

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
August 11, 2011
Teleconference

ACC Participants Present (10)

Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy
Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Energy
Sabrina Hickerson, PacifiCorp Energy
Eli Asher, Fish Recovery Board
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
Eric Kinne, WDFW
Pat Frazier, WDFW
Dave Hu, USFS
LouEllyn Jones, USFWS

Calendar:

Sept. 8, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
Oct. 13, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from March 10, 2011 meeting:	Status:
Bull Trout Subgroup – Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) will draft a schedule and bring to September's meeting for discussion	Pending
PIT Tagging Subgroup – Meeting scheduled for July 18, 2011 at Merwin HCC from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Complete
Construction Drawings & Updates – Sabrina Hickerson (PacifiCorp) to coordinate with engineering to provide final design drawing of Pond 16 to WDFW along with status of the Merwin Header Modifications.	Complete

< 9:05 a.m. – Meeting began >

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp Energy) is out at Condit today assisting with the setup of the fish weir and therefore will not be in attendance today. Everyone went around the table to announce who was present.

The meeting notes from last month were reviewed at 9:07 a.m. and accepted without any comments or changes.

In regards to the bull trout subgroup action item on the notes, Olson advised the group that he had requested input from LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) and Pat Frazier (WDFW) and made updates and adjustments to the plan as per their feedback. He is now awaiting their final approval of the plan and will distribute to the team once that has been received. Frazier stated that he is having his team review and provide feedback and should have something back to Olson early next week.

The agenda was reviewed and Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz County PUD) requested an update from the Forest Service on the status of the Canal Bridge repairs. Dave Hu (USDA Forest Service) said he will check with his engineers and respond.

Review of PIT Tag Discussion

The PIT Tag subgroup met on July 18, 2011. The group included PacifiCorp, NMFS, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, RFID, R2 Consultants, NOAA Fisheries and WDFW. The Yakama Nation had previously provided comments via email. The meeting was an informational discussion regarding what could be gathered from FDX and HDX tags. The meeting was beneficial and provided much insight.

Sabrina Hickerson (PacifiCorp Energy) sent out a memo on August 4, 2011 that contains more specific details regarding the meeting and the decision made. The memo had previously been reviewed and approved by the subgroup.

PacifiCorp will implement FDX PIT tagging as originally outline in the M&E plan. There will be dual tag readers on the smolt flumes on the Floating Surface Collector (FSC) to gather information on both the salmon (FDX tagged) and the bull trout (HDX tagged). The release ponds will also have dual tag readers to ensure M&E commitments are met in regards to tagging the numbers that are identified from the acclimation pond and upstream fish from the reservoir.

PacifiCorp asks that everyone keep in mind that fry will not be PIT tagged. Additionally, the switch gate on the will not be triggered by PIT tags. It is timed specifically to get a 10% biological sample and is not set up to read or be triggered by PIT tags.

PacifiCorp is considering tagging the returning adults to Merwin with HDX in order to watch them in the upper watershed with HDX readers.

Olson also reiterated that the outcome goals in the SA and those in the Columbia River Basin are separate. PacifiCorp will not invest additional money or effort towards goals that are not in line with the Lewis River Settlement Agreement.

Olson thanked everyone for the open discussion and their participation in the subgroup meeting.

Eli Asher (FRB) said that he appreciated the work of the group and the summary. He did not have any questions.

Hu seconded with no questions, but thank you.

Hu then provided a brief update regarding the Canal Bridge. He said they will be paving in the next two weeks but were not going to have the shims installed.

Olson asked if there was a bridge closure associated with the paving. Hu said he would check. Gritten-MacDonald asked him to check what measures were being taken for water quality as well.

Study Updates

Merwin Upstream Trap – Construction is on schedule. One of the three pump channels is complete. Trap shutdown is scheduled from September 3 – October 6, 2011. Frazier asked if everything was on track to adhere to those dates, and Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp Energy) advised that yes, those dates are currently firm.

Swift Downstream Collector – Construction is on schedule. The third deck is currently being constructed right now. This is the above-water portion where the fish will come through and staff will be present. The trestle pilings are proving difficult because of the rock at the bottom of the reservoir. However, this will make the pilings very secure. The mooring towers for the collector are in place.

Release Ponds – PacifiCorp will be closing on the property later this month for the ponds. The Utility is starting the permitting for the ESA consultation for eulachon smelt and a consultant is on board to assist.

Dredging at the Lewis River Hatcher Fish Ladder – This has been delayed until 2012 due to the DNR Aquatic Use Authorization permit which will not be ready until next year. All other permits had been received. The plan is to bring the river down 600 cfs for the dredging. Since this will be happening in 2012 instead of this year, it will be able to benefit the upstream and downstream intake projects which will be going on at the same time.

Acclimation Ponds – This is behind schedule, waiting on the NEPA documents from the USDA Forest Service. Dave Hu spoke with Todd Olson last night in regards to the delay, and it seems that both parties owe information, and they are coordinating to get this back on track.

Hatchery and Supplementation Plan – There is a meeting scheduled August 25, 2011 for the subgroup to come together and finalize the AOP for 2012. The following will be discussed:

- Kelt reconditioning,
- Juvenile sampling protocols,
- Placement of the screw trap,
- Sampling for chum and
- Transportation for up to 2000 Spring Chinook, 9000 Coho and any steelhead received.

Hatchery Upgrades –

- Merwin Rearing Ponds: Two have been completed and two are delayed until next year (2012) due to issues with change orders associated with the WDFW requested jib cranes. The cranes cost substantially more than originally anticipated, and the time it took to get

the change order through procurement resulted in missing the window to do the work. Fish are now in the ponds and moving them to other ponds would put them under unnecessary stress. The ponds are functional now; the header water distribution system just needs to be changed over, but there are no issues with the SA or License requirements. The flow characteristics will just be different.

< 9:22 am – LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) attended.>

- Pond 16 at Lewis River Hatchery: The upper part of pond is complete with concrete and the lower part the walls are in place. There were some delays in regard to domestic water lines that have been resolved. The concrete for the lower pond should be complete in the next couple of weeks. Some juveniles will go in Pond 15 and the order for the screen has been placed. The next step will be to coordinate with WDFW regarding completion (early October?)
- Speelyai Kokanee Weir: On schedule to be completed by mid-September.
- Intake at Speelyai: The 30% design is currently out for comment. Comments are due to Erik Lesko and Nathan Higa by August 26, 2011.
- Speelyai Pond 14: The 60% design also is out for comment (comments again due back by August 26, 2011). The 60% design did not incorporate all comments and Lesko will schedule a meeting with WDFW to discuss these and ensure they will be incorporated in the 90% design.

Habitat Preparation Plan – Kinne asked to discuss potential issues at Lewis River Hatchery due to Merwin trap being closed down. The forecast right now project approximately 4000 fish to return to the hatchery, but that does not subtract the harvest component, meaning a potential for a shortfall numbers to send upstream to meet the HPP requirements.

There has been discussion about prioritizing the fish: First hatchery broodstock, second HPP, third and fourth nutrient enhancement and foodbank (depending on condition of fish). WDFW indicated that 1100 fish are needed just for the hatchery's egg take, and then another 2000 for the HPP. The adult return level will determine if the HPP target number is met or not.

Frazier responded to a question about changing the regulation for early coho. Currently the limit is six per person. Even dropping it down to two per person would not have much of an impact, especially considering the impact the trap being out will have.

Swift Dam Spillgate

Olson advised that Shrier is currently working with the operations department regarding work that must be done on the Swift dam spillgate. The FERC has issued a directive that this work must be done. It will require drawing down the reservoir below the spill crest, which means moving more water in the winter. If the winter proves to be another wet season, it will be

possible to be at full generating capacity at Merwin for an extended period of time. One consideration may be to draw down earlier in the fall rather than waiting until winter.

Olson just wanted the committee to be aware of this. Kinne asked that they work around the ability to get into the Merwin trap, and Olson understood the interest and that is why Shrier is involved, so that PacifiCorp operations is aware of these kinds of issues.

Canal Bridge Update

Hu returned to the call, advised that he had spoken with his engineers. They are ensuring that nothing enters the water in order to maintain water quality. Additionally, they are advising a two-week minimum notification of any closures to the bridge. There will be a public notification coming out soon to advise of the upcoming closure for paving. The engineer is drafting a summary to email to Sabrina Hickerson (PacifiCorp Energy) for distribution to the ACC.

Olson pointed out the work being done at Swift Forest Camp for the Floating Surface Collector and how important it is that arrangements be made well in advance if the bridge is to be closed. Shorter outages are preferred (e.g. a day) and two weeks notification is helpful to allow time for preparation.

Gritten-MacDonald asked what methodology is being used to ensure nothing enters the water. She also had heard that the bridge would be closed next week and wanted to verify that was not the case beings as there has been no notification. Hu said this information would be included in the write-up.

Study Updates *continued...*

Bull Trout – Jeremiah Doyle (PacifiCorp Energy) reported that netting at Eagle Cliff has been completed, resulting in 99 total captures, 87 of which were tagged with new white Floy tags. Others captures were too small or were in-year recaptures. Sampling activities are complete at this location.

At the Swift Power Canal, five fish were captured and released into Swift reservoir. Sampling activities are finished there as well.

In the Swift Bypass Reach, 32 fish were captured and genotyped, of which 16 were released back into the Yale Reservoir and 16 were transported upstream and released into the Swift Reservoir as per their genetic assignment. Sampling activities are finished at this location.

Lastly, the Yale Tailrace yielded five captures and all were genotyped and transported to Yale.

HDX stream-width PIT tag antennas are up and running in Rush, Pine, and Cougar creeks. They have been detecting fish in Pine Creek.

As part of the annual Swift migration estimate studies, annual snorkel surveys in Pine and Rush creeks will begin next week.

Kinne asked how many Eagle Cliff captures were double PIT- tagged, received both HDX and FDX. Doyle estimated about 40 fish.

Lesko announce that the draft AOP for 2012 should be sent out to the Hatchery and Supplementation Plan Subgroup by the end of the week.

The group agreed that September's meeting will be a conference call, but October will be a face-to-face meeting and will include a site visit to the Swift Floating Surface Collector.

< 9:42 a.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for September 8, 2011

- Review August 11, 2011 Meeting Notes
- Aquatic Funding Review / Status Report
- Study/Work Product Updates

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

September 8, 2011	October 13, 2011
Conference Call	Merwin Hydro Control Center
-	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. – Noon

Meeting Handouts

- Meeting Notes 7/14/11
- Agenda 8/11/11