

Quick Facts

about PacifiCorp's Lewis River Hydroelectric Project

- PacifiCorp owns and is licensed by the federal government to operate the Merwin, Yale and Swift No. 1 hydroelectric facilities on the Lewis River. The Swift No. 2 facility is owned by Cowlitz PUD but is operated by PacifiCorp as a means of coordinating river operations. Collectively the facilities comprise the Lewis River Hydroelectric Project.
- The Lewis hydroelectric facilities are operated to meet the electrical needs of customers, but are also operated in coordination with the Mid-Columbia hydro projects as a means of stabilizing voltage of the regional power grid and coordinating electricity supplies to the region.
- The Project is an asset of a regulated utility and state utility commissions like the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and the Oregon Public Utility Commission regulate it for the benefit of the company's customers in Washington, Oregon and other states where the company serves consumers.
- PacifiCorp owns 15,789 acres of land associated with the Project and manages these for the benefit of wildlife and recreation.
- The company also operates 14 parks and day-use facilities in the area serving an average of 500,000 people each year. Project reservoirs are open to fishing and boating, subject to state regulations. Camping, picnicking and hiking are major components of the local economy.
- Project facilities are also operated for the benefit of fisheries. Project flows below Merwin dam are held steady at times to maximize production of wild migratory fish. Often the flows below the project are in excess of natural streamflow into the project, and storage water in the reservoirs is used in order to support targeted flows downstream of Merwin for benefit of the fisheries. The company funds the operation of three fish hatcheries by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. PacifiCorp is also implementing a 26 party settlement agreement to further improve production of wild migratory fish above the projects in up to 174 miles of streams.

