

Project Name	2022 CRR Ranked List Approval
Date Proposal Submitted	9/6/2022
Date of Requested Decision	10/4/2022
Requested By	Steve Manlow
Date of Decision¹	10/11/2022

¹ Decision will become final if committee members who were not present at this meeting do not oppose this proposed decision within 7 days

FTC Decision and Justification
FTC supports the proposed decision. Representatives present included NOAA, WDFW, Trout Unlimited, and Tacoma Power.

Proposed Decision or Consideration

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) recommends the Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) approve the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC's) recommended ranked habitat project list for the 2022 Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery (CRR) Program grant round for funding. The list includes three habitat restoration projects, and one assessment, for a total of \$2,800,430 (Table 1).

Table 1 shows the total project cost, the CRR request, and matching funding provided by the applicant for each of the project proposals.

Table 1.

CRR Project Proposal	Total Project	CRR Request	Match
22-1273 Cispus-Yellowjacket Phase IV Restoration	\$ 3,469,260	\$ 2,457,187	\$ 1,012,000
CRR-2022-002 Creating Habitat on Cispus Tributaries	\$ 838,387	\$ 138,355	\$ 700,032
CRR-2022-003 Kiona Creek Restoration	\$ 140,141	\$ 70,071	\$ 70,070
CRR-2022-001 Upper Cowlitz Culvert Assessment	\$ 134,820	\$ 134,820	0*
	\$ 4,582,608	\$ 2,800,430	\$ 2,414,352

*Although not providing match, they are partnering with a region-wide culvert assessment funded through the SRFB grant program.

For project-specific TAC comments, scoring, and evaluation questions please refer to the following attachments:

- Attachment A – SRFB Grant Evaluation Questions
- Attachment B – CRR Grant Evaluation Questions

Attachment C – CRR Project Scoring, Ranked List, and Comments

Background

The CRR fund supports activities that protect and promote recovery of listed species in lieu of construction and operation of volitional upstream passage facilities on the Upper Cowlitz River. CRR assists in the protection and recovery of listed populations consistent with the recommendations in the Upper Cowlitz River Subbasin Plan of the Washington Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Plan (LCFRB 2010, Vol. II.F).

The FTC has partnered with the LCFRB to assist in implementing the CRR program for habitat projects beginning in 2022 (DD 2021-03). Per agreement with Tacoma Public Utilities, the LCFRB reviews, evaluates and ranks habitat proposals for CRR funding for consideration by the FTC. The LCFRB TAC provides an initial review of projects in conjunction with the SRFB grant round using their standard scoring, ranking, and review process. The TAC also reviews and evaluates the CRR proposals to ensure alignment with CRR priorities. The TAC provides a recommended ranked list of SRFB proposals for the LCFR Board to approve. The LCFRB then provides their final recommended ranked list of CRR proposals for the FTC to approve.

The LCFRB TAC reviewed CRR projects based on the FTC’s evaluation questions, as well as benefits to fish evaluations that describe the relationship of proposals to watershed and region scale recovery priorities and needs. Both the LCFR Board and TAC decided by consensus that all projects should be funded. On August 5, 2022, the LCFRB met and adopted the TAC recommended ranked list for 2022 as submitted (Table 2). Approval of this list means all proposals would be funded as requested.

Table 2. LCFRB CRR Recommended Ranked List

Project Number	Project Name	Project Rank	Recommended Allocation	
			CRR	SRFB
22-1273	Cispus-Yellowjacket Phase IV Restoration	1	\$ 2,457,184	\$ 315,076
CRR-2022-002	Creating Habitat on Cispus Tributaries	2	\$ 138,355	
CRR-2022-003	Kiona Creek Restoration	3	\$ 70,071	
CRR-2022-001	Upper Cowlitz Culvert Inventory	4	\$ 134,820	
			\$ 2,800,430	

The LCFRB presented each project proposal to the FTC at the August meeting, and shared the following links for additional information and applications, including budgets, for each one: [22-1273 Cispus-Yellowjacket Phase IV Restoration](#); sponsored by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe

[CRR-2022-002 Creating Habitat on Cispus Tributaries](#); sponsored by Cascade Forest Conservancy
[CRR-2022-003 Kiona Creek Restoration](#); sponsored by Lewis County Public Works
[CRR-2022-001 Upper Cowlitz Culvert Inventory](#); sponsored by Lewis County Conservation District

Items to note:

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is seeking funding for project 22-1273 Cispus-Yellowjacket Phase IV from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant program and the CRR grant program.

Project CRR-2022-001 Upper Cowlitz Culvert Inventory includes references to work occurring below the Barrier Dam, which is ineligible for the CRR program. The sponsor was contacted and allowed to modify the budget for work only occurring above the dam. The final budget proposal is correct. For clarity, the contract for the project will include language clarifying that work will only be performed above the Barrier Dam in eligible areas. This project is being coordinated with the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership’s region-wide culvert assessment project funded through the SRFB grant program.

Coordination Need

There is a high need for coordination and discussion between the LCFRB, Tacoma Power, and the FTC through all stages of the project review process. At this stage, once the final list is approved, the LCFRB enters into contract with the sponsors to implement the projects. The LCFRB will continue to work with Tacoma Power on schedules and fund payments, and will update the FTC during regular FTC meetings regarding project status. All partners will coordinate to ensure the 2023 grant round is updated, successful and builds upon this first round.

The LCFRB and Tacoma Power, with input from the FTC, will include information on the 2022 CRR grant round for the report to FERC, and any future annual reports. Annual reports are distributed to the FTC for 30-day review prior to FERC filing.

Summary of Potential Impacts

If the recommended ranked list is not approved, some or all of the projects on the list will not be funded, and/or implemented as proposed. Projects not approved may be able to apply again in a future CRR grant round, however, most of the projects on the list are time sensitive and are scheduled to be implemented with other projects, so may not be able to apply at any other time.