

# Settlement Agreement between Tacoma Power and the Skokomish Tribe

Tacoma Power and the Skokomish Tribal Nation signed a historic settlement on January 12, 2009. The agreement concluded two years of negotiations and a long history of litigation, including lawsuits for past damages of \$5.8 billion and trespass damages for the transmission line.

There were also disputes related to the Cushman Hydroelectric license and water rights. Settlement of these issues was the key starting point for a successful settlement agreement, which includes both lands and monetary payments.

## Lands

These lands will be transferred within 60 days of the effective date of a new Cushman Project license:

- **Saltwater Park**  
A small portion of this park located on Hood Canal will be retained by Tacoma Power for construction of a Sockeye Hatchery. The boat launch, parking areas and restrooms will remain open to the public year round. Tacoma Power will construct a third launch lane and service the restrooms.
- **Camp Cushman**  
The park and certain adjoining Tacoma Power-owned properties will be transferred to the Skokomish Tribe. None of the lands currently leased to the Cushman Development Company will be transferred to the Tribe. The boat launch, associated parking areas and existing trailer dump station will remain open to the public between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends each year.
- **Nalley Estuary Property**  
Approximately 500 acres of restored estuary and tidelands will be transferred to the Skokomish Tribe.

## Monetary payments

The Skokomish Tribal Nation will receive from Tacoma Power:

- \$11 million as compensation for past damages and mitigation of flooding impacts
- \$1.6 million for transmission line trespass damages on tribal parcels
- Annual payment to the Skokomish Tribe of 7.25 percent of the value of electrical production from the Cushman No. 2 powerhouse
- Annual payment of \$20,000 for ongoing use of tribal land

# Q & A

## **Will the boat launches be open to the public?**

Yes. The Saltwater Park launch will remain open to the public year round, and the Camp Cushman launch will be open to the public between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

## **What are the tribe's plans for Camp Cushman, Saltwater Park and the other transferred lands?**

The Tribe has not yet decided the future use of these lands.

This settlement agreement becomes effective 60 days after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues an acceptable new final Cushman Project license.

For more information, and to view the settlement agreement and other documents, please visit [mytpu.org](http://mytpu.org) and enter 'Cushman Settlement Agreement' in the search bar.