

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

Date & Time: Thursday, September 14, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Place: CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

Contacts: Frank Shrier: (503) 320-7423

Time	Discussion Item
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review Agenda and ACC 8/10/17 Meeting Notes ➤ Comment & Accept Agenda and 8/10/17 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Opportunity
9:20 a.m.	Acclimation Pond Decommission Plan Discussion – DECISION NEEDED
10:20 a.m.	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2013 Bull Trout Habitat Restoration Project ID Assessment Update ○ H&S Plan Update ○ Woodland Release Ponds Construction - Status ○ Merwin Upstream Passage – Status ○ Swift Floating Surface Collector – Status ○ In Lieu Fund - Status
10:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Next Meeting's Agenda ➤ Public Comment Opportunity Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn

Join by Phone

+1 (503) 813-5252 [Portland, Ore.]

+1 (855) 499-5252 [Toll Free]

Conference ID: 2506249

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
September 14, 2017
Conference Call Only

ACC Participants Present (13)

Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp
 Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
 Tom Wadsworth, WDFW
 Dan Rawding, WDFW
 Steve Manlow, LCFRB
 Amelia Johnson, LCFRB
 Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
 Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 Ruth Tracy, USDA Forest Service
 Bryce Michaelis, USDA Forest Service
 Greg Robertson, USDA Forest Service

Guest (1)

Marc McHenry, USDA Forest Service

Calendar:

September 14, 2017	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
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Assignments from September 14, 2017	Status
McCune: Email an electronic copy of the Aquatic Fund Project Close Out Report to Bryce Michaelis.	Complete – 9/14/17
Shrier/McCune: Incorporate the requested ACC changes/edits into the Acclimation Pond Decommission Plan and email redline back to the ACC for another 7-day review period.	Complete – 9/19/17

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and reviewed the agenda. No agenda additions were requested.

Shrier also reviewed the August 10, 2017 meeting notes. The meeting notes were approved at 9:10 a.m. without change.

Public Comment

None

Acclimation Pond Decommission Plan Discussion

Shrier provided a cursory review of the comments received from WDFW ([Attachment A](#)). The adult distribution referenced in WDFW's notes is already being done. Note that this reference is

WDFW comments is incorrect, “Goals for the number of adult spring chinook transported upstream are set forth in the Settlement Agreement”.

Shrier noted that in Section 8.5.3 of the Lewis River Settlement Agreement it states:

8.5.3 Adult Salmonids. The Licensees shall begin providing for the supplementation of adult fish one year prior to completion of the Swift Downstream Facility. Throughout the terms of the New Licenses, the Licensees shall provide for the transport and release of supplementation stocks of adult spring Chinook, coho, and steelhead above Swift No. 1 as directed by the ACC. Throughout the terms of the New Licenses, PacifiCorp shall provide for the transport and release of supplementation stocks of adult spring Chinook, coho, and steelhead into Yale Lake and Lake Merwin as directed by the ACC. The ACC shall determine the timing for initiating supplementation into Yale Lake and Lake Merwin. The ACC, subject to the approval of the Services, may recommend discontinuing or recommencing the supplementation of such supplementation stocks, provided that any such recommendations are biologically based and not contrary to the goals of the ESA.

The Acclimation Pond Decommission Plan is intended as a general plan. In accordance with the August 30, 2017 Proposal to the ACC on page 15. “PacifiCorp will also develop and implement a study to evaluate the performance of the acclimation fish to determine the viability of a direct release program”. PacifiCorp intends to procure a consultant to assist/develop a detailed study plan by March 2018 to include but not limited to evaluation of other supplementation plans in the Pacific Northwest to see methods and results. An analysis will be incorporated into the evaluation.

Dan Rawding (WDFW) would like the following bullets from their comments incorporated into the Plan and state the purpose of the acclimation fish.

- Evaluate duration of time juveniles rear in upper watershed prior to migrating downstream to Swift Reservoir.
- Evaluate distribution of juveniles after release into the upper watershed.
- Evaluate survival of juveniles from release to arrival at floating surface collector in Swift Reservoir.

PacifiCorp will incorporate the requested changes and email back to the ACC for another 7-day review period.

Study/Work Product Updates

2013 Bull Trout Habitat Restoration Project ID Assessment Update

Bryce Michaelis (USDA Forest Service) informed the ACC attendees that the subgroup last met September 13, 2017 and most of the field work is complete. The final draft product is expected to the ACC by the November 9, 2017 meeting. Michaelis will prepare an approximate 20 minute PowerPoint presentation for the ACC to include background information and provide a Q&A opportunity for the ACC.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) mentioned that the FERC will require a close out report that will be filed April 2018. McCune will email a close out report form to Michaelis for his use.

H&S Plan Update

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that the H&S Subgroup is working on spring Chinook rearing and release protocol at Lewis River Hatchery. They are also working on a proposal for estimating pHOS downstream of Merwin Dam, and a proposal for monitoring protocols for genetic risks to late winter steelhead. The Subgroup met last Thursday and will continue to meet the last Thursday of every month at least through March 2018.

Woodland Release Ponds/Construction Update

The in-water work period continues for another two weeks. Expected construction completion is November 30, 2017 and can begin using the pond after this date.

In Lieu Fund – Status

PacifiCorp will be requesting a status from the Services regarding their next steps. The FERC granted the extension to the Services until February 23, 2018 to file their determination for fish passage facilities at Yale and Merwin reservoirs.

Other

Monitoring & Evaluation – Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC attendees that the distribution of adult Spring chinook (over 1,000) fish is better than coho or steelhead. 20-30 redds, downstream of Eagle Cliffs and in Clearwater Creek plus some of the reservoir tributaries. The Chinook are naturally distributing themselves in the upper basin.

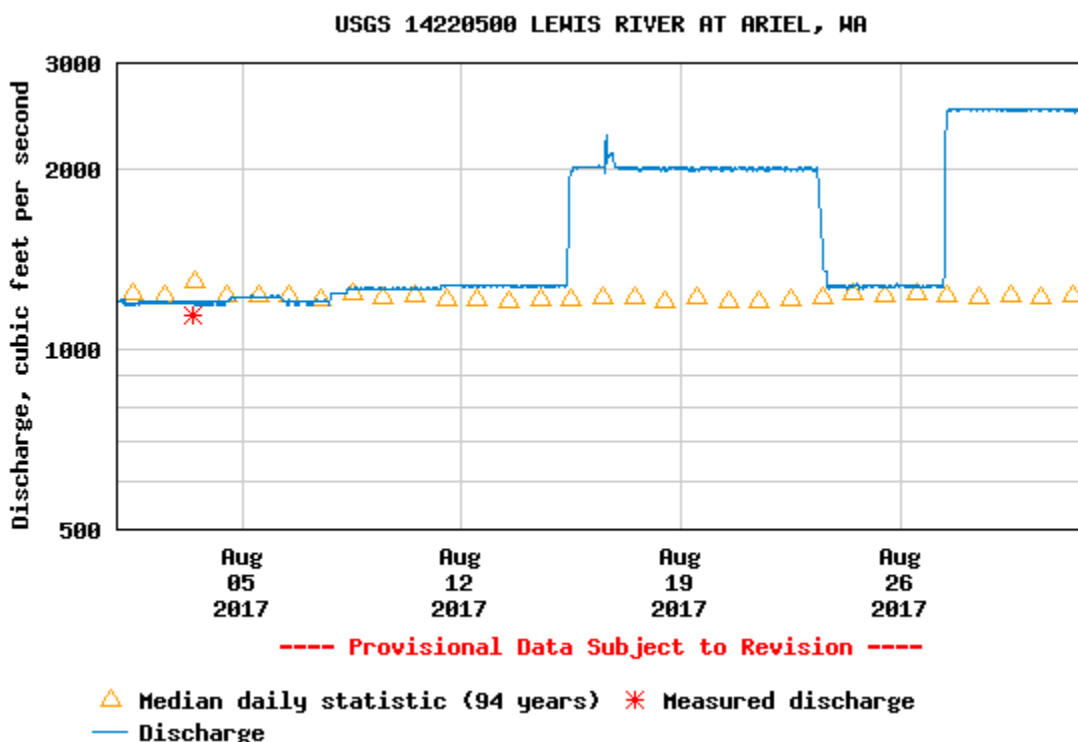
Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations ([Attachment B](#))

During the month of August, a total 712 fish were captured at the Merwin Adult Fish Collection Facility. The vast majority of these fish were summer steelhead (653 – 92%). A total of 2,896 spring Chinook have been captured at the Merwin Trap through August 2017.

The Merwin Dam adult fish trap ran continuously through the month of August except from the 16th through the 24th to perform annual maintenance. During August 29th through 31st the trap's elevator system was disabled to replace hopper cabling. During this period the fish ladder and AWS system remained in operation. River flow below Merwin Dam fluctuated between 1,200 and 2,510 cfs throughout the month.

The Merwin Dam Adult Fish Trap was turned off Saturday evening (September 9, 2017) due to a broken cable on the fish hopper. All fish were safely removed from the ladder and repairs are ongoing. We expect that the trap will be back in service later this week. PacifiCorp will notify the ACC once repairs are complete and the trap is back in service.

Discharge, cubic feet per second



Upstream Transport ([Attachment B](#))

No Blank Wire Tag (BWT) winter steelhead were transported upstream above Swift Dam in August 2017; a total of 599 BWT winter steelhead transported as part of the 2017 run year.

2017 Late-Winter Steelhead (BWTs) (thru August 2017)

Male	Female	Total
327	272	599

PacifiCorp began transporting adult spring Chinook to the upper basin on May 18, 2017. By the end of the August, a total of 1,103 fish had been transported and released at the head of Swift Reservoir.

2017 Spring Chinook (thru August 2017)

Male	Female	Jacks	Total
370	430	310*	1,110

* Contain approximately 25% females < 24 inch ("Jills").

PacifiCorp began transporting early coho salmon to the upper basin on August 25, 2017. By the end of the August, a total of 16 fish had been transported and released at the head of Swift Reservoir. More than 75% of these fish (n=12) were NORs.

2017 Coho Salmon (thru August 2017)

Stock	Male	Female	Jacks	Total
Early (S-type)	10	6	0	16
Late (N-type)	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	6	0	16

Swift Floating Surface Collector (Attachment B)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) did not operate during the month of August. The vessel has been deballasted for summer maintenance and is scheduled to be returned to service by early-October.

Agenda items for October 12, 2017

- September 14, 2017 Meeting Notes
- Acclimation Pond Decommission Plan Discussion
- Study/Work Product Update

Adjourn 9:40am

Next Scheduled Meeting:

October 12, 2017
Merwin Hydro Control Center or Conference Call
Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 8/10/17
- Agenda from 9/14/17
- **Attachment A** – Acclimation Pond Plan comments from WDFW, September 13, 2017
- **Attachment B** – Lewis River Fish Passage Report (August 2017)

Lewis River Spring Chinook Reintroduction Program
Adult and Juvenile Upper Basin Release Strategies and Evaluation
WDFW Recommendations

WDFW understands that there was originally an expectation that acclimation ponds be established in the upper Lewis basin to benefit reintroduction efforts of spring; however, it has been difficult to effectively maintain the facilities necessary to acclimate fish in the upper Lewis Basin. At the last several ACC meetings there have been discussions regarding alternatives to the acclimation ponds originally implemented. WDFW is supportive of moving in a different direction, but wants to make sure that the new path chosen is evaluated to determine the effectiveness of alternatives implements. It is also important that the spring chinook acclimation benefits juvenile productivity and geographic distribution of returning adults. To that end WDFW has recommendations on how best to proceed with both distribution of returning adults and acclimation of juvenile hatchery production used to support reintroduction of spring chinook into the Upper Lewis Basin.

Adult Distribution

It is important that adults returning to the upper watershed are well distributed throughout the watershed, which will allow spring chinook to utilize the most productive portions of the watershed. To accomplish this WDFW proposes that adults being transported to the upper watershed be released in a variety of locations throughout the watershed instead of the head of Swift Reservoir. Releases should be focused in those areas that have the highest potential to support successful spawning and juvenile rearing. A similar action has already been implemented for winter steelhead and has shown positive results in terms of increased geographic distribution of spawning adults. Goals for the number of adult spring chinook transported upstream are set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

Juvenile Acclimation

In 2017 the use of acclimation ponds and large scale releases in a few select locations was discontinued. In its place a pilot study for releases of juvenile spring chinook was initiated that: 1) released fish at a smaller size (fingerlings instead of smolts), 2) released fish earlier in the year (July and August rather than fall months), 3) released fish at an increased number of locations and 4) released smaller numbers of fish over a broader time frame. Initial results appear to be positive in terms of increased residence time of juvenile spring chinook in the upper watershed.

WDFW is proposing that the pilot effort initiated in 2017 be continued for several years into the future. This new acclimation strategy needs to be evaluated to determine if it is benefiting

juvenile productivity and residency plus homing of returning adults. This release strategy should be modified in the future based on results from the aforementioned evaluation efforts. Specific recommendations from WDFW regarding the evaluation efforts are as follows:

- Evaluate duration of time juveniles rear in upper watershed prior to migrating downstream to Swift Reservoir.
- Evaluate distribution of juveniles after release into the upper watershed.
- Evaluate survival of juveniles from release to arrival at floating surface collector in Swift Reservoir.

The information collected as part of this evaluation would be used to compare this release strategy to other release or acclimation strategies. For instance, it has been suggested that juvenile spring chinook could be released directly into Swift Reservoir and if that was to occur the evaluation metrics described above could be used to evaluate the performance of these two different strategies.

WDFW is proposing an overarching approach to evaluate juvenile release strategies into the upper watershed. This overarching approach could be used to evaluate a variety of strategies that could be considered in the future (e.g. reservoir releases, use of acclimation ponds). WDFW is not proposing specific methodology to collect data necessary to estimate evaluation metrics described above. Specific methodology implemented would be under the purview of the ACC.

Patrick Frazier and Tom Wadsworth
WDFW
August 11, 2017

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

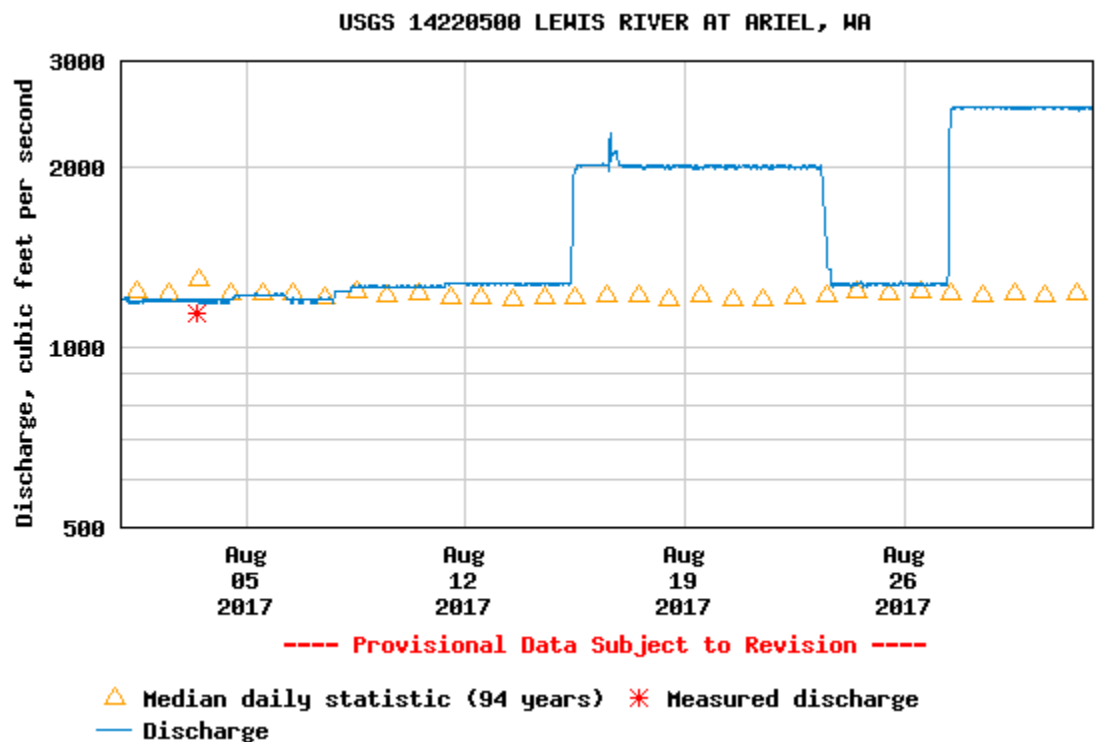
August 2017

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Floating Surface Collector

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Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
August 2017

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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Monthly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3205	661	9351	0	43	695	17	43	1514	9	13	321	38	8	2807	18725

