

Lewis River Fish Passage Subcommittee Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday March 16, 2022

3:00 to 5:00 pm

Teams

Document
Location

Introductions

Review agenda and February meeting notes

Teams

Review status of action Items:

- Coordinate with external and internal experts
- Engineer Checklist for fish passage
- Existing information – Other fish passage facilities and historical Lewis River fish passage documents
- Anticipated studies
- Other

Formulate request for information from Utilities

Updates

- updates from others

Next meeting – April 20th

- agenda topics
-

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC)
Fish Passage Subcommittee
March 16, 2022
MS Teams Meeting**

Attendees:

Steve West – LCFRB
Steve Manlow – LCFRB
Peggy Miller – WDFW
Bryce Glaser – WDFW
Josua Holowatz – WDFW
Bridget Moran – American Rivers
Eli Asher – Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Bill Sharp – Yakama Nation
Jeffrey Garnett – USFWS
Logan Negherbon - NMFS
Todd Olson – PacifiCorp
Amanda Froberg – Cowlitz PUD
Aaron Roberts – WDFW

Todd offered to walk through the Utilities’ proposed plan to implement fish passage at Merwin and Yale. He suggested that the Utilities’ proposed approach would include a Yale downstream similar to the Swift floating surface collector (FSC), while Merwin downstream would be a bypass facility that would allow fish to volitionally leave Merwin Reservoir. He provided the Utilities’ suggested timelines for completion, which included 2026 completion for Yale downstream collector, Yale/Swift and Merwin/Yale upstream trap, and 2028 completion for the Merwin downstream facility. He noted that Merwin timing was complicated by an unrelated infrastructure project. He also suggested that the Utilities could increase kokanee production for Merwin to offset outmigration loss with the Utilities’ preferred downstream bypass facility.

Todd reported that the Utilities’ teams will be developing next steps, studies and designs needed, coordination with ACC, and moving forward to Services approval, FERC approval, permitting, and construction. He solicited input on timing and general feedback on the targets for fish distribution. He suggested that early studies could begin shortly, with the team focusing on developing study designs. Bryce noted that this is the appropriate forum for conversations around passage in addition to coordination with the ACC.

Steve Manlow noted that a five-year delay in implementing fish passage carried inherent impacts to the Lewis River populations Eli concurred, suggesting that Todd’s next opportunity to brief the ACC would be an appropriate venue for discussing additional mitigation. Bryce suggested that any conversation about additional mitigation should be at the ACC, with this group focused closely on facilitating passage implementation. Bill Sharp mentioned the upcoming fish passage

conference with sessions addressing high-head dam passage and suggested that information provided in the conference could be helpful in developing designs for Lewis River facilities.

Bryce outlined the current agenda items, noting that the release of the proposed outline for fish passage provided by the Utilities fundamentally changed the need for some of the agenda items. Todd explained that the Utilities were currently working on assembling their engineering and design team and would provide contacts as they become available.

Eli reported that the Tribe had downloaded documents from the PacifiCorp website and was in the process of sifting through them.

Bryce noted that 2022 was likely to have a robust coho run, and that could provide an opportunity to implement early habitat preparation. Todd recalled that early studies informing the design of the Swift FSC included tagging juvenile fish to identify preferred travel corridors and measuring and modeling flows in the forebay. He also agreed that habitat preparation fish in fall 2022 may be an opportunity.

Responding to a question from Peggy, Todd confirmed that studies would be required for design of passage facilities at Yale. Logan confirmed that early studies to characterize fish behavior are important, rather than relying on assumptions. He also identified water quality (temp, thermocline) as an important data need for project design. Bryce suggested that developing lists of data and studies needed would be a suitable early activity. Peggy suggested that a more detailed, critical-path schedule for passage implementation would be helpful in planning involvement; Todd suggested that this schedule would be developed shortly with the design team(s).

Bryce noted that the proposed outline did not provide detail on what the Merwin bypass system would constitute, specifically noting monitoring and management may require handling of fish to determine efficiency or future marking needs.

Bryce suggested that alignment on long-term management would be important to determine eventual capacity and design features for each facility; Todd agreed that this conversation would need to be prioritized.

Eli and Bryce offered to keep their respective roles in hosting, facilitating, and notetaking for the subcommittee while the Utilities ramp up capacity.

Documents added to CIT Teams>Files>ACC Passage Subcommittee>General>Fish Passage Literature

PACIFICORP – Swift Floating Surface Collector and Downstream Passage Design. Swift FSC Design Criteria and Evaluation / Response Adjustments and Modifications. January 31, 2007.
(20070131_Swift_FSC_Design_Criteria_and_Evaluation_Response_Adjustments_and_Modifications_1_31_07[1].pdf)

Kock TJ, Ferguson JW, Keefer ML, Schreck CB (2020) Review of trap-and-haul for managing Pacific salmonids (*Oncorhynchus spp.*) in impounded river systems. Rev Fish Biol Fisheries.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11160-020-09627-7> (Kock2021_Article_ReviewOfTrap-and-haulForManagi.pdf)

Looking for: Kock TJ, Verretto NE, Ackerman NK, Perry RW, Beeman JW, Garelo MD, Fielding SD (2019a) Assessment of operational and structural factors influencing performance of fish collectors in forebays of high-head dams. Trans Am Fish Soc 148:464–479.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/tafs.10146>