

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

FTC Decision and Justification

FTC approved Habitat Assessment section of the CRR Implementation Strategy as presented by the CRR Subcommittee (See Attachment). This section of the document calls for a Habitat Assessment to be conducted to assist in effectively using CRR Funds to address the highest priorities for the CRR Fund. The Habitat Assessment builds responds to the preceding Priorities section of the document by focusing the assessment on the highest priority locations and species as identified in the Priorities section of the CRR Implementation Strategy. The habitat assessment will provide valuable information regarding the general types of habitat restoration or acquisition actions to implement and the best locations to implement those actions. The Habitat Assessment provides information that helps make the best use CRR Funds.

Proposed Decision or Consideration

Approve the Habitat Assessment 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 Habitat Assessment 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.