

**Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
March 8, 2012
Meeting at Merwin**

ACC Participants Present (13)

Eli Asher, Lower Columbia River Fish Recovery Board
Michelle Day, NMFS
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy
Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Energy
LouEllyn Jones, USFWS
Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy
Jim Malinowski, Fish First (via teleconference)
Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service
Peggy Miller, WDFW
David Hu, USFS (via teleconference)
Eric Kinne, WDFW
Bob Rose, Yakama Nation
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy

Guests:

Keely Murdock, Yakama Nation

Calendar:

April 12, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
May 10, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from December 8, 2011 meeting	Status
Bull Trout Annual Planning meeting scheduled for February 17, 2012.	2/17/12 Complete
Set up meeting to discuss the ozone system at Merwin.	Complete
Assignments from January 12, 2012 meeting	
Coordinate a summer tour of the Swift Downstream Collector Construction for the Cowlitz tribal council. (One month delay was recommended. Shannon Wills to confirm with Tribe leadership)	Pending
Assignments from February 9, 2012 meeting	
Set up meeting to discuss how to release fish at the Release Pond site until pond is constructed.	Complete – meeting set for 3/30/12 at WDFW, Vanc.

Send out revised plan for the Crab Creek Acclimation Pond. (Subcommittee reviewing ideas and planning site visits)	Pending
Merwin Trap: Review Settlement Agreement for clarification on Coho production, to get to the required 1.9 million.	Complete 4/12/12
<u>2012 Aquatic Fund Proposals: Next Steps</u> - Utilities will get comments out to agencies by mid-February for review. There will be another review at the March meeting, with funding decisions at the April meeting. They will be filed with FERC by April 16, 2012.	Complete 3/8/12

Assignments from March 8, 2012 meeting	Status
Lesko – SA 8.4, Coho Production Targets: PacifiCorp will bring back more detail regarding impact on the 2013 budget for WDFW and PacifiCorp to review and discuss at the next ACC meeting on April 12, 2012.	Pending
Murdock - indicated that she will email literature to Shrier regarding Yakama Nation acclimation reports.	Pending
Kinne - will get some information for the ACC on the White River acclimation and any other information his agency might have.	Pending

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp, called the meeting to order @ 9:05 a.m. The team reviewed the agenda, and added one new topic: Acclimation Pond Site – Crab Creek. The agenda was then accepted at 9:10 a.m.

The meeting notes from last month were reviewed and accepted with minor housekeeping changes at 9:20 a.m.

Study Updates

Woodland Release Ponds – Working on draft environmental assessment (EA) and nearly ready to submit to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Completion of the Release Pond this year is not likely. The permits are on hold as consultation is not complete. Need to add this topic onto the May ACC agenda. PacifiCorp will transport downstream migrants to the Release Pond site and release directly until EA is completed. Shrier suggest the ACC discuss some means of assessing mortality for the Overall Downstream Survival Component of the SA. PacifiCorp will not begin transporting until January 2013.

Speelyai Pond 14 – 100% design is completed. Project completion scheduled for 2012 (May 1 – Aug 15).

Speelyai Intake – 90 percent designs complete. Pending permit issues with construction completion expected summer 2012. Work window is June 1 – August 15.

Merwin Rearing Ponds – Remaining two ponds scheduled for completion after the fishing derby is completed at the hatchery this June 2012.

Lewis River Upstream and Downstream Intakes – Upstream intake damaged. PacifiCorp talking to WDFW regarding getting the needed approvals to repair in 2012.

Certain issues were discovered with the ozone system specific to the meters not reading correctly. The ambient ozone will be looked at and new seals will be ordered. PacifiCorp is working with two vendors for PLC upgrades for summer 2012. Steelhead transferred to date includes six males upstream of Swift.

Broadstock to date include three males, two females and five residual steelhead. Caught 3 or 4 adults that had gone to the ocean and back.

Acclimation Ponds – Bob Rose, Yakama Nation, introduced Keeley Murdock, Fisheries Biologist for the Yakama Nation, who possesses specific acclimation pond knowledge. Rose inquired about what the ACC knows about measuring success, juvenile productivity and adult return stray rates.

Murdock communicated that she has been involved in short term acclimation (6 weeks to 3 months), regional hatchery issues, and traditional acclimation and over-winter acclimation. She expressed that the longer the acclimation the better off the fish will be, given there is access to the pond(s). It is necessary to watch the snow pack and weather condition to acclimate to early March but no later than April. There is limited data on over-winter acclimation vs. short term (over Spring) acclimation. One item confounds results is where fish are coming from. Where the rearing facility is located is important when determining short term or over-winter acclimation. Shrier asked how you maintain ponds over the winter. Murdock responded that they only do over spring (short term) acclimation. She mentioned that one method, for example, is to use warmer ground water to keep the screens ice free over the winter. Shrier also asked if anyone is doing direct release of Chinook. Murdock communicated that the Yakama Nation conducted two years of direct releases hoping the fish would not stray. The result was that they left the release site right away. Survival rate was just a fraction of the acclimated fish. The direct-release projects were discontinued after two years. Murdock indicated that she will email literature she has to Shrier regarding acclimated releases. Bob Rose asked about releasing fish from helicopters. Keely expressed that they have not used helicopters and have not seriously considered their use. They did consider outfitting a snow cat but have not yet done so. Shrier communicated that PacifiCorp is planning a direct release in October 2012 thinking the fish would hold over winter and mingle with the natural spawn. Murdock said that the un-acclimated spring release (direct release) survival rates were low in comparison to acclimated fish. Shrier mentioned that the ACC has agreed to an acclimation program that occurs later in the spring than the YN program since the projects are so low in the Columbia River system. Fish do not need to leave their natal stream as early as upriver fish. Keely said she thought that made sense.

Eli Asher, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, asked if anyone has checked with Puyallup or Muckleshoot Tribes. They may have some good information from White River Spring Chinook

acclimation. Eric Kinne, WDFW, will get some information for the ACC on the White River acclimation and any other information his agency might have.

Shrier communicated to LouEllyn Jones, USFWS, that the drop dead date for the Muddy River acclimation pond is July 15 – August 31, 2012 (in-water work period). The above-water work can be completed prior to July 2012. The Corp permit is still in holding waiting for word from USFWS so a determination from the USFWS is needed as soon as possible.

Michelle Day, NMFS, asked David Hu, USFS, if there are guidelines as to what is acceptable relating to mitigating for visual impact? Where is criteria listed? What are sidebars? Hu responded that this criterion is in their forest plan, mitigating and identifying the Wild & Scenic concerns, visual impact concerns and retaining visual standards. Hu further stated that side bars will include a pond design that respects these visual standards, maintenance and an operation plan that does not affect visual aspects and not visibly evident over a year.

Frazier expressed that he is not sure if Crab Creek is an effective acclimation site as it's designed. He would like to consider sites above lower falls; temporary structures (portable raceways) pull out short list of locations to see if new technology and changes over time to see if there are other suitable sites and perhaps revisit previous sites. Shrier responded that the Curly Creek bridge area was considered but was abandoned since they sat so high above the water.

Kinne asked if Wild & Scenic applies during recreation season. Hu said that the site may have to be camouflaged to address visual impact year round.

Shrier indicated that he would like to create a list of ideas that the ACC can explore. He also provided a handout for ACC review illustrating Habitat Data and Barrier Description for Muddy River, Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek ([Attachment B](#)).

Frazier pointed out that he still wants to make sure we still look at putting fish in the North Fork and not just focus on Muddy and Clear Creek. He likes the concept of getting high up into the basin. Asher suggested conducting ACC field trips and look for additional suitable sites. Rose approved to proceed with a subcommittee to explore locating a suitable site in the vicinity of Crab Creek or some other option such as helicopter direct releases. The subcommittee meeting will take place on **March 30, 2012 at WDFW, Vancouver office from 9:00pm – 12:00pm**. Shrier indicated that PacifiCorp has ten planned helicopter flights in 2012, so for cost effectiveness the committee can address this option for direct releases.

The Acclimation Pond Subcommittee Members are:

Participant	Participant
Bob Rose, Yakama Nation (Chair)	Dave Hu, USFS
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp	Eli Asher, LCFRB
Michelle Day, NMFS	LouEllen Jones, USFWS
Eric Kinne, WDFW	Lindsey Wright, USFWS
Pat Frazier, WDFW	Adam Haspiel, USFS

<Break - 10:35am>

<Reconvene - 10:45am>

Shrier will get the permitting timelines from PacifiCorp prior to the meeting and secure the literature from Murdock. Agenda items will be but are not limited to the following:

- Regulatory environment
- Short list near term actions
- Identify plans for near term monitoring strategy
- Determine if the short list is bull trout or spotted owl habitat area

2012 Bull Trout Plan – Subgroup meeting three weeks ago (February 17, 2012) and made minor changes to the 2012 plan. The Plan was submitted to the ACC for review on March 6, 2012. Comments are **due on or before April 6, 2012**.

The next Bull Trout Subgroup meeting was scheduled on **March 30, 2012 at WDFW, Vancouver office from 1:00pm – 4:00pm**. Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp, will email the invite to the committee members. Pat Frazier, WDFW, will organize the meeting.

Merwin Upstream Construction Status – PacifiCorp is moving ahead on above-water work. The concrete pad for the sorting facility will be poured this week; intake area pump for auxiliary water supply pumps is in progress; the trench has been dug for tracking flow water. The rock cavity still remains a problem, although PacifiCorp came up with a solution to use sealing mats and steel plate and rock bolting these over the void, and then pumping grout into the void. This solution does not change anything inside. PacifiCorp engineers think hydraulics will be even better. Construction will not be completed by December 2013.

Swift Downstream Collector Construction Status – Mobilizing Swift Downstream Collector to the water's edge today. After floating it will be attached to the trestle. The Collector project is on schedule and will be operational on December 26, 2012.

Future Fish Passage Facilities – Selection has been made for research group but contracting is not so PacifiCorp cannot reveal the name. Work is expected to begin summer 2012. The selected research group will be invited to an ACC meeting to discuss the study plan, timeline, etc. with a goal of year 2016 to provide a package to the ACC and Services on information they have learned.

Yale Spillway Barrier Net – Construction is planned for summer 2012. Response is expected from USFWS.

Hatchery and Supplementation Program – Interpretation/Discussion of SA 8.4.1 (1.9 million Coho production). When do we start to get 1.9 million?

McCune provided a copy of the 8.4.1 Settlement Agreement language (see below, highlighted in yellow) to facilitate ACC discussion. Pat Frazier, WDFW, expressed that all facilities are built and in place to handle this production. The ACC agreed that production should begin soon than later, however, there is some conflict in the language interpretation so the ACC determined that PacifiCorp will bring back more detail regarding impact on the 2013 budget for WDFW and PacifiCorp to review and discuss at the next ACC meeting on April 10, 2012. Jim Malinowski, Fish First, suggested providing the points to the topic in advance of the April ACC meeting so the ACC participants have adequate time to review. A resolution will be made at the April ACC meeting.

8.4 *Anadromous Fish Hatchery Juvenile Production.* Each year, the Licensees shall provide for the production of spring Chinook salmon smolts, steelhead smolts, and coho salmon smolts at levels specified below (“Juvenile Production”). The Licensees shall use the Juvenile Production to provide (1) juveniles for the supplementation program under Section 8.5, and (2) juveniles for harvest opportunities. To the extent that there are not sufficient juveniles for the Hatchery and Supplementation Program and to ensure that enough adults will return to ensure adequate broodstock for the Hatchery and Supplementation Program in future years, the Licensees shall, in Consultation with the ACC and subject to the approval of the Services, determine how best to allocate juveniles.

8.4.1 *Juvenile Production Targets.* The Licensees shall provide for the implementation of the following Juvenile Production targets (“Juvenile Production Targets”) when the Hatchery and Supplementation Program commences. The following Juvenile Production Targets shall be used unless and until modified by the Licensees pursuant to Section 8.4.2 as part of the Hatchery and Supplementation Plan in accordance with Section 8.2.5:

Table 8.4 – Juvenile Production Targets

<i>Smolt Production</i>	<i>Spring Chinook</i>	<i>Steelhead</i>	<i>Coho</i>
<i>H&S Plan Years 1 – 3</i>	<i>1.35 million</i>	<i>275,000</i>	<i>1.8 million</i>
<i>H&S Plan Years 4 – 5</i>	<i>1.35 million</i>	<i>275,000</i>	<i>1.9 million</i>
<i>H&S Plan Years 6 – 50</i>	<i>1.35 million</i>	<i>275,000</i>	<i>2.0 million</i>

Utilities Review of 2011/2012 Aquatic Fund Proposals

Each ACC attendee was provided with a copy of an Aquatic Fund – Utilities Evaluation 2011/2012 Project Proposals spreadsheet ([Attachment A](#)). Comments from the ACC are **due on or before April 5, 2012**. Final selection will be made at the ACC meeting on April 12, 2012.

<12:00 p.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for April 12, 2012

- Review March 8, 2012 Meeting Notes
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Aquatic Fund Proposals
- H&S Plan (1.9 million production) Discussion 8.4.1
- Eulachon Consultation

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

April 12, 2012	May 10, 2012
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA

9:00 a.m. – Noon	9:00 a.m. – Noon
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Meeting Handouts & Attachments

- Notes from 2/9/12
- Agenda for 3/8/12
- [Attachment A](#) - ACC Lewis River Aquatic Fund Evaluation 2011/2012
- [Attachment B](#) – Habitat Data and Barrier Description for Muddy River, Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek

Lewis River Aquatic Fund - Utilities' Evaluation of 2011/2012 Project Proposals										
No.	Applicant	Project Title	Project Schedule	Benefit	Bull Trout	Project Partners	Funding	Cost Share?	Consistency with Fund Objectives	Selected by Utilities for Funding
1	USDA Forest Service	Clearwater Creek Instream Habitat Restoration	late 2011-early 2012; late summer 2012; multi-year monitoring until 2022; last treatments applied 2015	Improve habitat complexity and diversity in the mainstem North Fork Lewis River and side channels using large woody material.	N	USFS-GPNF, Mt. St. Helens Institute	\$ 128,000.00	FS \$137,000; Partner Funds \$4,000	Benefit recovery-Y Support Reintro - Y Enhance LR Fish habitat - Y	Yes
2	USDA Forest Service	Lewis River Side Channel III Instream Habitat Restoration	summer 2012; as built docs by Dec. 2012; monitoring report Dec. 2013	Improve habitat complexity and diversity in the Lewis River side channel using large woody material; provide refugia during winter flows for juvenile salmonids; provide increased spawning opportunities for adult salmonids.	N	Forest Service, Mt. St. Helens Institute, Swift Community Action Team (SCAT), Fish First, Equipment Rental Services	\$ 50,000.00	USFS-\$8,000 IK; MSHI-\$2,000 IK; SCAT-Machine operation if rented; Fish First - \$800; ERS - Machine time	Benefit recovery-Y Support Reintro - Y Enhance LR Fish habitat - Y	Yes
3	GP Task Force	Rush Creek Instream Pilot Project Habitat Restoration	July 2013 - instream work; report by December 2013; Monitoring fish reponse in 2014; final report December 2014	Improve habitat complexity and diversity in the side channel using large woody material; provide refugia during winter flows for juvenile bull trout; provide increased spawning opportunities for adult bull trout.	Y	Forest Service, WDFW, USFWS	\$ 31,720.00	USFS-\$19,000; WDFW IK - \$2,000; USFWS IK \$3,000	Benefit recovery-Y Support Reintro - Y Enhance LR Fish habitat - Y	Neutral
Fund Objectives: 1. Benefit fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, priority to federal ESA-listed species 2. Support the re-introduction of anadromous fish throughout the basin 3. Enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin, with priority given to North Fork Lewis River						Resource Funds (requested) Resource Funds (recommended projects) Bull Trout Funds (recommended projects) Total Aquatic Funds	\$ 209,720.00 \$ 178,000.00 \$ 31,720.00 \$ 209,720.00			

Lewis River Aquatic Fund ACC Evaluation Matrix 2011/2012
 March 8, 2012

Lewis River Aquatic Fund - ACC Evaluation of 2011/2012 Project Proposals													
ACC Decision	Applicant	Project Title	Funding Request	WDFW	Fish First	LCFRB	Yakama Nation	USFS	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	USEWS	NMFS	Trout Unlimited	Utilities
1	USDA Forest Service	Clearwater Creek Instream Habitat Restoration	\$ 128,000.00										Do not see any benefits directly assigned to bull trout. We expect steelhead and coho to benefit the most from this project. Still the habitat definitely needs some help. Recommended for funding.
2	USDA Forest Service	Lewis River Side Channel III Instream Habitat Restoration	\$ 50,000.00										LWM DBH not mentioned - what are the criteria? Recommended for funding.
3	GP Task Force	Rush Creek Instream Pilot Project Habitat Restoration	\$ 31,720.00										Question proposing a project that will obliterate the only habitat where juvenile bull trout have been found and replacing it with spawning habitat. Bull trout are not typically side channel spawners. We do not like to see that this may also create suitable steelhead spawning habitat. Timber costs seem excessive - typo? Staff has mixed opinion on merits of this project.
			\$ 209,720.00										
Fund Objectives:													
1. Benefit fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, priority to federal ESA-listed species													
2. Support the re-introduction of anadromous fish throughout the basin													
3. Enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin, with priority given to North Fork Lewis River													

Stream Name: Muddy River

Reach: North Fork Lewis River

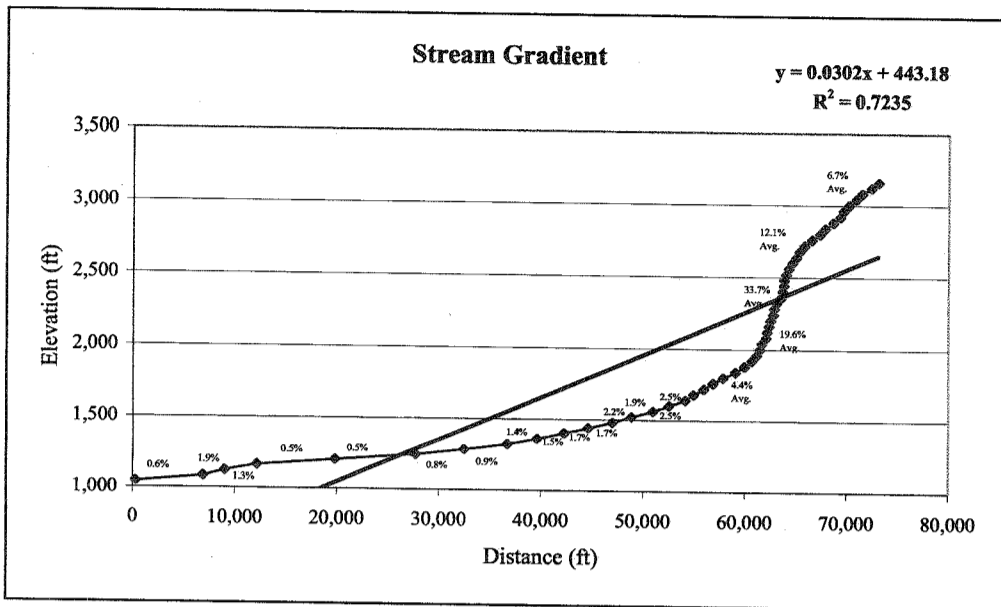
Habitat Data:

Total length of accessible habitat (ft)	72,864
Average bankfull width (ft)	116.3
Average wetted width (ft)	48.3
Total area of accessible habitat (ft ²)	3,519,687
Estimated flow (cfs)	263.9

Barrier Description:

Cumulative distance from mouth (ft)	72,864
Barrier height (ft)	20.0
Plunge pool depth (ft)	NA
Horizontal jumping distance (ft)	NA
Entrance pools depth (ft)	NA
Barrier classification	NA
Barrier type	NA

No Photos Available



Habitat Description: Muddy River is a 5th order, Class II tributary to the North Fork Lewis River located approximately 1 mile upstream from Swift Reservoir. Streambed substrate is dominated by cobble and small boulder, with large amounts of fine sediment. The Muddy River is one of the drainages that channeled mudflow from the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption, resulting in high sediment levels and destruction of riparian vegetation. Continual sediment input from upper reaches, and a lack of spawning gravel make for poor fish habitat.

Source: USFS (1995)

Stream Name: Clear Creek

Reach: North Fork Lewis River

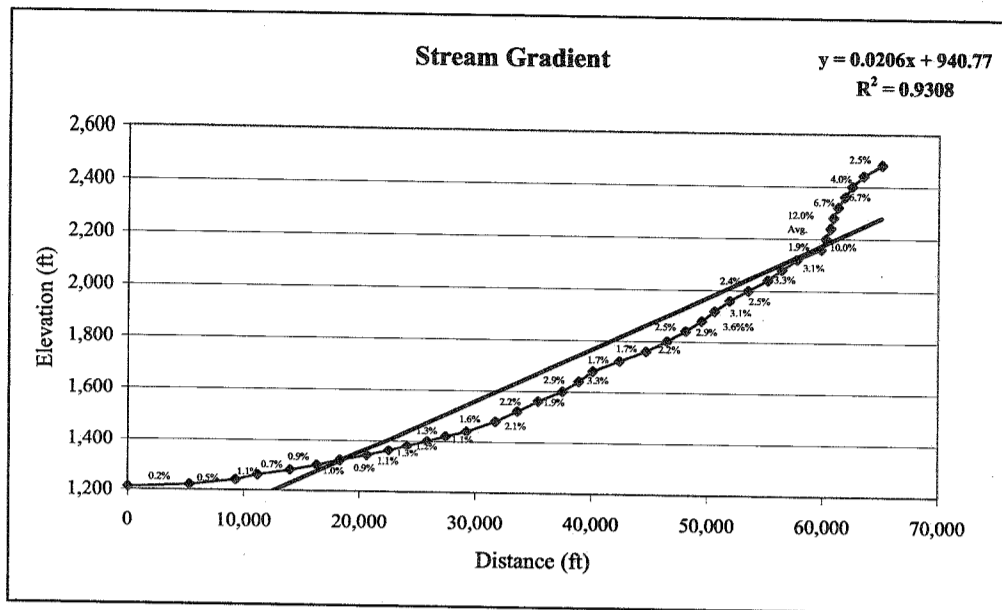
Habitat Data:

Total length of accessible habitat (ft)	65,050
Average bankfull width (ft)	NA
Average wetted width (ft)	35.9
Total area of accessible habitat (ft ²)	2,335,050
Estimated flow (cfs)	54.6

Barrier Description:

Cumulative distance from mouth (ft)	65,050
Barrier height (ft)	12.0
Plunge pool depth (ft)	NA
Horizontal jumping distance (ft)	NA
Entrance pools depth (ft)	NA
Barrier classification	NA
Barrier type	NA

No Photos Available



Habitat Description: Clear Creek is a 3rd order, Class II tributary to the Muddy River. Streambed substrate is dominated by gravel and cobble. Riparian vegetation is predominantly Alder and Douglas Fir with limited understory due to lack of channel stability. Spawning habitat is limited due to high flow events and a lack of stream structure to hold gravel. Previous efforts (USFS 1989) to enhance fish habitat have failed due to installed structures failing to remain anchored. The 12' high falls at RM 11 was the upstream limit of fish distribution in Clear Creek (USFS 1997).

Source: USFS (1997)

Stream Name: Clearwater Creek

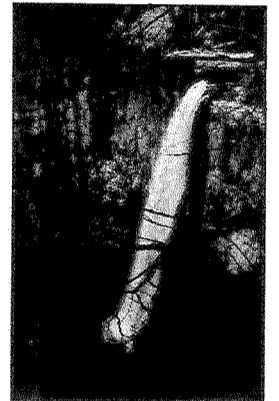
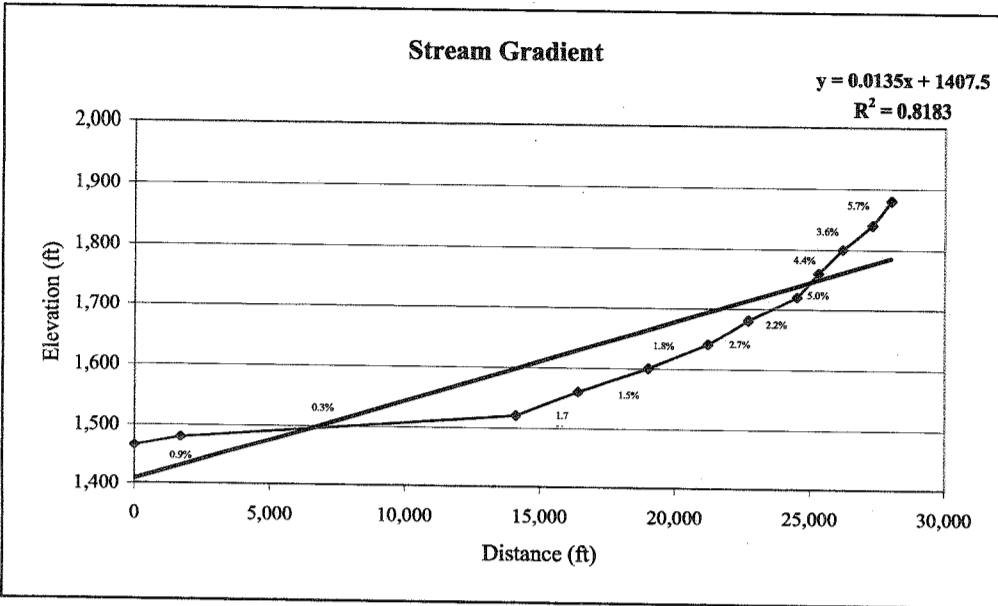
Reach: North Fork Lewis River

Habitat Data:

Total length of accessible habitat (ft)	27,456
Average bankfull width (ft)	155.7
Average wetted width (ft)	53.1
Total area of accessible habitat (ft ²)	1,459,090
Estimated flow (cfs)	25

Barrier Description:

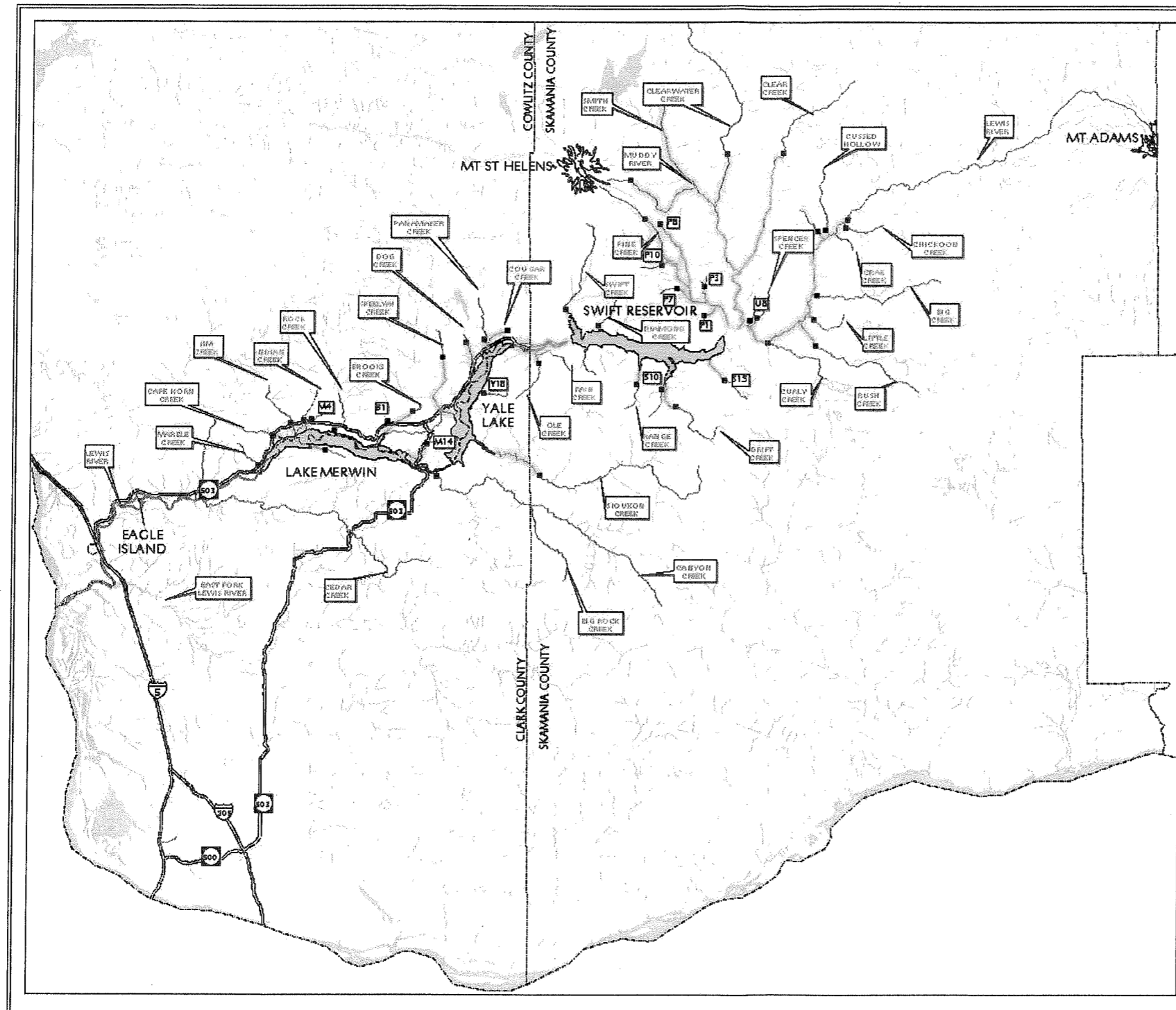
Cumulative distance from mouth (ft)	27,456
Barrier height (ft)	80 Paradise Falls
Plunge pool depth (ft)	10+
Horizontal jumping distance (ft)	20.0
Entrance pools depth (ft)	2.0
Barrier classification	Single Falls
Barrier type	IIA1



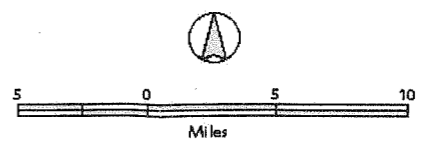
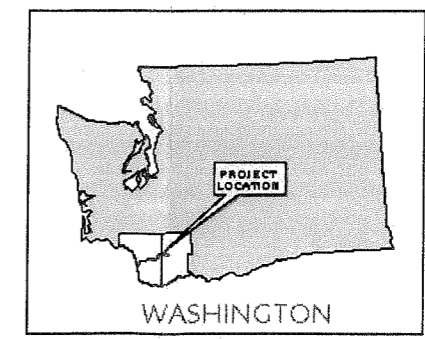
Habitat Description: Clearwater Creek is a relatively low gradient (1.4%) 4th order tributary to the Muddy River with an C/B Rosgen channel type (Rosgen 1996). Fish habitat in the accessible portion of Clearwater Creek is comprised of 20- to 70-foot-wide low gradient riffles, pools, and glides. The substrate is dominated by sand, gravel and cobble. The channel appears to be heavily impacted by the 1980 eruption of Mt. Saint Helens. LWD (from the eruption) is abundant downstream from the confluence of Bean Creek providing very good cover and deep pools. The riparian area consists of mainly young alder. Stream shading is relatively poor. High quality spawning gravel is abundant throughout the surveyed portion of the stream.

Lewis River
Hydroelectric Projects
Figure 4.4.1

**Barriers to Anadromous
Fish Migration**
LEWIS RIVER REGION



- Barrier
- ▨ Potential Anadromous Fish Habitat
- ∨ Major Tributary
- ≡ Major Road
- ⌘ County



GIS PACIFICORP
Project: Map: Geographic Information System
/bull/proj_wrk/maspp/lewisriver/fishbarriers.apr
March 23, 2001