

**FINAL Meeting Notes  
Lewis River License Implementation  
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting  
December 8, 2005  
WDFW - Vancouver, WA**

**ACC Participants Present (16)**

Jim Byrne, WDFW  
Michelle Day, NMFS  
Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service  
LouEllyn Jones, USFWS  
Eric Kinne, WDFW  
George Lee, Yakama Nation  
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp  
Jim Malinowski, Fish First  
Kevin Malone, Mobrand-Jones & Stokes  
Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp  
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp  
Paul Pearce, Skamania County  
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp  
Karen Thompson, Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
Richard Turner, NMFS  
John Weinheimer, WDFW

**Calendar:**

Jan 11, 2006	TCC Meeting	Merwin
Jan 12, 2006	ACC Meeting	Merwin
Feb 9, 2006	ACC Meeting	Merwin

<b>Assignments from November 10th Meeting:</b>	<b>Status:</b>
McCune - Add further discussion of the Draft H&S Plan on the January ACC Agenda.	Complete - 12/13/05

<b>Assignments from November 10th Meeting:</b>	<b>Status:</b>
McCune - Create a PDF of the entire Aquatic Fund Pre-Proposal packet and email to all ACC Participants for their review.	Complete - 11/10/05
McCune - Email entire data set to ACC prior to Spring 2006 and any other supporting data, to include the R2 Resource report and link to AQU 4.	Complete - 11/14/05

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

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) requested a round table introduction for those guests who have not been present at prior ACC Meetings. Shrier then conducted a review of the Agenda for the day and asked if the ACC would like any changes. The following changes were requested to the Agenda and approved by the ACC:

- Study Updates - Frank Shrier

- Skamania County Update – Paul Pearce
- Land Grant Opportunity – USFWS

The revised Agenda will be posted to the Lewis River website for public review.

Shrier requested any comments and/or changes to the ACC 11-10-05 Draft meeting notes. The Notes were approved at 9:15am without changes.

### **Tagging Study Update**

Shrier communicated to the ACC that the last group of late-run Coho were tagged last week. Winter steelhead will be tagged around the first week of January.

Hydroacoustic equipment has been installed at Yale. The pictures are very clean and very good data is expected. The video camera is also installed temporarily until we feel confident about its placement. Then it will be mounted more permanently along with a second camera.

### **Spawning Gravel Study Update**

The ACC can expect to receive a Draft document on or before 12/31/05. There is a 60-day review period allowed for this document. Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that a FERC-Agency 10J meeting was held on 12/7/05. During the meeting FERC indicated that they never include a study as a license article and therefore did not see the relevance of including the SA article related to the gravel study, monitoring, augmentation downstream of Merwin dam. The agencies explained that the study was in fact a monitoring-augmentation “plan” and not a study. FERC then had a better understanding of the intent and they found it acceptable. They noted it will be included in the Final EIS.

### **401 Certification Update**

Shrier conducted a Lewis River tour with the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) on 12/7/05 in order to clarify any issues remaining. The WDOE committed to completing the 401 within 90-days of FERC issuing the Final EIS. FERC may issue the Final EIS in February 2006.

### **Merwin Trap Upgrades**

A cover letter and engineering drawings were mailed to WDFW, USFWS, and NOAA Fisheries for review on 11/29/05. Shrier is in the process of scheduling an appropriate time in January 2006 to meet with the Agencies and discuss the Upgrades in more detail.

### **Limiting Factor Study relating to Bull Trout**

Shrier working on securing consultant in order to meet due date of late 2006.

## **Stress Relief Pond**

PacifiCorp staff working with State on property transfer, which is progressing. The appraisal and title search are complete and discussions over property valuations are taking place.

## **Construction of Upper Release Point – Swift Canal**

Shrier informed the ACC that PacifiCorp is designing the upper release point in such a way so fish won't be injured by it. It has been designed with low velocity and a deterrent for fish attempting to go up into the canal. It is not screened so if fish are in the canal they can get out safely. In addition, Shrier pointed out other features of the design:

- Source of water comes right out of the canal.
- The plunge pool illustrated on the drawings is the existing pool.
- Difference in head is 7' and PacifiCorp is trying to enhance to 9' to have enough drop to augment water through the system.
- WDOE expressed concern about monitoring the flow. PacifiCorp will be adding flow meters, which is hooked up to an actuator to adjust the valve to release the right amount of water. The meter will read continuously. PacifiCorp will be adding the same meters on the canal drain valve.

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) requested the ACC email comments to his attention on or before January 6, 2006.

## **Skamania County Permitting in the County – Update**

Commissioner Paul Pearce (Skamania County) has scheduled roundtables with regulatory agencies involved in property development. A flow chart of sorts is provided to interested developers which lists the agencies that must be informed/involved prior to moving forward with a proposed development. Agencies have also been asked for issues or concerns in order to create the North Skamania Comprehensive Plan. Skamania County is completing a comprehensive critical areas Plan (Plan) by January 2006. The County intends to create the Plan, present it to the community, and give 30 days for review.

In addition, there are efforts being made to create a Swift Sub-area Plan, with an expected completion of March 2006. Pearce expects that a majority of privately owned land around Swift will most likely be designated Commercial Resource Land rather than residential.

Beginning in January 2006, the County intends to mail a survey questionnaire to the community with questions such as, "What is their vision of the community?" The County expects zoning may be as large as a 10-acre minimum as a temporary measure pending completion of the Comp. Plan and setbacks will be much higher by the end of 2006.

Pearce committed to come back to the ACC at least on a quarterly basis with update of the County's progress. Pearce also noted that if a developer wishes to convert from Commercial Forest designation to residential they *must obtain* a Plan amendment.

Break <10:30am>

Reconvene <10:40am>

## **Overview of Draft Hatchery & Supplementation Plan (H&S Plan)**

Kevin Malone (Mobrand-Jones & Stokes) presented an overview of the Plan to the ACC. Malone indicated that the Lewis River Settlement Agreement drives the requirements of the H&S Plan and that the H&S Plan is created to meet the goals of the Settlement Agreement.

The Draft H&S Plan can be viewed in its entirety on the Lewis River website at:

<http://www.pacificorp.com/Article/Article49202.html>

The Plan will be updated every five (5) years as called for in the Settlement Agreement, which coincides with the Hatchery Supplementation Plan reviews. The ACC has the decision-making authority to make revisions to the Plan.

Malone reviewed the following topics with the ACC attendees:

- Hatchery and Natural Production Targets
- Hatchery Juvenile Production
- Supplementation Program
- Artificial Production Management
- Adaptive Management
- Expected Outcomes
- Recommendations by Mobrand-Jones & Stokes

The ACC would like further discussion on the impacts of resident bull trout, as it relates to the Monitoring & Evaluation section of the Draft H&S Plan.

Olson communicated to the ACC that Curt Leigh (WDFW) has some reservations about the Mobrand recommendations. Olson explained that although the recommendations are worth some consideration, the intent was not to subvert any prior activities/intent of the Lewis River Settlement Agreement that parties discussed or agreed to during the relicensing period.

Shrier said that he will give more consideration to the recommendations as he does not see its content as a contradiction to the Settlement Agreement, but perhaps an adjustment of numbers will be required.

Shrier encouraged the ACC to review the Draft H&S Plan closely and provide comments/concerns to PacifiCorp. Michelle Day (NMFS) further added that it would be helpful to have discussions with WDFW, the Tribes, American Rivers, and any other ACC participant not represented in the ACC meeting today and discuss the Draft H&S Plan Recommendations in further detail.

Shrier reminded the ACC that all comments can be emailed directly to Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) on or before January 30, 2006

Olson suggested adding further discussion of the Draft H&S Plan on the January ACC Agenda. In addition he noted that the SA allows for the Yakama's to chair and convene an ACC subgroup review of the Draft H&S Plan – supplementation elements.

Lunch <12:15am>

Reconvene <12:45am>

### **Land Grant Opportunity – Update from USFWS**

LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) provided a summary to the ACC of a potential land acquisition opportunity. This discussion is confidential and proprietary and not for public viewing.

Olson communicated to the ACC what funds are available within the Lewis River Settlement Agreement and what may be appropriated for the land acquisition opportunity that Jones outlined.

### **Aquatic Fund Pre-Proposal Discussion**

Olson noted the objective of the discussion was to reach a consensus from the ACC as to which pre-proposals the ACC should seek “full proposal” from.

Adam Haspiel (USDA Forest Service) was appointed by Karen Thompson (USDA Forest Service) to vote today in her absence.

In discussion of the proposals, the ACC determined that a more detailed vicinity map should be included with each project that is selected for a full proposal. In addition, the ACC agreed that the full proposals should also include the following:

- What are the benefits to the habitat above and below the project?
- Is this required by law for the applicant to complete the work? If not, why?
- Remind the project owner that it is highly likely that the ACC may request a project tour and presentation before the ACC.

Each pre-proposal was discussed then ACC representatives were asked whether to proceed with requesting a full proposal from the project sponsor.

Final proposals are due mid January, 2006.

Olson will mail out individual letters over the next week to the following list of Project sponsors per identified proposals, which were approved by the ACC:

<b>Election of Full Proposals - 12/8/05</b>	<b>Proposal Name</b>
Olympic Resource Mgmt	Little Pine Creek Bridge Removal
USFS	Nutrient Enhancement on Muddy River
USFS	Pine Creek Instream and Floodplain Structures for Bull Trout and Steelhead
USFS	Rush Creek Instream Structures for Bull Trout and Steelhead
USFS	Fish Passage Culvert Replacement – Forest Rd 8322
USFS	Muddy River Tributary Road Decommission 8322700

The East Fork Lewis Instream Structures Steelhead (USFS) and the Assessment and Prescription of aquatic productivity changes in Lewis River reservoirs due to impoundment and operation of the hydroelectric system (Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Board) were not selected for further consideration.

### **New Topics/Issues**

None

### **Agenda items for January 12, 2006**

- Draft Hatchery & Supplementation Plan Discussion
- Definition of Ocean Recruits
- Ocean Recruit Values – Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
<http://www.psmfc.org/>

### **Next Scheduled Meetings**

Thursday, January 12, 2006  
Merwin Hydro Facility  
9:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

February 9, 2006  
Merwin Hydro Facility  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm**

### **Handouts**

- Final Agenda
- Draft Meeting Notes 11/10/05
- Draft Hatchery & Supplementation Plan
- CY2005 Aquatic Fund Pre-Proposal Comments – 12/2/05
- Election of Aquatic Fund 2005 Pre-Proposals for further consideration – Input from ACC Representatives
- American Fisheries Society, May 2000, Vol. 25, No. 5, *Cultural Oligotrophication Causes & Consequences for Fisheries Resources*