

Project Name	Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Strategy
Date Proposal Submitted	4/25/2017
Date of Requested Decision	5/2/2017
Completed By	Florian Leischner

FTC Decision and Justification

This document provides a comprehensive strategy for utilizing the CRR funds to conduct habitat restoration projects that will benefit the recovery of listed species destined for the Cowlitz Basin upstream of the barrier dam.

Proposed Decision or Consideration

Approve the CRR Implementation Strategy as submitted to the FTC on 2/28/2017, revised and approved at the May 2nd, 2017 FTC meeting. See Attachment.

Background

Tacoma Power, in consultation with the Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC), finalized and submitted the “Plan to Abandon Volitional Upstream Fish Passage” to the federal services for approval as according to Settlement Agreement Article 3. 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 (January 2014). 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. The intent of the CRR Implementation Strategy is to provide those details.

The FTC established a subcommittee, the CRR Subcommittee, to develop a draft of the CRR Implementation Strategy for FTC approval. Several sections had been presented to the FTC and have been approved in 2015. Over the last 6 months, the CRR finalized the complete document which is ready for approval.

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Coordination Need

Tacoma Power will work with the CRR sub-committee to produce additional guidance documents and funding recommendations.

Summary of Potential Impacts

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