

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects Settlement Agreement
Lewis River Recreation Coordination Committee (LRC)
Meeting Agenda**

Date & Time: **Wednesday, October 21, 2015
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

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

Contacts: **Lore Boles: (360) 225-4412
Jessica Kimmick: (503) 813-6945
Kim McCune: (503) 813-6078**

Time	Discussion Item
9:30 AM	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Preview Agenda
9:40 AM	Completed Implementation Projects and 2015 changes <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Beaver Bay/Cougar Trail➤ Swift Day Use Facilities➤ Yale Bridge non-motorized boat access + planned repairs➤ Recreation reservation system changes info
10:00 AM	Ongoing Implementation Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ IP Road Trail Feasibility Study➤ I&E Program: Eagle Cliff and Marble Creek Trail➤ Yale Lake Day Use Facilities: Saddle Dam Park improvements
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Upcoming Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Maintenance Project: Cedar Creek Boat Launch➤ ADA Fishing Access Feasibility Study➤ Eagle Cliff Park improvements
11:30 AM	Adjourn

Security procedure: Upon arrival at the Merwin Hydro Control Center the gate will be closed and you will be required to use the call-in box on the left side of the gate; please announce who you are and the reason for your visit.

Join by Phone
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Conference ID: 1633594

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Lewis River Recreation Committee (LRC) Meeting
October 21, 2015
Merwin Hydro Control Center**

LRC Participants Present (9)

Mariah Stoll-Smith Reese, Lewis River Community
 Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
 Todd Olson, PacifiCorp
 Jessica Kimmick, PacifiCorp
 Jim Malinowski, Fish First
 Deb Schoenberg, US Forest Service
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Jeremy Kanooth, Clark County Parks
 Bill Bjerke, Clark County Parks

Guest

Al Thomas, Columbian Newspaper (Observer)

Assignments from October 21, 2015 meeting	Status
Kimmick/McCune: Schedule February or March 2016 LRC meeting.	Complete – 2/24/16
Schoenberg: Provide national reservation system information to Jessica Kimmick for PacifiCorp’s consideration.	Complete Schoenberg checked and it is only for Federal parks
Schoenberg: Ask her contacts about retro-fit options for the Yale Bridge stairs and communicate this with Kimmick for PacifiCorp consideration.	

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Jessica Kimmick (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order @ 9:30 a.m. and requested a roundtable introduction of each attendee.

Lewis River Project Updates – LRC Meeting PowerPoint Presentation

http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Energy_Sources/Hydro/Hydro_Licensing/Lewis_River/li/lrc/LRC%20slide%20show%20Oct_2015.pdf

Kimmick reviewed the following projects and provided photos which can be viewed at the link above:

Completed Implementation Projects and 2015 changes

- *Beaver Bay/Cougar Trail*

This trail, which connects Cougar Park and Beaver Bay Park, is 1.7 miles in length and travels through forested areas with views of Yale Reservoir and various ecosystems such as multiple wetlands. This project was completed in September 2015, and while now ready for public use, PacifiCorp anticipates hikers will start using the trail when the parks open spring 2016.

➤ *Swift Day Use Facilities*

The upgrades to Swift Forest Camp Day Use Area are a new picnic shelter for people to enjoy with ADA accessible parking located within proximity to the shelter. ADA accessible parking was also installed at the restroom, with an ADA pathway connecting the two amenities through a forested setting.

➤ *Yale Bridge non-motorized boat access + planned repairs*

The Yale Bridge Non-motorized Boat Access site was also completed since PacifiCorp last met with the LRC in 2014. Opened for public use in March 2015, the project included working with Washington Department of Transportation to establish a turning lane, and the large pull out was graded and rocked to create a delineated parking lot. The stairway was installed using a crane to bring in 3 stairway sections, and it has a concrete weir at the bottom.

Unfortunately the stairs were vandalized less than 3 months after completed. It appears that someone rolled one man boulders, which were used to stabilize an adjacent bank, down the stairs causing the damage. PacifiCorp currently has an active contract to replace all the stairway treads with a heavier weight tread, to place additional large boulders along the parking delineation, and to remove the one man boulders and to re-grade the bank and hand seed it for erosion control. The repairs will be completed by the end of 2015.

Jim Malinowski provided a memorandum for the LRC review and discussion ([Attachment A - Malinowski memorandum - Yale Bridge Canoe and Kayak Launch Site, October 21, 2015](#)) regarding his concerns on ADA accessibility and the ability to launch small water craft at the site.

Mariah Stoll-Smith Reese (Lewis River Community) expressed that she does not recall during the Lewis River Settlement Agreement talks that ADA compliance was a consideration for this site due to its topography.

Deb Schoenberg (US Forest Service) said that the steepness of the slope presents a limitation and does not make it practicable for ADA access.

The LRC attendees discussed the following, but not limited to, current slope (90%) vs the slope needed for ADA compliance (5%), cross slope (2%), public safety priority, retrofit options to include a kayak chute/hoist for more ease of access, and giving consideration for the size of the footprint if any changes are made so as not to adversely impact Wildlife Habitat Management Lands.

Kimmick noted that PacifiCorp is compliant with Clark County building code and the 2010 ADA guidelines and that this site is under the ADA exemption category due to its terrain and rock face slope.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) noted the Settlement Agreement requirement below that guided PacifiCorp's implementation:

11.2.3.7 Yale Bridge (Merwin) Non-Motorized Boating Access. By the sixth anniversary of Issuance of the New License for the Merwin Project, PacifiCorp shall: (1) provide an improved river access site at the Yale Bridge area for small, non-motorized watercraft launching and take-out; (2) install new steps and railings along the hillside slope from the gravel parking area next to the bridge to the reservoir shoreline; and (3) provide appropriate signage. PacifiCorp shall not be responsible for litter control in this area, which will be designated "pack it in/pack it out."

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) noted that no matter the reservoir level there are a variety of concrete pads to make the water accessible and provide for a safe boat launching.

The LRC collectively requested PacifiCorp consider canoe/ kayak retro-fit options (e.g. ways to move watercraft up and down the staircase) so that accessibility is available to a larger percentage of users. PacifiCorp agreed to do so.

Schoenberg will ask her contacts about retro-fit options and communicate this with Kimmick.

The LRC further agreed that they would like to meet again early next year. PacifiCorp suggested February or March 2016, to review any Yale stairs canoe/kayak retro-fit options for further consideration. Participants agreed to that meeting timeframe.

➤ *Recreation reservation system changes info*

This year, PacifiCorp elected to make a change to the campsite reservation system to ensure customer satisfaction and ease of use. Instead of opening the reservation system on March 1st for any campsite and any date throughout the summer, campers can now reserve their favorite site up to 270 days in advance of their arrival date (**Attachment B**). This mimics what state parks in Oregon and Washington are doing and reduces user competition for campsites.

PacifiCorp provided fliers to all its camping customers throughout the 2015 recreation season, sent an informational email to all who made 2015 online reservations, and has posted the information on its website.

Schoenberg communicated that she will get the national reservation system information to Jessica Kimmick for PacifiCorp's consideration.

Ongoing Implementation Projects

➤ *IP Road Trail Feasibility Study*

PacifiCorp has made some progress on this project since the LRC last met. PacifiCorp is currently working with the Washington Department of Natural Resources to identify a preferred trailhead location that is safe for the public and feasible in terms of the landscape. PacifiCorps next steps include selecting the trailhead location and working with the agency to obtain leases and easements for the project.

➤ *Interpretive & Education (I&E) Program: Eagle Cliff and Marble Creek Trail*

I&E signage for the Lewis River acclimation ponds is being fabricated at this time for placement at Eagle Cliff park and at a location of choosing on Forest Service property.

The I&E sign design work is almost complete for the Marble Creek trail at Merwin Park. A trailhead sign and interpretive sign will be installed.

- *Yale Lake Day Use Facilities: Saddle Dam Park improvements*
Saddle Dam feasibility study has been completed, and a site conceptual design has been created. PacifiCorp provided a conceptual design for LRC review and comment. PacifiCorp will now prepare project construction designs.

Upcoming Projects

- *Maintenance Project: Cedar Creek Boat Launch*
Cedar Creek boat launch is in need of some repairs. PacifiCorp is considering next steps in terms of repair or replacement of this heavily used site. PacifiCorp will be working with the land owner, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife throughout the project and is open to LRC input.

- *ADA Fishing Access Feasibility Study*

Project is in the early stages of planning; more detail will be provided at the next LRC meeting.

11.2.14 ADA-Accessible Fishing Sites. Beginning upon the seventh anniversary of Issuance of the first of the New Licenses for its three Projects, PacifiCorp shall conduct a feasibility study to identify the most feasible location for one ADA-accessible bank fishing access site in the following areas: the Lewis River between Merwin Dam and the Island River Access, Swift Reservoir, Yale Lake, and Lake Merwin. By the tenth anniversary of Issuance of the first of the New Licenses for its three Projects, PacifiCorp shall construct an ADA-accessible bank fishing facility at that site, but shall not be required to spend more than \$250,000 for design, permitting, and construction.

- *Eagle Cliff Park improvements*

Early stages of planning; more detail will be provided at the next LRC meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

February/March 2016 (Date & Time TBD)
Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Agenda from 10/21/15
- **Attachment A** – Malinowski memorandum - Yale Bridge Canoe and Kayak Launch Site, October 21, 2015
- **Attachment B** – Press Release: Lewis River campground reservations system is changing, July 2015

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.