

# LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO  
503-412-8401  
Location: SKYPE MEETING ONLY  
Date: September 10, 2020  
Time: 9:30 AM – 1:15 PM

## Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 8/13/20 Meeting Notes
  - Comment & Accept Agenda, 8/13/20 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- Eagle Scott – Proposed Project
- 10:30 a.m. Rainbow Trout Stocking Plan
- 11:00 a.m. In Lieu ACC Consensus Decision Process
- 12:00 p.m. Working Lunch**
- 12:45 p.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
  - ATS Update
  - Update on 2020 Swift Reservoir Fish Collection Efficiency Study
- 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](#)

Join by phone

[\(503\) 813-6614](tel:5038136614) (US)

English (United States)

[\(503\) 813-5252](tel:5038135252) [Portland, OR] (US)

English (United States)

Conference ID: 5803472

**FINAL Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting**  
**September 10, 2020**  
**Skype Meeting Only**

**ACC Representatives Present (22)**

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

**Guests (11)**

Taylor Aalvik, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
Maurice Frank, LCFEG  
Tony Aronica, Yakama Nation  
Chandra Ferrari, Trout Unlimited  
Rick Trick, WDFW  
John Sample, PacifiCorp  
Jim Lynch, K&L Gates  
Jim Kincaid, Cowlitz PUD  
Keegan Bordeaux, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
Griffin Kasch, Eagle Scout  
Michael Lackner, PacifiCorp

**Calendar:**

October 8, 2020	ACC Meeting	Skype Meeting
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<b>Assignments from September 10, 2020</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lesko: Provide contact information to Griffin Kasch for Josh Holowatz (WDFW), Josh Ashline (NMFS) and Eli Asher (Cowlitz Indian Tribe).	<b>Complete – 9/10/20</b>
Lesko: Provide Kate Day (USFS) contact information to Maurice Frank (LCFEG).	<b>Complete – 9/10/2020</b>
PacifiCorp and NMFS: work together to complete the In Lieu Plans record of decision and email to the ACC prior to October meeting.	<b>Complete – 9/18/20</b>
McCune: Distribute the final draft Consensus decision template for an additional 7-day review period.	<b>Complete – 9/18/20</b>

<b>Assignments from August 13, 2020</b>	<b>Status</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; Report completed and distributed to ACC</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 August 13, 2020 meeting notes to include edits and comments received from WDFW. The ACC approved the August 13, 2020 meeting notes at 10:12am to include clarifying edits received from WDFW.

### **Public Comment**

*Eagle Scout proposed Project* – Griffin Kasch, provided a summary of an artificial fish habitat project in Rock Creek he is proposing and wants ACC feedback to proceed with installation and provided pictures for ACC review below. <https://www.fishiding.com/>. The material simulates foliage that bends at the top, each unit is an average of 3’ – 4’ tall, about 9 lbs. each and he planned to install up to 12 units into Rock Creek cove area. Each unit is intended to provide areas for algae growth habitat, natural buildup of resources to provide shelter for smaller fish and shade for younger salmon and trout. The approximate depth at the install location is 10 – 15’ deep. The units have a concrete base and are anchored down by the weight but not attached to the ground. They can be left in place 5- 10 years or so but not needed to be permanent. He is not aware that the PVC

material degrades. Bill Sharp (Yakama Nation) communicated that as they identify areas that could potentially use these types of structures they take a hard look at are they providing cover for the species to enhance or are they potentially having a negative effect, such as creating ambush habitat to pick off salmonids as they enter these structures. This could be a key part of the study, to look at what fish are using these structures and if there are predators we creating an attractive nuisance for instead of benefitting the salmon. Steve Manlow (LCFRB) said it would be worth contacting WDFW habitat biologist for the Rock Creek area to have a discussion about this type of structure or alternative structures you may want to consider. This would be a good opportunity to make sure we are providing the benefits fish would need up there. In addition, a permit for this structure from WDFW would be needed. Josh Ashline (NMFS) offered to speak with Kasch off line to set him up with a group that is already doing some fish enhancement work that you could piggy back on their efforts and help them do the installation and any of those efforts where they have gone through the bureaucratic process and be able to get these fish enhancements structures in place.

Josh Holowatz (WDFW) will provide biologist contact information in the area to Kasch.



*Maurice Frank – LCFEG Project Manager*

Frank plans to apply for 2020/2021 Aquatic Funding and had a few clarifying questions and wants a contact for the Forest Service as far as permitting. Kate Day (USFS) indicated she would be the FS contact to start the permitting process. The ACC cannot provide feedback on the merits of the project as that's done after the proposals are received, but we can discuss the procedures. Karchesky (PacifiCorp) shared that he and Ruth Tracy (USFS *retired*) worked together last year

on developing the pilot effort and the initial NEPA permit for LCFEG to distribute carcasses in the upper Lewis River basin in fall 2019. He asked Maurice if LCFEG was planning to distribute carcasses in the region in 2020 with the COVID-19 restrictions, and Maurice replied that they were, but expected it would likely be a limited effort. Eli Asher (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) indicated that there is useful public information on past nutrient enhancement project available on PRISM. The aquatic fund announcement also has evaluation questions that will be helpful to see what is important to the ACC (link provided below).

[https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/lewis-river/license-implementation/acc/09042020%20Eval%20Questions\\_rev.pdf](https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/lewis-river/license-implementation/acc/09042020%20Eval%20Questions_rev.pdf)

<Break 10:45am>

<Reconvene 10:50am>

### **Rainbow Trout Stocking Plan**

**The ACC agreed to defer the Rainbow Trout Stock Plan decision to the October 8, 2020 ACC meeting to allow for additional review time.** Karchesky indicated that PacifiCorp was fine with delaying the decision until October, however was understanding that main reason why the request was being made at the September meeting was for WDFW and trout rearing decisions. Sam Gibbons (WDFW) indicated that he would check to see if this was an issue and would get back to the group.

Jim Byrne (Trout Unlimited) would like the ACC to keep in mind when reviewing the Plan on the power canal that it his understanding the only place to fish is where FR90 crosses the canal. When the power canal blew out in 2000 and we did a big fish rescue and also when we were attempting to catch bull trout in the power canal, the fish moved throughout that basin, particularly into the Swift tailrace, which is where we caught the majority. He doesn't don't think there is much access for anglers and wonders if we are diluting fishing opportunity by putting fish in there.

### **In Lieu ACC Consensus Decision Process**

Lesko provided the following document for ACC review to capture today's discussion and decisions - *North Fork Lewis River Project Request for ACC Consensus; Merwin In-Lieu Strategic Plan, Implementation Monitoring Plan, Attachment A* for the ACC to decide if they approve or disapprove of the Merwin In-Lieu Strategic Monitoring Plan and the Implementation Monitoring Plan.

Josh Ashline (NMFS) described the decision template that was emailed to the ACC on August 5, 2020. NMFS is not asking for consensus on the Bull Trout Passage Plan. Lesko will be walking the ACC through the consensus process. The goal is to vote on the decision today.

In accordance with the Ground Rules document the ACC is following decision making protocol:

#### Decision Making

*Committees will make decisions by Consensus, as defined in the Agreement and Section IV of this document. With respect to assuring that all Representatives have a voice in the Consensus process, the following protocol will be applied:*

- 1) *Discuss the issue to identify all points of view. Invite everyone to speak.*
- 2) *The group will decide when there has been enough discussion about a topic and are ready for a decision vote.*

- 3) *Votes in favor and against shall be tallied from each Representative present, or from Representatives identified through written proxy by absentee Representatives prior to the meeting.*
- 4) *Those voting in the **minority** get the floor. They're invited to say whatever they want and convince others of the rights of their view by:*
  - *Adding to the body of information already presented.*
  - *Clarifying their position.*
  - *Point out flaws, errors, or deficiencies in the other's point of view.*
- 5) *Continue to ask those in the minority:*
  - *Do you think you have now been heard by the others in the group?*
  - *Is there more you want to say?*
  - *Are you ready to have the entire group vote again?*
- 6) *Vote again. Those voting in the **minority** again get the floor.*
- 7) *Invite them again to voice their argument to try and convince others to agree with their point of view.*

*This process will continue until those in the minority are able to say: "We are clear about what the majority would like to do. While we personally would not make that choice, we do think the others understand what our alternative is. We've had sufficient opportunity to persuade others to our point of view, and we do think we have been heard."*

*If agreement is not possible, minority parties may pursue Dispute Resolution or other agreed upon approach.*

Bryce Glaser (WDFW) expressed that, as part of the protocol today, we need to work together to summarize the decision and make sure the language is captured in the template and supported by the ACC.

Lesko noted that as a clarification of the action today.....NMFS is requesting the ACC engage in the consensus process as defined in the Lewis River Settlement Agreement regarding the proposed Plans (excluding the Bull Trout Passage Plan) to fulfill the request for ACC approval contained in NOAA's preliminary decision letter. If a Party does not approve of the Plans, NOAA is requesting they provide specific reason why they do not approve of the Plans. Eli Asher (CIT) noted that the consensus process does not require specific reasons be given to support each members vote. Voting Parties present at the meeting stated that reasons for their vote have already been submitted as part of the Record. See specific comments below.

Ashline expressed to the ACC to vote on each Plan separately. See **Attachment A** for ACC decisions and additional comments. Ashline confirmed that the ACC votes and their additional comments satisfies NMFS request.

Todd Olson expressed that at this stage if consensus is not possible the parties can pursue dispute resolution in accordance with the Settlement Agreement or other agreed upon approach. According to the protocols, as the minority, it's up to the Utilities to pursue dispute resolution or not.

**See Attachment A for detailed outcome of consensus process. The majority of the ACC has not reached consensus today to approval of the Plans. It is not the intention of the Utilities to pursue ADR process at this time.**

The ACC agreed to a 15 minute break and to reconvene and work together to complete the record of consensus voting template (Part C), which is the justification for their decision today.

*<Break 12:15pm>*

*<Reconvene 12:30pm>*

Upon voting the following ACC representatives provided these additional comments:

- Eli Asher (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) added that what the Cowlitz Tribe has on the record is specific to the draft plans and the final plans as submitted to the FERC does not adequately address the Tribe's concerns.
- Steve Manlow (LCFRB) noted that his organization's prior comments capture the reason for a no vote. He also highlighted a couple of key items of concern in the final plan submitted to FERC, including the fact that there is still a lack of compensatory mitigation for the temporal impacts, even though they have been acknowledged and quantified. He noted there has been no mitigation proposed whatsoever to offset those impacts, and that remains a very important challenge from a recovery standpoint. He also questioned whether the monitoring plan as currently designed is even answering the questions the Services are asking, and noted that WDFW offered up very robust alternative to what is proposed that would provide a much clearer, objective pass/fail test. He noted that in punting a decision 10 years down the road, very few of us will be here, so there needs to be a solid test for whether or not the monitoring plan will meet the objective of achieving the fish population benefits from the in lieu work. He also suggested that the Services should look at that issue closely. .
- Bryce Glaser (WDFW) expressed that the Strategic Plan is lacking specific details about habitat restoration actions to be evaluated and there is a lack of mitigation for the temporal impact that Steve just described and a lack of clear goals that restoration is trying to achieve. In regards to the Monitoring Plan, WDFW believes, as written, it does not clearly present a pathway to determine if population level abundance increases that have been described or expected by PacifiCorp with the restoration implementation will be achieved. WDFW also does not believe it will provide NMFS with the information they are requesting to make their decision regarding the appropriateness of fish passage in the future. WDFW provided an alternative scenario in their comments that was not completely addressed or incorporated and stand by the comments they have submitted already.

McCune will distribute the final draft of the consensus document to the ACC for an additional 7-day review period.

### **Study/Work Product Updates**

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

- Swift reservoir is down about 485' elevation

- Yale is about 478'
- Merwin is down 2'
- PacifiCorp is meeting minimum flows

### **Big Hollow Fire**

This fire started south of Swift and moving east toward Yale reservoir at about 20,000 acres. There are different levels of evacuation in the area. If one is in the Cougar area it is at level 2, ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. PacifiCorp has closed all of our campground and removed all recreationists off Yale and Swift reservoirs, including our camp hosts who have moved down river. The only recreation sites now available are Speelyai boat ramp and Merwin park and the lower Lewis River sites below Merwin, like if one were to float the river. Check fire maps if you have work in the area.

### **Update on 2020 Swift Reservoir Fish Collection Efficiency Study**

Deferred to October 8, 2020 ACC Meeting

### **Fish Passage Update**

Karchesky noted that the quarterly maintenance on the Merwin Trap fish lift and conveyance system had been completed in late-August. To date, approximately 200 adult coho had been transported upstream so far, mostly natural origin fish. Karchesky also mention that with ongoing wildfires in the area, PacifiCorp was still continuing to take fish upstream daily. He indicated that if that changed, he would let the ACC know. The Swift Reservoir FSC is still in the outage period. Current, general maintenance was ongoing as well as a number of modifications to bolster the facility's debris management system. Karchesky said that PacifiCorp was on schedule for returning the FSC back to service in early-October.

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

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).



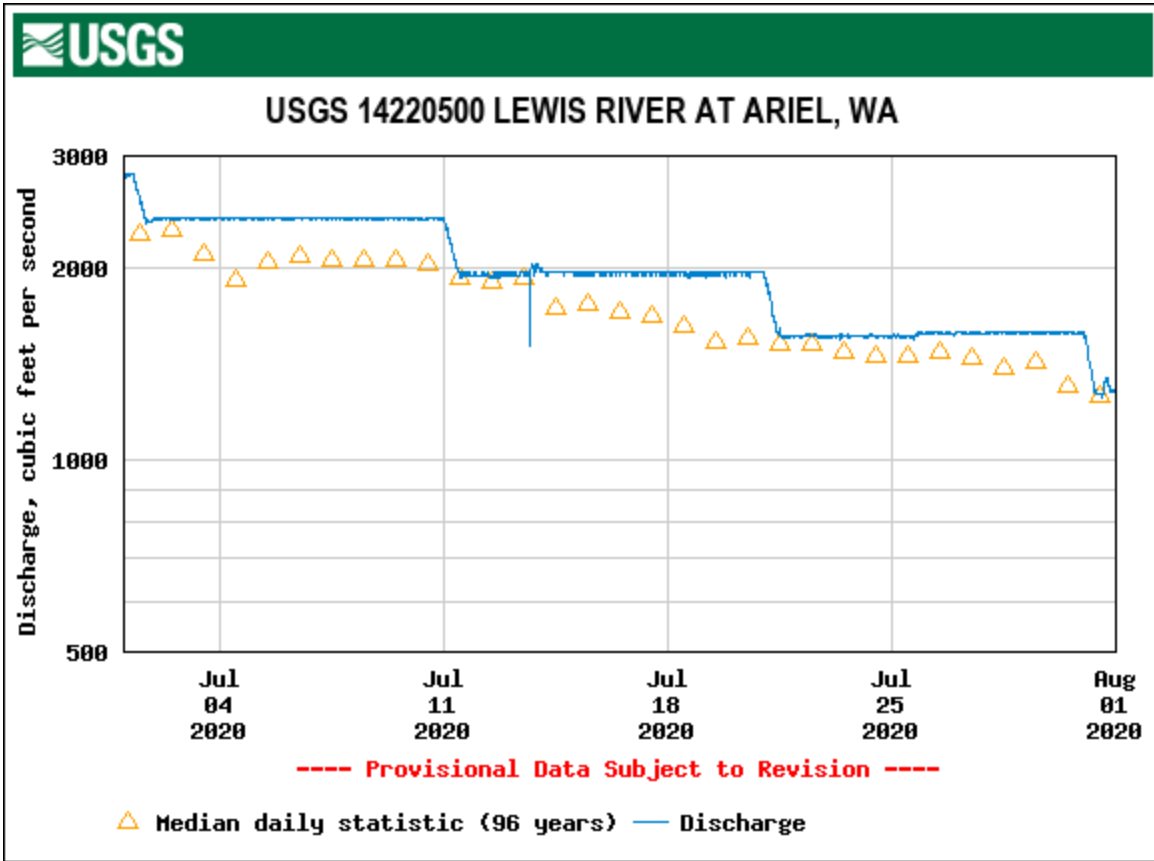


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

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

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 B](#))

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 Summer Maintenance	July Collection Numbers by Run Year at Swift FSC				
		Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Cutthroat	TOTAL
2013	NA	190	17	1	16	224

<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 September 10, 2020 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE September 29, 2020**)
- Rainbow Trout Stocking Plan – DECISION MEETING
- 2020 Northwoods Fish Surveys
- Update on 2020 Swift Reservoir Fish Collection Efficiency Study
- Study/Work Product Update

*Adjourn 1:25pm*

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

October 8, 2020
Skype Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Meeting Handouts & Attachments:**

- Meeting Notes from 8/13/20
- Agenda from 9/10/20
- Attachment A– North Fork Lewis River Project ACC Consensus Decision Template; Merwin In-Lieu Strategic Plan, Implementation Monitoring Plan
- Attachment B - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (August 2020)

## North Fork Lewis River Project Request for ACC Consensus

*Merwin In-Lieu Strategic Plan, Implementation Monitoring Plan*

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### Part A: Decision Summary

A majority of the voting members did not consent to the Merwin In-lieu Strategic or Implementation Monitoring plans.

Date of Decision: September 10, 2020

### 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

**Request No.** 2020 - 01

**Request Date:** August 13, 2020

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

**Part C – Committee Decision** *(to be completed by Committee)*

1. Committee Decision

a) Was the decision made by consensus (as defined in the Committee ground rules)? The ACC followed the consensus process, but consensus was not achieved.

b) Document voting record and tally (if applicable) Of the 10 voting Representatives present at the meeting, the vote tally is NO votes = 7; YES votes = 1, Abstain = 2

Request No. 2020 - 01  
Request Date: August 13, 2020

Voting Record, ACC meeting, September 10, 2020.

Signatory organization	Voting Representative	Present	Consent to approve plans?
American Rivers	Bridget Moran	x	NO
City of Woodland	Director, Public Works		
Clark County	Not Available		
Cowlitz County	Not Available		
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Eli Asher	x	NO
Cowlitz-Skamania Fire District No. 7	Not Available		
Fish First	Jim Malinowski		
Lewis River Citizens at-large	Not Available		
Lewis River Community Council	Mariah Stoll-Smith Reese		
Lower Columbia River Fish Recovery Board	Steve Manlow	x	NO
National Marine Fisheries Service	Josh Ashline	x	ABSTAIN
National Park Service	Not Available		
Native Fish Society	Bill Bakke		
North County Emergency Medical	Not Available		
PacifiCorp and Cowlitz County PUD No.1	Todd Olson	x	YES
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	Not Available		
Skamania County	Not Available		
Trout Unlimited	Jim Byrne	x	NO
US Bureau of Land Management	Not Available		
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Tim Romanski	x	ABSTAIN
USDA Forest Service	Kate Day	x	NO
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Bryce Glaser	x	NO
WA State Recreation and Conservation Office	Katie Pruit		
Woodland Chamber of Commerce	Not Available		
Yakama Nation	Bill Sharp	x	NO

**Commented [BG1]:** At the meeting and reflected in the meeting notes, we discussed that the plans should be voted on independently. During voting, when we went around the room, each member gave its vote (yes or no) for both plans at the same time, but I believe all were clear to state "both plans", "either plans" or to name each plan. It seems maybe this voting record should include a column for each plan, since that was the intent, even though there were no split votes on the plans.

Maybe the group can discuss how to best capture the vote for the record.

## 2. Justification for Committee Decision

### a) What information (i.e. empirical data) and how was this information used to inform decision?

Voting representatives pointed to the existing written record for the basis of their vote. The voting majority expressed concerns that the strategic and monitoring plans did not adequately address member comments. Additional comments were provided by the LCFRB, Cowlitz Indian Tribe and WDFW as provided in the September 10, 2020 meeting notes (attached).

**Request No.** 2020 - 01

**Request Date:** August 13, 2020

3. Contingencies or Conditions of the Decision

- a) Is decision contingent on other actions or information? **No**
- b) Is implementation of decision contingent on specific actions or information? **No, only if an ADR process is pursued by the minority party.**
- c) Are there any conditions attached to this decision? **No**

4. Additional Information or Notations

- 1) Meeting notes are attached as part of this template to reflect additional comments provided by the LCFRB, CIT and the WDFW.
- 2) As provided in the ground rules, the minority may pursue an ADR process that may change the decision.

**Commented [BG2]:** CIT is referenced in 2a above and also in the meeting notes.

# Lewis River Fish Passage Report

## August

### Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

A total of 969 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) during the month of August. The majority of these fish collected were summer steelhead (71.7%). Early-run coho counts started to pick up towards the end of the month. Of note, two hatchery-reared spring Chinook “mini jacks” were collected at the Merwin Trap in late-July and early-August containing PIT tags. PIT interrogation records indicated that these fish were both tagged earlier this year at the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery in central Idaho just outside of Redfish Lake. PacifiCorp biologists reached out to Idaho Fish and Game to let them know that the detections were legitimate and to pass on additional information.

**Table 1. Detection history of two spring Chinook “mini” jacks originating from the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery, ID, which were detected at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility.**

Tag Code	Event Type Name	Event Site Name	Event Date MMDDYYYY	Event Release Site Name
3DD.0077C1FF47	Mark	SAWT - Sawtooth Hatchery	10/9/2019	YANKFK - Yankee Fork Salmon River
3DD.0077C1FF47	Observation	B2J - Bonneville PH2 Juvenile	5/14/2020	
3DD.0077C1FF47	Observation	MHP - Merwin Hydroelectric Project	7/27/2020	

Tag Code	Event Type Name	Event Site Name	Event Date MMDDYYYY	Event Release Site Name
3DD.0077C20300	Mark	SAWT - Sawtooth Hatchery	10/9/2019	SAWT - Sawtooth Hatchery
3DD.0077C20300	Observation	BO4 - Bonneville WA Ladder Slots	7/7/2020	
3DD.0077C20300	Observation	TD1 - The Dalles East Fish Ladder	7/11/2020	
3DD.0077C20300	Observation	MHP - Merwin Hydroelectric Project	8/5/2020	

The MFCF fish lift and conveyance system ran continuously throughout the month of August, 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. Total river flow below Merwin Dam remained at minimum flows (1,200 CFS) for the month of August (Figure 1).

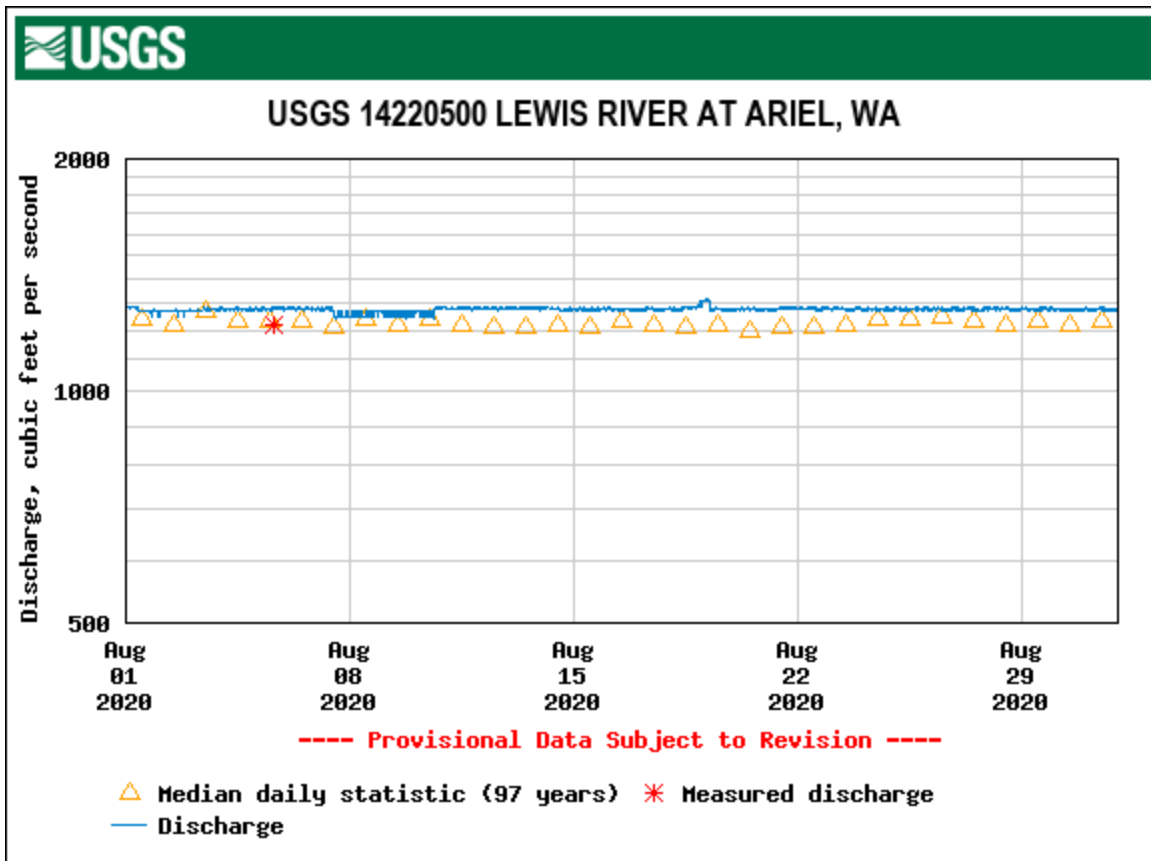


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

### Upstream Transport

Upstream transport was light during the month of August, which is consistent with previous year. Only a total of 33 fish were transported upstream throughout the month, and mainly consisted of natural origin early-run coho and cutthroat trout. One of the cutthroat trout collected at the MFCF on August 17<sup>th</sup> had been previously PIT tagged. Interrogation records indicated that this fish was tagged at the MFCF in May of 2020, was transported upstream of Swift Dam, and had been collected at the Swift FSC prior to returning to MFCF.

For calendar year 2020, a total of 1,040 steelhead (Blank Wire Tag ), 634 spring Chinook, 325 true wild steelhead, 31 coho, and 25 cutthroat 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, and was not in operation during the month of August. It is scheduled to return to service in mid-October.





**Fish Facility Report**  
**Swift Floating Surface Collector**  
**August 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
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31																
<b>Monthly Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	79	3831	25047	3	3037	12485	64	46	4047	120	1	425	27	20	2072	<b>51304</b>