

Cushman Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement

Highlights

Instream flows

- Annual water budget that mimics natural flows
- Channel forming and sediment transport flows based on real-time conditions
- Annual water budget evaluation by the Skokomish Tribe, Tacoma, federal and state agencies

Mainstem Skokomish River flood reduction

- Physical improvements to mainstem Skokomish River channel capacity
- Sediment transport flows will address mainstem flooding conditions

Fish habitat

- Improved instream flows will support salmon spawning, rearing, migration and improve water quality
- Ramping rates will minimize potential fry stranding
- Habitat enhancement and restoration will improve salmonid habitat and remove passage barriers
- Monitoring and evaluation of habitat and operational improvements
- Protection of threatened and endangered species

Fish passage

- Downstream fish passage for juvenile salmonids
- Upstream passage of adult salmonids
- Evaluation of fish passage system will ensure safe, timely and effective passage

Restoration of anadromous fish populations to upper North Fork watershed

- Passage of adult salmonids into upper watershed and natural spawning
- Construction and operation of two fish hatcheries to reintroduce, restore, and enhance anadromous fish populations in the North Fork Skokomish watershed, and to provide for commercial and sport fisheries

Wildlife habitat

- Restoration and enhancement of 2,750 acres wildlife habitat

Recreation

- Addition of 60 campsites and upgrades to the US Forest Service's Big Creek Campground and other recreation sites within and outside of the Project boundary
- Improvements to Staircase Road to enhance recreation and water quality