



2024 Aquatic Habitat Program Updates

Cowlitz Annual Science Conference
and Program Review
April 16, 2025

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Photo courtesy of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Natural Resources Department.

Overview

- Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program
- Wood Placement and Assessment
- Gravel Augmentation



Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program

- CRR Fund established in 2008 (SA Article 3), \$15M in lieu of volitional passage
- CRR Program planned with Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC)
- CRR Program launched in 2019 following FERC Order approving abandoning volitional passage
- FTC approves all expenditures



Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program

Purpose: Use the CRR Fund to protect and promote restoration and recovery of upper Cowlitz River basin salmonid populations listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

- Focus species/populations:
 - Spring Chinook (Upper Cowlitz/Cispus Rivers)
 - Coho (Upper Cowlitz/Cispus or Tilton)
 - Winter steelhead (Upper Cowlitz/Cispus or Tilton)
 - Fall Chinook (Upper Cowlitz Basin)

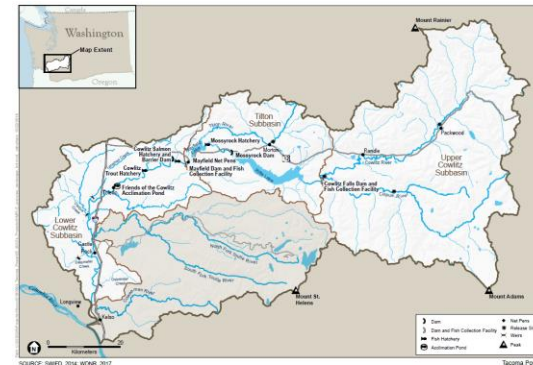


Figure 1
Cowlitz River Subbasins

Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program

- Implemented by Tacoma Power in coordination with our partners (e.g., Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) and WDFW)
- Overseen by FTC
- Project types
 - Habitat restoration and protection
 - Hatchery-associated production (HAP) projects



Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program

- Approach adopted by the FTC:
competitive grant rounds
 - Habitat projects: integrated with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round, run by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB).
 - HAP projects: similar process to the SRFB, run by Tacoma Power.



Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program

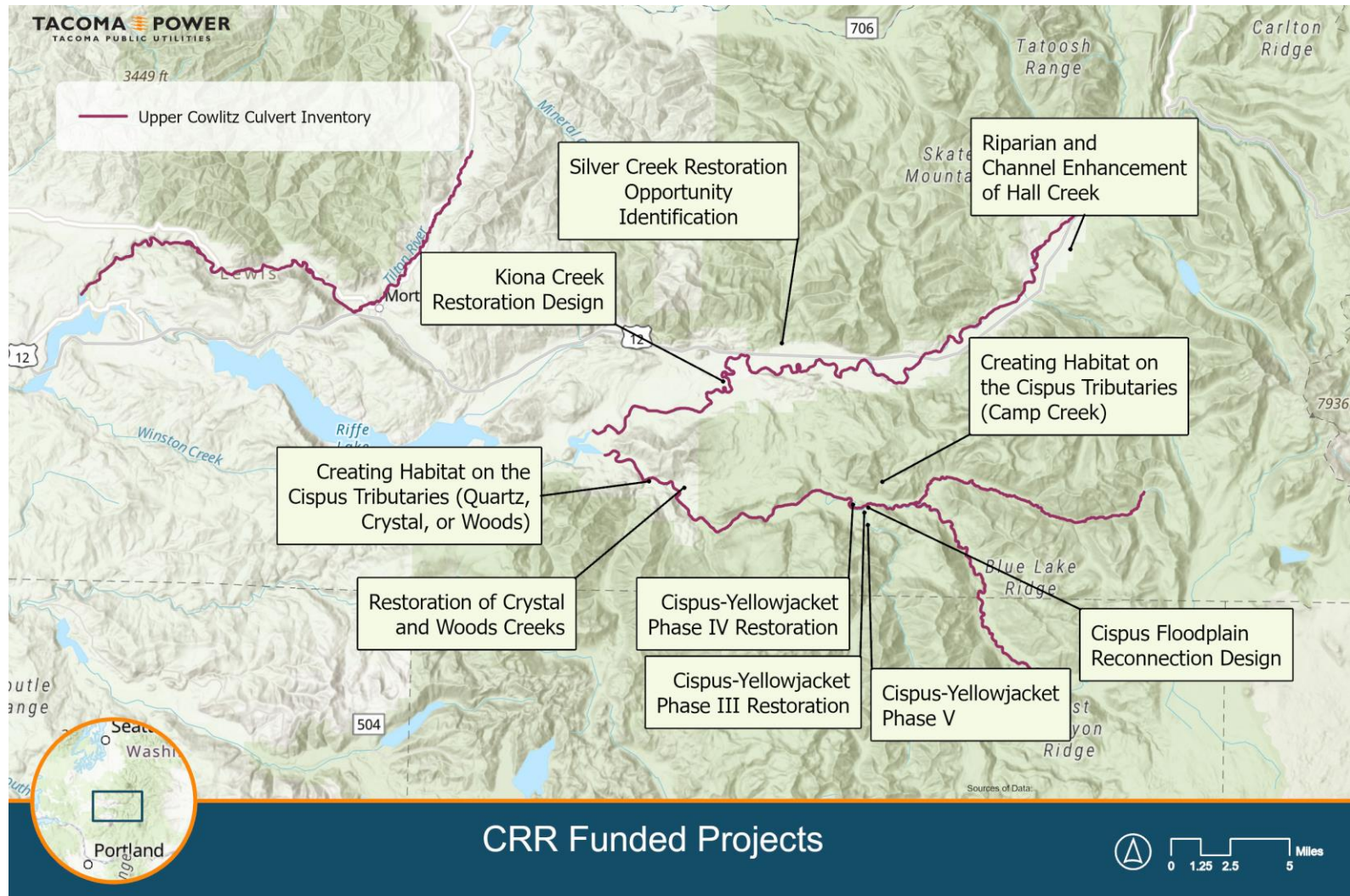
- 2024 Activities
 - 2024 Habitat Grant Round (LCFRB)
 - 2024 HAP Grant Round w/ continued HAP program development (FTC subgroup: Tacoma Power, WDFW)
 - Administration: (Tacoma Power, LCFRB)
- 2024 Outcomes
 - FTC awarded ~\$579k: 2 projects
 - Design and construction progress



Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program

Award Year	Project Name	Sponsor	CRR Request	Anticipated Completion
2019	Cispus-Yellowjacket Phase III Restoration	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	\$ 593,677	2026
2021	Cispus Floodplain Reconnection Design	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	\$ 194,200	2025
2022	Upper Cowlitz Culvert Inventory	Lewis Conservation District	\$ 134,820	2025
2022	Creating Habitat on Cispus Tributaries	Cascade Forest Conservancy	\$ 138,355	2025
2022	Kiona Creek Restoration Design	Lewis County PUD	\$ 70,071	2025
2022	Cispus-Yellowjacket Phase IV Restoration	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	\$ 2,457,184	2026
2023	Crystal and Woods Creeks Restoration	Cascade Forest Conservancy	\$168,098	2026
2023	Hall Creek Riparian and Channel Enhancements	Cascade Forest Conservancy	\$ 61,048	2026
2024	Silver Creek Restoration Opportunity Identification	Cascade Forest Conservancy	\$233,474	2027
2024	Cispus Yellowjacket Phase V	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	\$435,077	2027
		Total Awards	\$4,486,004	

Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Program



Large Wood Placement (SA 9)

- Large wood collected from reservoirs and stockpiled
- Annual placement of at least 600 lineal feet at bar upstream of Blue Creek boat launch
- Annual Wood Placement: October 2024



Large Wood Survey (SA 9)

- 5-Year Survey: August 2024
- 20-Year Report: 2024 Data
- Programmatic Initiative



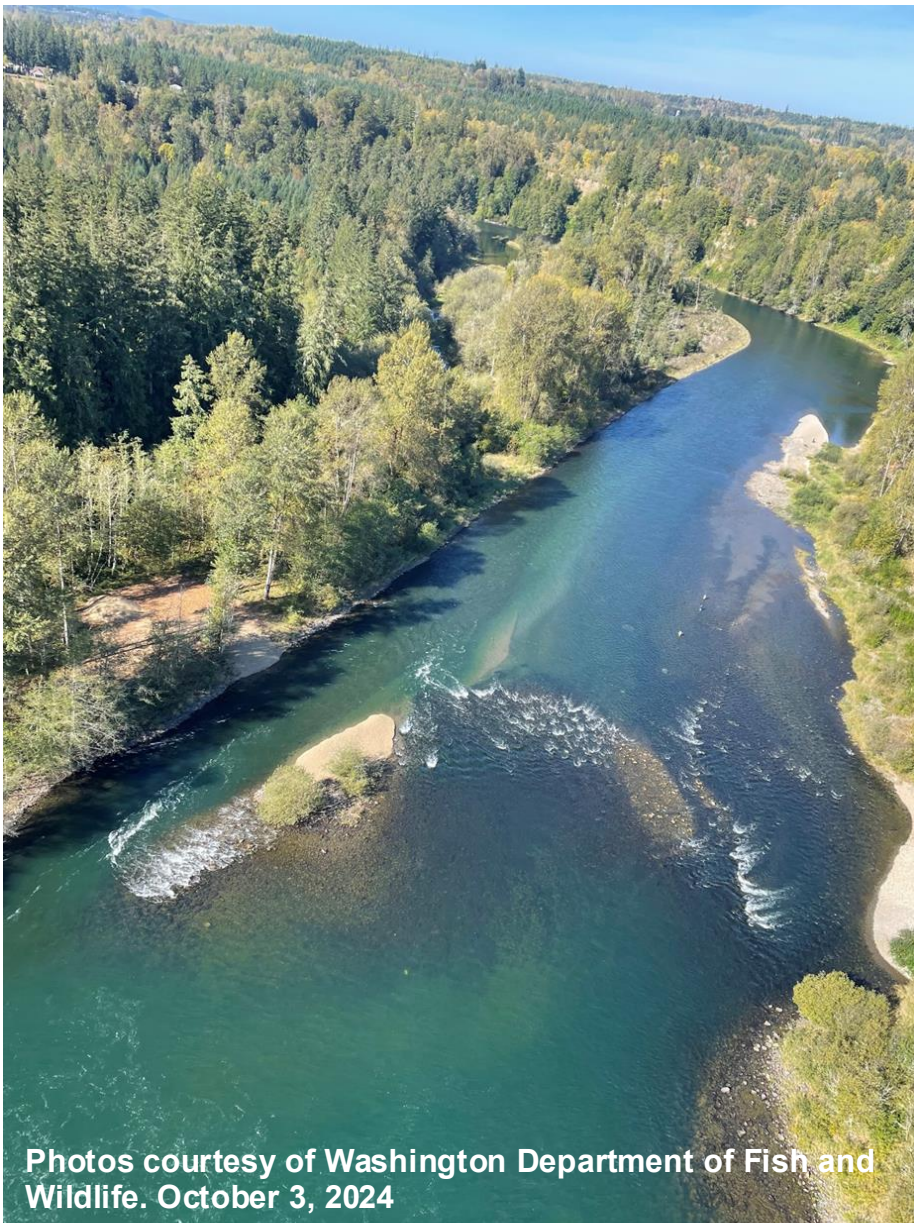
Gravel Placement (SA 10)

- Annual placement: 500 cubic yards of spawning gravel Downstream of Barrier Dam
- Locations:
 - Through 2017, right bank
 - 2017-2020, suspended
 - 2021-2024, left bank
- 2024 FERC Order approving Supplement to Gravel Augmentation Plan
- September 2024 – placed 1,062 cubic yards by CAD truck



Gravel Augmentation (SA 10)

	Required (yds ³)		Placed (yds ³)		Balance
	Annual	Running	Annual	Running	
2006-2012	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	0
2013	500	4,000	0	3,500	-500
2014	500	4,500	0	3,500	-1,000
2015	500	5,000	1,000	4,500	-500
2016	500	5,500	1,000	5,500	0
2017	500	6,000	0	5,500	-500
2018	500	6,500	0	5,500	-1,000
2019	500	7,000	0	5,500	-1,500
2020	500	7,500	0	5,500	-2,000
2021	500	8,000	1,193	6,693	-1,307
2022	500	8,500	794	7,487	-1,013
2023	500	9,000	800	8,287	-713
2024	500	9,500	1,062	9,349	-151



Photos courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. October 3, 2024



A scenic photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest. The river is dark and calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. In the foreground, a rocky bar or shoal extends into the water. Three people are visible in the river, likely fishing. The background is a thick forest of tall trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of green, yellow, and orange. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

Questions?