

Hydroelectric facilities at Mayfield and Mossyrock Dam (Hydroelectric Project) are owned and operated by City of Tacoma, Washington, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division (Tacoma). In August of 2000 the Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement) was completed. The Settlement Agreement establishes Tacoma's obligations for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of natural resources affected by the Hydroelectric Project.

The Settlement Agreement called for the development of a Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan (FHMP). Issues addressed in the FHMP include quantity and size of fish to be released, rearing and release strategies to be employed, stock status monitoring and evaluation programs and fishery management strategies. The initial FHMP was completed in August 2004. The Settlement Agreement calls for the FHMP to be updated every six years, and that update process is now beginning.

Actions called for in the FHMP can impact both conservation efforts and fishing opportunities in the Cowlitz Basin. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will be working with other signatories to the Settlement Agreement to develop an FHMP that achieves conservation and sustainable fishery goals. To help WDFW better represent our constituents we will work with a Cowlitz River advisory board to provide input to WDFW regarding the FHMP. WDFW's goal is to complete an updated FHMP that better addresses the needs of the resources and citizens of the State of Washington.

To that end, WDFW is currently in the process of developing this Cowlitz River advisory board that will be composed of concerned citizens who will provide recommendations to the department regarding changes to the FHMP and other fishery management issues in the Cowlitz Basin. WDFW invited the citizens interested in fish resources and fisheries of the Cowlitz Basin to submit nominations for participation in this advisory board. Nominations closed on May 21, 2010. WDFW Director and staff are currently evaluating these nominations and the Director will soon select the citizens that will make up this advisory board. WDFW is hopeful that this citizen involvement will benefit fishery management actions in the Cowlitz Basin.