

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
November 10, 2011
Conference Call

ACC Participants Present (10)

Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy
 Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
 Beth Bendickson, PacifiCorp Energy
 Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service
 Dave Hu, USDA Forest Service
 Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 Eli Asher, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
 Jim Malinowski, Fish First
 LouEllyn Jones, USFWS
 Pat Frazier, WDFW

Calendar:

December 8, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
January 12, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from November 10, 2011 meeting:	Status:
Aquatic Fund 2012 Proposals – ACC comments on pre-proposals due <i>(Use Excel spreadsheet that Frank Shrier sent out)</i>	Due 12/5/11
Assignments from March 10, 2011 meeting:	Status:
Bull Trout Subgroup – Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) will draft a schedule and bring to September's meeting for discussion. Waiting on WDFW response.	Complete

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier called the meeting to order @ 9:08 a.m. The team reviewed the agenda, noting that *Bull Trout Annual Planning* had been added. Chris Maynard (WADOE) was not on the call so Shrier suggested moving the *September 23 Snorkel (Lewis River Bypass Reach) Discussion* to the December ACC meeting agenda. The agenda was accepted at 9:10 a.m.

The meeting notes from last month were reviewed at 9:15 a.m. and accepted without any comments or changes.

Lewis River Bull Trout Activity Annual Planning Discussion

Todd Olson opened this discussion by stating that PacifiCorp does an annual operating plan, gets input, does the work, and reports on it. In consultation with the USFWS, and with discussions in the winter with both the USFWS and WDFW, the memo shows how we are going to communicate with folks for bull trout planning work. Jeremiah Doyle's e-mail suggests coordination with interested parties and PacifiCorp. The first meeting will address whether or not current activities are meeting the goals of the USFWS's draft bull trout recovery plan. Because it is already November and the group initially intended to meet this month to discuss the plan for 2011-2012, Olson proposed skipping the initial November meeting, then holding the first technical meeting in December immediately following the ACC meeting. Jeremiah is putting together a PowerPoint presentation on monitoring activities, including the actions that were completed this year. It is not final, but we will share some results and have a discussion on whether or not we need to modify the upcoming annual operating plan or have additional discussions on proposed 2012 work. With input from the ACC, PacifiCorp will draft the operations plan in January 2012 and walk through it at the January ACC meeting. By late January, PacifiCorp will have the annual plan updated and hold a technical meeting with the WDFW and USFWS where we present the plan. At that time, agencies could provide input on their 2012 projects. The plan will then be reviewed February through March, with finalization happening in April, for inclusion in the Annual Report. The purpose and scope of this process from start to finish is to let folks know about it and also to find out if we need to modify, reduce efforts, etc. and also to get feedback for next year.

LouEllyn Jones said in general it sounds really good. She talked with Jeff Chan (USFWS) and said that they may not be able to be the lead agency to host this first meeting. They are short on staff to take a lead role, but they will still be able to participate.

Pat Frazier said if the USFWS wanted them to step up and lead the initial meeting, he said they could as he feels it is an important step. If planned field activities are not well coordinated, then the group can change them through this process. He said they could take the lead, as long as they were not stepping on toes. LouEllyn said since she is unfamiliar with the process, having others help out would make it more meaningful. She would be fine with WDFW taking the lead. With that said, she won't be able to physically attend any meetings in November nor any other meetings as her workload is full right now. Pat mentioned he would like to still have a meeting in November, or early in December. It will be a difficult discussion on December 8, if we don't have an initial November meeting. LouEllyn said she could call in on December 7. She also said that Jeff needs to be part of the process, as he is familiar with the recovery plan process. Pat asked her if Jeff participated in the first meeting, he could then give an update at the ACC meeting. She said she will coordinate with Jeff on meeting on December 7. Olson suggested having a meeting on December 7 with the attendees being at least USFWS, WDFW, and PacifiCorp, but everyone on the ACC should be invited. The meeting could either be a conference call or a meeting in Lacey, WA. He will let the ACC know the finalized meeting details so anyone could attend if they wanted to.

Aquatic Fund Updates

Shrier announced that the 2010 final project list and funding has been posted on the website, as well as the following pre-proposals for 2012 funding:

- *USDA-Forest Service* - Clear [should be Clearwater] Creek Instream Habitat Restoration
- *USDA-Forest Service* - Muddy River Floodplain Culvert Clean-up
- *USDA-Forest Service* - Lewis River Side Channel III Habitat Restoration
- *Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife* - Upper Lewis River Bull Trout Spawning Habitat Inventory
- *Gifford Pinchot Task Force* - Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration Pilot Project

Adam Haspiel reviewed the 2010 final project list and had a question about the 2006 Nutrient project (\$106,000). He said he didn't remember ever putting in a proposal for that amount of funding. Shrier said it may have been 2009. *He will review and correct it if necessary.*

Shrier asked everyone to pull the 2012 pre-proposals off the website, review them, and provide comments by December 5, 2012. All comments received will be combined and discussed at the December 8 ACC meeting.

Study Updates

Hatchery and Supplementation Program – The draft 2012 has been distributed to the HS subgroup. The HS subgroup will meet at WDFW offices on November 14 to finalize the plan and review specific tasks for next year including tagging acclimation spring Chinook. Work on the 2011 Annual Report has begun and PacifiCorp hopes to have a draft for review by the end of the year.

Topics for November 14 meeting

- Status update for placement of a screw trap in the lower river (Frazier)
- Development of a genetic mark recapture protocol to estimate abundance
- Development of studies to evaluate ecological interactions between hatchery and wild juveniles.

Methodology for adult Chinook and coho monitoring in 2012 will be done at a separate meeting with WDFW this month to refine the specific details for incorporation into the 2012 AOP.

Woodland Release Ponds – The USFWS wants to maintain observation on the nearby bald eagle nest in case it becomes active next year when construction starts.

Lewis River Hatchery Pond 16 – This project is proposed to be functionally complete by next week.

Lewis River Upstream and Downstream Intakes – Permitting is moving forward, specifically the Biological Assessment for Eulachon. Screen design will be submitted to NMFS for approval by the end of the year. Both the 60 and 90 percent design of the lower intake will be submitted to the ACC as directed by the Settlement Agreement. Both projects are scheduled for completion in 2012, along with dredging of the LRH ladder entrance.

Merwin Rearing Ponds – The remaining two ponds are scheduled for completion in 2012.

Speelyai Kokanee Weir – Placement of the weir box is completed. WDFW concerns have been relayed to engineering staff regarding height differentials and looking at options to eliminate fish becoming trapped between the weir box and the existing outflow channel.

Speelyai Pond 14 – Mort McMillan is working on completing the 90 percent design based on the October 4 site visit. Project completion is scheduled for 2012 (May 1 – August 15)

Speelyai Intake – Mort McMillan is completing the 60 percent design for this project based on feedback from the October 4 site meeting. Permitting will need to go smoothly for this project to be completed on schedule in 2012. The work window is June 1 – August 15. Coordination with hatchery staff is being discussed to address water needs during the work window.

Habitat Preparation Plan – This plan has been completed.

September 23 Snorkel (Bypass Reach)

Shrier said quarterly fish surveys are currently taking place and monthly from Dec-Feb, bi-weekly spawning and redd counts will also take place. *More will be discussed on this topic at the next ACC meeting.*

Future Fish Passage Facilities

Shrier said that Section 4.1.9 of the Settlement Agreement contains a section that allows utilities to gather future information about introducing fish into Merwin and Yale reservoirs. This information would be provided by 2016 to Services. The services will then consult with the ACC about any findings about whether to continue down the path of putting fish passage in at all facilities. If fish passage at one of the facilities is not warranted, an, “in-lieu” funding would kick-in. If no additional fish passage into Yale and Merwin is warranted, it would kick in all in-lieu funding. Shrier has put together a scope of work and has reviewed it with NMFS and USFWS. Both agencies were accepting of the scope. Shrier will send out the scope of work after this meeting and we can discuss it at the December ACC meeting. He has requested proposals from six western universities that have fish programs which are due today. He will let the ACC know more as he reviews the proposals. He asked for ACC questions on whether or not his description of the process made sense.

Olson added, to summarize, what we are doing is having a third party come in and assess fish habitat and what might come out of fish passage at Merwin and Yale. PacifiCorp is sharing this scope and having an open discussion so that the ACC has an understanding of who is doing the study and what is being evaluated. This will be a two to three-year endeavor. We are just starting out. The process will continue to roll forward and pick up speed and will involve the ACC more down the line.

Jim Malinowski asked about the current reintroduction into Swift - when do we start thinking about that? Shrier said that whoever we hire to do the work will look at the existing facilities in place, evaluate habitat at both Yale and Merwin, and do a Merwin predator study among other things outlined in the Scope. The final product will provide all pertinent information to the Services and the ACC. Radio isotope samples we have collected in 2009 for baseline studies to evaluate population in the two reservoirs will also be analyzed. Jim asked if we had engaged NMFS.

Shrier said yes. We want to know how the three species we are introducing would be affected. We want to take another look to see if fish passage into Merwin and Yale makes sense for the fish populations. Shrier will send out the scope of work. He asked the ACC to call or e-mail with any questions they may have. When PacifiCorp has chosen the successful bid, they will formalize a proposal and Shrier will invite them to come to an ACC meeting to present their proposed work.

< 10:30 a.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for December 8, 2011

- Review November 10, 2011 Meeting Notes
- Outcome of the first Bull Trout meeting on December 7; have the second meeting following the December 8 ACC meeting.
- Shrier will call Chris Maynard about the September 23 bypass reach snorkel discussion
- Shrier will send out the Future Fish Passage Facilities scope of work.
- Aquatic Funding: Complete evaluation of 2012 pre-proposals (Due by December 5, use spreadsheet that Shrier sent out).
- Study/Work Product Updates

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

December 8, 2011	January 12, 2012
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments (e-mailed)

- Review of CY2012 Aquatic Fund Pre-proposals
- Annual Planning of Lewis River Bull Trout Activities
- Notes from 10/13/11
- Agenda for 11/10/11

November 9, 2011

To: Memo to Lewis River Aquatics Coordination Committee representatives

From: Frank Shrier – PacifiCorp Energy and Diana Gritten-MacDonald – Cowlitz PUD

Subject: Review of CY 2012 Aquatic Fund Pre-Proposals

On September 16, 2011 PacifiCorp Energy announced the availability of funds for aquatic related projects in the Lewis River Basin (letter to interested parties from T. Olson). The letter requested that individuals or parties interested in obtaining project funding submit a Pre-Proposal to PacifiCorp Energy. Pre-Proposals were due by October 17, 2011. At that time and in following the Aquatics Fund – Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures, PacifiCorp Energy and Cowlitz PUD (Utilities) reviewed the Pre-Proposals and, with this memo are providing the ACC with a recommended project list for further consideration. Following ACC review and agreement with this project list, PacifiCorp Energy will request complete proposals from selected project proponents. The schedule for proposal request is early December with complete proposals due in late-January 2012.

In response to the announcement letter, three entities provided five different project Pre-Proposals. They include:

USDA Forest Service	Clear [should be Clearwater Creek] Creek Instream Habitat Restoration
USDA Forest Service	Muddy River floodplain culvert cleanup
USDA Forest Service	Lewis River Side Channel III Habitat Restoration
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Upper Lewis River Bull Trout Spawning Habitat Inventory
Gifford Pinchot Task Force	Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration Pilot Project

PacifiCorp Energy and Cowlitz PUD subject matter experts have evaluated the above proposals. Evaluations were conducted as outlined in the Aquatic Fund – Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures document. For ACC review, the Utilities have attached to this memo an Evaluation matrix (Attachment to email). Costs for each project are also included. Individual Pre-Proposals can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#> click License Implementation, click ACC tab, click drop down for Aquatics Coordination Committee – 2011 and look for projects tagged with ‘2012’.

The Utilities evaluation suggests that while additional information is needed before a commitment of funds should be given, we propose that the following two projects be solicited to provide complete Proposals:

- USDA FS - Clear [should be Clearwater Creek] Creek Instream Habitat Restoration
- USDA FS - Lewis River Side Channel III Habitat Restoration

The Utilities propose to not further consider the USDA FS project titled: ‘Muddy River floodplain culvert cleanup’ because it appears from the photos that the culverts are in the historic flood plain and their removal would not directly benefit salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat. Also the WDFW project titled, ‘Upper Lewis River Bull Trout Spawning Habitat Inventory’ appears to be strictly a survey/inventory effort that does not directly apply to habitat. The Utilities suggest that WDFW perform an assessment of the spawning habitat on their own or in cooperation with other entities and come to the ACC with a proposal for implementing specific habitat improvements (including NEPA schedule). The GP Task Force project titled, ‘Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration Pilot Project’ raises concerns about altering bull trout fry rearing habitat for the primary benefit of steelhead trout. However, the Utilities remain neutral on the Rush Creek project pending further understanding and discussion at the December ACC meeting.

For your information, PacifiCorp forwarded a financial reporting on the Aquatics Resource and Bull Trout (7.5) tracking accounts on September 8, 2011 (sent from Sabrina Hickerson). I have also provided a short summary of the types of projects that have been funded (see Attachment).

The Utilities are submitting this document and attachments for review in hopes of reaching concurrence on projects for further consideration. If, in your review of the Pre-proposals, you have comments or questions to ask the Project proponent, please provide comments to me and we will include them in the formal Proposal request.

To meet the Funding Process Timeline as included in the Aquatics Fund – Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures (see attached Table 4.1), **ACC representatives should provide comments and their project selection by December 5, 2011.** On December 8, 2011, project selections for full proposals will be finalized during the ACC meeting. Soon after, the Utilities will request formal Proposals from identified project proponents.

Summary Table of non-Bull Trout Aquatic Fund Expenditures

Enhancement type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Above Merwin						
Nutrient Enhancement					\$41,000	
Instream structures/Habitat				\$117,000	\$106,000	\$73,850
Gravel Restoration						
Road Decommission		\$ 46,000.00		\$34,000	\$33,000	
Culvert Replacement/Removal			\$80,000			
Road Improvement			\$79,000			
Below Merwin						
Nutrient Enhancement						
Instream structures			\$75,000		\$240,000	\$74,300
Gravel Restoration						
Road Decommission						
Culvert Replacement/Removal						

Summary Table of Bull Trout Aquatic Fund Expenditures

Enhancement type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Above Merwin						
Nutrient Enhancement		\$106,000	\$43,150			\$32,500
Instream structures/Habitat						
Gravel Restoration						
Road Decommission				\$25,000		
Culvert Replacement/Removal						
Road Improvement						
Below Merwin						
Nutrient Enhancement						
Instream structures						
Gravel Restoration						
Road Decommission						
Culvert Replacement/Removal						

Table 4.1. Funding Process Timeline

Activity	Target Milestone Date
Submit Request For Pre-Proposal Forms	Early September
Pre-Proposal Forms due	Early October
Pre-Proposal Listing and Evaluation Report Submitted to ACC	Early November
Pre-Proposal Report Comments due from ACC	Late November
Finalize List of Selected Projects for Additional Consideration	Early December
Submit Request For Proposals to Selected Applicants	Early December
Proposals due	Mid January
Proposal Evaluation Report Submitted to ACC (30 day review)	Mid February
Proposal Report Comments due	Mid March
Finalize List of Selected Projects and Notify Project Funding Recipients	Early April
Contract Procurement	April
Submit Report To FERC	May
Funding Available for Invoicing	April

November 8, 2011

To: Lewis River Aquatic Coordination Committee

From: Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp

Subject: Annual Planning of Lewis River Bull Trout Activities

The following is a schedule of planning that would be completed by PacifiCorp each year:

November – Initial meeting hosted by USFWS (PacifiCorp can make arrangements but USFWS should lead the meeting) to include USFWS, WDFW and PacifiCorp at a minimum. The purpose of this meeting would be to have policy/management discussions regarding the goals and objectives of the USFWS recovery plan. Determine if goals and objectives set forth in the PacifiCorp Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan are effectively assisting the goals and objectives in the recovery plan.

- Review goals and objectives set forth in USFWS recovery plan
- Review goals and objectives of M&E plan to ensure they are consistent with the recovery plan
- Identify key monitoring activities that are necessary to effectively implement the recovery plan
- Evaluate existing M&E plan to determine if it is meeting the requirements of the FERC licenses and contributing to recovery plan through monitoring and/or other activities.
- Determine if additional monitoring activities need to occur and who would be responsible for funding and conducting these additional activities

December – Technical meeting hosted by the ACC (this could be a subcommittee of the ACC that includes USFWS, WDFW and PacifiCorp at a minimum) to review initial findings from current year field activities and consider future activities for the upcoming year.

- All entities present findings of that year's bull trout monitoring activities
 - Verbal/PowerPoint presentations to present results
 - Report on PacifiCorp's Annual Operating Plan (AOP) activities
 - Evaluation of all bull trout monitoring activities to determine if they achieved the project goals and objectives
- Evaluate all ongoing monitoring activities in the context of recovery plan goals and objectives
 - Did the monitoring activities implemented achieve the goals and objectives of the recovery plan or provide data necessary to implement the recovery plan
 - Are changes to ongoing monitoring activities necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the recovery plan
 - Are there additional activities that need to be implemented to achieve the goals and objectives of the recovery plan
- PacifiCorp to identify proposed activities to be included in the AOP for next year
 - Summary of activities
 - Solicit comments
 - Identify additional actions or modifications to proposed actions

January ACC Meeting – PacifiCorp provide Draft AOP to ACC

Late January – Technical field coordination meeting regarding bull trout investigation activities in the upper Lewis River Basin for the upcoming year (hosted by USFWS)

- Identify roles of each entity in achieving overall goal of recovering ESA-listed bull trout in the Lewis River Basin
- All entities working in the upper Lewis River basin will provide a summary of proposed monitoring activities to be implemented during the upcoming year
- Additional activities necessary to fully implement the recovery plan will be discussed
 - Investigate and brainstorm on ways to fund additional monitoring activities in the upper Lewis Basin necessary to implement the recovery plan

Mid - February – Check in with WDFW and USFWS regarding AOP and Annual Report

March ACC Meeting – Approve AOP and Annual Report

March – Present ACC -approved AOP and Annual Report to USFWS

April – Submit AOP and Annual Report to FERC