

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
June 11, 2009
Conference Call**

ACC Participants Present (11)

Michelle Day, NMFS
Pat Frazier, WDFW
Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service
LouEllyn Jones, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Eric Kinne, WDFW
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy
Kathryn Miller, Trout Unlimited
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
Neil Turner, WDFW
Richard Turner, NMFS
Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Calendar:

July 9, 2009	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
August 13, 2009	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from June 11, 2009 Meeting:	Status:
Lesko/McCune: Email current version of the draft H&S Plan to the ACC.	Complete – 6/17/09
Wills: Search the Washington State University database for an article on the use of electro-anesthesia on Chinook salmon and email the entire article to the ACC.	Complete – 6/16/09
Rich Turner: Provide the link to the NW Fish Culture Conference abstract on electro-anesthesia to the ACC.	Complete – 6/11/09

Assignments from May 14, 2009 Meeting:	Status:
Lesko: Create an H&S Plan review schedule for the ACC in order to stay on task for submittal to the Services by October 1, 2009.	Complete – 6/8/09
Chan/Jones: Provide the ACC a map which identifies current critical habitat and proposed critical habitat.	Complete – 5/22/09
PacifiCorp will submit the Yale Spillway Modifications document to the Services in hard copy and to the ACC via email for an additional 30-day review and comment period.	Complete – 5/15/09

Assignments from April 9, 2009 Meeting:	Status:
ACC: Further investigate WDFW carcass survey methods established in 1978 and determine “next step” regarding modifications needed, if any, to the 1978 methods.	Pending – Per Pat Frazier could take 1 – 2 months to put together

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Shrier reviewed the agenda for the day and requested any changes/additions. No additions to the agenda were requested.

Shrier requested comments and/or changes to the ACC Draft 5/14/09 meeting notes. No changes were requested.

The meeting notes were approved with the changes referenced above at 9:15am.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Update

Shrier informed the ACC attendees that the Lewis River Aquatics Fund – Administrative Procedures document and the 2009 Aquatics Fund Annual Report were approved by the FERC.

Hatchery and Supplementation Plan (H & S Plan) Update

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp Energy) informed the ACC attendees that the next H&S Plan Subgroup meeting will take place on June 16, 2009 to talk about Spring Chinook and to debrief on the Wild Winter Steelhead collection program. The agenda for this meeting was distributed on June 8, 2009. Lesko also provided via email an H&S Plan review schedule ([Attachment A](#)). According to the H&S Schedule a draft plan for agency 30-day review needs to be completed by the end of July 2009, and the final to the FERC on or before December 28, 2009.

Pat Frazier (WDFW) expressed that a number of unresolved issues need to be worked out. Lesko responded that further discussion will take place at the upcoming Subgroup meeting next Tuesday and all comments/responses received will be addressed in Appendix E of the H&S Plan. In addition, the Subgroup will also address Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) question regarding collection of brood stock earlier or later in the year.

General discussion took place regarding which version of the H&S Plan is being used for edits, the April 2006 version submitted to the ACC? Erik Kinne (WDFW) will send the most recent version to Lesko at which time in response to Kate Miller's (Trout Unlimited), PacifiCorp will email the current version to the ACC.

Swift Bypass Projects

Lesko informed the ACC that work on the Upper Release will begin next week. After September 7, 2009 activity will begin on the Constructed Channel. All work will be completed by the week of October, 12, 2009.

Lewis River Hatchery – Pond 15

Lesko informed the ACC that the intake pipe was thicker than expected and in good shape but there is a curve in the pipe which does not allow full access with a camera. This particular section does not necessarily have the same conditions as the rest of the 10000 feet. This activity needs a confined space permit so the new inspection schedule is April/May 2010 when this project can be completed during the Pond 13/14 rebuild.

Eagle Cliff Trail

Shrier reviewed the background of the Settlement Agreement requirement (SA 11.2.1.2) specific to PacifiCorp conducting a detailed trail routing study in the first year of the Lewis River license.

LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) expressed that a recent study reports that a cantilevered trail appears to be a better option. There is an increased risk of poaching of bull trout if the trail goes through the proposed area. Another option reviewed was re-routing the trail through private land, which is not feasible. Jones said there is a concern that there is a threat to bull trout.

Shrier informed the ACC that some issues that were encountered have been captured in the feasibility study. Shrier will check with David Moore (PacifiCorp Energy) about the other parts of the trail. Shrier communicated that a similar problem will present itself when anadromous salmon and steelhead are introduced.

Jones will report back at the next ACC meeting after the tour today.

Pat Frazier (WDFW) inquired if we are still in the trail routing study phase. Shrier responded that this phase is complete.

Yale Spillway Modification Discussion

Michelle Day (NMFS) reiterated original concerns regarding the notched channel in the spillway providing safer passage. Shrier expressed that Bryan Nordlund (NMFS) agrees with Day.

Proposal on the table is to provide a block net that will protect fish from entrainment in the spillway in spills less than 6,000 cfs (the average spill volume for Yale). Above 6,000 cfs, the net would sink and allow flow to go over the top and down the spillway. In that case fish would pass through and down the spillway. Shrier believes that at higher flows the rock outcrop at the base of the spillway is covered by flow and less of a threat to fish. This belief stems from the two documented adult bull trout that have passed over the spillway on two occasions. Day suggested that PacifiCorp should do both the net and the notched spillway.

Discussion took place regarding the size of the channel but Shrier does not agree that there is a need for both and does not believe this would provide any more benefit to fish protection. Plus there is still a concern that the notched spillway would create a Total

Dissolved Gas (TDG) issue for PacifiCorp that does not currently exist during spill events.

Day and Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) mentioned that the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) is worried about TDG. Day communicated that National Marine Fisheries Services and DOE are in disagreement.

Day expressed that she believed that there was not a deep plunge at the end of the spillway and that TDG would not likely be a problem.

Shrier is concerned that notching the spillway could create a bigger issue.

Jones asked if we can pin down whether there will be increased TDG at the slotted notched spillway. Day looked at Priest Rapids and TDG is minimal at high flows. Shrier asked if it is below the State standard of 110 percent because there is a standing exemption for Mainstem Columbia for TDG less than 120 percent.

Day also expressed that with nets we need a good operating and maintenance plan, which would be required for NMFS approval.

Shrier indicated that comments are due on or before June 17, 2009 so another meeting should be scheduled. Shrier will set up a call for next week (Monday 6/15/09) from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Erik Lesko and LouEllyn Jones departed

Sorting Facility Review and Discussion

Shrier informed the ACC that he sent the sorting facility pre-sort pond size analysis to Kinne that assumes 80 percent of the largest return on record (100,000 coho) return to the Merwin trap. Kinne has not had a chance to comment on the plan. Day indicated that she and Nordlund also have comments so Kinne will talk with both Day and Nordlund and the ACC will discuss at the next ACC meeting.

Adam Haspiel departed

Wild vs. Hatchery Spawning Success related to Electro-anesthesia (EA) Discussion

Shrier communicated to the ACC attendees that Nordlund raised a concern during an engineering subgroup meeting about the unknown effects of EA on wild fish spawning success. Shrier has begun a search but has not had enough time to research the issue. Wills will search the Washington State University database for an article on the use of electro-anesthesia on Chinook salmon and email the entire article to the ACC.

Day talked about how electro-anesthesia affects spawning success and spoke about the Cowlitz program. There they have had considerable problem with injury but have not investigated spawning success. She expressed that we want to be very careful with the use of EA.

Shrier said that the problems Cowlitz Hatchery were having were related to setting for current and duration that came from Smith-Root that proved to be injurious. They have revamped the settings and the system is working without causing injury. Rich Turner (NMFS) will provide the link to the NW Fish Culture Conference abstract on electro-anesthesia.

Kinne asked if there is any opportunity to conduct a small experiment on the Lewis River.

What are alternatives? Kinne replied that it was limited to CO₂ or MS-222 – there was not a good choice. Carbon dioxide causes a lot of thrashing and injury and MS-222 is not allowed for harvestable fish or the fish need to be held 48 hours before release.

The ACC agreed to add this topic on the July ACC agenda after reviewing any documents Wills locates.

Release Point for Adults at Swift Discussion

Discussion took place regarding what to do with adult fish that are collected and transported from the Merwin trap or drop back into the Swift downstream collector and where to release them. The primary release area is the Swift boat ramp at the head end of the reservoir but this site would not work if the reservoir is more than 28 feet down in elevation. Two other areas are under review:

- 1) A chute at Swift Dam. This would require multiple chutes for multiple reservoir levels. Could have fallback issue at the dam, and
- 2) A release flume on the bridge at Eagle Cliff

An acclimation site visit occurred last week and the bridge chute idea was discussed with the Forest Service at that time. Kinne asked if the boat ramp at the lower end of the reservoir is still an option. The Lewis River Settlement Agreement 11.2.1.8 indicates that this could be constructed by a third party and could serve as another alternative location.

This topic is still in discussion with the engineering subgroup. The Next Subgroup meeting is July 1, 2009 at the Merwin Hydro Control Center at 9:00am.

Acclimation Ponds

Shrier informed the ACC that PacifiCorp and its consultants, Yakama Nation biologists, WDFW and USFS visited the three sites last week. The Yakama Nation brought some of their staff with experience on acclimation ponds.

Crab Creek has a difficult issue with getting water to the pond. The water temperature and flow will be monitored to assess feasibility of the site.

Muddy River has lots of potential. Discussion will take place about how to contain fish in a more confined area. The site could use the mainstem Muddy River for water.

Clear Creek has a side channel that could be used. This option could also use the mainstem Clear Creek for water.

Eagle Cliff is considered an alternative site and also has a side channel but it is subject to high flows.

Study Updates

Shrier provided the following study updates:

Water Quality Management Plan – Currently still under Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) review. DOE is developing a comment letter.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (ACC Review Draft) – Expect to release a review draft to the ACC next week for a 90-day review and comment period. PacifiCorp will respond to comments. Any unresolved issues will be discussed at ACC meetings for the next year. The final plan is due to the ACC and FERC in June 2010.

Baseline Monitoring Plan – Met in the field last week, Cougar Creek was sampled by the subgroup. They collected cutthroat, bull trout and sculpins. They also collected habitat measurements, and benthic insects. Samples are frozen; need to be processed at lab. Need help (\$\$) to process; please let PacifiCorp know of any Grant opportunities. Shrier will talk to Jones at USFWS. The remaining index creeks and reservoir sampling will occur next week.

Release Ponds - PacifiCorp will provide a preliminary plan of the release pond to FERC by the end of June as required in the licenses. A more formal plan will develop this Summer and Fall with completion by December.

Public Comment

None

New Topics

Agenda items for July 9, 2009

- Review June 11, 2009 Meeting Notes
- Update from H&S Plan Subgroup
- Wild vs. Hatchery Spawning Success related to Electro-anesthesia (EA) Discussion
- Adult release site alternatives
- Yale Spillway modification
- Study/Work Product Updates

Next Scheduled Meetings

July 9, 2009	August 13, 2009
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA

9:00am – 3:00pm	9:00am – 3:00pm
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Meeting Adjourned at 11: 20 a.m.

Handouts

- Final Agenda
- Draft ACC Meeting Notes 5/14/09
- [Attachment A](#) - Hatchery and Supplementation Plan Review Schedule, dated June 8, 2009.

ID	📅	Task Name	Start	Finish	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1	📅	Revise winter steelhead portion of the H&S Plan	Mon 6/8/09	Tue 6/30/09								
2	📅	Revise spring chinook portion of the H&S Plan	Wed 6/17/09	Thu 7/30/09								
3	📅	Revise coho portion of the H&S Plan	Mon 7/20/09	Thu 8/6/09								
4	📅	Submit Revised Plan to the ACC	Fri 8/7/09	Fri 8/7/09								
5	📅	ACC Review of revised H&S Plan	Mon 8/10/09	Fri 9/11/09								
6	📅	Incorporate ACC comments into H&S Plan	Mon 9/14/09	Wed 9/30/09								
7	📅	Submit Revised Plan to the Services	Thu 10/1/09	Thu 10/1/09								
8	📅	Services review of revised H&S Plan	Fri 10/2/09	Wed 12/2/09								
9	📅	Incorporate services revisions and finalize plan	Thu 12/3/09	Fri 12/25/09								
10	📅	Submit final plan to the FERC	Mon 12/28/09	Mon 12/28/09								12/28

Project: 06082009 LR - HSPlan Schec
Date: Thu 7/9/09

Task		Milestone		External Tasks	
Split		Summary		External Milestone	
Progress		Project Summary		Deadline	