 juvenile spring Chinook currently being held at Speelyai Hatchery have not been tagged and still have adipose-fins intact. The ACC discussed if these fish should be released without a mark or tag and whether they needed to be differentiated from HORs/NORs. The ACC also briefly discussed the potential release strategies of these fish. The ACC decided these details will be determined at a later date upon review and recommendation from the H&S Subgroup (next meeting scheduled for May 31, 2018). The H&S Subgroup will provide a final recommendation at the June 14, 2018 ACC meeting. Aaron Roberts (WDFW) expressed that he is happy with an adaptive management approach but release of the 100,000 fish is time sensitive. The sooner the ACC decides if we are tagging, etc. the better. WDFW would like a decision made regarding the 2018 release no later than July 2018.

Peggy Miller (WDFW) asked if the intention of this new releases strategy was just for 2018 or whether it would continue into the future. Karchesky indicated that his thoughts were to develop a plan for releasing juvenile spring Chinook downstream over the next 5 years to assess adult returns and spawning distribution in the upper basin. He added however, like many of the other salmon recovery programs on the Lewis River, annual decisions regarding this particular program will be based on adaptive management approach through the ACC process.

Karchesky was tasked with creating a draft memorandum for the H&S subgroup to review outlining a revised plan for the spring Chinook supplementation program over the next 5 years. The memorandum will address reallocation of the upper basin juvenile acclimation fish to being released below Merwin Dam, evaluation of juvenile release and tagging strategy, and ongoing monitoring programs for adult spawning distribution and juvenile production.

Adult Spring Chinook Transport above Swift Dam 2018

Karchesky informed the ACC that approximately 40 adult spring Chinook were transported upstream of Swift Dam and released at Eagle Cliff on May 8, 2018. This was the first group of the season. Ruth Tracy (USFS) asked if there were any plans to transport adults further into the upper basin and released as seed plants. Karchesky said potentially, although based on last year's spawner distribution information, it may not be warranted. Only 35 adults were seed planted in 2017 (19 at Muddy Bridge; 9 at Clear Creek Bridge; and 7 in the Upper Lewis at Crab Creek Bridge). Karchesky also mentioned that caution should be given regarding seed planting spring Chinook given summer time flow conditions; probably best to let fish find summer holding habitat on their own. Tracy indicated that some consideration should still be made although for now was fine with releasing the majority of at Eagle Cliff (top of Swift Reservoir). The ACC agreed to continue releasing adult spring Chinook at Eagle Cliff, but will adaptively manage this strategy based on how well fish distribute throughout the upper basin in fall 2018.

Review and Approve USFS Aquatic Fund Project Extension Requests

Greg Robertson (USFS) informed PacifiCorp that the expiration date for the Spencer Creek Alluvial Fan and Channel Rehabilitation project is stated to expire July 31, 2018 which was a clerical error. In addition, the Lewis River 21 Phase I agreement expires December 31, 2019. Robertson requested each agreement extended to December 31, 2021 to allow for post project monitoring.

The ACC approved extending both the Spencer Creek Alluvial Fan and Channel Rehabilitation project and the Lewis River 21 Phase I project to December 31, 2021.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will secure an appropriate PacifiCorp signature on the agreement modifications and email the partially executed documents to Robertson and the appropriate Forest Service contracting personnel.

Study/Work Product Updates

H&S Plan Update

A 30-day review draft of the 2018 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) was provided to the H&S Subgroup participants on April 24, 2018. Comments are due May 24, 2018. Once final, the 2018 AOP will be provided to the ACC along with a presentation summarizing the proposed activities for approval. Lesko noted that the 5-year H&S Plan rewrite is currently due December 31, 2019. Lesko indicated that its possible PacifiCorp may ask for another extension of time to complete an independent comprehensive review of the program until December 31, 2020. A recommendation will be made by the subgroup at the May 31 meeting on whether it is more beneficial to initiate a review prior to or after the H&S plan is redrafted. The Subgroup intends to provide the AOP for approval by the ACC in June or July.

Acclimation Pond Removal

On schedule to decommission the Muddy site this year.

Woodland Release Ponds

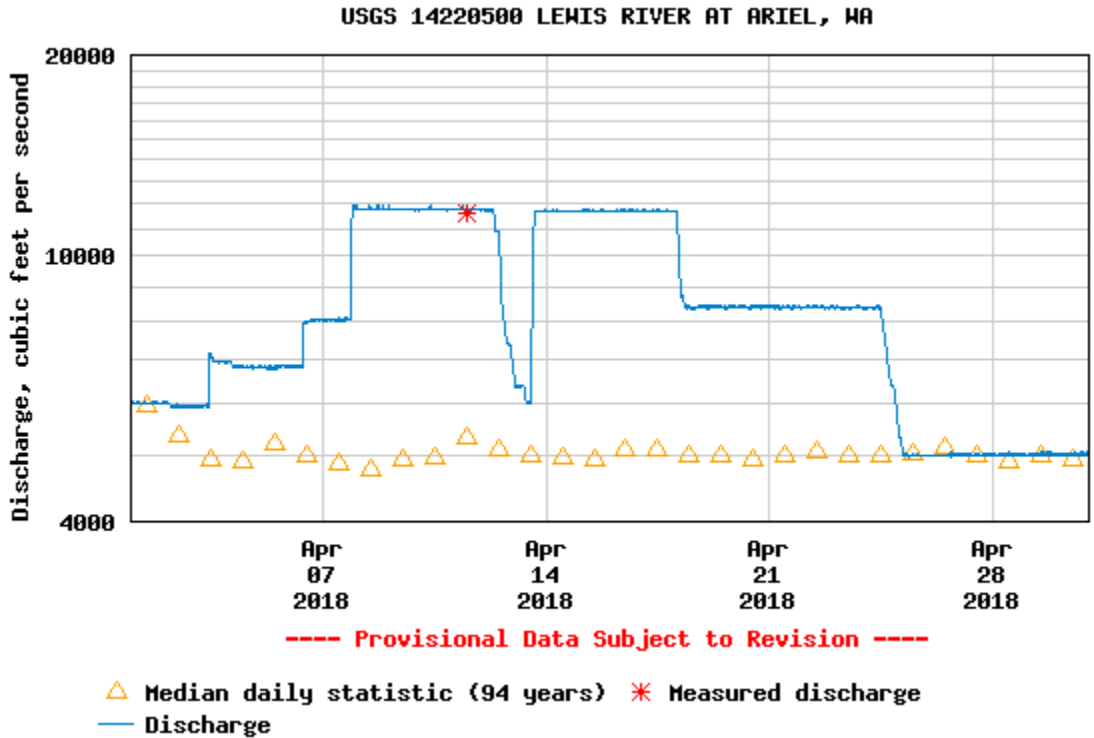
Ponds are designed for volitional exit. The facility is included in region wide PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS).

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations (Attachment A)

Karchesky (PacifiCorp) provided a brief summary of the current status of the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Trap. During the month of April, a total of 1,234 fish were captured with the majority of these fish being Blank Wire Tag (BWT) winter steelhead (655 – 53%) and spring Chinook (561 – 45%). Karchesky also mentioned that the Merwin Dam adult fish trap crowder and conveyance system ran continuously through the month of April with no interruption in service.

River flow varied below Merwin Dam ranging between 2,790 and 6,030 cfs throughout the month.

Discharge, cubic feet per second



Upstream Transport (Attachment A)

Nine Blank Wire Tag (BWT) winter steelhead were transported upstream above Swift Dam in December 2017. Two additional fish were transported earlier in the fall for a total of 11 BWT steelhead collected and transported in fall/winter 2017. Through April 2018, an additional 1,122 BWT winter steelhead were transported upstream for a total of 1,133 fish transported as part of the 2018 run year.

Run Year	Male	Female	Total adult winter steelhead taken upstream of Swift Dam
2012	141	48	189
2013	440	301	741

2014	452	581	1,033
2015	746	477	1,223
2016	378	376	754
2017	331	261	592
2018*	658	475	1,133

* Through April 30, 2018.

Karchesky gave a brief summary of the ongoing Merwin Dam Adult Trap Efficiency (ATE) Study for winter steelhead. So far, a total of 92 fish have been tagged (19 trap naïve vs. 73 trap non-naïve). Of the 19 trap naïve fish tagged downstream, 16 have returned to Merwin Dam and all have been recaptured ($ATE_{TEST} = 100\%$). All but one of the 73 trap non-naïve fish rereleased downstream have returned to Merwin Dam and 63 have been recaptured ($ATE_{TEST} = 88\%$). Further statistical analysis is still pending. Monitoring and data collection is scheduled through June 2018, with the draft report issued for review in early fall.

As of end of April 2018, no adult spring Chinook have been transported upstream as part of the 2018 run year so far. By the end of April, there were approximately 360 adult spring Chinook being held at Lewis River Hatchery. These fish may be taken upstream once the returning run has reached the historic 50% level (generally around the 3rd week in May). A decision on whether to transport some or all of these fish will be made at that time. Additional details regarding this decision process can be found in Section B - 2.2 in the draft 2018 Hatchery and Supplementation Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

Swift Floating Surface Collector ([Attachment A](#))

During the month of April, 5,124 fish were collected in 2018. The largest percentage of these fish were coho parr and smolt (45%). The FSC ran continuously throughout the month of April, however, heavy debris loading occurred the last week of April. The vessel was turned off periodically in order for debris to be removed from the entrance.

Total numbers collected at the Swift FSC from January through April by operation year.

Species (parr/smolt)	YTD: 4/30/2013	YTD: 4/30/2014	YTD: 4/30/2015	YTD: 4/30/2016	YTD: 4/30/2017	YTD: 4/30/2018
Coho	1,885	<i>Na</i>	11,096	25,477	4,254	5,822
Chinook	286	<i>Na</i>	2,178	3,114	526	3,961
Steelhead	12	<i>Na</i>	182	614	283	1,084

Other

Land locked coho super smolts in Swift; land lock salmon harvest regulations. Discussion to be added to the June 14, 2018 ACC agenda. This will also be discussed within the H&S subgroup as it is an objective in the H&S program.

Agenda items for June 14, 2018

- May 9, 2018 Meeting Notes
- Land Locked Salmon; harvest regulations
- Aquatic Fund Process Review
- Spring Chinook Acclimation Program Releases; discuss recommendations from H&S Subgroup regarding new release strategy
- In Lieu Fund Update
- Study/Work Product Update

Tour Safety Briefing

Lesko informed the ACC tour attendees that we are headed to tour the Woodland Release Ponds. Watch carefully where you are walking as there are no hand rails; hard hats and safety glasses are required. There is asphalt walkway around the ponds and no vendors are on site.

Break 11:00am

Reconvene 11:10am

Depart for Woodland Release Ponds Field Tour – 11:10am

Ponds are designed for volitional exit. The facility is included in region wide PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS).



Figure 1. Woodland release pond raceways.



Figure 2. Concrete vaults housing the intake valves and pump inlets for the Lewis River.



Figure 3. Concrete release flume that transports fish for the raceways to the Lewis River.



Figure 4. Release flume discharge.

Adjourn 12:00pm

Next Scheduled Meeting:

June 14, 2018
HCC
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 4/14/18
- Agenda from 5/9/18
- **Attachment A** - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (April 2018)



Photo courtesy of Kim McCune - PacifiCorp

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

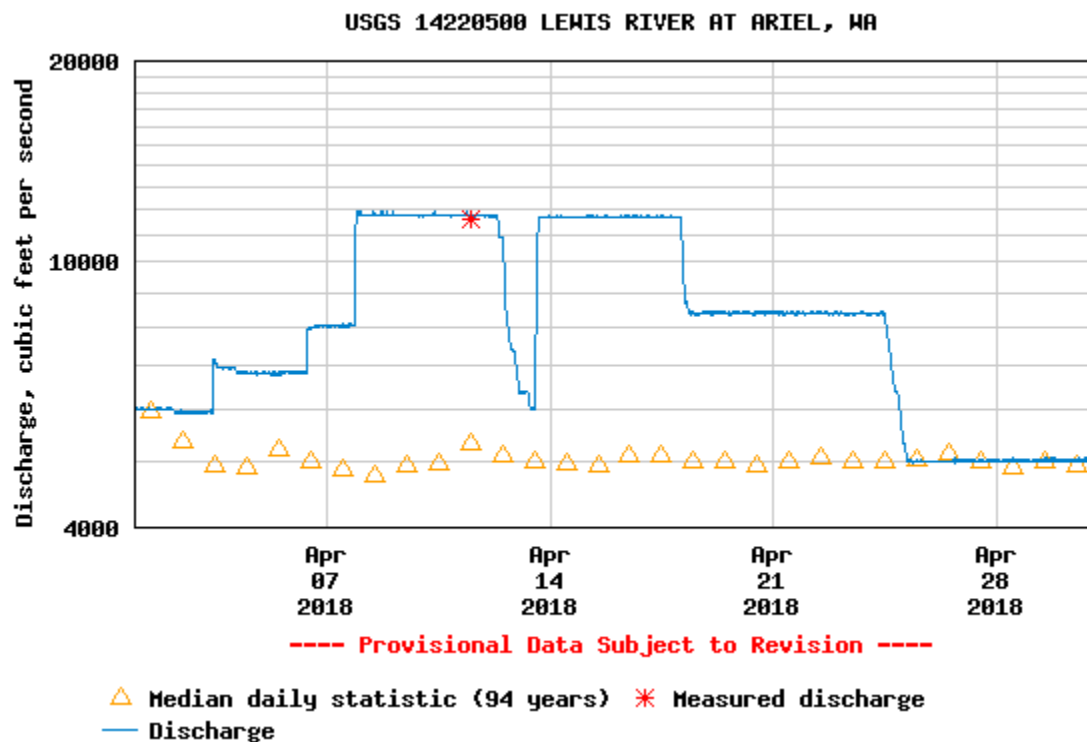
April 2018

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

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The Merwin Dam adult fish trap crowder and conveyance system ran continuously through the month of April. River flow varied below Merwin Dam ranging between 2,790 and 6,030 cfs throughout the month.

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Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

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Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
April 2018

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			
01		4			4	18									5	31
02		13			9	11						1			4	38
03		17	7			57				4					15	100
04		5	4			39			2	2					11	63
05		10	7			44			2						14	77
06		4	8			6			1				1		15	35
07		5	32		5	39			10			5	1		59	156
08	16	15	32			40			7						37	147
09	5	41	83		4	32			7			6			37	215
10	19	45	48		1	46			14			11	2		42	228
11	46	15	62		1	34			17			9			31	215
12	45	23	43			22			11			5			21	170
13	72	27	42		1	21			6			2			19	190
14	39	13	45			15			10			6			23	151
15	46	3	61		5	13			10			2			55	195
16	43	46	130	4	5	29			24			8			52	341
17	51	17	57	8	4	7			9			6			13	172
18	39	42	180	2	5	20			34			12			47	381
19	5	56	121	1		18			66			21	1		31	320
20	22	16	113	2	3	25			82			4			18	285
21		20	89			11			37			2		1	36	196
22	9	21	135			10			55			3			27	260
23	16	28	58			9			20			2			25	158
24		22	53			9									9	93
25	6	19	19			3		2	22						7	78
26	2	4	33			2			97			7	1		12	158
27		13	32			4	1		83			3			6	142
28		14	69			5			19			6			10	123
29		25	56			4			77			3			11	176
30	1	36	75					2	88			12	2		14	230

Monthly	482	619	1694	17	47	593	1	4	810	6	0	136	8	1	706	5124
Total	744	2785	2293	17	228	3716	2	5	1077	1	1	319	9	3	1174	12380

