

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

Date & Time: **Thursday, November 14, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

Place: **CONFERENCE CALL ONLY**

Contacts: **Erik Lesko: (503) 412-8401**

Time	Discussion Item
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review Agenda and ACC 10/10/19 Meeting Notes➤ Comment & Accept Agenda and 10/10/19 Meeting Notes
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Opportunity
10:15 a.m.	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In Lieu/ADR Update○ Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update○ ATS update○ Fish Passage update○ Hatchery Broodstock/adult return update○ Aquatic Fund update
11:00 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: https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html
11:15 a.m.	Adjourn

Join by Phone

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

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

Conference ID: 6325627

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
November 14, 2019
Conference Call

ACC Representatives Present (15)

Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
Mark Ferraiolo, PacifiCorp
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp
Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp
Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited
Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
Bryce Glaser, WDFW
Peggy Miller, WDFW
Josh Holowatz, WDFW
Steve West, LCFRB
Joshua Ashline, NMFS
Ruth Tracy, USFS
Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Guest (1)

Matt Harding, Northwoods Community Member

Calendar:

December 12, 2019	ACC Meeting	Merwin HCC
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Assignments from November 14, 2019	Status
Miller and West: Assist with Salmon Port review at December ACC meeting.	

Assignments from October 10, 2019	Status
McCune: Distribute NMFS 9/25/19 In Lieu Reports comments to the ACC upon receipt and approval from NMFS.	Complete – 11/14/19

Assignments from June 13, 2019	Status
Wadsworth: Schedule bull trout subgroup meeting end of July, 2019. As of 11/14/19 Bryce Glaser reaching out to WDFW staff to schedule meeting. Jim Bryne (Trout Unlimited) expressed that he would like better representation from USFWS lacey staff. They need to be present as part of the bull trout subgroup meetings	Pending

Parking Lot Items	Status
Tracy: Stage 0 webinar PowerPoint presentation to ACC. As of 11/14/19 Tracy is asking for an update from USFS staff regarding timeline for presentation in early winter 2020 or spring 2020.	Tentative
All: What are things to focus on; Salmon Port for review of aquatic fund projects.	

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:02am and reviewed the agenda. No additional agenda items were requested.

Lesko also reviewed the October 10, 2019 meeting notes and assignments. Peggy Miller (WDFW) requested the following addition on page 5 under In Lieu Update:

Josh Ashline (NMFS) also noted NMFS submitted comments to Todd Olson of PacifiCorp on September 25, 2019 specific to the In Lieu documents (strategic plan, M&E plan, bull trout passage) and will request Jennifer Quan (NMFS) approval to distribute to the ACC representatives. Ashline will send to PacifiCorp and in turn PacifiCorp will distribute to the ACC. In addition, Erik Lesko was going to see if he could get these from Todd for distribution. Bryce Glaser indicated that WDFW believes comments submitted during the ACC review process of the In Lieu plans should be available to all ACC representatives.

The Utilities will distribute comments received from NMFS to the ACC

October 10, 2019 meeting notes were approved at 9:40am with the requested edits from WDFW.

Public Comment

Matt Harding (NorthWoods Community Member) expressed to the ACC that it is his observation that approximately 6-7 years ago the Swift reservoir management changed. In years past he indicated that the reservoir was near 1,000' elevation until late September but more recently PacifiCorp has dropped earlier, often by July 4th. Docks and marinas are on the reservoir bed floor and there is no boater access. He mentioned that last summer a PacifiCorp representative conducted a presentation to the NorthWoods community members about reservoir elevations.

Harding indicated that pockets & pools have formed that have stranded fish. The pictures were taken in approximately July 2019 but he will report back to the ACC and confirm. Harding also noted that he had a biologist take a look at identifying the stranded fish. Most were three-spine sticklebacks but also observed was one salmonid (unknown species) and one lamprey. Harding will also ask other community members if they have any more pictures for reference.

Lesko asked Mr. Harding if he knew the date of the 2019 survey so that we could correlate that date with reservoir elevations at the time. Lesko communicated that next spring, PacifiCorp biologists will survey the area to identify species composition and abundance of fish in the isolated pools. PacifiCorp will notify the ACC prior to the survey date(s) to provide the opportunity for ACC and NorthWoods Community members to participate in the survey(s). Results from the survey(s) will be made available to the ACC.

In response to a question from Bryce Glaser (WDFW), Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) said that he made the presentation to the NorthWoods attendees last August that Mr. Harding referred to. The presentation included identifying how the company manages reservoir elevations. Considerations include FERC Merwin outflows, inflows to the Project, hydro operations, and recreation needs.

Study/Work Product Updates

In Lieu Update

Olson informed the ACC attendees that PacifiCorp is in the process of updating the draft monitoring and strategic plans which will include a comment and response matrix. The tentative schedule for the next round of ACC review is early December 2019. Length of ACC review period is yet to be determined. PacifiCorp responded to a question indicating they had not decided if the ACC review would be the 30 day review of the strategy, monitoring plan and bull trout passage design or the 90 day signatory review for the license amendment and attachments including the aforementioned documents.

In response to a question from Bryce Glaser, Josh Ashline (NMFS) said that the September 25, 2019 comments submitted to PacifiCorp are public and can be distributed to the ACC.

Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update

Olson informed the ACC attendees that Merwin is down 8' (currently at 232' and full pool is 240') and inflow is considerably less than outflow so PacifiCorp is drafting the reservoir now. Precipitation is 30% of the normal. Swift is down 45' now and Yale is going down and that may require closure of the Yale Park boat launch. Merwin will be held close to what it is now. Hopefully the rain will come very soon.

H&S/ATS Update

Lesko informed the ACC attendees that PacifiCorp has contracted with DJ Warren to complete the Comprehensive Periodic Review (CPR). The ATS is currently working on completing a final review draft for the CPR by December 1, 2019. A FERC extension of time request will be needed for both the CPR and the final H&S Plan as the current due date for both is December 31, 2019. The extension request will extend the submission date to approximately April 1, 2020.

The completion date for the 2020 Annual Operating Plan is expected by the end of January 2020.

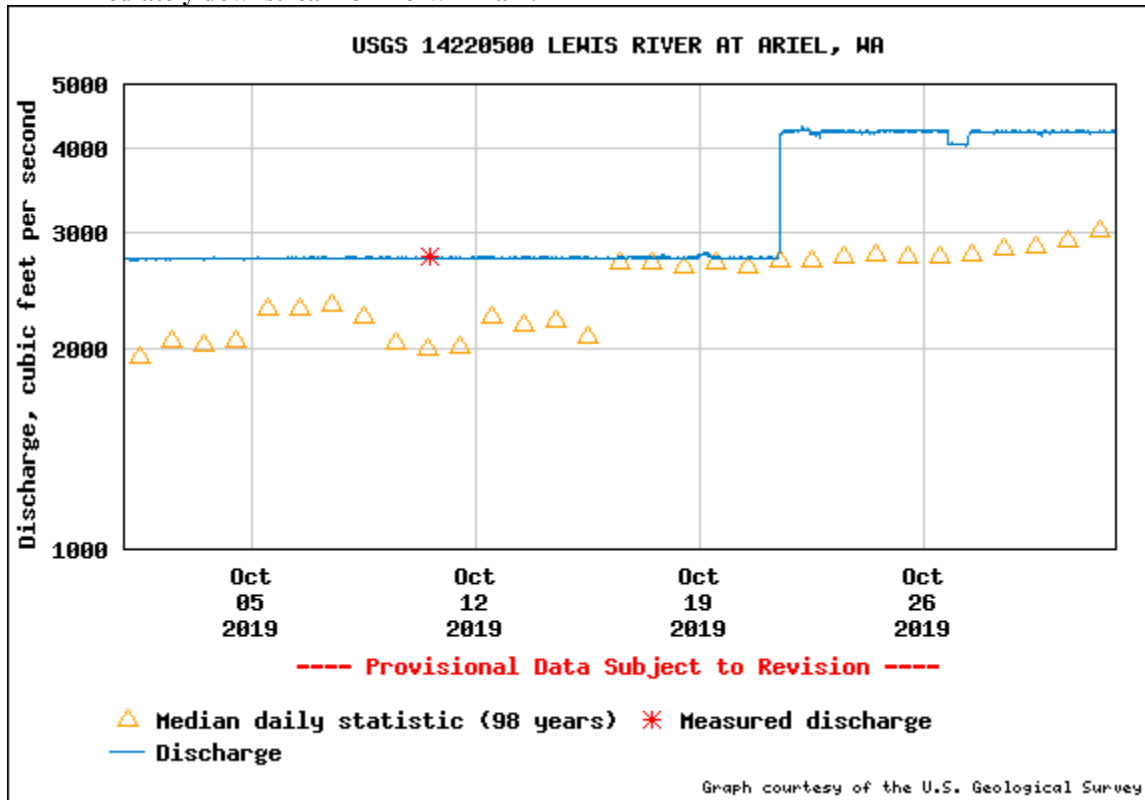
Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations ([Attachment A](#))

During the month of October, a total of 625 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility. The majority of these fish were early-run coho (85.8%).

The Merwin Dam Fish Collection Facility ran continuously during early-October; however the trap was shutdown unexpectedly on October 12, 2019 due to extensive damage to the automatic fish crowding system. The outage was primarily the result of the damage to the automatic crowder, which derailed from the guide track. The fish ladder portion of the trap had to be dewatered and the crowder assembly rebuilt. In addition to the crowder repairs, the primary hoist cable needed replacement due to stress-related fraying. The trap was put back in service on November 4, 2019.

River flow downstream of Merwin Dam was maintained at approximately 2,750 cfs for most of the month, but then increased to approximately 4,250 cfs on October 22, 2019. River flow remained near this level for the remainder of the month (Table 1).

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



Upstream Transport ([Attachment A](#))

Eight (8) Blank Wire Tag (BWT) winter steelhead were captured by the end of December 2018 and were transported upstream as part of the 2019 run year. An additional 38 adults were taken upstream in January 2019 and another 30 in February, 106 in March, 705 in April, 110 in May, and 4 in June for a total of 1,001 BWT winter steelhead transported as part of the 2019 run year. Twelve (12) additional winter steelhead of natural origin (NOR) containing PIT tags from the upper basin were also transported upstream as part of the 2019 run year. A combined total of 1,013 adult winter steelhead have been transported upstream of Swift Dam as part of the 2019 run year (Table 2).

Table 2. Total number of adult winter steelhead transported upstream of Swift Dam in 2019.

Run Year	Male	Female	Total adult winter steelhead taken upstream of Swift Dam

2012	141	48	189
2013	440	301	741
2014	452	581	1,033
2015	746	477	1,223
2016	378	376	754
2017	331	261	592
2018	682	535	1,227
2019	527	486	1,013

Thirty three (33) NOR (12 female/12 male/9 jack) and an additional 76 hatchery origin jack (HOR) spring Chinook have been taken upstream through October 2019.

By the end of October, 1,998 adult early-run coho (931 male/1,067 female) had been transported upstream along with 199 wild jacks (< 20 inches). During the month of October, 15 NOR coho that were PIT tagged in the upper basin had been detected as returning adults at the Merwin Adult Collection Facility. All but one of these fish (14/15) were tagged at the Swift FSC in the spring of 2018 and had returned as adults. The remaining coho was tagged at the Swift FSC in the spring of 2019, and returned as a jack.

Swift Floating Surface Collector ([Attachment A](#))

The Swift FSC was returned to service on October 14, 2019 following the summer maintenance period. A total of 7,457 fish were collected at the Swift FSC during the month of October, which is considerably more than in any previous October since the facility was in operation (3,836 were collected in October, 2017, the second highest collection total) (Table 3). The majority of the fish collected were juvenile Chinook (56.8%) and juvenile Coho (41.0%).

Table 3. Total number of out-migrating salmonids (by species) collected at the Swift FSC and transported downstream of Merwin Dam during the month of October since 2013.

Run Year	October collection totals at the Swift FSC				
	Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Cutthroat	TOTAL
2013	137	67	2	6	212
2014	271	236	7	2	516
2015	115	14	7	0	136

2016	291	74	12	18	395
2017	2,653	1,106	37	40	3,836
2018	157	78	5	0	240
2019	3,059	4,036	96	64	7,255

Hatchery Broodstock/Adult Return Update

Bryce Glaser informed the ACC that:

- Spring Chinook adult spawning has been completed and the proportion of returning adults was closer to the goal than expected. WDFW is currently reporting they are within 88% of egg take on spring Chinook, which Glaser noted was better than originally thought earlier in the season.
- Early coho returns were high enough to reach broodstock needs for the hatchery program. WDFW reported to be on target for program egg take.
- Late coho returns are still expected, however based on recent return numbers compared with prediction, it appears that adult return will be lower than expected. Glaser noted that all of SW Washington is tracking behind which is a growing concern in- and out-of-basin obligations. WDFW is looking hard at fishing regulation changes to improve fish escapement.
- Wild Fall Chinook redd/spawner surveys are ongoing. Recent data indicate that the runs appear to be healthy and WDFW anticipates that the escapement target will be met.

Nutrient Enhancement Effort in the Upper Lewis River

Karchesky (PacifiCorp) gave a brief update on the nutrient enhancement effort being conducted in the upper Lewis River this season. Karchesky informed the ACC that volunteers with the Lower Fish Enhancement Group had completed carcass seeding within the three designated release sites. Approximately 600 dead fish were released per site all through October. Karchesky is planning to provide a more detailed update and share pictures at the December ACC meeting.

2019/2010 Aquatic Fund Update

Lesko informed the ACC attendees that the invitation for full proposals was sent to the applicants November 1, 2019. Each applicant that wishes to present will have an opportunity to do so at the December 12, 2019 ACC meeting.

McCune noted that the Trout Unlimited ACC representative elected to not select the USFS Lewis River 21 Phase III project to move forward but after an additional 7-day review period he will not stand in the way of the project moving forward to full proposal.

Agenda items for December 12, 2019

- November 14, 2019 Meeting Notes

- 2019/2010 Aquatic Fund Project Presentations
- Salmon Port Review, Peggy Miller and Steve West
- ATE Report/Merwin Trap Discussion
- Nutrient Enhancement Update
- In Lieu /ADR Update
- Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
- Study/Work Product Update

Adjourn 10:10am

Next Scheduled Meeting:

December 12, 2019
Merwin Hydro Control Center
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 10/10/19
- Agenda from 11/14/19
- **Attachment A** – Lewis River Fish Passage Report (October 2019)

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

October 2019

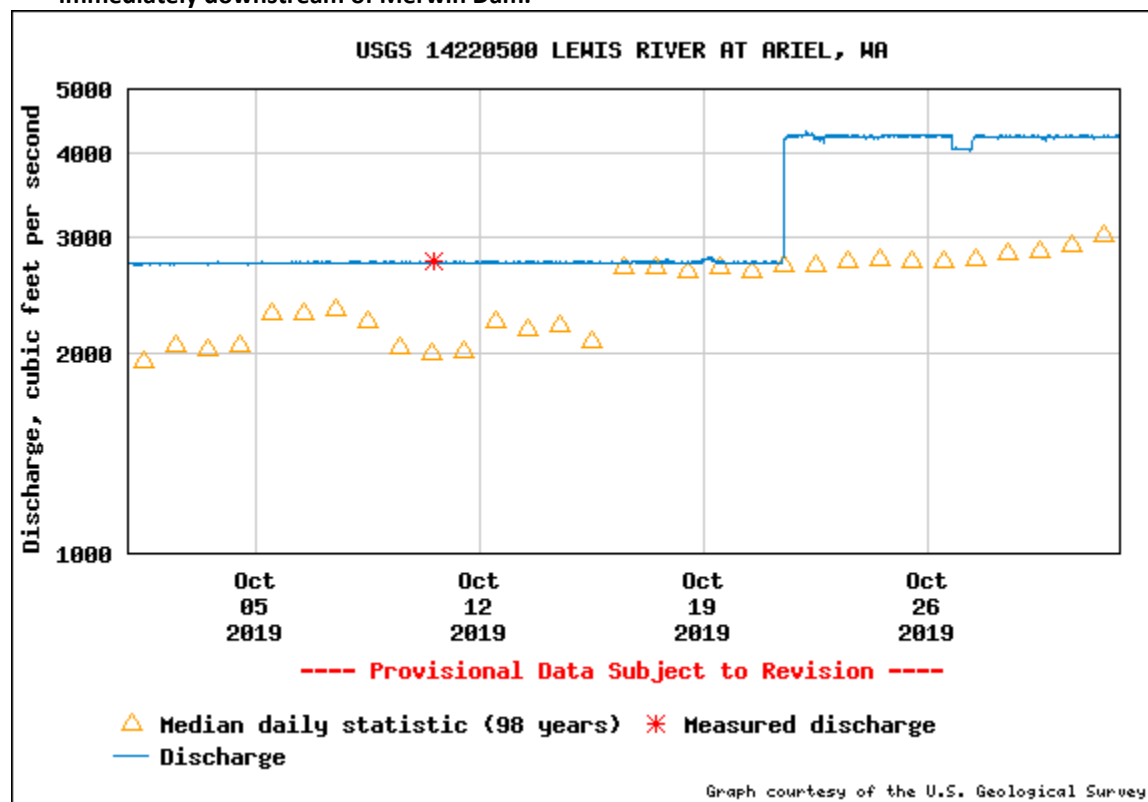
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Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

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Fish Facility Report

Merwin Adult Trap

October 2019

[illegible]

¹ Only hatchery verses wild distinctions are currently being made. All hatchery fish are labeled as "AD-Clip".

Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
October 2019

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			
01																0
02																0
03																0
04																0
05																0
06																0
07																0
08																0
09																0
10																0
11																0
12																0
13																0
14																0
15	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
16	0	20	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
17	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
18	0	6	38	0	0	32	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	79
19	0	17	12	0	4	668	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	702
20	0	4	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
21	0	132	173	0	16	603	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	929
22	0	225	260	0	37	557	0	1	23	1	0	13	0	0	0	1117
23	0	177	379	0	5	570	0	0	25	0	0	2	0	0	0	1158
24	0	154	534	0	18	646	0	2	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	1375
25	0	77	41	0	20	103	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	251
26	0	98	64	0	50	71	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	284
27	0	164	71	0	5	180	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	421
28	1	71	48	0	16	229	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	370
29	2	74	25	0	15	166	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	284
30	1	71	24	0	2	77	0	0	2	0	0	32	0	0	0	209
31	0	54	20	0	0	136	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	221
Monthly	8	1357	1694	0	193	4043	0	3	87	6	0	64	0	1	1	7457
Total	2774	4129	91507	64	2760	7641	7	59	2935	60	0	870	43	3	4405	117257

