

Columbia River System (CRS) Fish Facility Design Review Work Group (FFDRWG) USACE, Portland District (NWP) and Walla Walla District (NWW)

January 2026 Notes

Thursday, January 8th @ 13:00

FFDRWG Files: <https://public.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/FFDRWG/CY2026/>



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

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2 Regional Updates

2.1 What is phase 1a, phase 1, and phase 2? (Macdonald)

- Process was developed specifically for the capital work group.
- Phase 1a is a pre-design alternatives analysis, analogous to an EDR.
- Phase 1 is detailed design of the preferred alternative, analogous to a DDR/P&S.
- Phase 2 is construction, analogous to construction.

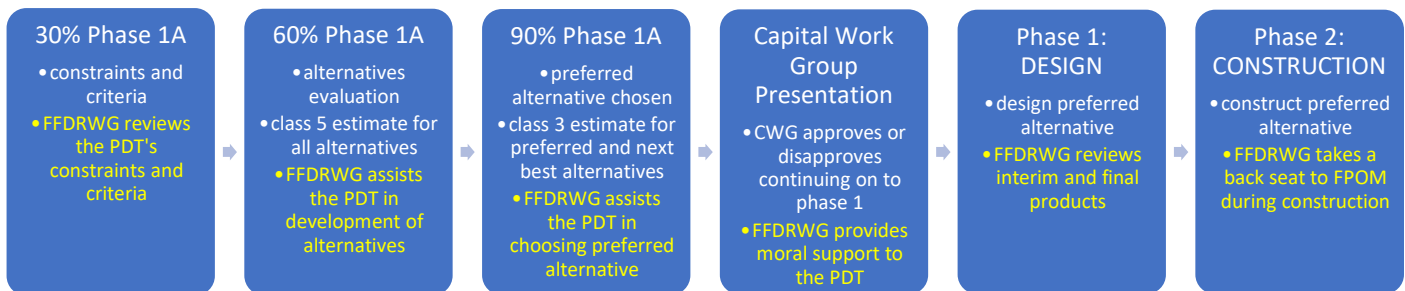


Figure 1: Representation of the CWG design process with anticipated FFDRWG input milestones.

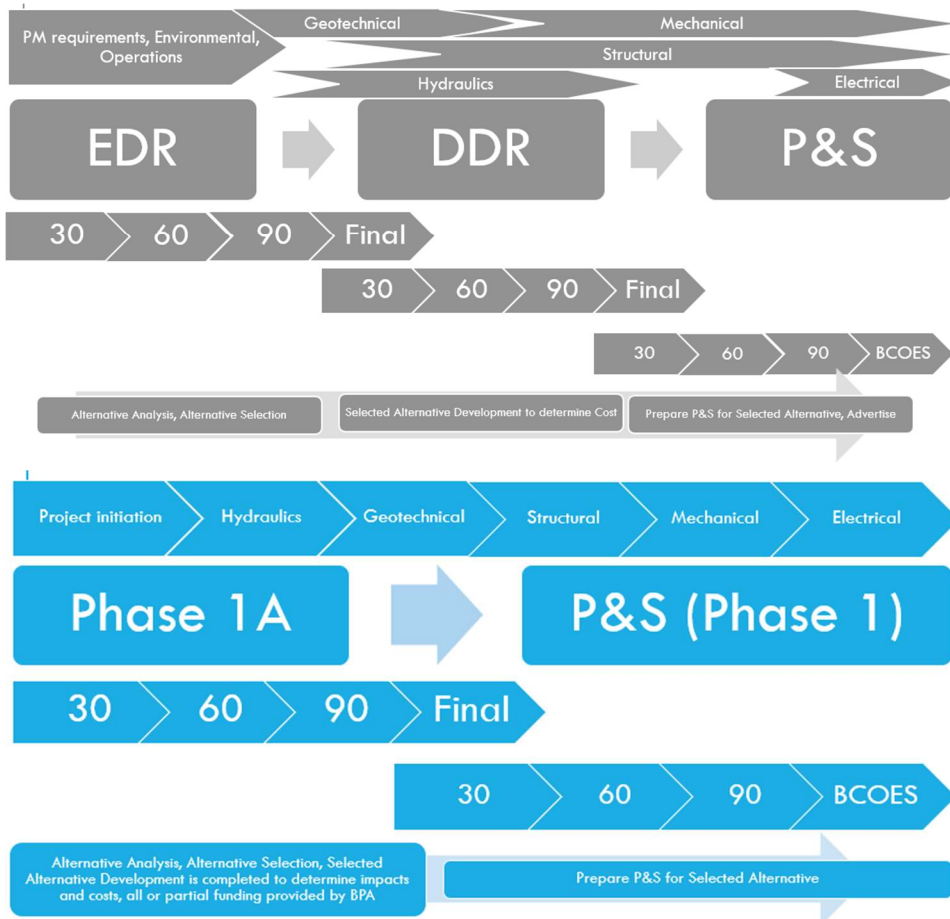


Figure 2: Comparison of USACE "3 by 3" design process (top) and CWG phased design process (bottom).

3 NWP Projects

3.1 NWP BON1 Ice & Trash PIT Detection – Mark Bierman (PM), Erika Mitchell (TL), Jeanette Wendler (BON)

- Contract for fabrication was awarded on 9/19. Fabrication continues. Corps continues to get periodic progress updates from the contractor (Transco), and it is going well.
- The Corps, PSMFC, and the contractor are coordinating on a site visit to test fit the antennas once the welding is complete.
- Currently expecting delivery to BON by Feb 1. BON is planning for install once delivered (exact schedule TBD).

3.2 NWP BON2 exit channel PIT detection for post-construction evaluation – Erin Kovalchuk (PM), Adam White (TL), Becca Cates (BON)

- Preliminary results from the 2025 passage season will be presented by Ben Sandford at SRWG annual review in January.

3.3 NWP BON2 Submerged Traveling Screen (STS) Rehabilitation Phase 1a – Karen Kelly (PM), Will Guest (TL), Becca Cates (BON)

- Scope:
- PDT is developing alternatives to replace or rehab all 24 screens as well as procure one spare. The work envisioned in this project is to review the existing materials, update cost and schedule estimates, and proceed into Phase 1. Uniformity of devices and commonality of spare parts is a priority (including but not limited to STS in service at Bonneville and John Day).
- Current schedule:
- 30% phase 1a (Constraints & Criteria) phase 1a ~June 2025
- 60% phase 1a (Alternatives Evaluation) phase 1a ~February 2026
- 90% phase 1a (Draft Final) report ~March 2026
- Final phase 1a report complete ~April 2026



Figure 3: Photo of a representative existing screen at BON. BON and JDA are proposing to install new screen material in a few units this winter. New screen material has ~1" wider border strip on the edge (and does not have glue patches).

- A ton of effort has gone into B2 gatewell fish guidance efficiency over the years and any changes to the STS screens must be evaluated for their potential to upset gatewell hydraulics. FFDRWG requests USACE perform a hydraulic analysis using CFD to estimate any changes in gatewell hydraulics and "hot spots" that may be caused by the new screens before installing.
- The Phase 1A PDT could document the results of any hydraulic analysis that occurs in their report and could incorporate pertinent results in their preferred alternative if the timing is right, but performing the evaluation itself is out of scope for a Phase 1A. This request for hydraulic analysis was passed to FPOM on 1/13.

3.4 NWP BON1 B-Branch Stabilization Phase 1A – Greg Linklater (PM), David Hicks (TL), Becca Cates (BON)

- Scope:
- This project is to evaluate the portion of shoreline at Bonneville adjacent to spill bay 18 and provide recommendations for corrective actions with greater longevity than previous repair efforts.
- Current schedule:
- 30% phase 1a (Constraints & Criteria) report ~February 2026
- 60% phase 1a (Alternatives Evaluation) report ~May 2026
- 90% phase 1a (Draft Final) report ~August 2026
- Final phase 1a report complete ~October 2026

3.5 NWP BON1 Fishway Diffusers Phase 1A – Karen Robison (PM), Will Guest (TL), Jeanette Wendler (BON)

- Scope:
- A 2013 EDR explicitly identified several deficiencies with the fishway diffuser valve & gate system. Many of the gate components identified are highly corroded and subject to failure. In their current condition they present a risk of failure that would impact fish passage reliability and possibly put us out of compliance with the current BiOp. This project will restore reliable operability to the diffuser gates and AWS valves that need to operate to maintain criteria and permanently close any fish gates that are not necessary to maintain criteria.

- Current schedule:
- 30% phase 1a (Constraints & Criteria) report ~March 2026
- 60% phase 1a (Alternatives Evaluation) report ~June 2026
- 90% phase 1a (Draft Final) report ~October 2026
- Final phase 1a report complete ~March 2027
- The Hydraulic Evaluation of Lower Columbia Adult Bypass Systems (HELCRABS) reports from the early 2000's provides much of the basis for this project. The TL for HELCRABS is still here and is an active member of this PDT. **100% Bradford Island 'B' Branch Adult Fishway Evaluation (2004) and 80% Bradford Island A Branch Interim Evaluation Report (2003)** are available on the FFDRWG website for reference.

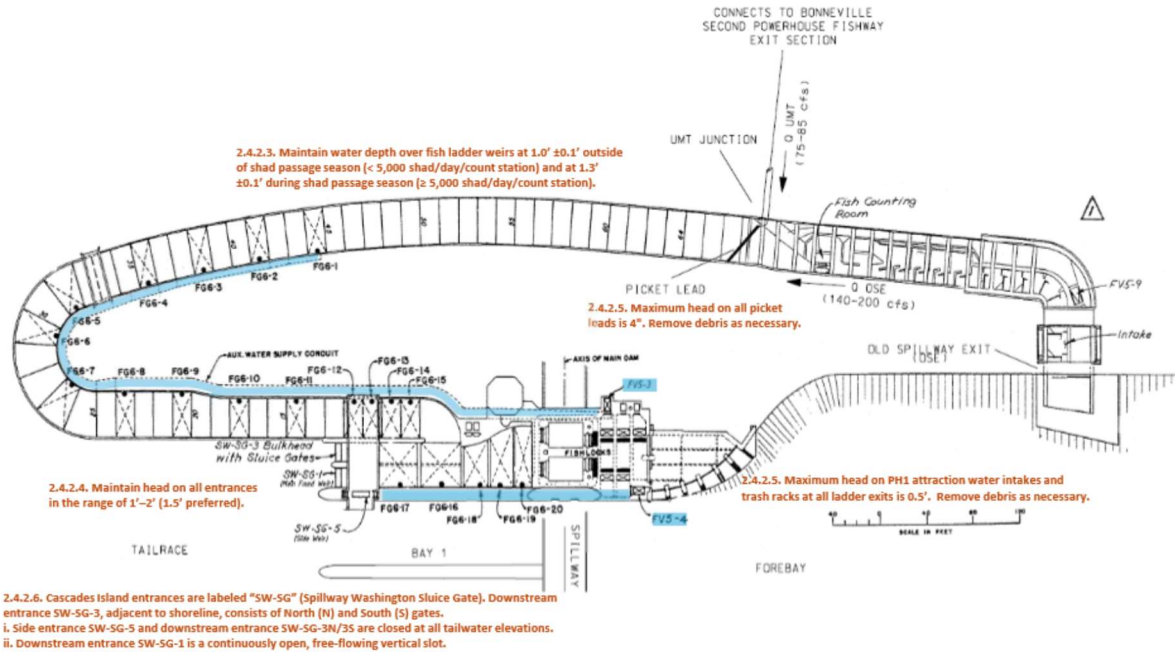


Figure 4: Some constraints for Cascades Island diffuser operation from the Fish Passage Plan.

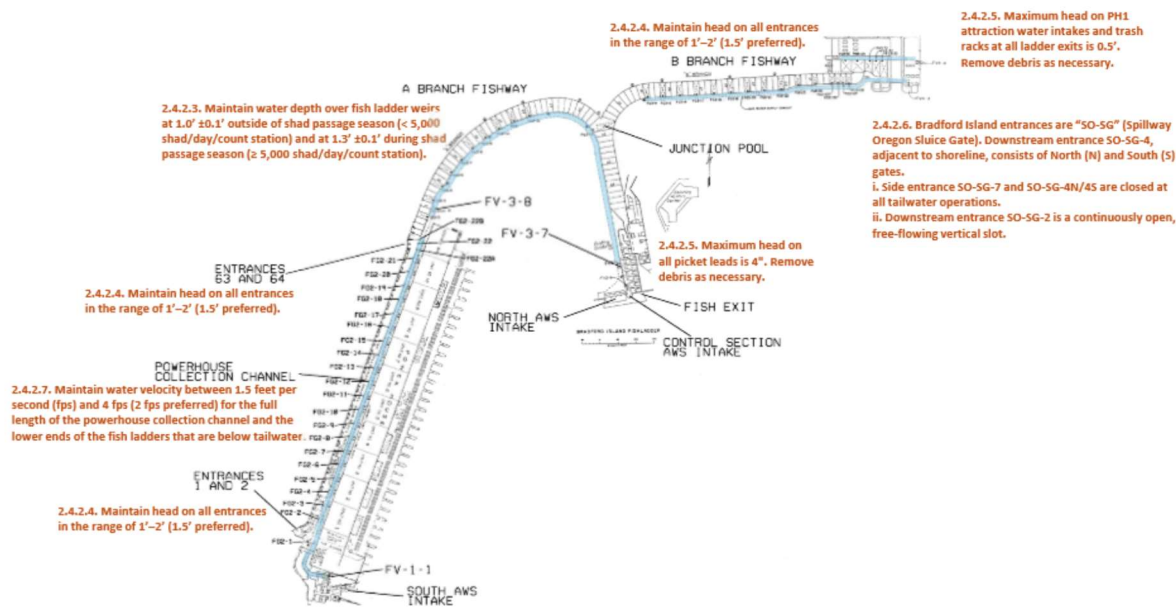


Figure 5: Some constraints for Bradford Island diffuser operation from the Fish Passage Plan.

3.6 NWP TDA Fishway Diffusers Phase 1A – Karen Robison (PM), Will Guest (TL), Eric Grosvenor (TDA)

- Scope:

- Depending on different locations in the Fish Ladders, the project has assessed that some of the valves and orifices need to be permanently closed, fixed in an open position, or restored to operability, with specific requirements to be determined by the PDT. Many of the diffuser valves are inoperable and/or obsolete. In their current condition they present a risk of failure that would impact fish passage reliability and possibly put us out of compliance with the latest BiOp. This project will restore reliable operability to the diffuser gates and AWS valves that need to operate to maintain criteria and permanently close any fish gates that are not necessary to maintain criteria.
- Limited alternatives (see figure below), so proceeding to phase 1, starting with constraints and criteria and enough design work to develop a class 3 estimate.
- Current schedule:
- 30% DDR (Constraints & Criteria) milestone ~March 2026
- 60% DDR milestone ~August 2026
- 90% DDR milestone & CWG check-in ~October 2026
- Final DDR complete ~March 2027
- The Hydraulic Evaluation of Lower Columbia Adult Bypass Systems (HELCRABS) reports from the early 2000's provides much of the basis for this project. The TL for HELCRABS is still here and is an active member of this PDT. **90% The Dalles Dam North Fish Ladder Hydraulic/Operational Evaluation (2005)** is available on the FFDRWG website for reference.



Figure 6: For TDA EFL diffuser gates, the Project has identified the diffusers that are to have moving equipment removed and remain permanently open (green), moving equipment removed and remain permanently closed (red), restored to operating condition (yellow), and remain operational (blue).

3.7 NWP TDA Spillway Gates 1-9 MMR/Phase 1A – Martin Evans (PM) Erika Mitchell (TL), Eric Grosvenor (TDA)

- Scope:
- The initial scope of this project is to complete a combined Major Maintenance Report (MMR) and Phase 1A Report in accordance with current HQUSACE planning and budgetary guidance, and NWD guidance on combined MMR/1A reports. The scope of alternatives should be consistent with HQUSACE guidance to “maintain the function of the structure to provide reliable navigation conditions, to mitigate potentially unsafe conditions caused by the deterioration of the original structure, and/or to provide a sustainable operations and maintenance approach to the project.” This may include measures needed to meet current design standards and account for changes in load requirements.
- Current schedule:
- 30% P1A (Constraints & Criteria) milestone ~February 2026
- 60% P1A (Alternatives Evaluation) milestone ~August 2026
- 90% P1A (Draft Final) milestone ~March 2027
- Final P1A complete ~May 2027
- Phase 1 kickoff ~October 2027

- 3.8 **NWP TDA North Fish Ladder Rockfall Repair (P&S/phase 1) - James Ettleman (PM), Chris Motti (TL), Eric Grosvenor (TDA)**
- Scope:
 - Project objective is to stabilize the rocks cuts along the North Fish Ladder between Weir 77 and Weir 132 through a combination of scaling, rock anchors, and small concrete retaining wall.
 - 90% DDR was completed in 2015. **The Dalles Dam North Fish Ladder Rock Wall Stabilization 90% (Final) DDR (2015) and a 2024 trip report from Alex Baumann and Bob Cordie (with pictures)** are available on the FFDRWG website.
 - Current Schedule:
 - P&S (incl. BCOES): Apr 2026 – Jul 2027
 - Contract Solicitation and Award (IFB): Jul 2027 – Sep 2027
 - Construction (Onsite; IWWW): Dec 2027 – Feb 2028
 - Contract Closeout: Feb 2028 – June 2028
- 3.9 **[paused] NWP JDA South fish pumps - Tim Ernster (PM), Marina Reilly-Collette (TL), David Miller (JDA)**
- Short-term interim repairs = O&M/FPOM | Long-term full replacement of all three pumps = CRFM/FFDRWG
 - Short-term repairs are going forward, see FPOM for current status.
 - Long-term replacement project did not receive FY26 CRFM funds in PBud. On hold just shy of 30% design review.
- 3.10 **NWP JDA Turbine Replacement – Dave Hamernik (PM), Curtis Lipski (TL), David Miller (JDA)**
- Preparing to solicit a design build contract for 12 new turbine runners (6 adjustable, and 6 fixed) and generator rewinds.
 - On-site work scheduled to start in March 2035 and continue through at least 2050.
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- 3.11 **[paused] NWP TDA Backup AWS debris management – Marie Adams (PM), Mehdi Roshani (TL), Eric Grosvenor (TDA)**
- Final (pre-BCOES) DDR completed April 2025. See 2025 FFDRWG files website for final (pre-BCOES) design package.
 - TDA backup AWS debris management did not receive FY26 CRFM funds in PBud.
- 3.12 **[paused] NWP BON Spillway rock mitigation – Marie Adams (PM), Adam Jones (TL), Becca Cates (BON)**
- Results of ROV spillway tailrace inspection completed 9/3/25 showed low volumes of debris in the stilling basin and no need for rock removal this year.
 - DDR/Plans & Specifications for rock barriers on the apron is paused at 90% awaiting additional appropriations. See 2025 FFDRWG files website for 90% design package.
 - BON rock mitigation did not receive FY26 CRFM funds in PBud.
- 3.13 **[paused] NWP BON Bradford Island and Cascades Island LPS pump upgrades - Erin Kovalchuk (PM), Adam White (TL), Tucker Gossett (BON)**
- equipment/supplies for upgrade have been procured.
 - BON Project will perform the installation work, pending availability of Project personnel and funding.
 - LPS pump upgrades project did not receive FY26 CRFM funds in PBud.

4 *NWW updates*

- 4.1 **NWW MNA Turbine Replacement – Jean DesJarlais (PM), Jon Renholds (TL)**
Presentation on most recent fixed blade ERDC results and update on U14 outage (Renholds) - Presentation posted on FFDRWG site.
- 4.2 **NWW IHR Turbine Cooling Water Exclusion - Karen Kelly (PM), Chuck Barnes (Bio)**
- Lamprey are starting to show up in strainers at upper Snake Projects. Should have lamprey at Ice Harbor by February.
- 4.3 **NWW LLA Adult Ladder Turn Pool Gate - Greg Linklater (PM), Chuck Barnes (Bio)**
- Installation occurring this month. Will provide pictures at next FFDRWG meeting.
- 4.4 **NWW MNA Avian deterrence – Karen Kelly (PM), Ryan Ashcraft (Bio)**
- Final alternatives analysis report received and distributed to FFDRWG September 2025. See 2025 FFDRWG files website for final report. Did not receive FY26 CRFM funds in PBUD.
- 4.5 **NWW MNA PIT Detection – Kat Herzog (PM), Chuck Barnes (Bio)**
- Final scoping report (EDR) has been sent out to FFDRWG for review along with a meeting invite for January 20 @ 1300 hrs. **Chuck will move meeting time to avoid conflict or discuss with Conder offline on this topic.**
- 4.6 **NWW John Day Dam and Snake River Ladder Cooling – Karen Kelly (PM), Ryan Laughery (TL), Ryan Ashcraft (Bio)**

- Final alternatives analysis report received and distributed to FFDRWG September 2025. See 2025 FFDRWG files website for final report. Information from the special FFDRWG meeting on December 9th added to website regarding the bubbler testing this winter.

Update on bubbler testing at Lower Monumental and McNary (Laughery) - Presentation posted on FFDRWG site.

5 Upcoming meetings and field trips

5.1 Fish Facilities Design Review Work Group (FFDRWG)

- first Thursday of every month (contact Jake Macdonald and Chuck Barnes if you need an invitation).
- MNA PIT update meeting scheduled for January 20 @ 1300 hrs.

5.2 Fish Passage Operation & Maintenance (FPOM) Work Group

- second Thursday of every month (contact Patricia Madson and Chris Peery if you need an invitation).

5.3 Studies Review Work Group (SRWG)

- FY25 SRWG Annual Review: Thursday, January 22, 2026 (All day) @ PNNL Auditorium, Richland, WA
- FY 2026 Planning Cycle: <https://public.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/SRWG/FY26AFEPplanning/>
- FY27 planning cycle will kick off around February or March 2026.