

Cowlitz River Project Update

Nov. 15, 2019

Kosmos Flats Area Temporarily Closed for Environmental Work

Kosmos Flats, located on the east end of Riffe Lake, is temporarily closed while Tacoma Power conducts an environmental review of the area. A heavyweight, slow-moving material - Bunker C oil - was discovered seeping out of an eroded bank along a short section of Rainey Creek. The substance was discovered within the area of the former Kosmos industrial sawmill site. It has a tar-like consistency and was used historically for sawmill operations. Tacoma Power conducted a cleanup within the sawmill area in 1992.

Public safety is our top priority and we are working to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We are performing ongoing inspections of the site and are working with the Department of Ecology on additional requests. We are working on temporarily capping the area as soon as possible.

Once we finish our current investigation of the origin, size, and extent of the seep, we will determine the cleanup plan. The timeline will be dependent on the extent of the affected area.

The public will continue to have walk-in access to the areas outside of the closed section.

These lands are owned by Tacoma Power and managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of the Cowlitz Wildlife Area.

We are committed to complying with all environmental regulations and ensuring good stewardship of our environment. We will provide updates at MyTPU.org/Cowlitz. Questions? Please email cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org.

