

# Wildlife and Recreation

As a part of the Cushman Project settlement agreement, you can expect Tacoma Power to make improvements to the US Forest Service's Big Creek Campground, Staircase Road recreational sites and boat launches at Saltwater Park and Lake Kokanee. We will also preserve and enhance wildlife habitat.

## Big Creek Campground

At the US Forest Service's Big Creek Campground, Tacoma Power will construct:

- Up to 30 additional group camp RV sites
- Up to 30 individual RV and tent campsites
- Two kitchen shelters, two toilets, a camp host site, new water system and trailer dump station
- An interpretive trail
- A bike trail from Big Creek Campground to the Cushman Falls area

In addition, when the existing vault toilets, water system, and picnic shelter reach the end of their normal operating life, Tacoma Power will replace them.

## Staircase Road

Tacoma Power will contribute to recreational sites along the Staircase Road by:

- Improving five existing shoreline recreational sites
- Improving the Mount Rose trailhead access road and parking area
- Providing additional picnic tables, toilets and parking at the Bear Gulch day-use site
- Providing annual funding to the Forest Service for operation and maintenance of the recreational facilities and law enforcement
- Chip sealing four miles of the road or providing funds to upgrade the road surface

## Boat launches

Although Camp Cushman and Saltwater Park will be transferred to the Tribe, you'll still be able use the boat launches. Tacoma Power will:

- Maintain the Camp Cushman boat launch for continued public use between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends
- Construct a third launch lane at the Saltwater Park boat launch
- Maintain Saltwater Park and Lake Kokanee boat launches and restrooms for year-round public use

## Wildlife habitat

Protecting wildlife is also an important part of the settlement agreement. Tacoma Power will:

- Preserve 2,000 acres of existing Tacoma Power wildlife lands
- Purchase an additional 750 acres of land for wildlife habitat
- Construct osprey nest platforms
- Install wood duck nest boxes
- Construct up to 200 acres of elk forage fields

# Q & A

## **How will Tacoma Power add recreational opportunities to compensate for transferring Camp Cushman to the Skokomish Tribe?**

Tacoma Power will construct up to 30 group camp RV sites and up to 30 individual RV and tent sites at the US Forest Service's Big Creek Campground. We will construct two kitchen shelters, two vault toilets and make many other improvements to accommodate additional use at the campground. At Camp Cushman, Tacoma Power will maintain the boat launch and trailer dump station for public use. Tacoma Power will also improve recreational sites along Staircase Road and the Lake Cushman viewpoint.

## **After Camp Cushman and Saltwater Park are transferred to the Skokomish Tribe, 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. Tacoma Power will construct a third lane at the Saltwater Park launch before transferring the land to the Tribe.

## **Will there be a fee to launch my boat at the Saltwater Park or Camp Cushman boat launches?**

Although the Tribe will have the option to charge fees for boat launch use, the Tribe has not indicated whether fees are planned.

## **What improvements will Tacoma Power make to the recreational facilities along Staircase Road?**

Tacoma Power will improve five existing shoreline recreational sites along Staircase Road and improve the Mount Rose Trailhead access road and parking area. We will provide additional picnic tables, toilets and parking at the Bear Gulch day-use site. Additionally, Tacoma Power will provide annual funding to the US Forest Service for operation and maintenance of the recreational facilities and law enforcement along Staircase Road.

## **How does the settlement agreement address the issues at the Big Rock ("Party Rock") along Staircase Road?**

The US Forest Service owns the site and is responsible for its management. Tacoma Power will provide funding to the US Forest Service for additional law enforcement along Staircase Road. Tacoma Power will also complete an assessment of the site with other agencies and provide management recommendations to the US Forest Service.

Although Tacoma Power submitted the Cushman Settlement Agreement containing these license articles and proposals to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the actual requirements of the license may be amended by the Commission.

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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.