

Columbia River System (CRS) Fish Facility Design Review Work Group (FFDRWG)

USACE, Portland District (NWP) and Walla Walla District (NWW)

January 2025 Meeting Notes

January 2, 2025



2025 FFDRWG Meeting files:

<https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/FFDRWG/CY2025/index.html>

1 FFDRWG contact list - ** notify Chuck and Jake of any changes

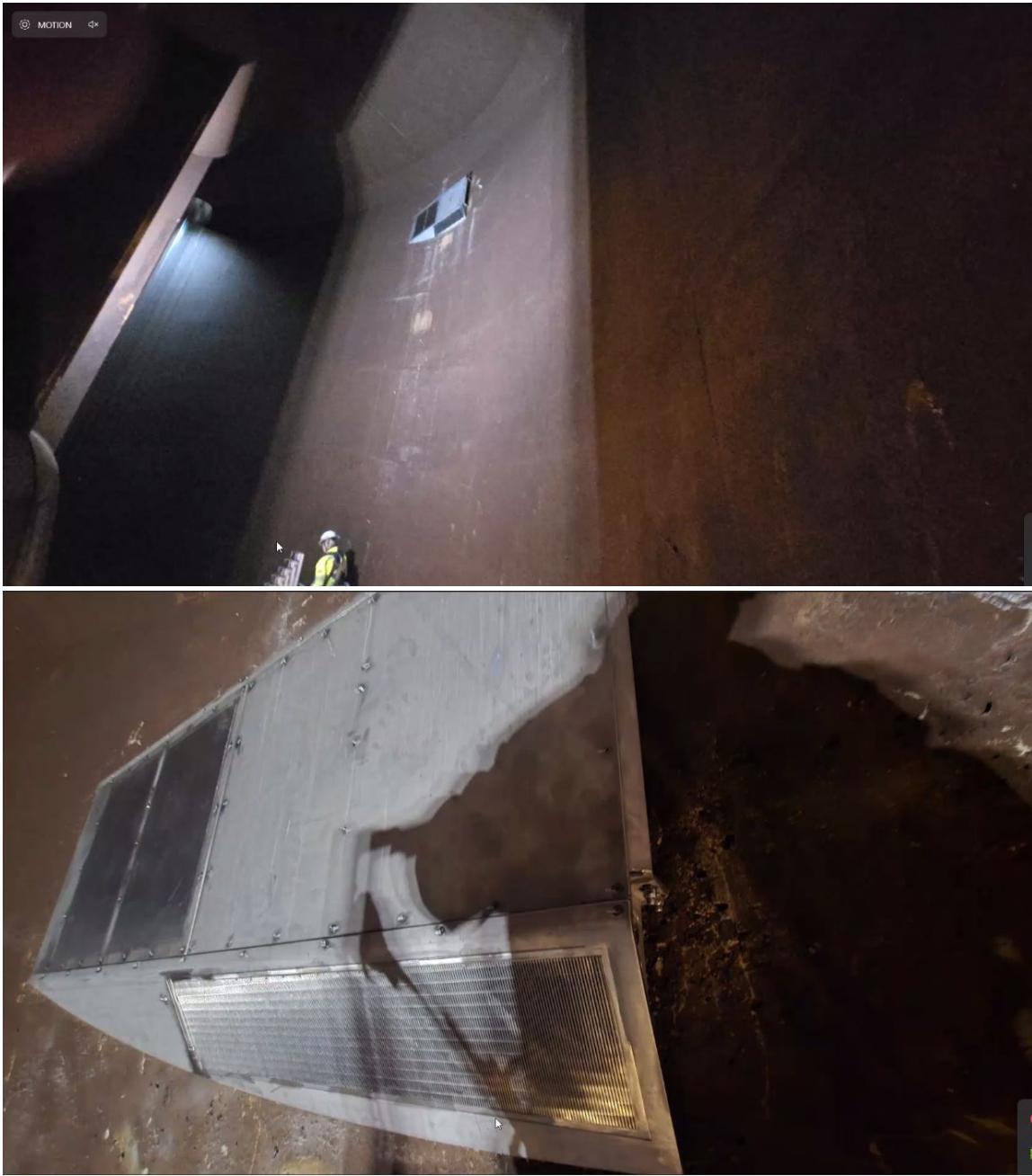
BPA	CRITFC/Tribes			RYAN ASHCRAFT
<i>CHRISTINE PETERSEN</i>	<i>TOM LORZ (CRITFC)</i>	Nicole Tancreto	<i>BECCA CATES (BON)</i>	Steve Sipe
Leah Sullivan	Laurie Porter (CRITFC)	<i>DOUG BAUS</i>	Eric Grosvenor (TDA)	Ricardo Walker
Ben Hausmann	Greg Silver (CRITFC)	Tim Dykstra	Jeff Randall (TDA)	Brad Trumbo
<i>CAROLINA ANDES</i>	Aaron Jackson (CTUIR)	Dan Feil	Aaron Young (TDA)	Liana Aker
Josh Ashline	<i>RALPH LAMPMAN (YN)</i>	Cindy Studebaker	David Miller (JDA)	Michael Erickson
<i>TAMMY MACKEY</i>	<i>KEELY MURDOCH (YN)</i>	<i>LISA WRIGHT</i>	<i>MICHAEL LOTSPICECH (JDA)</i>	Karen Zelch
NOAA	Tod Sween (NPT)	Sean Tackley	Laura Ricketts (JDA)	CENWW-OD
<i>GABRIEL BROOKS</i>	Jay Hesse (NPT)	Ian Chane	Robert Wertheimer (FFU)	Chris Peery
<i>TREVOR CONDER</i>	Lyman Jim (CTWS)	<i>CENWP-PM</i>	Patricia Madson (FFU)	<i>TIFFANY STOECKIG-DIXON</i>
Claire McGrath	Casey Baldwin (CTCR)	Ida Royer	Darren Gallion (FFU)	Denise Griffith
<i>KELSEY SWIECA</i>	Michael Karnosh (CTGR)	Erin Kovalchuk	<i>KYLE TIDWELL (FFU)</i>	<i>ELIZABETH HOLDREN</i>
<i>CHRIS MAGEL</i>	Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR)	Mark Bierman	CENWP-ENC	Ken Fone
Kinsey Frick	Torey Wakeland (CTGR)	<i>NATHAN MCCLAIN</i>	<i>AARON LITZENBERG (HD)</i>	Bobby Johnson
Dana Bethea	NPCC	<i>JAKE MACDONALD</i>	Shari Dunlop (HD)	Deb Snyder
USFWS	Kris Homel	<i>CLAIRE COXEN</i>	Chris Motti (HD)	CENWW-ENC
Dave Swank	FPC	<i>MARIE ADAMS</i>	Steve Schlenker (HD)	<i>JON RENHOLDS</i>
Shelby Fowler	<i>ERIN COOPER</i>	Jon Rerecich	Max Wilson-Fey (HD)	Sean Milligan
Joe Skalicky	Noah Campbell	David Trachtenbarg	Adam White (DE)	Ryan Pestes
States	PSMFC	<i>SCOTT FIELDING</i>	Collin Porter (DS)	Travis Foster
<i>ERICK VAN DYKE (ODFW)</i>	Gordy Axel	*add Courtney Hollins	Dan Penn (DM)	John Lomeland
Ben Clemens (ODFW)	Darren Chase	CENWP-OD	Cole Marfise (DM)	RYAN LAUGHERY
<i>C. MORRILL (WDFW)</i>	Roger Clark	<i>JEANETTE FLEMMER (BON)</i>	Adam Jones (DG)	
<i>JONATHAN EBEL (IDFG)</i>	Mark Leonard	Tucker Gossett (BON)	*add Nicholas Rillstone (DS)	
<i>MARIKA DOBOS (IDFG)</i>	Scott Livingston	Jase Owens (BON)	CENWW-PM	

2 Review Notes from last meeting (emailed by Ryan Ashcraft on 11/13)

<https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/FFDRWG/CY2024/index.html>

3 NWW Updates

- 3.1 NWW MNA Turbine Replacement Design – Jean Desjarlais (PM), Jon Renholds (TL)
- GE is fabricating adjustable components, arriving Spring/Summer. Unit 14 OOS in September for first replacement. ERDC evaluations to fill gaps in operating range. Meeting this Spring to discuss the operating range. Designing fixed blade runner, 3rd iteration. Testing modified draft tube configuration through August. MCN general model visit in February, may have an opportunity to look at the turbine model at the same time. Charlie would like that.
- TL: Oil seal designs checked in light of oil issues at BON? JR: Working it. JF: Will put JR in touch with experts at BON.
- 3.2 NWW IHR Turbine Cooling Water Exclusion - Karen Zelch (PM), Chuck Barnes (Bio)
- Gaps around the edges were found and repaired with epoxy.
- TL: Was it a measurement issue that caused the gaps? CB: It's more due to irregularities in the concrete.
- TC: Good idea to inspect the new hood after 1 year of operation, don't wait 3 years. Concerned the epoxy filler could chip away over time. CB: Agrees, should be able to do it with an ROV with the unit watered up.



3.3 NWW LLA Adult Ladder Turn Pool Gate - Greg Linklater (PM), Chuck Barnes (Bio)

3.3.1 Walleye Passage at Lower Granite Dam – Marika Dobos (IDFG)

- See Dobos_2024_WalleyePassageStudyLGR.pdf
- ACTION: Chuck will take the information presented to the LLA turn pool gate PDT and brainstorm any ways that project could assist IDFG efforts to slow the movement of walleye into the LGR pool without affecting other species. IDFG is confident we'll think of something, NOAA is skeptical. Good luck, Chuck...

3.4 NWW MCN Avian deterrence – Karen Zelch (PM), Ryan Ashcraft (Bio)

- Alternatives workshop was 19-December. FFDRWG review coming soon (next month or so).
- TL: Interested in moving this project along.

3.5 NWW MNA PIT Detection – Karen Zelch (PM), Chuck Barnes (FFDRWG)

- Putting together more detailed descriptions of the alternatives. Review meeting with FFDRWG in the next month or so.

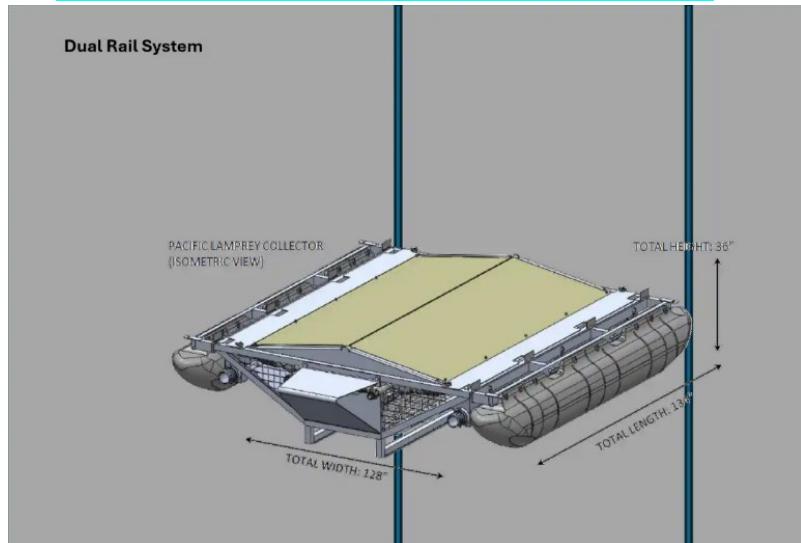
3.6 NWW John Day Dam and Snake River Ladder Cooling – Karen Zelch (PM), Ryan Ashcraft (FFDRWG)

- Site visits on Dec. 10-11. Contractor still getting spun up. FFDRWG review coming soon. Revised version of LGR alternatives matrix.

4 NWP Updates

- 4.1 NWP TDA Backup AWS debris management – Marie Adams (PM), Mehdi Roshani (TL), Jon Rerecich (FFDRWG)
- 50% submittal for the TDA AWS Backup Debris Management project sent for FFDRWG review on 12/23, comments due 1/17.
- 4.2 NWP BON Spillway rock mitigation – Marie Adams (PM), Adam Jones (TL), Scott Fielding (FFDRWG)
- Technical review right now, then on hold awaiting construction funding.
- TL: confirm that this project is on the SCT sheet.
- 4.3 NWP BON1 lamprey passage improvements – Erin Kovalchuk (PM), Adam White (TL), Jake Macdonald (FFDRWG)
- 4.4 **NWP BON2 control section redesign – Erin Kovalchuk (PM), Adam White (TL), Jake Macdonald (FFDRWG)**
- PM unable to attend today. Construction update and further discussion over March operation alternatives will be provided at **next week's FPOM**.
 - 4.4.1 Exit channel PIT detection for post-construction evaluation – Tom Lorz (CRITFC). See **Ref_A_SOW_Washington Shore PIT.pdf**, NMFS proposed scope of work.
- “Wagon wheel” antenna proposed by NMFS is not popular with the Region. Gabriel Brooks (NMFS) will talk with PSMFC next week and will be physically in Tri-Cities the week of February 10th to discuss alternatives to the wagon wheel. Some ideas already thrown around include a fin style antenna in place of the wagon wheel and splitting the bulkhead slot antenna into two halves to eliminate the need for a second antenna altogether. More to come...
- 4.5 NWP TDA lamprey passage improvements – Erin Kovalchuk/Courtney Hollins (PM), Adam White/Nicholas Rillstone (TL), Jake Macdonald (FFDRWG)
- PM unable to attend today. Updates on holding tank capacity upgrade (Grosvenor) and volitional passage design kickoff (Hollins) will be provided at **next week's FPOM**.
- ACTION: Jake will add new members Courtney Hollins (PM) and Nicholas Rillstone (TL) to the FFDRWG.
- 4.6 NWP JDA lamprey passage improvements – Erin Kovalchuk/Courtney Hollins (PM), Adam White/Nicholas Rillstone (TL), Jake Macdonald (FFDRWG)
- PM unable to attend today. Updates on LPS water supply repairs (Lotspeich) and volitional passage design kickoff (Hollins) will be provided at **next week's FPOM**.
- 4.7 NWP BON1 PIT Detection – Mark Bierman (PM), Jeanette Flemmer (FFDRWG)
- Construction update will be provided at **next week's FPOM**.
- 4.8 **NWP prototype floating adult lamprey collector for tribal translocation, aka. “FALCON” (*partner project; not a USACE design) – Ralph Lampman (TL), Jake Macdonald (FFDRWG)**
 - 4.8.1 Trevor Conder (NOAA Fisheries) filed a memo on 5/13/2015 recommending that lamprey openings in FCRPS fish ladders be limited to 1.5 inches or less. See **Memo_Salmon_Interaction_Lamprey_Orifice.docx**.
 - 4.8.2 CRITFC member tribes sent a memo on 11/3/2024 requesting NOAA Fisheries revisit the limit established in 2015 for certain applications that were not being contemplated in 2015. See **Memorandum regarding Pacific Lamprey standard maximum opening size.docx**.
 - 4.8.3 Trevor Conder (NOAA Fisheries) responded via email on 12/11/2024: “I am not convinced there is sufficient evidence in this memo or elsewhere at this point for NOAA to back off the 1.5-inch max opening within the fish ladder. We are willing to test other dimensions outside of the ladder within the BRZ with sufficient monitoring. That would include additional space above 1.5 inches for the millennium falcon, but I don't think anyone wants to exceed 12 parsecs.”
 - 4.8.4 Ralph Lampman representing the CRITFC member tribes, and Trevor Conder representing NOAA Fisheries, have agreed to discuss these two memos in the FFDRWG forum and let the work group help with a resolution and a path forward for the FALCON experiment in 2025.
- NOAA won't move from 1.5 inches within the fishways until a more robust study produces compelling evidence that larger lamprey openings don't delay salmon passage.
- Previous studies were inconsistent with their definitions of ‘interactions’, making them difficult to interpret.
- NOAA is open to experimenting with larger openings outside of the fishways (in the tailrace or forebay) with monitoring for negative interactions.

- The new Washington Shore control section will have 1.5 inch lamprey orifices and full-size salmon orifices, both outfitted with PIT antennas. Our post construction evaluation may give us some insight into the size of opening lamprey prefer.
- Lampman proposed a deployment method for the FALCON at November FFDRWG using a dual rail system and trolleys. This method would position the FALCON with one end against a wall. Last year's experiments suggested this is the best configuration.
- JM: There are two I-beam rails near the Washington Shore North downstream entrance that look similar to the rails in Ralph's sketch. If those rails are in good condition, perhaps CRITFC/Tribes could use them for FALCON? JF: Heard from Ricky that those rails are in poor condition and may not be usable. **ACTION: Jake/Jeanette/Becca will follow up on the condition of the I-beam rails at Washington Shore and determine if they are usable or not.**





5 Upcoming meetings and field trips

5.1 Next regularly scheduled NWW/NWP FFDRWG meeting – Thursday, February 6th @ 09:00

5.2 January FFDRWG Field Trips:

5.2.1 Bonneville Washington Shore Control Section – set a date.

➤ ACTION: Jake will try to coordinate a site visit for Thursday January 30th

5.3 SRWG FY 2026 AFEP Planning Cycle:

5.3.1 FY26 AFEP planning cycle kickoff meeting – Friday 2/14/25. Location: TBD

5.3.2 FY26 AFEP research summary review and development meeting – Thursday 3/6/25. Location: TBD

5.3.3 FY26 AFEP research summary scoring meeting – Friday 5/2/25. Location: TBD

5.3.4 FY26 preliminary proposal review meeting – Thursday 7/3/25. Location: TBD

5.3.5 FY26 AFEP final proposal review meeting – Friday 8/29/25. Location: TBD