

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects Settlement Agreement  
In Lieu Working Group and  
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC)  
Meeting Agenda**

**Date & Time:** Thursday, December 8, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** Merwin Hydro Control Center  
105 Merwin Village Court  
Ariel, WA 98603

**Contacts:** Frank Shrier: (503) 320-7423

Time	Discussion Item
	<b>Non-Public New Information/In Lieu Workgroup Meeting</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review In Lieu 12/8/16 Agenda and In Lieu 11/22/16 Meeting Summary</li> </ul>
<b>9:10 a.m.</b>	<b>Review Draft Habitat / Species Tables from Mike Bonoff</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Discuss Next Steps in the Alternative Evaluation Process</b>
<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Identify Information Needs for December 16, 2016 Meeting</b>
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Toby Kock, USGS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New Information; In Lieu Presentation &amp; Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
	<b>ACC - Public Meeting</b>
11:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review Agenda and ACC 11/10/16 Meeting Notes</li> <li>➤ Comment &amp; Accept Agenda and 11/10/16 Meeting Notes</li> <li>➤ Public Comment Opportunity</li> </ul>
11:30 a.m.	<b>Aquatic Fund 2016/2017 Project Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review Evaluation Matrix</li> <li>➤ Select Projects for Full Proposals</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Working Lunch</b>
12:15 p.m.	<b>Aquatic Fund 2016/2017 Project Review (cont'd)</b>
2:00 p.m.	<b>Discussion regarding going to a temporary 5-day operation schedule at Merwin Trap during Jan-Feb 2017</b>
2:30 p.m.	<b>Study/Work Product Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In Lieu/New Information Workgroup Update</li> <li>○ M&amp;E Plan Update</li> <li>○ H&amp;S Plan Update</li> <li>○ Woodland Release Ponds/Permit - Status</li> <li>○ Acclimation Ponds - Status</li> <li>○ Merwin Upstream Passage – Status</li> <li>○ Swift Floating Surface Collector – Status</li> <li>○ SPCH smolt release updates</li> </ul>

2:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Next Meeting's Agenda</li><li>➤ Public Comment Opportunity</li></ul> <p>Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: <a href="http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#">http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#</a></p>
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b><i>Adjourn</i></b>

Join by Phone

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

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

**Conference ID: 848594**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR LUNCH**

**FINAL Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting**  
**December 8, 2016**  
**Merwin Hydro Control Center**

**ACC Participants Present (13)**

Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp  
 Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp  
 Kim McCune, PacifiCorp  
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp  
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp  
 Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW  
 Mark Celedonia, USFWS  
 Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Ruth Tracy, USDA Forest Service  
 Michelle Day, NMFS  
 Amelia Johnson, LCFRB

**Guests**

Greg Robertson, USDA Forest Service

**Calendar:**

January 12, 2017	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
------------------	-------------	--------------

<b>Assignments from December 8, 2016</b>	<b>Status</b>
Olson: Contact Michelle Day to provide an update on the status of the Release Pond permit from WDNR.	<b>Complete 12/13/16</b>
McCune: Provide all ACC members not in attendance at today's meeting an additional 7-day review and comment period before officially extending the 2013 Bull Trout Habitat Restoration Project ID Assessment contract.	<b>Complete – 12/9/16</b>
McCune: Provide all ACC members not in attendance at today's meeting an additional 7-day review and comment period before officially confirming the selected aquatic fund project full proposals.	<b>Complete – 12/13/16</b>
McCune: Provide Michelle Day (NMFS) with the link to M&E 90-day review documents	<b>Complete – 12/9/16</b>

<b>Assignments from November 10, 2016</b>	<b>Status</b>
PacifiCorp – Add to the May/June 2017 ACC agenda to discuss priority reach list; does lower river provide benefit to reintroduction fish?	<b>Complete – 12/9/16</b>

<b>Assignments from September 8, 2016</b>	<b>Status</b>
Roberts: As numbers of adult Coho returning to the hatchery increase, Michelle Day wants to revisit how long fish are being held in Lewis River Hatchery before being processed.	<b>Pending – Roberts to contact Michelle Day</b>

## **Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes**

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. and reviewed the agenda. No additions to the agenda were requested.

Shrier also reviewed the November 10, 2016 meeting notes and assignments. The meeting notes were approved at 11:50am with minor housekeeping changes.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **In Lieu/New Information Workgroup Update**

Mark Celedonia (USFWS) provided the following decision process update to the ACC and expressed that the Services will not be making their decision by February 6, 2017 and the process will continue into early 2017. The Services will request a six (6) month extension request from the FERC as will the Utilities.

*In Lieu Workgroup – Memorandum to the ACC  
December 8, 2016*

*As prescribed by the Lewis River Settlement Agreement, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Services) are currently charged with making a decision regarding anadromous salmon and steelhead passage into Yale and/or Merwin and/or establishing an in lieu fund for habitat restoration. This decision is to be informed by new information (i.e., since the settlement agreement was signed in 2004) related to reintroduction and fish passage into the reservoirs. The Services have committed to basing their decision on consideration of new information, and open and collaborative discussions with Aquatic Coordination Committee members (In Lieu Workgroup). The Services' decision will be well documented, justifiable and stand the test of time.*

*To that end, the In Lieu Workgroup has conducted eight (8) half-day meetings with discussions of the risks, benefits, assumptions, and uncertainties for each passage alternative. Early on, the Services and In Lieu Workgroup participants expressed a desire to reach consensus on a preferred passage option. While significant progress has been made towards this end, the Workgroup will require an extension of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission timeline of February 24, 2017 in order to be successful. There was also consensus that a commensurate extension be requested regarding the Cowlitz PUD and PacifiCorp timeline for design, permitting and construction of fish passage facilities associated with the decision. Additional meetings have been scheduled into the first quarter of 2017.*

*The In Lieu Workgroup looks forward to providing an additional update at the February 9, 2017 Aquatic Coordination Committee meeting.*

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) informed the attendees that the Utilities consider this December 8, 2016 ACC meeting official satisfaction of its requirement to convene a meeting with the ACC in accordance with Section 4.1.9 of the Lewis River Settlement Agreement. In addition, the February 6, 2017 deadline will be postponed six (6 months) to August 6, 2017 as per the Services request. Both the Services and Utilities will prepare the appropriate extension request letters to the FERC.

## **Aquatic Fund 2016/2017 Project Review; Evaluation Matrix and Full Proposal Project Selection**

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) provided an electronic copy of the 2016/2017 Lewis River Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix (Matrix) dated December 5, 2016 reflecting all ACC comments received

prior to today's meeting. The ACC discussed each project and all additional comments and decisions are reflected in the Matrix (**Attachment A**). Pat Frazier (WDFW) will submit written comments to PacifiCorp by Monday, December 12, 2016 which McCune will incorporate into the Matrix. McCune will email the completed Matrix to all ACC participants who were unable to participate in today's meeting and provide them an additional 7-day review and comment period prior to finalizing the decisions. After the 7-day review period is complete McCune will notify each applicant of the ACCs decision.

<b>Proceed to full Proposal</b>		<b>Project Name</b>
NO	Cowlitz Tribe	Colvin Dam Removal Preliminary Design
YES	USDA Forest Service	Lewis River 21 Phase I
YES	USDA Forest Service	Spencer Creek Alluvial Fan and Channel Rehabilitation
NO	LCFEG	Haapa Side Channel Habitat Restoration - Phase II
NO	LCFEG	NF Lewis 13.5 River Braiding Project
NO	WDFW	Bald Mt. Creek Fish Barrier Correction

See **Attachment A** - Lewis River Aquatic Fund Utilities Evaluation, dated 12/5/16 for comment detail.

The ACC also discussed the Aquatic Fund timeline and McCune verbally provided the following process line detail:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Milestone Date</b>
Finalize List of Selected Projects for Additional Consideration	December 8, 2016
Submit Request For Full Proposals to Selected Applicants	Early December
<b>Full Proposals due</b>	<b>January 27, 2017</b>
Conduct Proposed Project Information Meeting (Opportunity for project proponent to present project information to ACC)	February 9, 2017
Full Proposal Evaluation Report Submitted to ACC (30 day review)	Mid February
Full Proposal Report Comments due to Utilities	Mid March
Utilities provide Draft Selection matrix to ACC for review	Late March
Conduct Project Selection Meeting (Finalize list of projects to receive funding pending FERC's approval)	April ACC meeting
Submit Project Selection Report to FERC	No later than April 15, 2016

## **BT project extension – insert details here**

Frazier informed the ACC attendees that WDFW & MSHI wish to extend its contract to December 2017 and provided the following justification.

### *Project Extension Request Justification - December 6, 2016*

*Workload issues at WDFW workload have delayed data summarization and analysis. Additionally, analysis necessary to develop conceptual designs has been more complex than originally expected; therefore, additional time was required to complete this task. Adequate evaluation of sites for scoping design requires lower flows that occur during the spring and summer time frame. Field-based work is expected to be completed in summer of 2017 with a final report no later than December 31, 2017.*

**The ACC approved extension of the 2013 Bull Trout Habitat Restoration Project ID Assessment until December 31, 2017. McCune will complete the contract details with Frazier and secure the appropriate signature from PacifiCorp. This extension does not affect the funding provided but a time extension only.**

McCune will provide all ACC members not in attendance at today's meeting an additional 7-day review and comment period prior to extending the contract.

## **Study/Work Product Updates**

### **M&E Plan Update**

The M&E Plan 90-day review and comment period ended December 2, 2016. McCune noted that she will be filing the document to the FERC on December 14, 2016. Michelle Day (NMFS) expressed that she would like until December 14, 2016 to provide comments to the Utilities. McCune will delay filing to the FERC until December 16, 2016. In addition, per Day's request McCune will email her the link to the M&E 90-day review documents.

### **H&S Plan Update**

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) was not present but had no updates to share beyond those presented at the previous meeting.

### **Woodland Release Ponds**

McCune communicated that she understood that DNR had responded to PacifiCorp's comment(s) on the lease but she did not have further update at this time. Day requested Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) contact her directly with an update on the Woodland Release Pond DNR lease legal review activity.

### **Acclimation Pond Updates**

*Muddy River:* PacifiCorp staff is working on developing plans for removal of the Muddy River project components and will submit draft plans to USFS for their review and comment early next year.

*Clear Creek and Crab Creek:* Holding pattern for now; the ACC will review Spring 2017 after another season of winter flows.

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

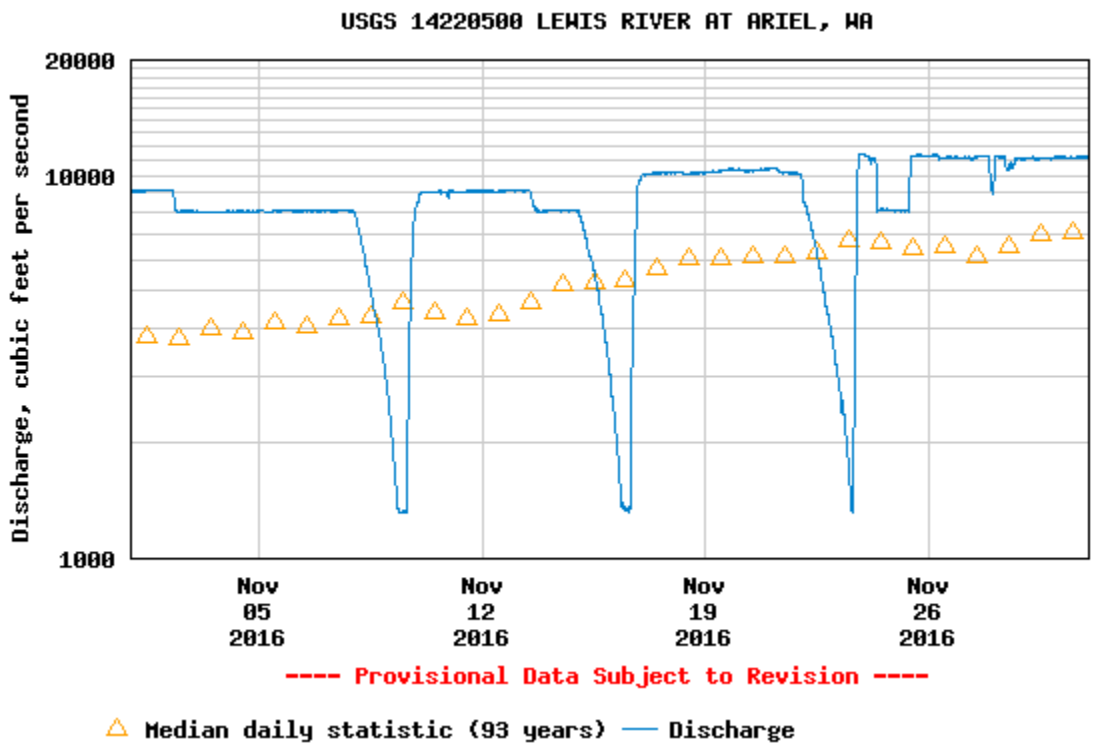
During the month of November, a total 4,132 fish were captured at the Merwin Fish Collection Facility. The vast majority of these fish were late-coho (4,023 - 97%) while the few remaining comprised of mostly of winter steelhead and fall Chinook. All hatchery fish were given to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fourteen (14) coastal cutthroat greater than 13-inches were captured this month.

The Merwin Trap ran continuously through the month of November except during the schedule outage of November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to install the new ladder fyke. The Auxiliary Water Supply (AWS) system, which can boost attraction flow up to 400 cfs, was operated daily in the month of November.

River flow below Merwin Dam fluctuated between 1,200 and 11,000 cfs throughout the month of November.

Fyke is installed; will start up the collector December 9, 2016 weather permitting or Monday, December 12, 2016.

### Discharge, cubic feet per second



### Upstream Transport (Attachment B)

Seven hundred sixty seven blank wire tag (BWT) winter steelhead (467) were transported in spring 2016. An additional seven (7) BWT winter steelhead have been transported so far this fall (2017 run year). A total of 7,237 coho have been transported upstream so far this fall. Of these, 4,111 were early-coho while the remaining 3,126 were late-coho. Seventy-two (72) coastal cutthroat trout greater than thirteen inches in length have also been transported upstream this year.

### 2016 Coho Upstream Transport (thru November 30, 2016)

	Male	Female	Jack	Total
Early-coho	1,786	1,789	536	4,111
Late-coho	1,598	1,525	3	3,126

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

The Swift FSC ran throughout the month of November except for a short outage period on November 10<sup>th</sup> that was required to remove debris from the intake rack. During the month of November, only 937 fish were collected with the majority of those fish being transported downstream. Juvenile coho and Chinook accounted for the largest percentage (94%) of fish collected. Overall, 72,979 fish have been collected so far at the Swift FSC in 2016.

### Discussion Regarding going to a Temporary 5-day operation schedule at Merwin Trap during Jan-Feb 2017

Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp) communicated a cursory explanation of moving back to a 5-day operation schedule beginning the end of December 2016 to approximately the end of February 2017. Karchesky will write a memorandum to the ACC for its review and approval outlining the protocol and for what period of time.

*ACC Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.*

### Agenda items for January 12, 2017

- December 8, 2016 Meeting Notes
- 2016 Aquatic Fund Accounting
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Acclimation Fish; discuss plans for 2017

### Next Scheduled Meetings:

January 12, 2017
Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 11/10/16
- Agenda from 12/08/16
- [Attachment A](#) - 2016/2017 Lewis River Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix, dated December 5, 2016
- [Attachment B](#) – Lewis River Fish Passage Report (November 2016)



	A	B	C	D	E	F	2016/2017 LR Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix	G	H	I
1										
2	<b>ACC</b>									
3	<b>Decision for full proposal</b>									
4			<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>WDFW</b>	<b>Fish First</b>	<b>LCFRB</b>	<b>Yakama Nation</b>	<b>USFS</b>	
4		1	Cowlitz Tribe	Colvin Dam Removal Preliminary Design			<p>It appears that WDFW is not providing matching funds. What is WDFW's legal obligation for supporting passage at this site? Habitat in Colvin Creek identified for restoration is an EDT tier 3 reach, and passage would be restored to EDT tier 4 reaches, suggesting limited benefits for population recovery in the NF Lewis (Recovery Plan, LCFRB 2010). Benefits to downstream mainstem receiving reaches (e.g., Lewis 7a) are uncertain until assessment of substrate composition is completed. If substrate would be suitable for spawning, it is uncertain whether benefits would be short-term vs long-term. The duration of benefits should be evaluated. It is also uncertain whether lack of spawning substrate in the downstream Lewis 7a reach is a key biological bottleneck. Sediment deposition at the upstream end of Eagle Island has been cited by WDFW as a primary concern for loss of Chinook rearing habitat the north Eagle Island channel. Overall project benefits would accrue primarily in Colvin Creek, which would support coho and steelhead, which are considered contributing populations to regional recovery (LCFRB 2010). No apparent benefits to spring Chinook recovery. This is especially true in terms of downstream migration, because the project site is located between spring Chinook capture and release locations. Application references project is contingent upon receiving \$62,500 in SFRB funds. Project was reviewed by the LCFRB in 2016 and ranked "high" for certainty of success, and "medium" for benefits to fish and cost, and was in the lowest grouping of eligible projects - future funding is uncertain. <b>We recommend the design project move forward to final proposal submittal. However, future support for implementation will depend upon results sediment suitability analysis, contribution of match from WDFW, and assessment of downstream benefits/impacts.</b></p>		The Forest Service has reviewed all the Pre-Proposals and believe they all meet Section A. Consistency with Fund Objectives and Priorities of the evaluation criteria.	
5		2	USDA Forest Service	Lewis River 21 - Phase I			<p>This project targets a high priority reach (EDT tier 2, NF Lewis 21) for regional recovery, with high potential for winter steelhead, medium priority for coho, and low priority for spring Chinook population performance improvements (LCFRB 2010). High priority factors identified in the Recovery Plan for this reach likely to be addressed through this proposal include stream channel habitat structure &amp; bank stability and off channel &amp; side channel habitat. NF Lewis 21 is also identified on the Aquatics Fund Priority Reaches Table based on the Cramer Fish Sciences report, and would address priorities for spring Chinook spawning and rearing. More details regarding seasonality of side channel connection are required to determine full rearing and spawning benefits of the project. Before and after biological monitoring at the project site could be a benefit to future work in the NF Lewis and analogous systems in the Lower Columbia. Project aligns well with Aquatic Fund priorities, including support for reintroduction species. <b>We recommend the project move forward to final.</b></p>		The Forest Service has reviewed all the Pre-Proposals and believe they all meet Section A. Consistency with Fund Objectives and Priorities of the evaluation criteria.	
6		3	USDA Forest Service	Spencer Creek Alluvial Fan and Channel Rehabilitation			<p>This project targets a high priority reach (EDT tier 2, Spencer Creek) for regional recovery, with high potential for winter steelhead and low priority for coho population performance improvements (LCFRB 2010). Medium priority factors identified in the Recovery Plan for this reach likely to be addressed through this proposal include floodplain function and channel migration processes, instream flows, and stream channel habitat structure and bank stability. Spencer Creek is also identified on the Aquatics Fund Priority Reaches Table based on the Cramer Fish Sciences report, and would address priorities for coho and steelhead spawning, rearing and migration. Increased complexity at the confluence of Spencer Creek and the NF Lewis could also provide important habitat for spring Chinook and other species, in part addressing high priority floodplain function and channel migration process needs in EDT tier 2 reaches Lewis 23 and 24. Project aligns well with Aquatic Fund priorities, including support for reintroduction species. <b>We recommend the project move forward to final.</b></p>		The Forest Service has reviewed all the Pre-Proposals and believe they all meet Section A. Consistency with Fund Objectives and Priorities of the evaluation criteria.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	2016/2017 LR Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix	G	H	I
2	<b>ACC</b>									
3	<b>Decision for full proposal</b>									
		<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>WDFW</b>	<b>Fish First</b>	<b>LCFRB</b>	<b>Yakama Nation</b>	<b>USFS</b>		
7		4	LCFEG	Haapa Side Channel Habitat Restoration - Phase II			This project targets a high priority reach for regional recovery (EDT tier 1, Lewis 5), with high potential of chum and coho habitat, medium potential for fall Chinook, and low priority for winter steelhead population performance improvements. High priority limiting factors identified in the Recovery Plan for this EDT reach include floodplain function & channel migration processes and off channel & side channel habitat, two factors this project proposes to address. However, Lewis Reach 5 is not identified on the Aquatics Fund Priority Reaches Table based on the Cramer Fish Sciences report. LCFRB TAC reviewed the Phase 2 side channel portion of this project in 2016, and were concerned that: 1) the side-channel inlet may require long-term maintenance and may not provide full side-channel functionality; 2) that side-channel enhancement could reduce fall Chinook spawning habitat area in the main channel of Lewis; and, 3) that WDFW had not yet approved land use. Project does not align well with Aquatic Fund priority for support of spring Chinook reintroduction efforts. This is especially true in terms of downstream migration, because the project site is located between spring Chinook capture and release locations. <b>We recommend the project move forward to final.</b>			The Forest Service has reviewed all the Pre-Proposals and believe they all meet Section A. Consistency with Fund Objectives and Priorities of the evaluation criteria.
8		5	LCFEG	NF Lewis 13.5 River Braiding Project			This project targets a high priority reach for regional recovery (EDT tier 1, Lewis 5), with high potential of chum and coho habitat, medium potential for fall Chinook, and low priority for winter steelhead population performance improvements. High priority limiting factors identified in the Recovery Plan for this EDT reach include floodplain function & channel migration processes, off channel & side channel habitat, and stream channel habitat structure & bank stability, three factors this project proposes to address. However, Lewis Reach 5 is not identified on the Aquatics Fund Priority Reaches Table based on the Cramer Fish Sciences report. It is not clear what the seasonality of the side channel connectivity will be, so it is difficult to determine rearing and spawning habitat benefits. Project does not align well with Aquatic Fund priority for support of spring Chinook reintroduction efforts. This is especially true in terms of downstream migration, because the project site is located between spring Chinook capture and release locations. <b>We recommend the project move forward to final.</b>			The Forest Service has reviewed all the Pre-Proposals and believe they all meet Section A. Consistency with Fund Objectives and Priorities of the evaluation criteria.
9		6	WDFW	Bald Mt. Creek Fish Barrier Correction			This project targets a low priority reach for regional recovery (EDT tier 4, Cedar Creek LB Trib 2B), with low potential for both winter steelhead and coho population performance improvements (LCFRB 2010). Although restoration needs identified in this project will likely increase access to habitat for salmonids, there are limited multi-species benefits from working in this habitat, and restoration funds may more effectively address recovery in higher priority reaches in the NF Lewis. Project does not align well with Aquatic Fund priority for support of reintroduction efforts. Lack of information on documented fish use in the affected streams. <b>We recommend that the project not move forward to final.</b>			The Forest Service has reviewed all the Pre-Proposals and believe they all meet Section A. Consistency with Fund Objectives and Priorities of the evaluation criteria.

	J	K	2016/2017 LR Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix	M	N
1					
2					
3	<b>Cowlitz Indian Tribe</b>	<b>USFWS</b>	<b>Utilities</b>	<b>NMFS</b>	<b>Next Step</b>
4	<p>The project is located on Colvin Creek at the reach break between Colvin 1 and 2, Tier 3 and 4, respectively. Providing fish passage would directly benefit coho and winter steelhead, and releasing impounded gravels and restoring sediment transport processes would provide downstream benefits for multiple species. The proposal appears thoroughly researched and appropriately scoped for what is likely to be a technically challenging project to design and implement. The lead engineer has ample experience with dam removal projects, increasing likelihood of success. The resulting project is likely to be very expensive for the benefit, but is one of a very few opportunities to restore watershed process in the highly modified lower river. Mainstem incision and simplification is a continuing and serious concern; increasing coarse sediments should provide some relief from that trend. Removal of the dam would increase pressure on WSDOT to address the highway barrier upstream, potentially opening much more habitat. <b>Recommended for full proposal: Yes.</b></p>		<p>This project is contingent upon securing \$62,500 SRFB funds in 2017. Support Task 1: sediment analysis. If composition is primarily silt/sand we do not need to evaluate further. If composition core samples are deemed beneficial than I support moving forward with the project. Would like to know if further talks have happened with DAHP &amp; if will be removed from the registry? If mitigation is warranted will Cowlitz Tribe fund? In favor of going to full proposal. This reach is not on the priority list but it is a good project. Need more detail on how the hatchery intake will be protected.</p>		
5	<p>The project appears to be proposed in Lewis 21, a Tier 2 reach (not Tier 1, as identified in the proposal narrative) of the Lewis River, but is one of the highest priority reaches in the most recent ACC guidance. The proposed project would likely benefit multiple species. The proposed approach is not clearly articulated; the final proposal should clearly show the proposed treatment areas, describe the treatments, and explain the rationale for the approach. Conceptual design drawings, at a minimum, will be essential to determine likely long-term benefits. This is a high-energy, mainstem reach of the Lewis River. Stability of wood placements and nature (size, species) of material proposed should be fully explained. The project description seems to suggest that the project would directly interact with material delivered by Rush Creek, but the project area is located upstream of the confluence with Rush Creek. The project scope is fairly small, and requires substantial mobilization investments. The proposal title indicates future phase(s), but plans for future work are not described. A more comprehensive design and permitting/environmental compliance phase followed by one or more implementation phases may be a more efficient, effective approach in this relatively unconstrained reach. <b>Recommend full proposal: Yes.</b></p>		<p>Do not believe that LWD placement in the mainstem has as much value as focusing funds on tributary streams or side channel habitat that do not have a high probability of "washing away" LWD structures. How can we be assured the wood will continue to function as intended? There are better location options available such as tributaries. <b>Priority Reach - in favor of going to full proposal.</b> There needs to be a budget sheet that defines tasks and associated dollars. Other than the monitoring, it is not clear who is performing what task. LWD placed in the upper mainstem has an extremely low likelihood of staying in place given the frequency and severity of recent high water events.</p>		
6	<p>The project is proposed in Spencer Creek and Lewis 24, both Tier 2. Spencer Creek is a highly rated opportunity for restoration in the latest ACC guidance. The proposed project would likely benefit multiple species. The proposed approach is not clearly articulated; the final proposal should clearly show the proposed treatment areas, describe the treatments, and explain the rationale for the approach. Conceptual design drawings would be helpful, as would a description of the proposed design process. Photos showing boulder/cobble bed material in Spencer Creek seem to indicate a fairly high-energy reach. A discussion of the watershed processes that led to Spencer Creek's degraded condition would be helpful in evaluating the appropriateness of proposed treatments. Stability of wood placements and nature (size, species) of material proposed should be fully explained. <b>Recommend full proposal: Yes.</b></p>		<p>Spencer Creek would benefit from wood placement and gravel retention. <b>Priority Reach/Key Habitat - in favor of going to full proposal.</b> There needs to be a budget sheet that defines tasks and associated dollars. Other than the monitoring, it is not clear who is performing what task. Spencer Creek rehab. work would benefit that stream basin and should go to full proposal.</p>		

	J	K	2016/2017 LR Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix	M	N
2					
3	<b>Cowlitz Indian Tribe</b>				
7	<p>Project is proposed in a Tier 1 reach of the lower North Fork Lewis and would likely benefit multiple species. It is not located in a highly rated reach per the most recent ACC guidance, but the sponsor explains the reach parallels. Sidechannel and off-channel habitat enhancement are important multi-species actions for the reach. The Summary of Project section, however, apparently includes all benefits of previously funded, proposed, and other components, not just the benefits of the proposed work. Benefits of this project as described elsewhere in the pre-proposal are largely contingent upon receiving SRFB funds to connect the backwater channel to a new sidechannel upstream. The sponsor notes that proximity of this project with the 13.5 River Braiding Project reduces construction costs, but does not quantify the reduction, or explain how costs would be covered if only one project were funded. The sponsor secured funding for the first phase of construction of the Haapa project from SRFB in 2014, but according to the billings available on PRISM, has completed very little work to date.</p> <p>If this project proceeds to full proposal, the sponsor should either commit to securing additional funds to complete work necessary to fully implement the project, or remove descriptions of benefits that would not be accrued through backwater enhancement alone. The backwater channel work proposed relies on 3,815CY of streambed material borrowed from the channel upstream. If the upstream channel is not funded, this design element will need substantial revision, and costs will change markedly. The request of nearly \$300,000 is expensive compared with the benefit of adding complexity to backwater habitat that could probably be substantially improved with a lower-intensity effort. The level of treatment appears much more appropriate for a flow-through channel.</p> <p><b>Recommend final proposal: Yes (with reservations).</b></p>	USFWS	Utilities	NMFS	Next Step
8	<p>Project is proposed in a Tier 1 reach of the lower North Fork Lewis and would likely benefit multiple species. It is not located in a highly rated reach per the most recent ACC guidance, but the sponsor explains the reach parallels. The treatments proposed align with reach priorities and species' needs. A similar proposal was previously funded by the ACC, but funds were returned when the sponsor failed to secure SRFB funding in back-to-back years to fulfill match obligations. The sponsor claims that this was a result of a reduction in regional funding of SRFB, but the regional allocation was stable through the two years that the project was selected as an alternate; the regional allocation was reduced in 2016. The reason that the SRFB did not fund the project in back-to-back grant rounds was that it did not score highly in the regional LCFRB process. Leveraging Aquatic Fund dollars for additional Lewis River work was one of the attractive features of that proposal, a benefit not offered by this approach.</p> <p>The sponsor claims that this is a second phase of a previously designed and completed project, but this "phase" does not appear in the original design or design report provided to SRFB, and appears to have been sketched by Inter-Fluve in support of a grant application, rather than carefully designed and vetted as claimed in the pre-proposal. The main-stem treatments shown on the provided conceptual design appear to be superimposed on existing work—no rationale is provided for this action, but it is unclear from the proposal narrative whether the main-stem treatments are actually being proposed, or are an artifact from previous proposals. The side channel proposed for enhancement appears to be currently functional as high-flow refuge habitat, with stranding as an issue. The value of deepening and adding wood to the channel should be weighed against cost and other potential treatments such as comprehensive planting efforts. The proposed timeline is quite long at 4 years. <b>Recommend final proposal: No.</b></p>		<p>Is aquatic lease needed from DNR? This project continues the previous work at 13.5 which improved spawning and juvenile rearing habitat. When is the side channel flooded? Is it accessible by juvenile salmonids at the appropriate time of year? Expand on how this project meshes with previous work. <b>Creates side channel habitat, increasing diversity - in favor of going to full proposal.</b> This reach is not on the priority list. Proponent has not always been timely with obtaining permitting and consequently completing projects. What happens if SRFB funding is not awarded?</p>		
9	<p>The project is proposed in a small tributary to Cedar Creek, a Tier 4 (lowest priority anadromous) reach. The tributary is not identified on the most recent ACC guidance. The project proposes to improve passage by replacing two culvert crossings with bridges and conducting modest in-stream and riparian work associated with the bridge installations. Fish passage is generally a high-certainty action to improve abundance and resilience of fish populations, especially when adult upstream passage has been blocked. This project would benefit coho and potentially steelhead (both Contributing populations per the Recovery Plan), primarily by improving upstream juvenile passage. The project will not benefit Chinook or Chum, the Primary populations in the subbasin. The project does not support reintroduction. The request is extremely high relative to the value to fish; most project value appears to accrue to landowners, who are proposing no substantial contribution. The argument that Aquatic Fund monies should be used to bring private landowners into compliance with RCWs is not compelling, especially given the Settlement Agreement language in Article 7.5.3.1(b), which states that Aquatics Fund should not be spent on projects that other entities are legally mandated to complete (unless agreed by the ACC). The pre-proposal narrative suggests that this project would provide off-channel rearing benefits to Cedar Creek, which is extremely dubious given the project site's distance from Cedar Creek proper. <b>Recommend for full proposal: No.</b></p>		<p>Is any other landowner access agreements needed for access to site?? <b>Not supportive of using ACC funds for culvert removal on private land unless there is a documented benefit.</b> While coho juveniles and cutthroat have been observed in the project area no steelhead or Chinook have been observed. <b>There just doesn't seem to be enough documented use downstream of the culverts to justify the costs of this proposal.</b> <b>Why did they not apply through their department's Fish Barrier Removal Board? And if they did why was project denied? Benefits to Spring Chinook? Pictures? This amount of money could benefit a larger number of fish in the priority reaches? Not in favor of going to full proposal.</b> This reach is not on the priority list and is actually a Tier 4 reach on Cedar Creek that does not directly benefit spring Chinook.</p>		

Lewis River Aquatic Fund - Utilities' Evaluation of 2016/2017 Project Proposals

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Project Schedule	Benefit	Bull Trout	Project Partners	Funding	Cost Share?	Consistency with Fund Objectives	Selected for Utilities for Full-Proposal - Y or N	Comments - Utilities
1	Cowlitz Tribe	Colvin Dam Removal Preliminary Design	2017/2018	Restore natural sediment transport processes and fish passage to benefit salmonid populations in Colvin Creek and downstream reaches of lower North Fork Lewis River.	No	Cowlitz Tribe and WDNR	\$ 62,500.00	Yes	1 Benefit Recovery Y 2 Support reintro. Y 3 Enhance habitat Y	Y	This project is contingent upon securing \$62,500 SRFB funds in 2017. Support Task 1: sediment analysis. If composition is primarily silt/sand we do not need to evaluate further. If composition core samples are deemed beneficial than I support moving forward with the project. Would like to know if further talks have happened with DAHP & if will be removed from the registry? If mitigation is warranted will Cowlitz Tribe fund? In favor of going to full proposal. This reach is not on the priority list but it is a good project. Need more detail on how the hatchery intake will be protected.
2	USDA Forest Service	Lewis River 21 Phase I	2017/2019	Restore approx. 1,000' of LR mainstem habitat 300' upstream of Rush Creek (tier 1 reach). Approx. 300 pieces of LWD will be placed along margins in the mainstem to improve rearing habitat.	Yes	Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. St. Helens Institute	\$ 135,000.00	Yes	1 Benefit Recovery Y 2 Support reintro. Y 3 Enhance habitat Y	Y - Contingent upon response to how the LWD will be stabilized.	Do not believe that LWD placement in the mainstem has as much value as focusing funds on tributary streams or side channel habitat that do not have a high probability of "washing away" LWD structures. How can we be assured the wood will continue to function as intended? There are better location options available such as tributaries. Priority Reach - in favor of going to full proposal. There needs to be a budget sheet that defines tasks and associated dollars. Other than the monitoring, it is not clear who is performing what task. LWD placed in the upper mainstem has an extremely low likelihood of staying in place given the frequency and severity of recent high water events.
3	USDA Forest Service	Spencer Creek Alluvial Fan and Channel Rehabilitation	2017/2019	Restore Spencer Creek from confluence of the NF Lewis upstream approx. 1,000 feet located o the lowest 1,000' of Spencer Creek. Creating approx. 7 complex structures within Spencer Creek to provide quality spawning, rearing and overwintering habitat.	No	Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. St. Helens Institute	\$ 117,000.00	Yes	1 Benefit Recovery Y 2 Support reintro. Y 3 Enhance habitat Y	Y	Spencer Creek would benefit from wood placement and gravel retention. Priority Reach/Key Habitat - in favor of going to full proposal. There needs to be a budget sheet that defines tasks and associated dollars. Other than the monitoring, it is not clear who is performing what task. Spencer Creek rehab. work would benefit that stream basin and should go to full proposal.
4	LCFEG	Haapa Side Channel Habitat Restoration - Phase II	2017/2021	Enhance 1,350' side channel and associated placement of LWD to enhance channel stability; connect backwater channel; construct 200' long groundwater fed alcove chum spawning and rearing channel; install beaver dam analog at confluence of side and backwater channels.	No	LCFEG, WA-DOC, WDFW, DNR, Kysar & Loomis, LCFRB	\$ 286,045.00	Yes	1 Benefit Recovery Y 2 Support reintro. Y 3 Enhance habitat Y	Y	Expect to see a land use agreement submitted with the full proposal. The proposal states that ACC funds will be used entirely for backwater pool enhancement with LWD. Presently, there is an existing pool with substantial vegetation cover. I realize this amount will be matched according to the proposal which is the only reason I would support moving forward. Without the match, the project can not be justified in my opinion. Increases habitat quantity and diversity - in favor of going to full proposal. This reach is not on the priority list. Proponent has not always been timely with obtaining permitting and consequently completing projects. What happens if SRFB funding is not awarded?
5	LCFEG	NF Lewis 13.5 River Braiding Project	2017/2020	Project builds on previous work by creating 1,200' of new side channel habitat including LWD complexity structures to increase the quantity and quality of spawning and rearing habitat.	No	Kysar family, WDNR, WA Dept Corrections, Hudson Bay High School, WA-DOC	\$ 152,650.00	Yes	2 Benefit Recovery Y 2 Support reintro. Y 3 Enhance habitat Y	Y	Is aquatic lease needed from DNR? This project continues the previous work at 13.5 which improved spawning and juvenile rearing habitat. When is the side channel flooded? Is it accessible by juvenile salmonids at the appropriate time of year? Expand on how this project meshes with previous work. Creates side channel habitat, increasing diversity - in favor of going to full proposal. This reach is not on the priority list. Proponent has not always been timely with obtaining permitting and consequently completing projects. What happens if SRFB funding is not awarded?
6	WDFW	Bald Mt. Creek Fish Barrier Correction	2017/2018	Replacing two barrier crossings to fish passage; located on a left bank trib to Cedar Creek (locally called Bald Mt. Creek); replace existing barrier culvert with 30' bridge; regrading road approaches, downstream channel regrading and reposition existing log controls to direct flow away from the road fill and create resting pools.	No	Clark Conservation; NRCS	\$ 223,000.00	Yes	3 Benefit Recovery Y 2 Support reintro. Y 3 Enhance habitat Y	N - until additional monitoring can document potential use	Is any other landowner access agreements needed for access to site?? Not supportive of using ACC funds for culvert removal on private land unless there is a documented benefit. While coho juveniles and cutthroat have been observed in the project area no steelhead or Chinook have been observed. There just doesn't seem to be enough documented use downstream of the culverts to justify the costs of this proposal. Why did they not apply through their department's Fish Barrier Removal Board? And if they did why was project denied? Benefits to Spring Chinook? Pictures? This amount of money could benefit a larger number of fish in the priority reaches? Not in favor of going to full proposal. This reach is not on the priority list and is actually a Tier 4 reach on Cedar Creek that does not directly benefit spring Chinook.
							<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 976,195.00</b>			
							<b>Total non-bull trout Funds</b>	<b>\$ 841,195.00</b>			
							<b>Bull Trout Funds</b>	<b>\$ 135,000.00</b>			
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										

# Lewis River Fish Passage Report

## November 2016

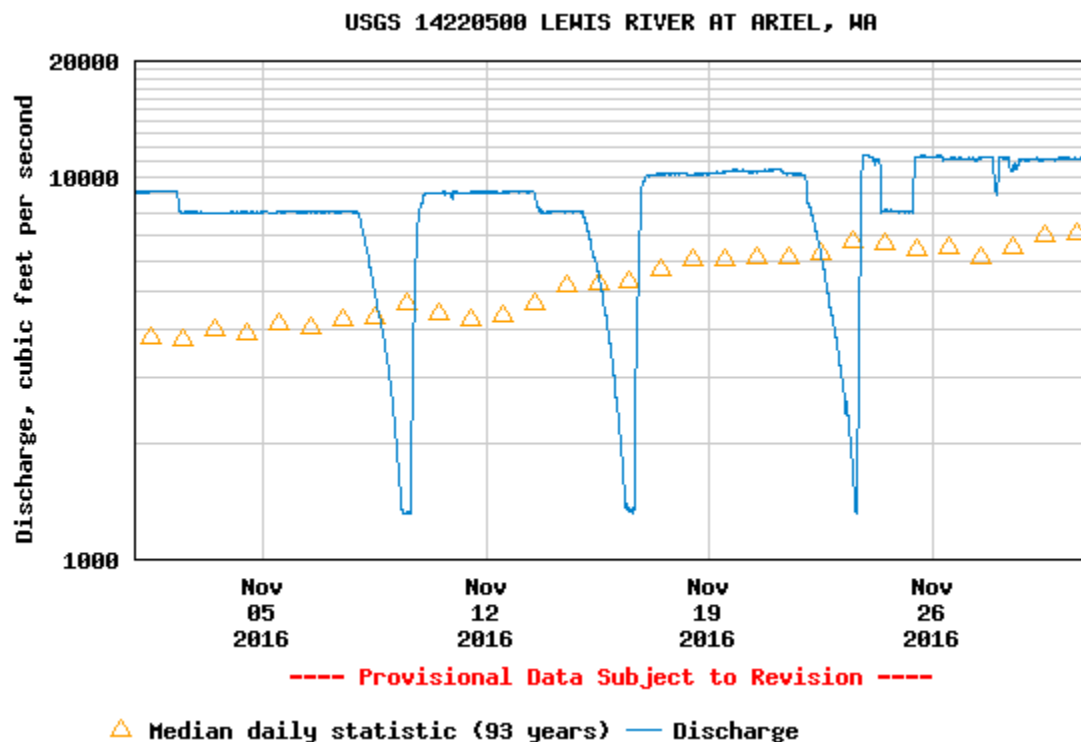
### Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

During the month of November, a total 4,132 fish were captured at the Merwin Fish Collection Facility. The vast majority of these fish were late-coho (4,023 - 97%) while the few remaining comprised of mostly of winter steelhead and fall Chinook. All hatchery fish were given to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fourteen (14) coastal cutthroat greater than 13-inches were captured this month.

The Merwin Trap ran continuously through the month of November except during the schedule outage of November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to install the new ladder fyke. The Auxiliary Water Supply (AWS) system, which can boost attraction flow up to 400 cfs, was operated daily in the month of November.

River flow below Merwin Dam fluctuated between 1,200 and 11,000 cfs throughout the month of November.

### Discharge, cubic feet per second



### **Upstream Transport**

Seven hundred sixty seven blank wire tag (BWT) winter steelhead (467) were transported in spring 2016. An additional seven (7) BWT winter steelhead have been transported so far this fall (2017 run year). A total of 7,237 coho have been transported upstream so far this fall. Of these, 4,111 were early-coho while the remaining 3,126 were late-coho. Seventy-two (72) coastal cutthroat trout greater than thirteen inches in length have also been transported upstream this year.

#### 2016 Coho Upstream Transport (thru November 30, 2016)

	Male	Female	Jack	Total
Early-coho	1,786	1,789	536	4,111
Late-coho	1,598	1,525	3	3,126

### **Swift Floating Surface Collector**

The Swift FSC ran throughout the month of November except for a short outage period on November 10<sup>th</sup> that was required to remove debris from the intake rack. During the month of November, only 937 fish were collected with the majority of those fish being transported downstream. Juvenile coho and Chinook accounted for the largest percentage (94%) of fish collected. Overall, 72,979 fish have been collected so far at the Swift FSC in 2016.





**Fish Facility Report**  
**Swift Floating Surface Collector**  
**November 2016**

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	15	13	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	35
02	25	15	12	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	65
03	10	16	11	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	47
04	0	5	13	1	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	32
05	0	7	19	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	36
06	0	4	11	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	26
07	0	7	20	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	33
08	0	11	22	0	3	8	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	47
09	0	11	30	0	1	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
10																
11	0	24	31	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
12	2	21	2	0	13	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	42
13	4	14	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	25
14	1	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
15	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
16	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	16
17	1	5	2	0	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	18
18	3	18	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	27
19	0	14	11	0	2	3	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	34
20	0	16	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
21	0	9	1	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
22	0	16	2	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
23	0	3	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
24	0	4	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
25	0	2	10	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
26	0	11	35	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	54
27	0	4	5	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	22
28	0	3	16	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24
29	0	17	16	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	40
30	0	8	11	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27

<b>Monthly</b>	46	309	320	3	47	163	1	3	11	0	10	15	0	0	9	937
<b>Annual</b>	791	11156	48757	5	636	3076	31	73	2090	48	31	1031	33	39	5182	72979

