

# **Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery (CRR) Fund Implementation Strategy 10/6/15 FTC Approved Draft**

## **Introduction:**

The Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery (CRR) Fund Implementation Strategy (Strategy) expands on the guiding principles of Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Fund Implementation Plan (Plan). The Implementation Strategy documents FTC decisions and priorities to be incorporated into a system for solicitation and evaluation of potential activities to protect and restore listed salmonid populations in the Cowlitz River Basin upstream of Mayfield Dam.

## **Purpose:<sup>1</sup>**

- Protect and promote restoration and recovery of upper Cowlitz River basin salmonid stocks listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

## **Goals:<sup>2</sup>**

- Achieve viability targets set forth in the Washington Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan (Recovery Plan)
- Achieve habitat impact reduction targets set forth in the Recovery Plan and presented in Table 1 below

The Recovery Plan includes an assessment of baseline population viability at the time of listing and sets goals for improvement in population viability goal that are necessary to achieve minimum viability status. The Recovery Plan also identifies how different threats (i.e., Habitat, Dams, Fisheries, Hatcheries and Ecological Interactions) impact the productivity and viability of each ESA-listed population in the lower Columbia. Additionally, the Recovery Plan sets targets for each population to reduce the impact of each threat to assist in achieving its minimum viability goal.

Table 1 includes information from the Recovery Plan that is specific to all upper Cowlitz basin salmon and steelhead populations. Fall Chinook originating from the Upper Cowlitz, Cispus and Tilton rivers have been combined into a single ESA-listed population. For spring Chinook, coho and steelhead, each species has three designated populations: Upper Cowlitz, Cispus and Tilton. Table 1 presents the baseline viability assessment and minimum viability goal (Recovery Objective) plus information regarding impacts from the Habitat threat: 1) baseline impacts at time of listing, 2) reduction in impacts set forth by the Recovery Plan (Target Reduction) and 3) outcome of reduction that would allow the population to achieve minimum viability (Recovery Objective).

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<sup>1</sup> CRR Implementation Plan (1/7/14)

<sup>2</sup> Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan (May 2010)

Table 1. Summary of population viability and impacts from the habitat threat for all populations in the Cowlitz Basin upstream of Mayfield Dam. Includes information regarding estimated status at time of initial listings (1998) and Lower Columbia Recovery Plan targets to assist in achieving minimum viability status.

Basin	Population	Population Viability**		Impacts from Habitat Threat		
		Baseline*	Recovery Objective	Baseline*	Target Reduction	Recovery Objective
Upper Cowlitz	Spring Chinook	Very Low	High+	0.90	50%	0.45
	Winter Steelhead	Very Low	High	0.40	50%	0.20
	Coho	Very Low	High	0.40	50%	0.20
Cispus	Spring Chinook	Very Low	High+	0.90	50%	0.45
	Winter Steelhead	Very Low	High	0.60	50%	0.30
	Coho	Very Low	High	0.50	50%	0.25
Tilton	Spring Chinook	Very Low	Very Low	0.80	0%	0.80
	Winter Steelhead	Very Low	Low	0.90	50%	0.45
	Coho	Very Low	Very Low	0.95	0%	0.95
Upper Cowlitz ***	Fall Chinook	Very Low	Very Low	0.80	0%	0.80

\* Conditions in 1998 prior to federal ESA listings of lower Columbia steelhead, Chinook and chum salmon

\*\* Viability categories defined by National Marine Fisheries Service as described in Recovery Plan (Section 4.2.1)

\*\*\* Includes Tilton, Cispus and Upper Cowlitz basins

Source: Washington Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan