

Project Name	CRR Plan Implementation Strategy – Priorities section
Date Proposal Submitted	9/24/15
Date of Requested Decision	10/6/15
Completed By	Pat Frazier

FTC Decision and Justification

FTC approved Priorities section of the CRR Implementation Strategy as presented by the CRR Subcommittee (See Attachment). This section of the document provides increased prioritization regarding the location (Upper Cowlitz and Cispus sub basins) and species (spring Chinook) that CRR Fund activities should benefit. Focusing on the Upper Cowlitz and Cispus sub basins is consistent with Settlement Agreement direction, which established the CRR Fund in lieu of construction of volitional passage facilities at Mayfield Dam. Prioritization of spring chinook is consistent with Recovery Plan goals and objectives because Cowlitz spring chinook must meet their recovery targets for the lower Columbia ESU to achieve delisting status.

Proposed Decision or Consideration

Approve the Priorities section of the CRR Implementation Strategy (See Attachment.).

Background

Tacoma Power, in consultation with the Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC), is in the process of finalizing and submitting the “Plan to Abandon Volitional Upstream Fish Passage.” The excerpt below describes the purpose of this plan:

“Tacoma Power proposes to abandon volitional upstream fish passage for the Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project during the current license period and implement the *Plan to Abandon Volitional Upstream Fish Passage* and Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery (CRR) Fund Implementation Plan ... This plan provides the justification to abandon volitional upstream fish passage during the current license period and identifies the steps forward to expend the Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Fund.”

The CRR Implementation Plan identifies that the CRR Fund “shall be used for the purposes of protecting and promoting the recovery of listed upper Cowlitz basin salmonid stocks.” The CRR Implementation Plan provides general guidance regarding the use of the CRR Fund to achieve the aforementioned purpose. In order to maximize the benefit derived from this fund more detailed guidance is necessary regarding the types of restoration and recovery actions the CRR Fund will be expended on, and the CRR Implementation Strategy provides those details.

The FTC established a subcommittee, the CRR Subcommittee, to develop a draft of the

CRR Implementation Strategy for FTC approval. The FTC further directed the CRR Subcommittee to provide the document to the FTC in sections prior to the full adoption of the entire plan. This will provide the FTC with the opportunity to provide direction to the CRR Subcommittee as the document is being drafted, thereby completing this document in the most efficient manner.

This decision document presents the Priorities section of the draft CRR Implementation Plan for FTC review, input and approval (See Attachment.).

Coordination Need

The CRR Subcommittee needs to coordinate with the FTC to ensure the draft CRR Implementation Plan accurately captures the FTC's direction with regard to the expenditure of the CRR Fund. The FTC has oversight over the development and implementation of the CRR Implementation Plan.

Summary of Potential Impacts

Not applicable.