

What is claimed is:

1. A well screen system, comprising:

an upstream screen assembly and a downstream screen assembly arranged along an axis,
the upstream screen assembly and the downstream screen assembly both having:

5 a first transport tube and a second transport tube extending axially along the screen
assembly;

a first packing tube connected to the first transport tube by a first adapter and having an
uppermost nozzle, the uppermost nozzle axially spaced from the first adapter by a first effective
packing tube length; and

10 a second packing tube connected to the second transport tube by a second adapter and
having an uppermost nozzle, the uppermost nozzle axially spaced from the second adapter by a
second effective packing tube length, the second effective packing tube length different than the
first effective packing tube length,

wherein the second transport tube of the downstream screen assembly is connected to the
15 first transport tube of the upstream screen assembly to alternate effective packing tube lengths of
packing tube uppermost nozzles connected to one another along the well screen system.

2. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the upstream screen assembly first
packing tube first effective packing tube length is greater than the downstream screen assembly

20 second packing tube second effective packing tube length.

3. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the downstream screen assembly second packing tube is connected to the upstream screen assembly first transport tube by the downstream screen assembly first adapter and a jumper tube.

5 4. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the upstream screen assembly second packing tube second effective packing tube length is less than the downstream screen assembly first packing tube first effective packing tube length.

5. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the downstream screen assembly
10 first packing tube is connected to the upstream screen assembly second transport tube through the downstream screen assembly first adapter and a jumper tube.

6. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the downstream screen assembly second adapter is connected to the upstream screen assembly first transport tube.

15 7. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the downstream screen assembly first adapter is connected to the upstream screen assembly second transport tube.

8. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the upstream screen assembly first
20 packing tube has an intermediate nozzle axially adjacent to the uppermost nozzle, wherein the upstream screen assembly second packing tube has an intermediate nozzle axially adjacent to the uppermost nozzle, and wherein the intermediate nozzle of the second packing tube is located

axially between the uppermost and intermediate nozzles of the upstream screen assembly first packing tube.

9. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the downstream screen assembly
5 first packing tube has an intermediate nozzle axially adjacent to the uppermost nozzle, wherein
the downstream screen assembly second packing tube has an intermediate nozzle axially adjacent
to the uppermost nozzle, and wherein the intermediate nozzle of the second packing tube is
located axially between the uppermost and intermediate nozzles of the downstream screen
assembly first packing tube.

10. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the upstream screen assembly first
packing tube has a lowermost nozzle, wherein the upstream screen assembly second packing
tube has a lowermost nozzle, and wherein the lowermost nozzle of the second packing tube is
located axially between the uppermost and lowermost nozzles of the upstream screen assembly
15 first packing tube.

11. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, wherein the downstream screen assembly
first packing tube has a lowermost nozzle, wherein the downstream screen assembly second
packing tube has a lowermost nozzle, and wherein the lowermost nozzle of the second packing
20 tube is located axially between the uppermost and lowermost nozzles of the downstream screen
assembly first packing tube.

12. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a coupling located axially between the upstream screen assembly and the downstream screen assembly, the coupling connecting the downstream screen assembly to the upstream screen assembly.

5 13. The well screen system as recited in claim 12, wherein the upstream screen assembly first transport tube is connected by a first jumper tube extending along the coupling to the downstream screen assembly second transport tube.

10 14. The well screen system as recited in claim 12, wherein the upstream screen assembly second transport tube is connected by a second jumper tube extending along the coupling to the downstream screen assembly first transport tube.

15 15. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a proppant/slurry source connected to the upper screen assembly first transport tube.

16. The well screen system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a proppant/slurry source connected to the upper screen assembly second transport tube.

17. A method of making a well screen system, comprising:
20 selecting an upstream screen assembly and a downstream screen assembly, the upstream and downstream screen assemblies each having:
first and second transport tubes supported within the screen assembly extending axially along the screen assembly,

a first packing tube connected to the first transport tube by a first adapter and having an uppermost nozzle, the uppermost nozzle axially spaced from the first adapter by a first effective packing tube length, and

a second packing tube connected to the second packing tube by a second adapter and
5 having an uppermost nozzle, the uppermost nozzle axially spaced from the second adapter by a second effective packing tube length, the second effective packing tube length being different than the first effective packing tube length; and

connecting the upstream screen assembly to the downstream screen assembly such that the downstream screen assembly second transport tube is connected to the upstream screen
10 assembly first transport tube.

18. The method as recited in claim 17, wherein connecting the upstream screen assembly with the downstream screen assembly is such that the downstream screen assembly first transport tube is connected to the upstream screen assembly second transport tube.

19. The method as recited in claim 17, wherein connecting the upstream screen assembly with the downstream screen assembly further comprises connecting the downstream screen assembly second transport tube to the upstream screen assembly first transport tube through a jumper tube.

20. A method of gravel packing a well screen system, comprising:

at a well screen system having an upstream screen assembly and a downstream screen assembly arranged along an axis, the upstream screen assembly and the downstream screen

assembly both having a first transport tube and a second transport tube supported within the screen assembly extending axially along the screen assembly, a first packing tube connected to the first transport tube by a first adapter and having an uppermost nozzle, the uppermost nozzle axially spaced from the first adapter by a first effective packing tube length, and a second

5 packing tube connected to the second packing tube by a second adapter and having an uppermost nozzle, the uppermost nozzle axially spaced from the second adapter by a second effective packing tube length, the second effective packing tube length being different than the first effective packing tube length, the second transport tube of the downstream screen assembly being connected to the first transport tube of the upstream screen assembly to alternate the

10 effective packing tube lengths of packing tube uppermost nozzles along the well screen system,

receiving a proppant/slurry mixture at the upstream screen assembly first adapter;

issuing an upstream portion of the proppant/slurry mixture into the wellbore from the uppermost nozzle of the upstream screen assembly first packing tube, the upstream portion of the proppant/slurry mixture traversing the first effective packing tube length; and

15 issuing a downstream portion of the proppant/slurry mixture into the wellbore from the uppermost nozzle of the downstream screen assembly second packing tube, the downstream portion of the proppant/slurry mixture traversing the second effective packing tube length.