

# LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO  
503-412-8401  
Location: SKYPE MEETING ONLY  
Date: August 13, 2020  
Time: 9:30 AM – 1:15 PM

## Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 7/9/20 Meeting Notes
  - Comment & Accept Agenda, 7/9/20 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- 10:15 a.m. Finalize Aquatic Fund Procedure Documents: 2020/2021 Funding Cycle
- 10:45 a.m. Author Presentations – Summary of In Lieu Plan Revisions
- Strategic Plan
  - Monitoring Plan
  - Bull Trout Passage Plan
- 12:00 p.m. Working Lunch**
- 12:45 p.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
  - ATS Update
  - Fish Passage update
- 1:00 p.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>
- 1:15 p.m. **Meeting adjourn**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR LUNCH**

[Join Skype Meeting](#)

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[\(503\) 813-6614](#) (US)

English (United States)

[\(503\) 813-5252 \[Portland, OR\]](#) (US)

English (United States)

**Conference ID: 5803472**

**FINAL Meeting Notes  
Lewis River License Implementation  
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting  
August 13, 2020  
Skype Meeting Only**

**ACC Representatives Present (20)**

Kim McCune, PacifiCorp  
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp  
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp  
 Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp  
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp  
 Levi Pienovi, PacifiCorp  
 Bridget Moran, American Rivers  
 Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited  
 Bryce Glaser, WDFW  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW  
 Josua Holowatz, WDFW  
 Aaron Roberts, WDFW  
 Kate Day, USFS  
 Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD  
 Tim Romanski, USFWS  
 Joshua Ashline, NMFS  
 Steve West, LCFRB  
 Steve Manlow, LCFRB  
 Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation

**Guest (6)**

Sara Bagheri, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Keegan Bordeaux, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Phil Roni, Cramer Fish Sciences  
 Mike Bonoff, Meridian Environmental  
 Kevin Malone, Meridian Environmental  
 Chandra Ferrari, Trout Unlimited

**Calendar:**

September 10, 2020	ACC Meeting	Skype Meeting
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Assignments from August 13, 2020	Status
McCune: Email today's In Lieu PowerPoint to the ACC.	<b>Complete – 8/13/20</b>
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.	<b>ongoing</b>

<b>Assignments from May 14, 2020</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lesko/Karchesky: Plan for monitoring water levels late June or early July relative to stranding. Matt Harding (Northwoods) would like to see stranding issue addressed at Swift and adjust water levels.	<b>Visited the areas July 31, 2020; ongoing evaluation</b>
ATS: ACC awaiting recommendation from ATS regarding stocking into Swift reservoir.	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>Parking Lot Items</b>	<b>Status</b>
Waiting for input from the bull trout working group on whether they should be officially recognized as a subgroup of the ACC.	<b>Ongoing</b>

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

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:35am and reviewed the agenda. No additions to the agenda were requested.

Lesko also reviewed the July 9, 2020 meeting notes to include edits and comments received from WDFW. The ACC approved the July 9, 2020 meeting notes at 9:50am to include clarifying edits received from WDFW.

**Public Comment**

None

**Finalize Aquatic Fund Procedure Documents: 2020/2021 Funding Cycle**

Lesko noted that the ACC did not have additional changes to the Aquatic Fund announcement letter sent via email on July 9, 2020. After additional review time the announcement letter was finalized via email on August 4, 2020 and will be posted to the Lewis River webpage.

Lesko noted that based on the last ACC meeting he received requested revisions to the Aquatic Fund Evaluation Template of which the latest version was emailed to the ACC this morning. For today’s meeting, Lesko reviewed the following with the ACC attendees:

- The 14 evaluation questions
- Weightings of the 4 categories
- Scoring template and addition of overall category column
- Evaluation instructions

**Based upon comprehensive discussion the ACC approved the following 14 questions indicated below and agreed that adaptive management is appropriate for subsequent years.**

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will post the Aquatic Fund Evaluation Questions to the Lewis River website for general public access. The Aquatic Fund 2020/2021 Announcement will be September 4, 2020.



to 20% and Cost Effectiveness was 10% and changed to 15% as detailed below. **There was no objection from the ACC to the weighting adjustments.**

<b>Weighting</b>	The scoring template uses 4 categories and 14 questions to prioritize and select projects for funding. Each category has a specific weighting	
	Benefits to Fish	35%
	Scientific Validity	30%
	Feasibility	20%
	Cost Effectiveness	15%
	<hr/>	
		100%

<Break 10:50am>

<Reconvene 11:00am>

### **Author Presentations – Summary of In Lieu Plan Revisions**

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) opened the discussion by informing the ACC attendees that the authors of the In-Lieu plans will present a PowerPoint identifying the changes the Utilities made to the plans between the draft and version submitted to the FERC as part of the application for license amendments. All specific responses to comments are available in the application and will not be reviewed here today. The presentation to follow is more of an identification of generalized comments and where changes were made to the respective plans.

Each Plan submitted to the FERC can be reviewed in its entirety on the Lewis River website at the following link:

[https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/lewis-river/license-implementation/acc/07012020%20FERC\\_Swift1-VOL1-EG.pdf](https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/lewis-river/license-implementation/acc/07012020%20FERC_Swift1-VOL1-EG.pdf) (*Scroll to Exhibit E - Appendices*)

### *Strategic Plan - Mike Bonoff, Meridian Environmental (Attachment A)*

Bonoff provided a summary of comments on the draft that lead to document revisions. In the case of the Strategic Plan the comments revolved around program management specifically developing a streamlined approach for quickly implementing habitat restoration actions, simplifying the organizational structure, contracting out development of the Habitat Restoration Plan, relying on the ACC as the technical advisory committee (TAC) and overall administration by the Utilities.

Bonoff noted that the following slide provides more detail of the changes requested and where the changes were made within the Strategic Plan.

# Changes Made – Strategic Plan

Comment	Response	Section
Streamlined Program Mgmt.	Plan reflects a streamlined approach and includes three key components/steps: 1. Completion of the Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP), 2. Preliminary design and permitting, 3. Final design, permitting and project implementation.  - Eliminate project RFPs/Ranking process	Section 1.1
Clarify Role – PA	Defined Program Administrator (PA) role: facilitate and implement the Merwin In Lieu Program in consultation with the Services and ACC; oversee and manage development and implementation of the HRP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor management (scope, budgeting)</li> <li>• Oversight of construction bid documents</li> <li>• Liaison to ACC</li> <li>• Public outreach and response to media inquiries</li> <li>• Informational reporting to the ACC</li> </ul>	Section 1.2.2
Clarify Role – ACC	Eliminated separate TAC - the Lewis River ACC will function in a technical oversight and peer review capacity prior to and during implementation of the Plan and subsequent HRP.	Section 1.2.3
Program Goals	New language points to the Lewis River Settlement Agreement Reintroduction Outcome Goal and the Services' April 12, 2019 letter	Section 2.2

Bonoff communicated that he is available for questions that the ACC might have on the Strategic Plan or set up a call later to address any remaining questions.

In response to a question and comment from Peggy Miller (WDFW) Olson expressed that the Strategic Plan points to the Settlement Agreement reintroduction outcome goal and in moving forward with developing the Habitat Restoration Plan there will be an opportunity to revisit any concerns about plan goals such as highest production goal, form and function, etc.

Eli Asher (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) commented that his expectation of today's presentation was a more comprehensive review of how the comments were addressed and how the plans were considered in context of the lengthy comments that were received by the Utilities. Olson responded that today was intended to identify comments that led to changes in the Strategic Plan and tried to keep those straight forward and summarized. More detailed response can be found in the comment/response matrix filed as part of the application to FERC.

Steve Manlow (LCFRB) asked if there is compensatory mitigation in terms of additional habitat work to address those temporal impacts of delaying the Yale fish passage decision. Seems like impact has been acknowledged but have not seen any kind of analysis in the Strategic Plan.

Olson responded that there is no proposed mitigation to address the impact of a delay in the Yale fish passage decision. The Strategic Plan is built for the Merwin In Lieu program. The Yale decision will be made a number of years from now. This Plan is about how you move forward with identifying projects and funding those, and getting them on the ground with approximately \$21M of In Lieu funds for Merwin. An additional Strategic Plan would be written for Yale.

*Monitoring Plan – Dr. Phil Roni, Cramer Fish Sciences (Attachment A)*

Phil communicated that the comments fell into 7-8 major categories for clarification or revision as referenced below. Many of the comments were related to the population level response and the concerns about doing that. The population level response is a multi-pronged approach looking at smolts per spawner or smolts per breeder before and after restoration, rerunning the EDT modeling and a couple other modeling approaches that we have considered adding based on the comments.

- ▶ Can't or not enough time to detect population response - one of the components is getting genetic samples to trace the parentage. Not only smolts per spawner but how many of those spawners that are being released up there are successful, how many smolts are they producing... so it's really smolts per breeder.
- ▶ Genetic mark-recapture samples; need carcasses or fry - There was concerns that we need to look at carcasses or fry or some other sampling components for getting the genetic piece

A number of comments were received for:

- ▶ Modeling section, EDT runs, and updated EDT data
- ▶ Data processing, analyses, looking at stock-recruitment curves as opposed to just smolts per spawner
- ▶ BACI for reach level w/ smolt traps
- ▶ Snorkeling efficiency and how to confirm
- ▶ FSC capture efficiency and improvements needed in existing monitoring

Below is a summary of responses to comments received. In regards to the population response in the first comment, given the pre-project smolt data and the power analysis and the sample size estimates assuming the restoration is done fairly quickly (early on and not over the full ten years) we believe there is enough time to detect a response.

In the second comment, if we can't get those genetic samples to try and pinpoint where the production is coming from (which reaches) then we will look at sampling fry and juveniles.

Comment	Response	Section
Pop. response	Given pre-project smolt data and power and sample size estimates, there will be enough time; plus number of adults can be controlled. A multi-pronged approach is being used to detect Pop. response (smolts to adults, breeder success, EDT model, estimated increases based on amount of habitat improved)	1.3.2 Population Level Approach, 1.4.5 Population Level Biological Monitoring
Genetics	Will sample juveniles and carcasses (if possible)	1.3.2.5 Genetic monitoring, 1.4.5 Pop. Level Bio. Monitoring
EDT	Updated EDT data, latest model run, rerun	1.3.2.4 Run EDT and other Models, 1.3.2.6, 1.4.5 Pop. Level Bio. Monitoring
Data and analyses	Expanded on data processing and analyses, including stock-recruitment, GLM etc.	2.1 Data management, 2.2 Data analysis
BACI – reach level	Does not appear to be feasible at most sites, will examine possibility when identifying restoration opportunities	1.3.1 Reach-Scale Approach
Snorkel	Estimate efficiency w/ bounded counts, mark-recap, or other	1.4.1 Large Wood Placement
FSC/Ongoing Monitoring	PacifiCorp reviewing current M&E to improve and modify for In Lieu	3.3 Relation to Ongoing Monitoring



Comments on the EDT were received regarding which version of EDT will be run. We are using the latest version that was redone in 2020 (last spring) as part of this latest effort.

Phil noted that snorkel surveys are widely used to evaluate reach scale fish response for restoration and for wood placement for flood plain projects. We have not seen those biases in their estimates but we added re-snorkeling a subset of habitats or doing some mark recapture to confirm the accuracy of those snorkel counts.

Phil has met with PacifiCorp to visit their trapping facilities and talk through a number of approaches to improve M&E and modify for In Lieu monitoring.

Bryce Glaser noted that WDFW would be reviewing the revisions made in the plan to see how they addressed WDFW’s comments and the proposed alternate monitoring strategy over the next month in preparation for the September discussion.

*Bull Trout Passage Plan – Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp (Attachment A)*

Doyle informed the ACC attendees that many comments were received for each plan and all responses to comments were addressed within the comment matrix submitted to the FERC. Today Doyle is presenting a summary of only comments that led to revisions to the Bull Trout Passage Plan. If an ACC representative does not see their comment on any of the slides presented today, then no changes were made to the plan per that comment.

Changes were made in the Bull Trout Passage Plan to address the following:

- ▶ Engagement of Lewis River Bull Trout Recovery Team to develop collection and transport protocols
- ▶ Monitoring of facility performance
- ▶ Incorrect language regarding USFWS decision on construction of the Merwin Downstream Bull Trout Passage Facility

Doyle expressed that bull trout fish passage is somewhat of a new concept, it’s been done with salmon and steelhead extensively but there really isn’t much out there for bull trout fish passage. We have operated the floating surface collector since 2012 and have only caught a handful of bull trout each year with a population of approximately 300-500 adults, so there is not a lot of bull trout moving around. There are not a lot of other bull trout passage facilities out there, so we anticipate considerable adaptive management.

Comment	Response	Section
Engagement	Plan now includes seeking engagement of Lewis River Bull Trout Recovery Team as the Utilities adaptively manage passage decisions and protocols, and prepare and conduct monitoring studies at the new passage facilities.	Sections V. Upstream Trapping Protocols, VI. Downstream Trapping Protocols, and VII. Facility Effectiveness Monitoring
Monitoring	Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted to assess facility efficacy at meeting defined performance standard targets described in the USFWS 2006 Biological Opinion (pp. 82-94) and Settlement Agreement Section 4.10 (which points to Section 9). Effectiveness monitoring will be developed prior to facilities completion and incorporated within the Utilities Bull Trout Annual Operations Plan.	Section VII. Facility Effectiveness Monitoring
Incorrect Language	Language revised to note that a determination by the USFWS regarding the Merwin Downstream Bull Trout Passage Facility is not due before 2025 as per Settlement Agreement Section 4.10.1.	Section I. Introduction

Doyle communicated that with this species it will be difficult to put a number on collection efficiency. He stressed a number of meetings will need to take place with the Bull Trout Recovery Team in order to pin down what facility effectiveness monitoring in terms of bull trout will look like. In response to Miller's question about collection efficiency standards, the Bull Trout Recovery Team will be looking to USFWS for considerable help on this as currently there are no fish passage standards for bull trout collection. Miller noted there is reference to bull trout standards in the Settlement Agreement and interpretation of the language should be evaluated.

In response to Bryce Glaser's (WDFW) question about downstream passage design facilities and connectivity, Doyle noted that it was decided to stay consistent with the Lewis River Settlement Agreement language and go with the Merwin type collector design. As far as full connectivity it's a 2025 USFWS decision as to whether we put in another facility at Merwin.

Jim Byrne (Trout Unlimited) requested Tim Romanski (USFWS) investigate why it was decided in 2005 and find out how and why the Merwin type collector design was settled on and specified. Romanski mentioned that when bull trout are captured, what happens? There should be a preexisting plan in place for when this does happen.

Glaser expressed that it seems the Plan is putting a lot of weight on the Bull Trout Recovery Team and it's not clear if this team functions as part of the Lewis River ACC process or not, so he hopes there is a commitment made in these Plans of other resources brought forward to support the Lewis River Bull Trout Recovery Team. Their charter and focus is not intended to develop plans for PacifiCorp to implement.

Olson expressed that his intent is for the Bull Trout Recovery Team to review. The Utilities need to develop products and seek input from the Bull Trout Recovery Team.

**Next Steps – The ACC agreed they are working toward the NMFS request timeline for ACC approval or disapproval and have an ACC consensus meeting in September, 2020 using the ACC approved consensus template.**

Lesko noted that PacifiCorp distributed a Request for ACC Consensus template on August 5, 2020 that NMFS prepared for ACC review (**Attachment B**) to start with in September.

## **Study/Work Product Updates**

### **Swift Reservoir Drawdowns**

On July 31, 2020 PacifiCorp biologists (Lesko and Ferraiolo) surveyed the Northwoods area on Swift Reservoir to observe and identify fish species that may be present in isolated pools as the reservoir drafts down over the summer (**see Attachment C for photos**). Surveyors primarily found stickleback along with a few sucker larvae. Surveyors also observed some salmonid fry (about a dozen) that were field identified as trout – either rainbow (steelhead) or cutthroat. No Coho or Chinook fry were observed.

The reservoir elevation at that time was 989' so about 11' down and another 4' down there would be some areas that would be dewatered. PacifiCorp looked at it today and we are still at 989' so it hasn't moved since July 31, 2020. When it gets to 986' PacifiCorp biologists will go out there

again and survey those areas to capture any salmonid fry observed and take photos for species identification. WDFW expressed interest in being informed prior to these follow up surveys.

Lesko will put together a survey memo of what was found along with the photos and will follow up with Matt Harding to address his concerns.

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

- Swift reservoir is down about 10' so it's at 989
- Yale is down 12'
- Merwin is down 2'
- Flows are at their minimum of 1,200cfs

### **ATS Update**

H&S Plan is out for its 60-day review. The ATS will work collaboratively with the ACC to address comments and are on schedule for the filing commitment of December 31, 2020. Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that the ATS has come up with a recommendation for Rainbow Trout Stocking Plan and a summary will be submitted to the ACC for their review before the September 2020 meeting and added as a September agenda item.

### **Fish Passage Update**

Karchesky reminded the ACC that Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collection (FSC) was currently in the scheduled summertime outage period. Crews have completed cleaning phase of the outage and divers were currently onsite completing underwater work including inspecting the barrier and guide nets and structural supports of the FSC. Maintenance activities are scheduled through the end of September. The goal is to get it back up and running early October and on schedule. A meeting is scheduled next week with the consultant that conducted the FSC fish collection efficiency earlier this spring. Karchesky plans to provide the ACC with a review of the preliminary results during the September meeting, with a more detailed presentation to the ACC later this fall. Karchesky also informed the ACC that the next scheduled outage of the Merwin Trap was planned for the week of August 31, 2020. During this outage, PacifiCorp plan to begin work on evaluating the current lift and conveyance system, and developing plan to improve system reliability. This work is expected to occur into next year and more information will be provide to the ACC once it becomes available.

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

A total of 1,287 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) during the month of July. The majority of these fish collected were summer steelhead (75.4%) and spring Chinook (20.3%). The majority of the spring Chinook collected throughout July were precocial "mini" jacks.

The fish lift and conveyance system at the MFCF ran continuously throughout the month of July, however PacifiCorp continued to utilize a modified fish transport schedule throughout the month. Under this modified schedule, the fish lift and conveyance system operate 7 days per week, with fish sorting and transport taking place weekdays only. This schedule prevents the need to have contracted fisheries staff enter the Merwin adult trap over the weekend, reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Fish sorting and transport during the last week of July only took place on the 7/27 and 7/30, due mostly to COVID-related staffing issues. Flow below Merwin Dam decreased throughout the month, dropping from 2,700 to approximately 1,300 cfs over the month of July (**Figure 1**).

Planning a 3-week outage in early September to make sure everything is working properly before the coho season, and the deferred collection efficiency evaluation is back underway.

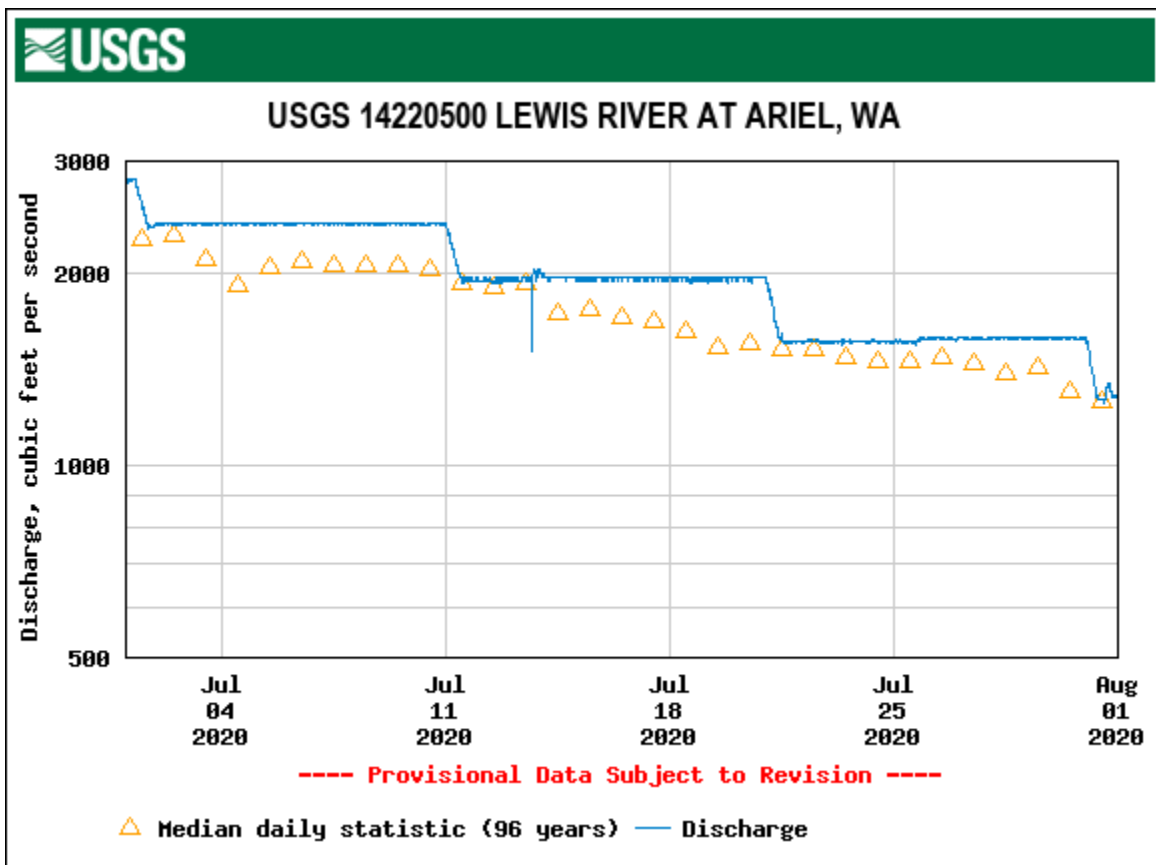


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

### Upstream Transport ([Attachment D](#))

Few fish were transported upstream throughout the month of July (N=65), of which the majority were spring Chinook (N=61). Three (3) coastal cutthroat were also transported upstream in July. For calendar year 2020, a total of 1,040 steelhead (Blank Wire tag and NOR), 631 spring Chinook, 325 true wild steelhead, fifteen cutthroat, and eleven coho have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

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

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was taken out of operation on July 17<sup>th</sup> for summer maintenance. Fish collection totals at the FSC had dramatically decreased the week prior to taking it offline. Coho smolts made up the bulk of the catch during the month of July (78.8%), followed by steelhead (11.1%), and Chinook (9.8%) and (Table 1).

Table 1. Total number of outmigrants collected at the Swift Floating Surface Collector during the month of July by year.

Run Year	FSC Turned Off for	July Collection Numbers by Run Year at Swift FSC				
		Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Cutthroat	TOTAL

	Summer Maintenance					
<b>2013</b>	<i>NA</i>	190	17	1	16	<b>224</b>
<b>2014</b>	<i>NA</i>	383	95	20	10	<b>508</b>
<b>2015</b>	July 7	42	1	0	0	<b>43</b>
<b>2016</b>	July 14	340	0	30	4	<b>374</b>
<b>2017</b>	July 21	739	7	15	3	<b>764</b>
<b>2018</b>	July 16	429	52	18	6	<b>505</b>
<b>2019</b>	July 22	1,454	575	17	27	<b>2,073</b>
<b>2020</b>	July 17	641	80	90	2	<b>813</b>

The ongoing collection efficiency evaluation will help give insight into fish behavior once fish are inside the fish channel. The field portion of this study was completed this month and preliminary results are anticipated by the October Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting.

#### **Agenda items for September 10, 2020**

- Review August 13, 2020 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE August 31, 2020**)
- In Lieu ACC Consensus Decision Process
- Rainbow Trout Stocking Plan, Chris Karchesky
- Update on 2020 Swift Reservoir Fish Collection Efficiency Study - Karchesky
- Study/Work Product Update

*Adjourn 1:00pm*

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

September 10, 2020
Skype Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

- Meeting Notes from 7/9/20
- Agenda from 8/13/20
- [Attachment A](#)– Identification of document revisions to In-Lieu Plans PowerPoint, August 13, 2020
- [Attachment B](#) - Request for ACC Consensus template, August 5, 2020
- [Attachment C](#) – Swift Reservoir Drawdowns Photos, July 31, 2020
- [Attachment D](#) - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (July 2020)

# Identification of document revisions to In-Lieu Plans

**August 13, 2020 ACC Meeting**

**Mike Bonoff, Dr. Phil Roni,  
and Jeremiah Doyle**

# Strategic Plan – Summary of Comments Leading to Document Revisions

## ▶ Program Management

- ▶ Develop a streamlined approach for quickly implementing habitat restoration actions
- ▶ Simplify the organizational structure
- ▶ Contract out development of the Habitat Restoration Plan
- ▶ Rely on ACC for TAC
- ▶ Overall administration by the Utilities

## ▶ Program Goals

- ▶ Clarification is needed

# Changes Made – Strategic Plan

Comment	Response	Section
Streamlined Program Mgmt.	<p>Plan reflects a streamlined approach and includes three key components/steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of the Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP),</li> <li>2. Preliminary design and permitting,</li> <li>3. Final design, permitting and project implementation.</li> </ol> <p>- Eliminate project RFPs/Ranking process</p>	Section 1.1
Clarify Role – PA	<p>Defined Program Administrator (PA) role: facilitate and implement the Merwin In Lieu Program in consultation with the Services and ACC; oversee and manage development and implementation of the HRP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor management (scope, budgeting)</li> <li>• Oversight of construction bid documents</li> <li>• Liaison to ACC</li> <li>• Public outreach and response to media inquiries</li> <li>• Informational reporting to the ACC</li> </ul>	Section 1.2.2
Clarify Role – ACC	<p>Eliminated separate TAC - the Lewis River ACC will function in a technical oversight and peer review capacity prior to and during implementation of the Plan and subsequent HRP.</p>	Section 1.2.3
Program Goals	<p>New language points to the Lewis River Settlement Agreement Reintroduction Outcome Goal and the Services' April 12, 2019 letter</p>	Section 2.2



# Monitoring Plan – Summary Comments Leading to Document Revisions

- ▶ Can't or not enough time to detect population response
- ▶ Genetic mark-recapture samples – need carcasses or fry
- ▶ Modeling section, EDT runs, and updated EDT data
- ▶ Data processing, analyses, stock-recruitment curves
- ▶ BACI for reach level w/ smolt traps
- ▶ Snorkeling efficiency
- ▶ FSC capture efficiency and improvements in existing monitoring
- ▶ Other edits for clarification

Comment	Response	Section
Pop. response	<p>Given pre-project smolt data and power and sample size estimates, there will be enough time; plus number of adults can be controlled.</p> <p>A multi-pronged approach is being used to detect Pop. response (smolts to adults, breeder success, EDT model, estimated increases based on amount of habitat improved)</p>	1.3.2 Population Level Approach, 1.4.5 Population Level Biological Monitoring
Genetics	Will sample juveniles and carcasses (if possible)	1.3.2.5 Genetic monitoring, 1.4.5 Pop. Level Bio. Monitoring
EDT	Updated EDT data, latest model run, rerun	1.3.2.4 Run EDT and other Models, 1.3.2.6, 1.4.5 Pop. Level Bio. Monitoring
Data and analyses	Expanded on data processing and analyses, including stock-recruitment, GLM etc.	2.1 Data management, 2.2 Data analysis
BACI – reach level	Does not appear to be feasible at most sites, will examine possibility when identifying restoration opportunities	1.3.1 Reach-Scale Approach
Snorkel	Estimate efficiency w/ bounded counts, mark-recap, or other	1.4.1 Large Wood Placement
FSC/Ongoing Monitoring	PacifiCorp reviewing current M&E to improve and modify for In Lieu	3.3 Relation to Ongoing Monitoring

# Bull Trout Passage Plan – Summary of Comments Leading to Document Revisions

- ▶ Engagement of Lewis River Bull Trout Recovery Team to develop collection and transport protocols
- ▶ Monitoring of facility performance
- ▶ Incorrect language regarding USFWS decision on construction of the Merwin Downstream Bull Trout Passage Facility

# Changes Made – Bull Trout Passage Plan

Comment	Response	Section
Engagement	Plan now includes seeking engagement of Lewis River Bull Trout Recovery Team as the Utilities adaptively manage passage decisions and protocols, and prepare and conduct monitoring studies at the new passage facilities.	Sections V. Upstream Trapping Protocols, VI. Downstream Trapping Protocols, and VII. Facility Effectiveness Monitoring
Monitoring	Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted to assess facility efficacy at meeting defined performance standard targets described in the USFWS 2006 Biological Opinion (pp. 82-94) and Settlement Agreement Section 4.10 (which points to Section 9). Effectiveness monitoring will be developed prior to facilities completion and incorporated within the Utilities Bull Trout Annual Operations Plan.	Section VII. Facility Effectiveness Monitoring
Incorrect Language	Language revised to note that a determination by the USFWS regarding the Merwin Downstream Bull Trout Passage Facility is not due before 2025 as per Settlement Agreement Section 4.10.1.	Section I. Introduction

**North Fork Lewis River Project**  
**Request for ACC Consensus**  
Merwin In-Lieu Strategic Plan, Implementation Monitoring Plan  
and Bull Trout Passage Plan

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## **Part B – Decision Request – Request for ACC Consensus**

### **1. Representatives and Affiliations**

**a) List all Representatives and Affiliations requesting Committee decision**

Josh Ashline, National Marine Fisheries Service

### **2. Description and Justification of Request**

**a) Requested Action: What specifically is requested of the ACC?**

NMFS is requesting that the ACC engage in the consensus process as defined within the Lewis River Settlement Agreement regarding the proposed plans to fulfil the NMFS preliminary decision letter request for ACC approval of these plans. If a party does not approve of a plan, NMFS requests the party provide specific reasons why it does not approve of the plan.

**b) Introduction and background**

On April 11 and 12, 2019, the NMFS and USFWS provided PacifiCorp and Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County (“Cowlitz PUD” together with PacifiCorp, the “Utilities”) a preliminary determination under Section 4.1.9 of the Settlement Agreement. Specifically, NMFS proposed and USFWS concurred in the following actions:

- 1) To forego construction of the Merwin Downstream Facility (Section 4.6 of the Settlement Agreement) and the Yale Upstream Facility (Section 4.7);
- 2) To require PacifiCorp to establish the In Lieu Fund consistent with the requirements of Section 7.6 of the Settlement Agreement; and
- 3) To defer a decision whether to construct the Yale Downstream Facility (Section 4.5) and the Swift Upstream Facility (Section 4.8) until 2031 and 2035, respectively, so that performance of in lieu habitat restoration could be considered in that future decision.

In response to NMFS’ preliminary determination, the Utilities prepared the following documents regarding the project modifications and resource enhancement measures:

- Merwin In-Lieu Strategic Plan
- Lewis River Basin Implementation Monitoring Plan
- Bull Trout Passage Plan

Draft plans were provided to the ACC members on February 5, 2020 as part of the Utilities draft non-capacity amendment applications to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Interested parties provided comments to the Utilities in mid-May 2020. The Utilities considered comments and made some revisions to the plans. On July 2, 2020 the Utilities submitted applications for

license amendments to the Commission for the Merwin, Yale, Swift No. 1 and Swift No. 2 projects.

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

#### **a) What relevant FERC or SA articles justify this action?**

1) Lewis River Settlement Agreement sections:

- 4.1.9 Review of New Information Regarding Fish Transport into Lake Merwin and Yale Lake
- 4.10 Bull Trout Passage in the Absence of Anadromous Fish Facilities
- 7.1 In Lieu Fund
- 14.2.4 TCC and ACC Decision-Making Process and Limitations

2) FERC License Article 401. *Scheduling and Reporting Requirements and Amendment Applications*

#### **b) Are there any other regulatory requirements to support the requested action?**

NMFS preliminary decision – request for ACC consensus

**Attachment C – Swift Drawdown Photos, July 31, 2020**



Isolated pool



Tens of thousands of tadpoles



Areas that recently dried up





Sticklebacks



More stickleback fry/larvae



Another example of isolated pool (see docks in background)



Isolated pool (north end of the docks)

# Lewis River Fish Passage Report

## July

### Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

A total of 1,287 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) during the month of July. The majority of these fish collected were summer steelhead (75.4%) and spring Chinook (20.3%). The majority of the spring Chinook collected throughout July were precocial “mini” jacks.

The fish lift and conveyance system at the MFCF ran continuously throughout the month of July, however PacifiCorp continued to utilize a modified fish transport schedule throughout the month. Under this modified schedule, the fish lift and conveyance system operate 7 days per week, with fish sorting and transport taking place weekdays only. This schedule prevents the need to have contracted fisheries staff enter the Merwin adult trap over the weekend, reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Fish sorting and transport during the last week of July only took place on the 7/27 and 7/30, due mostly to COVID-related staffing issues. Flow below Merwin Dam decreased throughout the month, dropping from 2,700 to approximately 1,300 cfs over the month of July (Figure 1).

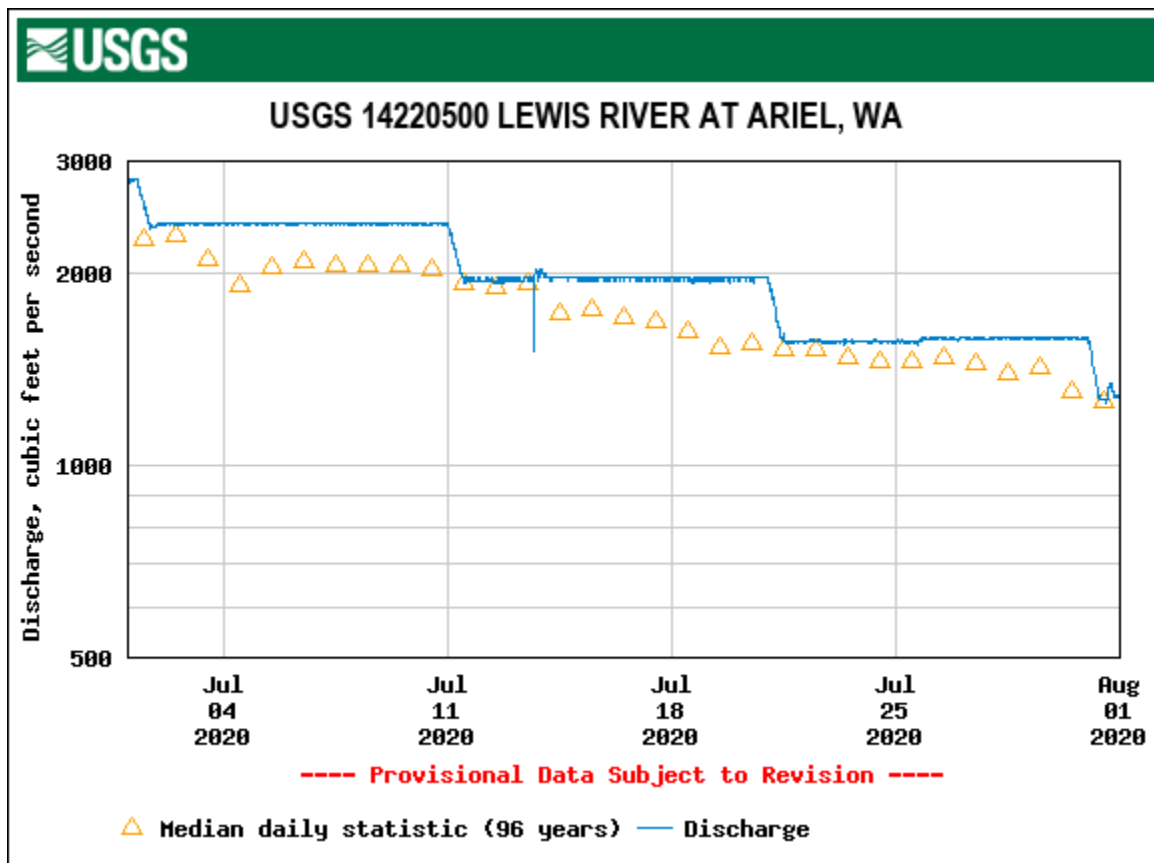


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

## Upstream Transport

Few fish were transported upstream throughout the month of July (N=65), of which the majority were spring Chinook (N=61). Three (3) coastal cutthroat were also transported upstream in July. For calendar year 2020, a total of 1,040 steelhead (Blank Wire tag and NOR), 631 spring Chinook, 325 true wild steelhead, fifteen cutthroat, and eleven coho have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

## Floating Surface Collector

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was taken out of operation on July 17<sup>th</sup> for summer maintenance. Fish collection totals at the FSC had dramatically decreased the week prior to taking it offline. Coho smolts made up the bulk of the catch during the month of July (78.8%), followed by steelhead (11.1%), and Chinook (9.8%) and (Table 1).

**Table 1. Total number of outmigrants collected at the Swift Floating Surface Collector during the month of July by year.**

<b>Run Year</b>	<b>FSC Turned Off for Summer Maintenance</b>	<b>July Collection Numbers by Run Year at Swift FSC</b>				
		<b>Coho</b>	<b>Chinook</b>	<b>Steelhead</b>	<b>Cutthroat</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2013</b>	NA	190	17	1	16	<b>224</b>
<b>2014</b>	NA	383	95	20	10	<b>508</b>
<b>2015</b>	July 7	42	1	0	0	<b>43</b>
<b>2016</b>	July 14	340	0	30	4	<b>374</b>
<b>2017</b>	July 21	739	7	15	3	<b>764</b>
<b>2018</b>	July 16	429	52	18	6	<b>505</b>
<b>2019</b>	July 22	1,454	575	17	27	<b>2,073</b>
<b>2020</b>	July 17	641	80	90	2	<b>813</b>

The ongoing collection efficiency evaluation will help give insight into fish behavior once fish are inside the fish channel. The field portion of this study was completed this month and preliminary results are anticipated by the October Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting.



**Fish Facility Report**  
**Swift Floating Surface Collector**  
**July 2020**

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		4	112		5	9			4	1				0	0	135
2		1	16						1					0	4	22
3		1	99		1				5	2				0	0	108
4			48						8					0	0	56
5			32											0	0	32
6		8	44		2	4	12			1				0	0	71
7		2	29		1				1	3				0	0	36
8		14	32			21			4	1		1		0	0	73
9		10	46		2	2	17		2					0	0	79
10			34			7	25			1				0	0	67
11			40				4			1				0	0	45
12			28		8				4					0	4	44
13			5		8									1	0	14
14		9	3		4									0	0	16
15		7	5		4		1							0	0	17
16		2	4				1	1						0	0	8
17			6			2						1		0	0	9
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30																
31																
<b>Monthly</b>	0	58	583	0	35	45	60	1	29	10	0	2	0	1	8	<b>832</b>
<b>Total</b>	79	3831	25047	3	3037	12485	64	46	4047	120	1	425	27	20	2072	<b>51304</b>