

**FINAL Meeting Notes  
Lewis River License Implementation  
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting  
October 11, 2012  
Merwin Hydro Control Center**

**ACC Participants Present (12)**

Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW (via conference)  
 Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe (via conference)  
 Pat Frazier, WDFW  
 Adam Haspiel, US Forest Service  
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Energy  
 LouEllyn Jones, USFWS  
 Bob Rose, Yakama Nation (via conference)  
 Jim Malinowski, Fish First (via conference)

**Calendar:**

November 8, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
December 13, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

<b>Assignments from September 13, 2012 meeting</b>	
Haspiel: Check on the Acclimation Pond temporary tanks, confirm tank removal date is May 31 <sup>st</sup> and check on the NEPA document and report back to Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp.	<b>Confirmed tank removal date is between 4/15 to 5/31. Wild &amp; Scenic is not going to be an issue.</b>
Shrier: Provide a picture of the Acclimation Pond paddle pump and send to Adam Haspiel at US Forest Service.	<b>Pumps idea tabled; will not pass Wild &amp; Scenic requirements</b>
Shrier/Lesko: Email NMFS re concerns with Pond 15 as temporary release site and use release into Lewis River at Pekins Ferry from January 2013 to August 2013.	<b>Conditionally complete as of 11/8/12; OK with NMFS but not in written form</b>
Shrier/McCune: Email Dr. Robert Al-Chokhachy/Univ. of Washington Scope of Work to the ACC.	<b>Complete – 10/11/12</b>

<b>Assignments from September 13, 2012 meeting</b>	
Wills/Rose: Schedule Acclimation Pond Subgroup meeting and report back to the ACC on or before the ACC meeting on October 11, 2012.	<b>Met on 9/25/12; meeting notes attached</b>
Kinne: H&S Supplementation Program – Determine location and installation method for screwtrap placement in the lower river.	<b>Pending as of 11/8/12</b>
Kinne: H&S Supplementation Program – Set up meeting in the next week or two to define roles, responsibilities and logistics of coho surveys along with fall Chinook carcass counts and surveys.	<b>Complete</b>

<b>Assignments from January 12, 2012 meeting</b>	
Coordinate a summer tour of the Swift Downstream Collector Construction for the Cowlitz tribal council. (One month delay was recommended. Shannon Wills to confirm with Tribe leadership). <i>June 2012: Frank Shrier added that it might be easier, and better for access, to wait until the trestle has been floated down.</i>	<b>Pending as of 11/8/12– Shrier will update Wills on the best timing for the tour.</b>

<b>Assignments from March 8, 2012 meeting</b>	
Murdock - indicated that she will email literature to Shrier regarding Yakama Nation acclimation reports. <i>September 2012: Shrier is still awaiting information.</i>	<b>Pending as of 10/11/12</b>
Kinne - will get some information for the ACC on the White River acclimation and any other information his agency might have.	<b>As of 11/8/12 cannot find the information needed, per Kinne.</b>

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

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order @ 9:10 a.m. Shrier requested all attendees identify themselves for the benefit of all attendees on the conference call. The ACC reviewed the agenda and no new topics were added. The pending assignments were reviewed and updated.

The September 13, 2012 meeting notes were reviewed and approved at 9:15am.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will finalize the September 13, 2012 meeting notes for posting to the Lewis River website.

### **Acclimation Pond Subgroup Update -**

Shrier provided a cursory review of the Acclimation Pond Subgroup September 25, 2012 Meeting Notes ([Attachment A](#)) and expressed that we are stalled on Crab Creek and have no alternative solution at this time. Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) expressed that she is ok with direct release for now but doesn't want a mainstem site to remain off the table. Shrier said that direct release is going to happen this year as an interim measure at the Crab Creek area. Next spring will be direct release for the Muddy River and Clear Creek areas.

Adam Haspiel (US Forest Service) said that he is out of good ideas. He asked about Little Creek, although a helicopter is needed to get the fish in. Jeremiah Doyle (PacifiCorp Energy) pointed out that access to the site is too difficult. Shrier concurred and also mentioned that access is also needed for managing the fish for six weeks.

Bob Rose (Yakama Nation) addressed the group with a question about where do we draw the line as to what is too extensive. He would like the project to move ahead sooner than later.

Pat Frazier (WDFW) said that WDFW is not ready to give up on the site in the upper end of the main stem Lewis. There should be a way to figure it out. Frazier further stated that it is best for re-introduction to spread the fish throughout the lower and upper main stem. Frazier said he will discuss this further with Eric Kinne (WDFW) and respond back to the ACC ([Attachment B](#)).

The ACC revisited the pump discussion, although Shrier pointed out that if the pump is blown out he doesn't want to lose the fish.

Peggy Miller (WDFW) asked for clarification about the previous in-water acclimation plan at Crab Creek compared to the above ground tanks located at the bridge. Shrier replied that with the original in-water work plan the Forest Service was concerned about the stream aesthetics and potential impacts to the riparian to go in every year to repair the pond sides. In the previous plan the Forest Service did not want us to take more than ½ the flow from Crab Creek so this idea was abandoned. Note: Shrier indicated the above ground tanks were the original design but moved to in-water ponds because of limited flow.

Haspiel asked if we could get the fish up there earlier to the Crab Creek Alternate site to perhaps remove the need for a pump. Haspiel will check on the temporary tanks, confirm tank removal date is May 31<sup>st</sup> and check on including Crab Creek in the current NEPA process and report back to Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp.

Shrier said that if we reach the point of running out of water (getting to 50%), he would prefer to release the fish even if its early rather than go to the pump idea. We are shooting for a 6-week acclimation period but we could be constrained by snow and the Forest Service tank removal date of May 31<sup>st</sup>. Shrier further stated that a completion date of 2013 is possible but the NEPA needs to be complete first.

Rose expressed concern that the fish wouldn't home very well if acclimated in Crab Creek water. He also asked the height needed to place the pump for water. Shrier said that the paddle pump would need to lift water 20' from the mainstem into the pond for the entire 6-week time to affect better results for acclimation. Shrier will get a picture of the paddle pump to Haspiel after checking with McMillan.

**The ACC agreed to acclimate approximately 15,000 Chinook at the Crab Creek alternate site. The ACC further agrees with adaptive management and that adjustment to these numbers will be made accordingly, as agreed. The balance of the 85,000 fish will be split between the Muddy River and Clear Creek acclimation sites.**

Shrier informed the ACC attendees that mid April to May 31, is the plan for the 6-week acclimation. Muddy River and Clear Creek are not as constrained at the Crab Creek site. Shrier informed the ACC that it needs to consult with USFWS if they decide to use the paddle pump.

### **PIT-tag Discussion**

Shrier reminded the ACC that the plan, according to the ACC at present is to PIT-tag 10% of the direct release fish, however, the H&S subgroup decided to not tag the acclimation fish this year. What are the ACC concerns about tagging or not tagging and what information can be gained by doing so? Shrier doesn't see the benefit of PIT-tagging direct release fish.

Frazier commented that he struggles to see the benefit and what data it will bring that is significant for the future.

Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) expressed that PIT-tagging now is a good idea; the more data the better.

Miller asked if PIT-tagging for season one of direct release fish is enough to compare with acclimation pond fish.

Frazier expressed that he doesn't see what data this would bring to us that makes us need to do it. Shrier indicated that the information will add to the data set but it's not pertinent to the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan. Shrier further stated that we are using the screwtrap fish now to give us the data. We already plan to PIT-tag 956 per species at the screw trap to evaluate the Swift FSC.

Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp) said that direct release is an anomaly and will not contribute useful information to the reintroduction program.

**The ACC agreed to put off the 10% PIT-tag of direct release fish until the acclimation ponds are in place in Spring 2013. The M&E Plan requires 10% PIT-tag of fish at each acclimation site.** *Wills stated that while she prefers 10% PIT-tag of direct release fish now, but understands the concerns of the ACC and will not stand in the way.*

### **Concerns with Pond 15 as Temporary Release Site**

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that he and Kinne talked about using Pond 15 as a temporary release site beginning December 26, 2012. The Woodland release site will not be ready for use until August 2013. Lesko expressed concerns about how we release the fish from Pond 15 without harming them (a release apparatus needs to be created that does not harm smolts). There is also concern about potential for disease from reuse water and leakage through the pond wall. There is also concern about bird predation and the ability of crews to observe mortalities. He asked what the ACC thinks about these concerns. There is also concern about smolts released from Pond 15 that they may migrate back up the Denil ladder and back into Pond 15 which then makes it very difficult to recapture them.

To eliminate these concerns Lesko asked the ACC what they think about direct releasing into the Lewis River at Pekins Ferry for 8 months until the release ponds are complete in Woodland. We would not get the mortality data (no 24 hour hold) as part of the M&E plan but we are not talking about a lot of fish this first year and it's only temporary. Direct mortality would be evaluated upon release of smolts into the river.

Shrier indicated that an evaluation component we will miss is the downstream survival. We would not have good data for the first year. Lesko expressed that because these smolts are so

critical to our reintroduction efforts we should consider what is best for the smolts and their survival. He expressed concerns that Pond 15 has negative consequences to this effort.

The ACC acknowledged that it will need input from NMFS on this matter.

Shrier clarified that the temporary release site at Pekins Ferry is for an 8-month period from December 26, 2012 to August 2013. The Woodland release site is planned for completion in August 2013.

**The ACC agrees that direct release to Pekins Ferry is acceptable until the Woodland release ponds are complete in 2013.** *Frazier said he will discuss this further with Eric Kinne (WDFW) and respond back to the ACC ([Attachment B](#)).*

<Break 10:30am>

<Reconvene 10:40am>

## Study Updates

### Hatchery & Supplementation Program

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC attendees that the issue of where to site a screw trap in the lower river remains unresolved. PacifiCorp is looking for assistance and expertise from WDFW for this. Permitting for Eulachon is ongoing for the placement of this trap as well as with other projects in the basin. A draft HS AOP should be sent out in the next couple of weeks for the Subgroup to review. Some changes include:

- what we do with captured program fish (e.g. river netting)
- Genetic sampling
- Screw trap monitoring
- Genetic Mark-recapture protocols

As of October 10, 2012 less than 200 coho have been transported upstream. All coho are now being directed to Speelyai Hatchery for broodstock.

### *Hatchery Upgrades -*

#### **Merwin Rearing Ponds**

Work is in progress and scheduled for completion later this month.

#### **Pond 15 at Lewis River Hatchery**

We have requested that several items be repaired to the Pond 15 sorting facility and holding ponds. Namely, installation of floor drains and repairs to the high pressure water lines that froze during last winter need repaired and installation of drainage valves. This work has been bid and PacifiCorp is currently in the process of procuring these changes with a couple of contractors.

### **Hatchery projects expected to be completed in 2013**

- Lewis River Hatchery – Modifications and structural support for the downstream intake
- Merwin Hatchery – Upgrades to the PLC, metering and alarming at the ozone facility
- Speelyai Hatchery – Modifications to the intake structure
- Speelyai Hatchery – Conversion of Pond 14 to raceways

### **Woodland Release Ponds**

PacifiCorp needs to start in-water work by June 1, 2013. Expected completion is August 2013.

**M&E Plan Implementation**

Doyle informed the ACC attendees that bull trout monitoring for 2012 is nearing completion. 89 bull trout were captured and tagged this past spring/summer as part of the annual mark/recapture Swift migration estimate and the recapture snorkel portion of these surveys ended last week. Collection and haul programs from within the Swift Bypass Reach, Swift Power Canal, and Yale tailrace ended in August with 8 bull trout captured and transported to Swift Reservoir. Currently, weekly redd surveys are being conducted in Cougar Creek and tributary's to Pine Creek and 4 fixed PIT tag antenna's are in streams and collecting data until the middle of November.

**Merwin Upstream Construction Status**

On track to be up and running (substantially complete) by December 26, 2013. Fully operational by April 2014.

**Swift Downstream Collector Construction Status**

On schedule and expected to be operational by December 26 2012.

**Future Fish Passage Facilities New Information - Status**

Contractor is in place. Dr. Robert Al-Chokhachy, Research Fisheries Biologist with US Geological Survey and Dr. Dave Beauchamp, University of Washington, have been selected. Dr. Robert Al-Chokhachy will be presenting to the ACC at the next meeting on November 8, 2012. Shrier will email the scope of work to the ACC for its review.

**Yale Spillway Barrier Net**

Installation expected for later this Fall. A permit is needed before construction can begin.

**Aquatic Fund Pre-proposal Review**

Shrier informed the ACC attendees that PacifiCorp received six (6) pre-proposals. Two were received from the Lower Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group and four from the US Forest Service. Shrier provided a cursory review of each proposal and McCune will follow up with a link to the Lewis River website so the ACC can begin their review now. The Utilities are currently reviewing and commenting on the pre-proposals and will submit to the ACC for its review in early November 2012.

The review, comment, selection and approval process is as follows:

Table 4.1. Funding Process Timeline

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Milestone Date</b>
Submit Request For Pre-Proposal Forms	Early September
Pre-Proposal Forms due	Early October
Pre-Proposal Listing and Evaluation Report Submitted to ACC	Early November
Pre-Proposal Report Comments due from ACC	Late November
Finalize List of Selected Projects for Additional Consideration	Early December
Submit Request For Proposals to Selected Applicants	Early December
Proposals due	Mid January

Proposal Evaluation Report Submitted to ACC (30 day review)	Mid February
Proposal Report Comments due	Mid March
Finalize List of Selected Projects and Notify Project Funding Recipients	Early April
Contract Procurement	April
Submit Report To FERC	May
Funding Available for Invoicing	April

**Other**

*Merwin Trap* – Shrier informed the ACC attendees that so few fish are coming into the trap he wants to know if we need to go into the trap every day. Frazier expressed that he has concerns about not going in every day. Wills and Jim Malinowski (Fish First) also communicated that they do not want fish left in the trap and want the fish moved every day. Malinowski expressed concern about stressing the fish.

Lesko said that so few fish are in the trap that they are not stressed, i.e., we had 11 fish today total.

Shrier said that when flows come up we are expecting more fish. The flows could be bumped up this weekend if the expected storm comes in. If increased to about 5,500 cfs workers cannot get in to the trap safely.

**The ACC agreed that the trap is to be fished Monday through Friday, 5 days per week.**

*<11:15 a.m. meeting adjourned >*

**Agenda items for November 8, 2012**

- Review October 11, 2012 Meeting Notes
- Presentation by Dr. Robert Al-Chokhachy, Development of New Information to inform fish passage decisions at Yale and Merwin
- Aquatic Fund Pre-proposal Review
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Update

**Public Comment**

None

**Next Scheduled Meetings**

November 8, 2012	December 13, 2012
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – Noon	9:00 a.m. – Noon

**Meeting Handouts & Attachments**

- Notes from 9/13/12

- Agenda for 10/11/12
- **Attachment A** – Acclimation Pond Subgroup Meeting Notes, dated September 25, 2012
- **Attachment B** – Upper North Fork Acclimation Pond email from WDFW, dated October 12, 2012



**FINAL Meeting Notes  
Lewis River License Implementation  
Acclimation Pond Subgroup Meeting  
September 25, 2012  
Conference Call**

**ACC Participants Present (4)**

Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy  
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy  
Eric Kinne, WDFW  
Bob Rose, Yakama Nation

<b>Assignments from September 25, 2012 meeting</b>	
Shrier: He expressed that a ¾ ton truck would not be adequate for a 250 gallon fish tank but he will ask the engineer at McMillen to see if the road will hold up to a 1 ton truck and report back to the Subgroup.	<b>Complete – 10/1/12</b>
McCune: Email Settlement Agreement section 8.8.1 to Bob Rose.	<b>Completed – 9/25/12</b>

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order @ 2:05 p.m. Shrier identified all attendees participating on the conference call.

Bob Rose (Yakama Nation) expressed to the attendees that this is a box we are in and there doesn't seem to be a way out. Unlimited funds could solve the problem but this is not an option. He further stated that he does not have full knowledge of what the Lewis River Settlement Agreement says on this topic, but there aren't a required number of ponds. However, we can decide to put them in the river but not provide acclimation first.

Rose – is there even a trickle of adults to start with that we can just put them up there?

Eric Kinne (WDFW) indicated that we don't have any adults to put up there. We are counting on juveniles to acclimate up there between the three water sheds.

Shrier said that he has snorkeled it and there are good gravel areas in the mainstem but also a lot of bed rock. The gravel that is there is good habitat. He said that there is a very large pool downstream of the Crab Creek site that is suitable for good cover and rearing.

Bob Rose asked the group how much habitat existed in the mainstem in relation to the tributaries. Half?

Shrier – not ½ habitat in main stem; probably more like 1/3.

Rose said that this meeting was not intended for making a decision but do we want to do something with the adults; monitor them; radio tag them? Perhaps a year or two to gage how passive/aggressive we want to be.

Kinne: Could this be tied in with steelhead radio aerial stuff? Shrier responded that it is possible to track coho during steelhead flights. In addition, there could be some tracking during the coho habitat surveys.

Rose asked about placing fixed antennas after the aerials. Shrier communicated that there are fixed antenna everywhere up there put in place by Mike Hudson of the FWS. Maybe we can talk Mike into leaving them up there.

Rose expressed that he is out of imaginative ideas. Kinne expressed that since we can't use a large truck perhaps the hauling could still be done with a small  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton pickup truck with more trips. Shrier indicated that a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck would not be adequate but he will ask the engineer at McMillen to see if the road will hold up to a 1 ton truck and report back to the Subgroup.

Rose expressed concern about how much fish could tolerate the hauling process on a rough road. Kinne replied that taking precaution in the rough areas of the road is needed but that the fish will do just fine.

Rose – could we just truck Chinook up there for a year or two to augment the natural spawn?

Shrier – yes we could take it one step at a time.

*<2:35 p.m. meeting adjourned >*

## McCune, Kimberly

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**From:** McCune, Kimberly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:46 PM  
**To:** 'Bob Rose'  
**Cc:** Shrier, Frank  
**Subject:** Lewis River Settlement Agreement 8.8.1 - Acclimation sites

For your information -

8.8.1 Above Swift No. 1 Dam. Beginning upon completion of the Swift Downstream Facility, the Licensees shall place juvenile salmonid acclimation sites in areas reasonably accessible to fish hauling trucks and in practical areas in the upper watershed above Swift No. 1 Dam, as determined by the Licensees in Consultation with the Yakama Nation and the ACC. The acclimation sites shall consist of fish containment areas that allow juvenile fish to acclimate in natural or semi-natural waterways and allow necessary pre-release juvenile fish management; such sites will not consist of or include concrete-lined ponds or waterways, but may include other concrete structures necessary for facility functionality and structural integrity during the supplementation program.

## McCune, Kimberly

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**From:** Shrier, Frank  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 9:55 AM  
**To:** Bob Rose; Kinne, Eric B (DFW); Shannon Wills; Haspiel, Adam I -FS; Perez, Diana H -FS; Hu, David -FS  
**Cc:** McCune, Kimberly  
**Subject:** FW: Crab creek alternative site

Hi Folks, I posed the question to Derek at McMillen regarding rebuilding the road to the Crab Creek alternative site for a smaller vehicle and this was his response. Have any of you come up with some other alternative?

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**From:** Higa, Nathan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 8:56 AM  
**To:** Shrier, Frank  
**Subject:** FW: Crab creek alternative site

I tend to agree with Derek, the base rehab costs would still be high.

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**From:** Derek Nelson [<mailto:derek.nelson@mcmillen-llc.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** Higa, Nathan  
**Subject:** RE: Crab creek alternative site

It would reduce the typical section some but not significantly enough to reduce the cost. You may see only a 2" reduction (geotech would need to be completed) in the typical section which will save on material cost only. Placing and compacting will still be a major effort.

## Derek Nelson, PE

McMillen, LLC  
p 208.342.4214 x 302

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**From:** Shrier, Frank  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** Higa, Nathan  
**Subject:** Crab creek alternative site

Nathan, the acclimation sub-group met yesterday and discussed any ideas for the Crab Creek alternative. Hearing nothing new Eric Kinne asked if it would make a difference in road rehab costs if we were to just use a 1-ton hauling truck to place fish at the abandoned road site. Can you check that with Derek?

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 2012.0.2221 / Virus Database: 2441/5302 - Release Date: 10/01/12

## McCune, Kimberly

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**To:** Frazier, Patrick A (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Upper North Fork Acclimation Pond

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**From:** Frazier, Patrick A (DFW) [<mailto:Patrick.Frazier@dfw.wa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 12, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** Shrier, Frank; McCune, Kimberly  
**Cc:** Kinne, Eric B (DFW)  
**Subject:** Upper North Fork Acclimation Pond

Frank and Kim,

I am sending you this email as a follow up to our discussions at the ACC meeting yesterday.

WDFW has come to the following conclusions regarding the acclimation pond in the Upper North Fork Lewis River: In the short term WDFW is supportive of moving forward with establishing the acclimation ponds at the Crab Creek site without any kind of additional pumping system to provide N.F. Lewis water when Crab Creek flows drop to low levels. WDFW does recognize that in some years this may result in early release of fish from the ponds with less than optimal acclimation time. However, WDFW does want to make it clear that adaptive management in the future should consider adding a pumping system to this location if needed to: 1) maintain full acclimation time period, 2) increase production at this site or 3) improve homing of acclimated fish to the upper North Fork Lewis.

With respect to the direct release of the downstream smolts:

WDFW does recognize there are some challenges to using Pond 15 as a holding pond prior to release. WDFW also wants to make it clear that the challenges presented at the ACC meeting could be corrected. That being said WDFW is willing to agree to direct release of downstream smolts for 2013 only.

I hope this comments help provide us a path forward on these two issues. If you have any questions please contact Eric Kinne.

Pat F.