

LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO
503-412-8401

Location: TEAMS MEETING ONLY

Date: September 9, 2021

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 8/12/21 Meeting Notes
 - Comment & Accept Agenda, 8/12/21 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- 10:15 a.m. LCFEG Nutrient Enhancement; Approval of Lower River Carcass Allocation Sites
- 10:45 a.m. Request to Modify ACC/TCC Annual Report FERC Submittal to June 30 of each year - Discussion
- 11:00 a.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
 - ATS Update
 - Fish Passage Update
 - Use of Triploid Rainbow Trout plants into Swift Reservoir
- 11:15 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>
- 11:30 a.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](tel:+15632755003).,86743835# United States, Davenport

Phone Conference ID: 867 438 35#

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
September 9, 2021
TEAMS Meeting Only**

ACC Representatives Present (20)

Bridget Moran, American Rivers
Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
Jim Malinowski, Fish First
Steve West, LCFRB
Steve Manlow, LCFRB
Scott Anderson, NMFS
Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp
Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited
Kate Day, USFS
Jeff Garnett, USFWS
Peggy Miller, WDFW
Sam Gibbons, WDFW
Bryce Glaser, WDFW
Aaron Roberts, WDFW
Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation

Guest (1)

Shauna Hanisch-Kirkbride, LCFEG

Calendar:

October 14, 2021	ACC Meeting	TEAMS Meeting
------------------	-------------	---------------

Assignments from September 9, 2021	Status
McCune: Send Collection Agreement Amendment to LCFEG for review and approval; extending agreement to 12/31/2026	Complete – 9/9//21
Doyle: Email the Lewis River Bull Trout Recovery Team (LRBTRT) to schedule a conference call to receive input on potential impacts to bull trout from the ATS recommendation to plant triploid rainbow into Swift Reservoir in 2022.	Complete 9/20/21

Assignments from July 8, 2021	Status
--------------------------------------	---------------

Garnett: Look into if the WSDOT project is on the radar of another USFWS staff member and what consultation it did or did not go through and report back to the ACC.	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 9:33am and reviewed the agenda. Lesko wishes to add discussion around Rainbow Trout triploids to the agenda. Lesko also reviewed the August 12, 2021 meeting notes. The meeting notes were approved at 9:44am with clarifying edits from WDFW.

Public Comment Opportunity

None

LCFEG; Nutrient Enhancement; Approval of Lower River Carcass Allocation Sites

Shauna Hanisch-Kirkbride (LCFEG) informed the ACC representatives that Maurice Frank, Project Manager for the nutrient enhancement project, is no longer with LCFEG as of August 31, 2021. Due to this change LCFEG needs to shift gears on this project due to being short staffed. One of the options on the table is to skip this coming year and implementing the project beginning 2022 through 2026, and another option is to terminate the contact.

After considerable discussion of next steps, the ACC agreed that the best option is to extend the contract out to December 31, 2026 and delay the initial first year of allocation until 2022. McCune will provide a formal Collection Agreement amendment for both Parties signatures in order to provide the historical record going forward. McCune will work directly with Shauna Hanisch-Kirkbride (LCFEG).

The Collection Agreement requires the following: *Modifications to this Agreement shall be in writing signed by both Parties and approved by the ACC prior to making such modification. Neither PacifiCorp nor LCFEG is obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.*

McCune will draft an amendment and email to Shauna for review and approval.

Request to Modify ACC/TCC Annual Report FERC Submittal to June 30 of each year - Discussion

Lesko informed the ACC that the Utilities are proposing to modify the FERC submittal date of the ACC/TCC Annual Report to June 30 of each year rather than April 15th which means the ACC will receive the document for its 30-day review in early to mid-May. The purpose of this request is to allow data collected in the previous year to be summarized in the annual report for the year in which it was collected. By extending the FERC submittal date, PacifiCorp and its contractors will have time to process and report on M&E objectives of the fish passage and Hatchery and Supplementation programs for the year in which the annual report is provided. For instance, the 2020 report contains 2019 data because the data reporting was not finalized in time to be included into the 2019 report and was submitted as part of the 2020 report. By prolonging the submittal

date, the annual report will include all data from the previous reporting year to the FERC submittal which is easier for external stakeholders to locate information for the year they are searching for.

McCune communicated to the ACC that this proposal was also presented to the TCC on September 8, 2021 for their approval. All TCC representatives present at the meeting approved the filing extension request with a caveat that they will continue their internal review process of the WHMP Report and Plan which will be reviewed by the TCC each year during the months of February/March. These two TCC reports are appendices to the larger ACC/TCC Annual Report that will be filed with the FERC on, but no later than June 30th of each year for the life of the license.

McCune clarified that she spoke with the FERC/PRO who confirmed the April 30th submittal deadline, however, approval of the ACC/TCC Annual Report was deferred to the ACC & TCC Representatives which also allows for adaptive management. McCune said it is her opinion that once we provide evidence of consultation with the ACC & TCC, both committees have approved this submittal date change the FERC will be just fine with the request. Of course, a request and approval of this change will be filed with the FERC so there is historical record. The Utilities plan to write a cover letter to the FERC which we anticipate will be ready for submittal by October 2021 requesting the ACC/TCC Annual Report submittal date extension become effective beginning 2022.

The ACC Representatives in attendance all approved extending the FERC submittal date of the ACC/TCC Annual Report to June 30 for the life of the license (June 2058). PacifiCorp will follow up with a cover letter to the FERC asking their permission to proceed and PacifiCorp will report back to both Committees upon hearing back from the FERC.

<Break 10:27am>

<Reconvene 11:35am>

Study/Work Product Updates

Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update

Merwin Reservoir – currently down 2.2’

Yale Reservoir – currently down 11.8’

Swift Reservoir – currently down 26.6’

Total current hole – 40.5’ (30.5 when Yale limitation is included)

There is approximately 840 cfs natural inflow from Merwin Dam, (Minimum flow is 1,200 and we are currently 1,290 cfs).

ATS Update

Hatchery & Supplementation – ATS is currently working on completing the AOP by December 31, 2021.

Monitoring & Evaluation – Karchesky (PacifiCorp) provided a brief update on the ongoing 5-year update to the Lewis River Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. He stated that the group is still working toward providing a draft of the M&E plan for review by early November 2021.

Fish Passage Update (see also Attachment A for the August Fish Passage Report)

Merwin - Karchesky (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that the Fish Passage Program was in full swing with coho collection at the Merwin Trap. Karchesky stated that there were a number of coho arriving at Merwin Trap despite being so early in the season and under low flow conditions. A recorded number of coho have already arrived at Merwin Trap, dramatically exceeding all other previous daily collection numbers since the facility has been in operation (since 2014) for this time of year. Currently about 650 coho have been transported upstream, whereas the vast majority already collected have been taken to Lewis River Hatchery to be surplus. Bryce Glaser (WDFW) noted that they are processing an emergency fishery regulation to expand the daily limit of adult coho in the lower river for the early component through late October. The limit would be increased from 3 adult salmon up to 6 adults, of which 2 could be Chinook per day. Glaser also wanted to confirm the number of adult coho scheduled to be taken upstream in 2021 and couldn't recall whether 7,500 or 9,000 live adults were to be transported. Karchesky indicated that the current transport schedule has a goal of 9,000 fish to be taken upstream and noted that this has been the goal since the September 2019 ACC meeting when members approved increasing the upstream number of live coho up from 7,500.

Swift - (see also Attachment A the August Fish Passage Report)

Karchesky indicated that the maintenance outage was still underway. He reminded the ACC that the FSC will be debalasted this year to accommodate a fairly substantial overhaul of the lower sorting deck to now include additional traveling screens for better debris management. The target date for re-ballasting is the first week in October with the FSC returning to service mid- to late-October. Karchesky informed the ACC that he would keep them apprised if the schedule changes.

Other

Triploid Rainbow Trout into Swift - At the last ATS meeting, they discussed stocking triploid rainbow trout in Swift reservoir for 2022. A triploid is a sterile trout that has an extra set of chromosomes. The benefit is a sterile trout will not spawn with our target species or sensitive stocks. There would be no genetic crossover. This has been something that has been used a lot in Idaho for cutthroat and in California. If we planted triploids, it is thought that they would likely stay in the reservoir and be available for harvest and should not make any spawning runs, especially because all triploids used would be females. The Utilities are supportive of this and we have an option to move forward as a test case for 2022. Bryce Glaser (WDFW) communication that this is a one-year opportunity where they have some triploids available that could basically be exchanged for the program at Lewis. In the future years it's unclear if WDFW would be able to provide triploids but there are external vendors that could fulfill that need to PacifiCorp. The triploids (for planting in 2022) would come from WDFW Mossyrock Hatchery, so it's a pathogen free facility and they would be adipose clipped along the way as prescribed. Jeremiah Doyle (PacifiCorp) expressed that this gives him pause with concern to potential adverse impact to bull trout. Doyle would like to discuss this with the bull trout working group before proceeding. Doyle further said that he is concerned about adding another large predator to the reservoir. Doyle will email the bull trout working group and get a meeting scheduled as quickly as possible as WDFW needs to know in the next week or two at the latest. Jeffrey Garnett (USFWS) expressed that he has similar concerns as Doyle about adding triploids and the potential for competition/predation pressure on bull trout. He indicated if this is a one-time thing, it would be advantageous to monitor the effect of adding triploids to Swift to bull trout. Jim Byrne (Trout Unlimited) also shares Doyle's concerns.

Future Fish Passage Sub-Committee/Focus Group – Bill Sharp (Yakama Nation) said that he reviewed the Committees Structure and Ground Rules (Section III, F) and forming a subcommittee is within the framework allowed. Yakama Nation leadership requested he explore formation of a

subcommittee with the ACC to make some traction and provide opportunities for members of this group to start the groundwork on fish passage into Merwin and Yale. Yakama Nation is also researching technologies both nationally and internationally such as a group called Fish Connectivity Passage Forum, an international group. The 2022 conference will be at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) (approximately June 2022) in the tri-cities which would be a great opportunity to learn more there. In the interim he is hopeful the ACC can identify teams that can sit on a sub-committee and evaluate options looking at strategies and understanding the M&E components needed to evaluate fish passage into Merwin and Yale for these stocks.

The Structure and Ground Rules section referenced by Sharp can be viewed on the Lewis River website at the following link: <https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html> (Meetings)

*Section III (f). As deemed necessary and appropriate by either Committee, establishes subcommittees to carry out specified Committee functions and responsibilities described in this Section 14.2.3 of the Agreement (see **Appendix C**), and establishes the size, membership, and procedures for any such subcommittees.....;*

Eli Asher (Cowlitz Tribe) said it is a really good time for us to develop a subcommittee to start looking at fish passage technology, and then also start having the conversations about how we are going to start reintroducing fish into Merwin and Yale and what that process looks like.

Steve Manlow (LCFRB) said he too concurs with forming a focused subgroup is timely and needed.

Erik Lesko suggested adding this topic to the October agenda. Lesko would like to have time to review the procedures of forming a subgroup and determine the appropriate time for the Utilities to participate in a newly formed subgroup. This topic will be added to the October ACC meeting agenda.

Agenda items for October 14, 2021

- Review September 9, 2021 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE October 4, 2021**)
- Discussion/Decision; Creating a Future Fish Passage Subgroup
- USFWS Update on Fish Stranding above Swift (Tentative)
- Study/Work Product Updates

Adjourn 11:30am

Next Scheduled Meeting:

October 14, 2021
TEAMS Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 8/12/2021
- Agenda from 9/9/2021
- **Attachment A** – Lewis River Fish Passage Report (August 2021)

Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
August 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																
3																
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																
9																
10																
11																
12																
13																
14																
15																
16																
17																
18																
19																
20																
21																
22																
23																
24																
25																
26																
27																
28																
29																
30																
31																
Monthly Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	400	4201	39736	27	512	1936	23	146	5390	34	3	645	17	6	4130	57206