



Cowlitz Annual Program Review and Science Conference

Current Status – September 4, 2024
Jenise M. Bauman, PhD
Tacoma Power

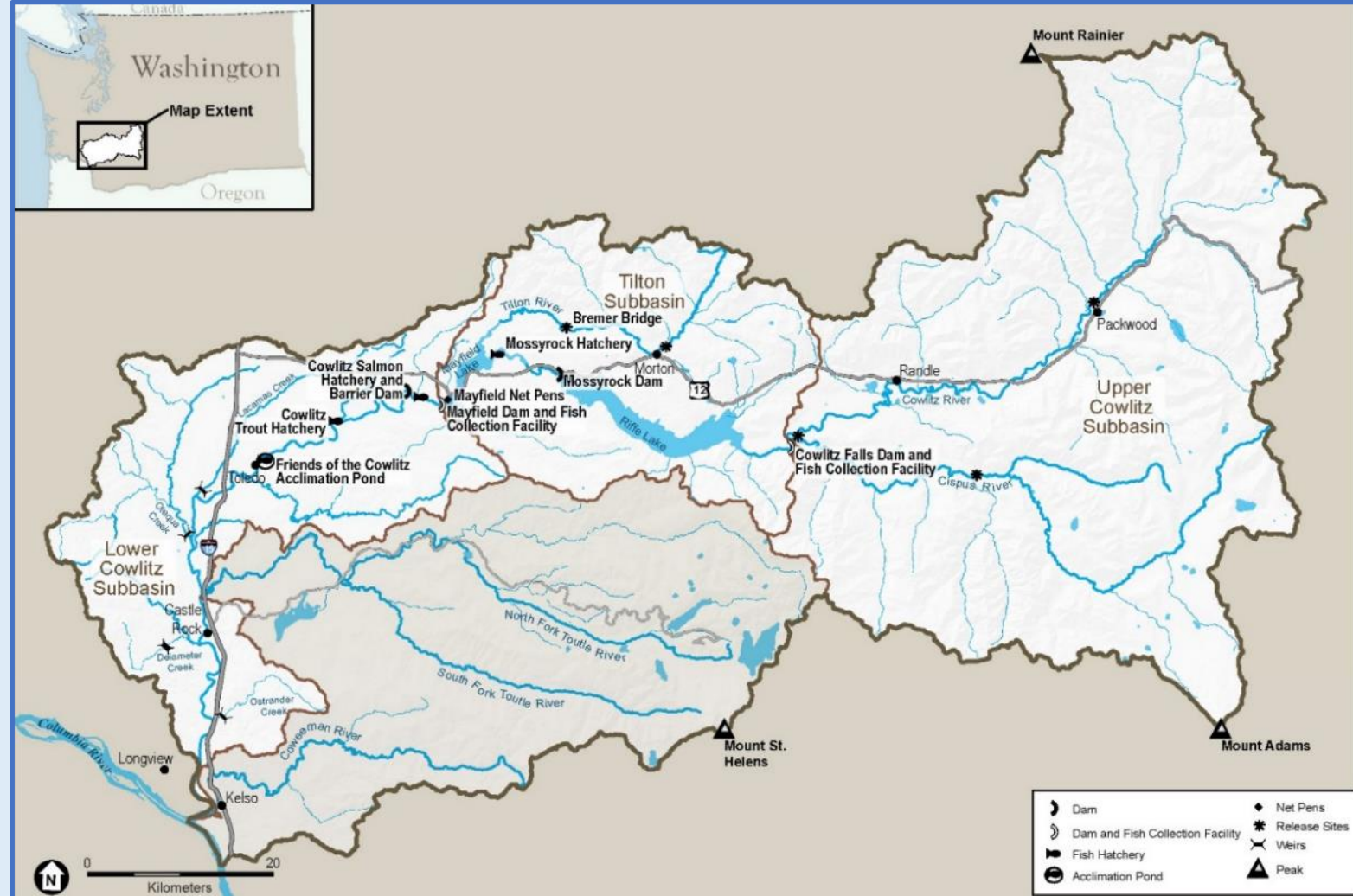
Cowlitz Project:

The Cowlitz River is one of the most important tributaries for the recovery efforts for salmonid species within the lower Columbia

Overarching Goal: Recovery and Harvest of native salmon and trout

Actions:

- Fish Passage
- Hatchery Production
- Habitat Improvements



Cowlitz Annual Program Review and Science Conference

Allows for the review of the science and research reported in 2023 with Partners:

- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Tacoma Power



Cowlitz Annual Program Review and Science Conference

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 | 10 AM to 5:00 PM
The Veterans Museum, 100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis, WA 98532

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call in: +1 253-666-4424, 655957630# | Phone conference ID: 655 957 630# | Passcode: QHT8yq
If attending in-person please RSVP by August 30, 2024 – email: cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org

10:00 AM	• Welcome and Engagement Procedure	Matt Bleich, Tacoma Power
10:10 AM	• Tech Check and Meeting Logistics	Carrie Mantle, Tacoma Power
10:20 AM	• Current Status	Jenise Bauman, Tacoma Power
Tacoma Power Operations		
10:40 AM	• Project Operations	Melora Shelton, Tacoma Power
11:00 AM	• Hatchery Operations	Eric Shoblom, Tacoma Power
11:20 AM	• Habitat Efforts	Steve Manlow, LCFRB
11:40 AM	• M&E Plan	Jenise Bauman, TP; Greg Mackey, FP
Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00 pm (provided by Tacoma Power)		
Fish Information		
1:00 PM	• Fish Passage- Current Trends	Wyatt Wood, Tacoma Power
1:20 PM	• Fish Passage - Looking forward 2025	Chris Vaughn, Tacoma Power
1:40 PM	• Cowlitz Trout Hatchery Steelhead Enumeration	Scott Gibson, Tacoma Power
2:00 PM	• Pre-Terminal/Terminal Harvest	Josua Holowatz, WDFW
Break –2:20-2:30 PM		
2:30 PM	• Lower Cowlitz Adult Estimates	John Serl, WDFW
3:00 PM	• Adult Returns to the Separator	Jamie Murphy/Amy Anderson, TP
3:20 PM	• Early Winter Steelhead Run Timing Update	John Serl, WDFW
3:40 PM	• Fall Chinook Population Monitoring Update	John Serl/Erick Rockwood/Kale Bentley, WDFW
Break –4:00-4:10 PM		
Annual Program Review		
4:10 PM	• APR Introduction	Matt Bleich, TP; Bryce Glaser, WDFW
4:20 PM	• Cowlitz Hatchery Operation and Programs	Eric Shoblom, Tacoma Power
4:35 PM	• Public Comments	
5:00 PM	• Conference End	

New: Science and Research Team

Jenise Bauman – Science and Research Manager

Scott Gibson – Cowlitz Monitor and Evaluation

Wyatt Wood – Science and Research Biologist

Chris Vaughn – Senior Fisheries Scientist

TBA – Fish Passage Biologist

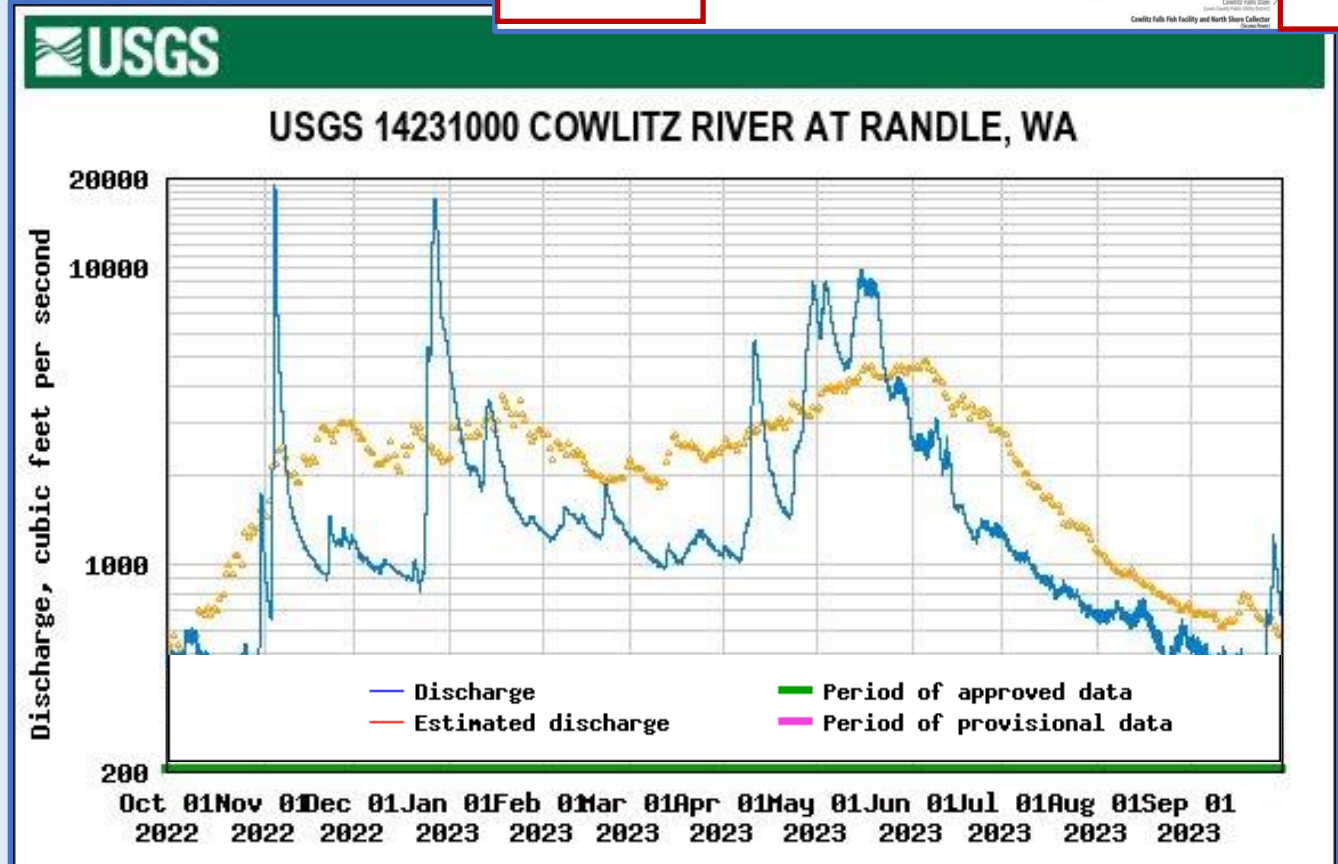
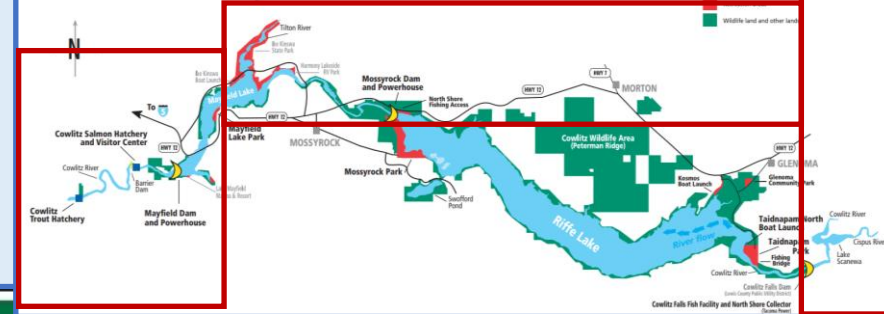


Project Operations:

Melora Shelton, Tacoma Power

- Synthesizes data from USGS and Power Management
- Informs hydrological drivers and conditions that influence inflows
- Translates that into best practices to balance hydropower operations, public safety, and fish habitat.

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Hatchery Operations:

Eric Shoblom, Tacoma Power

Updates on operating and maintaining the salmon and trout hatchery

Goal: produce up to 650,000 lbs. of fish

- Hatchery performance and trends over the past 5 years
- Fish Health
- New strategies and remodels

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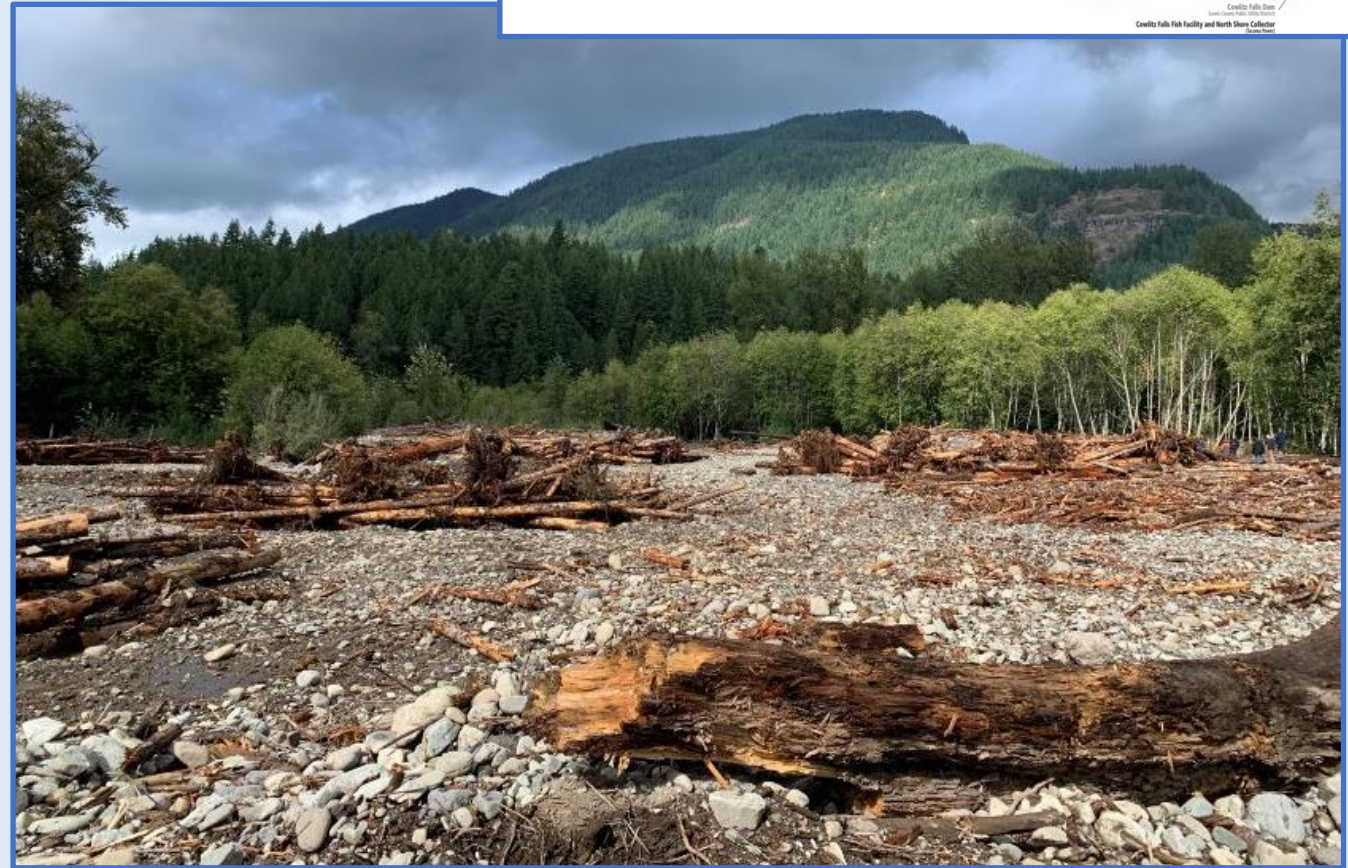


Habitat Efforts:

Steve Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

- Salmon Recovery: Regional Organization Roles & Responsibilities
- Conservation and Restoration Partnerships and Accomplishments
- Funded Cowlitz Restoration & Recovery (CRR) Projects

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Habitat Efforts:

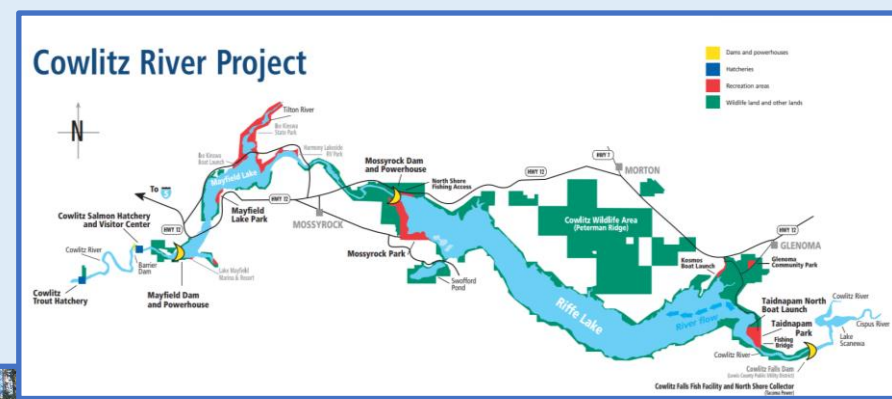
TPU Initiatives

Cowlitz Restoration & Recovery Funding

Habitat Goals:

- Annual Wood Replacement
- Gravel Augmentation

Woody Debris Management Project



Cowlitz Wildlife Area:

TUP with our WDFW Partners:

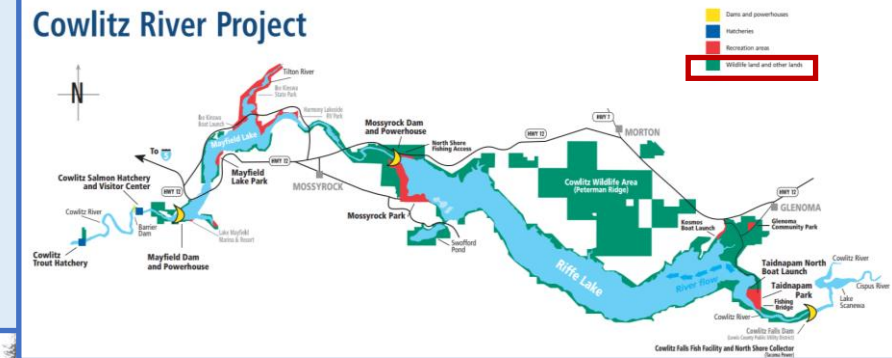
Forest, Riparian, and wetland habitats

- Promote Healthy waters
- Aquatic food webs
- Spawning habitat

Waterfowl and large game

Recreational access to river and ponds for fishing

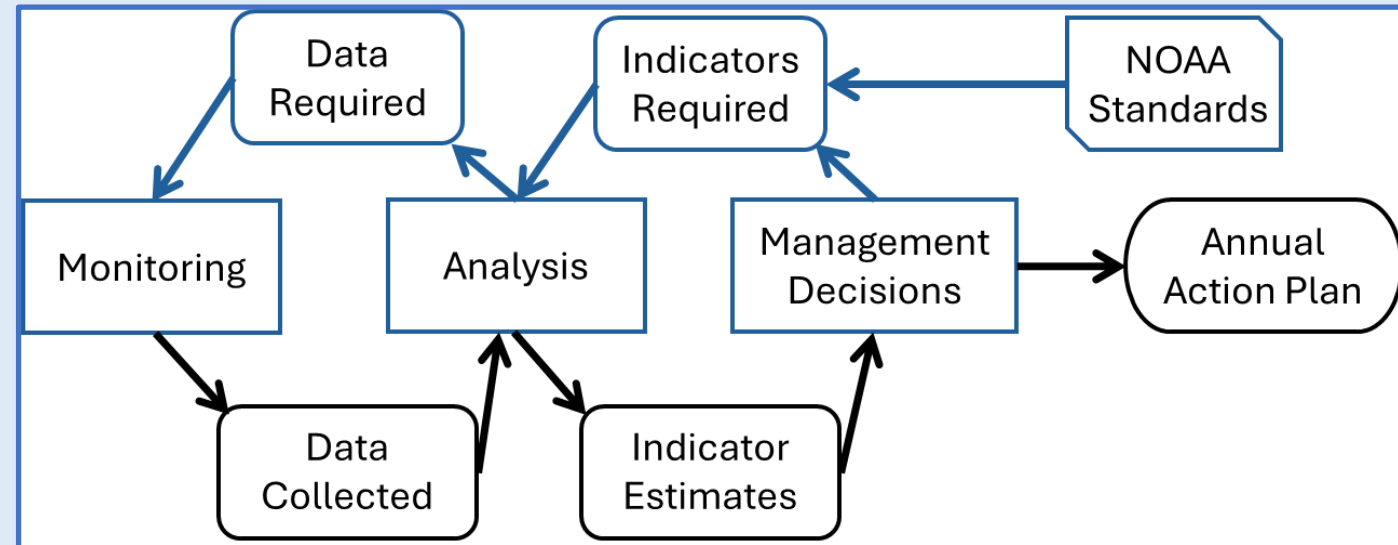
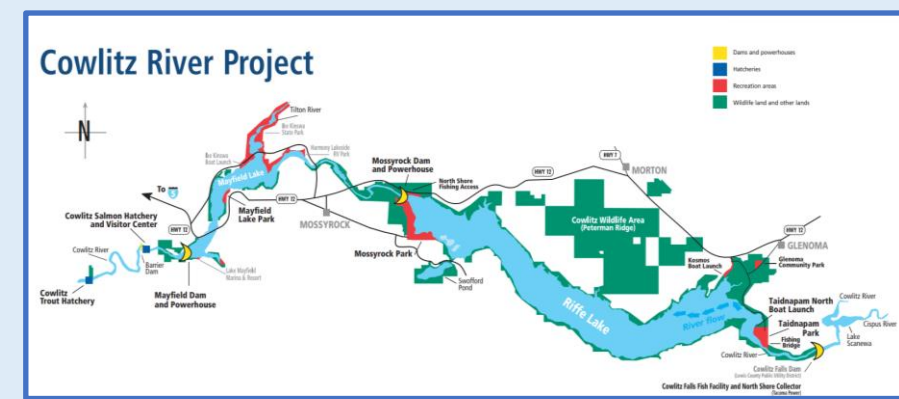
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Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:

Greg Mackey, Four Peaks, and Jenise Bauman, Tacoma Power

- Monitoring, analyses, and protocols to inform management decisions.
- Test key assumptions and adjust the assumptions accordingly.
- Provide critical information to set management targets and decision rules



Fish Passage: Current Trends

Wyatt Wood, Tacoma Power

- Cowlitz Falls Fish Passage and Survival
- Mayfield Dam Passage and Survival

Species of Focus:

- Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- Coho Salmon (*O. kisutch*)
- Chinook Salmon (*O. tshawytscha*)
- Cutthroat (*O. clarkii*)

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Fish Passage: Looking ahead 2025

Chris Vaughn, Tacoma Power

- Cowlitz Falls Fish Improvements
 - Initial improvements in 2017
 - Acoustic Telemetry Study 2017-19
 - Preparing future initiatives
- Mayfield Improvements
 - Secondary Separator
 - Remodel

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Steelhead Enumeration:

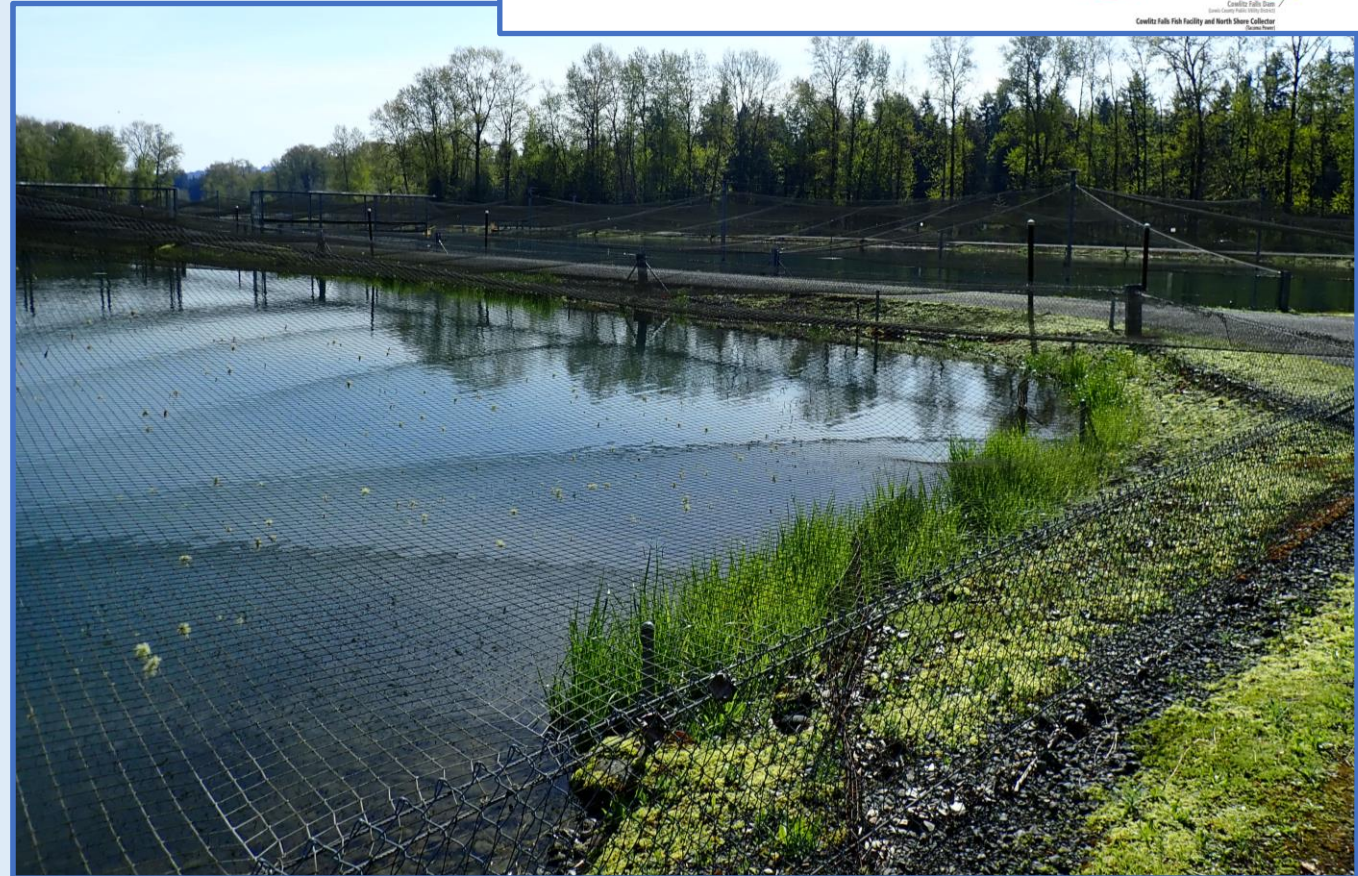
Scott Gibson, Tacoma Power

Accounting for numbers at the Trout Hatchery

To address this, Tacoma and WDFW revised protocols

- Equipment Calibration
- Paired Studies
- Improved Enumeration

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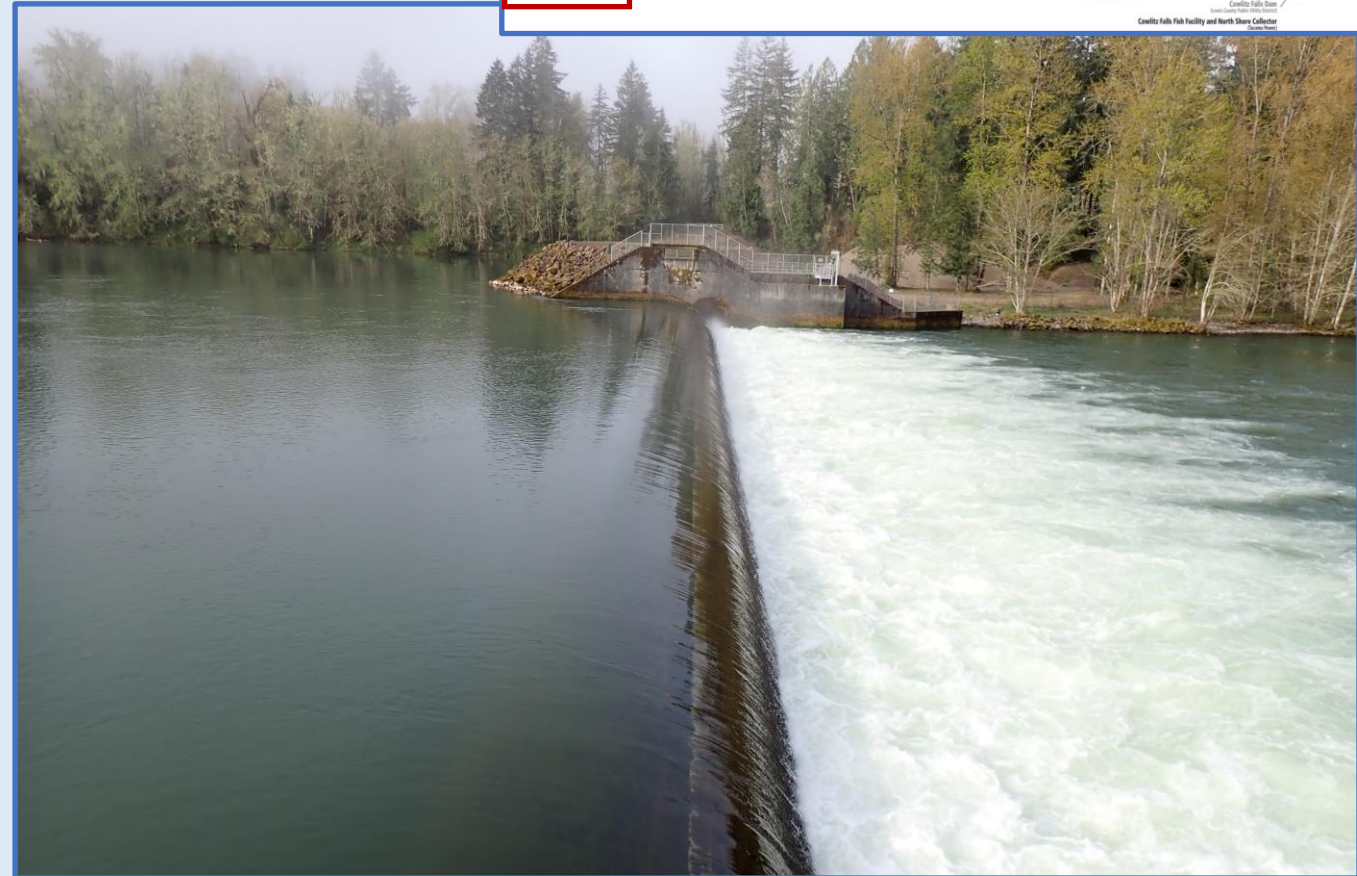
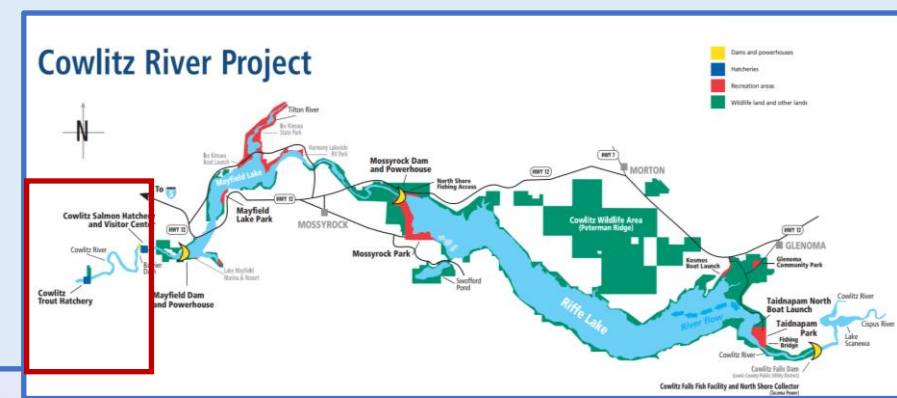


Pre-Terminal/Terminal Harvest:

Josua Holowatz, WDFW

Data Sources:

- Barrier Dam Adult Facility
- WDFW Lower Cowlitz Spot Creel
- Mark Selective Fisheries: Adipose intact fish are released
- WDFW Catch Record Card Estimates

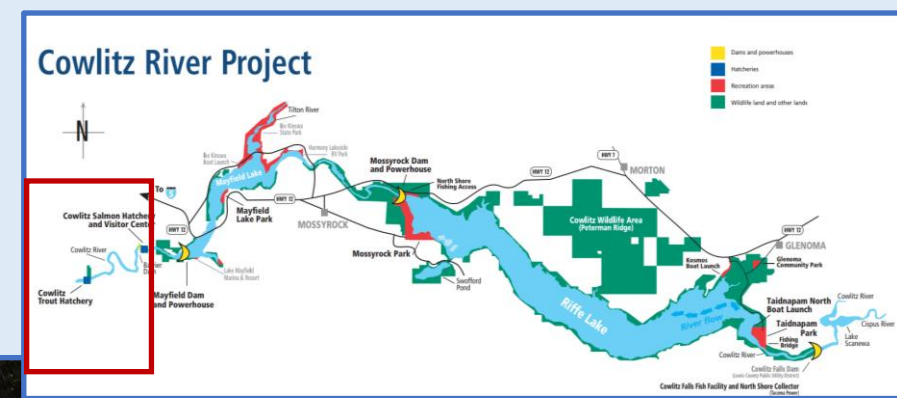


Lower Cowlitz Adult Estimates:

John Serl, WDFW

The 2023 Monitoring and Evaluation work:

- Spawner abundance and composition of winter steelhead and coho in lower Cowlitz River tributaries
- Chinook in the mainstem
- Document Cowlitz hatchery broodstock composition, and impacts on natural-origin adults.

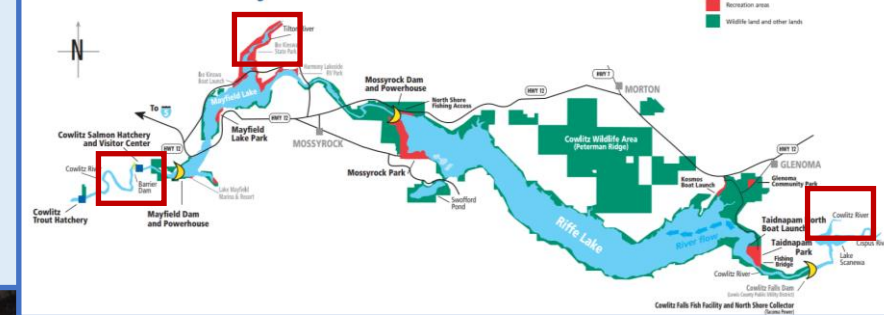


Adult Returns to Separator:

Jamie Murphy and Amy Anderson

- Total returns to the separator by species, tag, and mark
- Release sites and distribution
- Total distribution to each release site by species, tag, and mark
- Weekly collections

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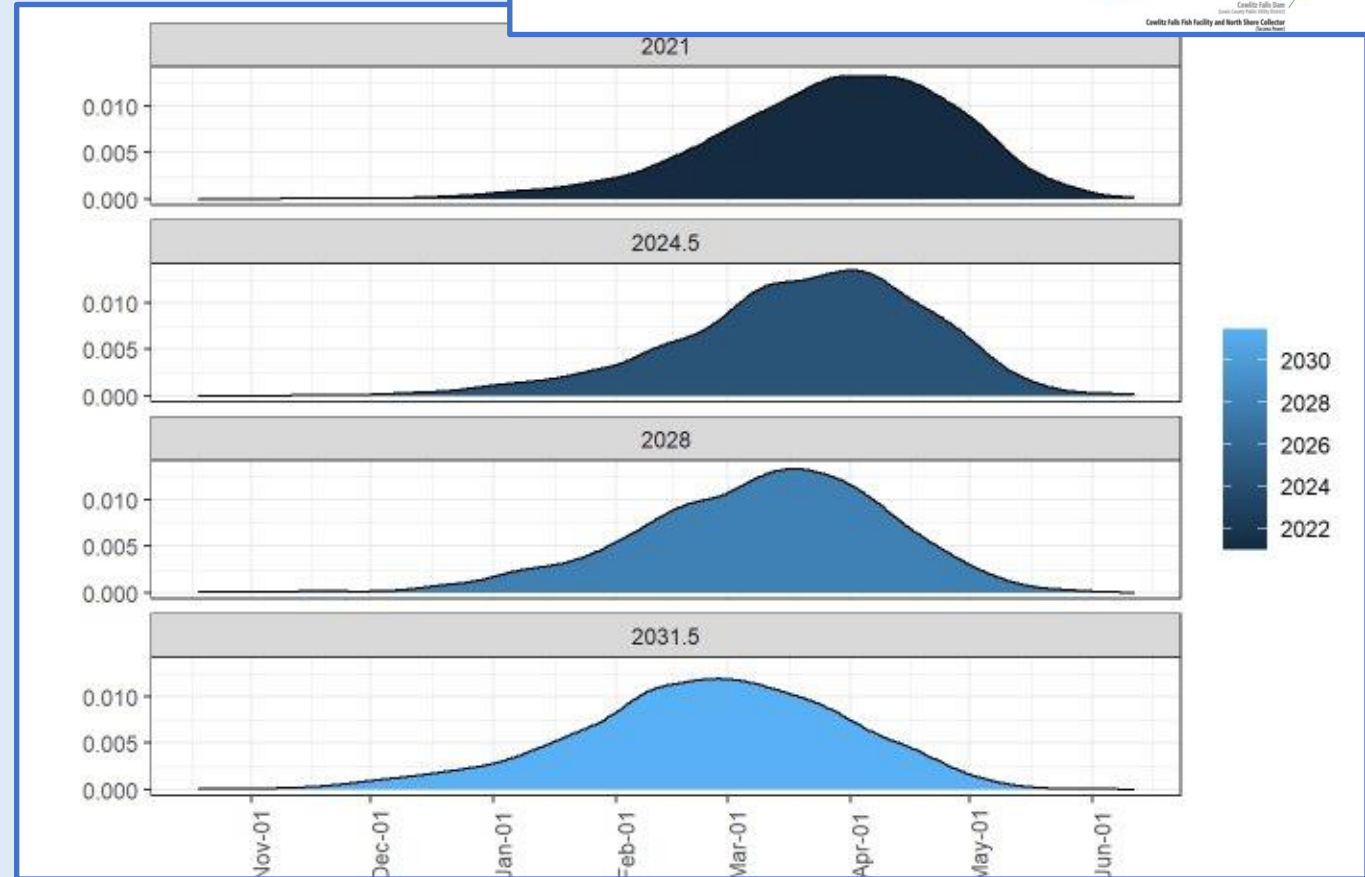


Early Winter Steelhead Run Timing Update:

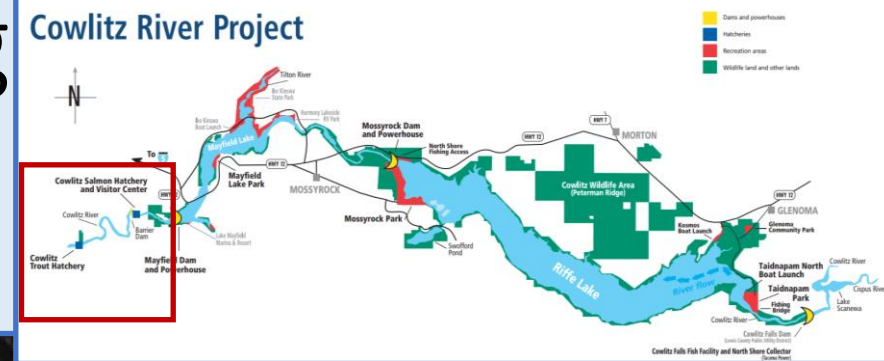
John Serl, WDFW

- 3 Programs - Lower Cowlitz River (Segregated stock) + Tilton and Upper Cowlitz Integrated
- How do we make the Lower River stock early?
 - Earlier Egg Take Start Date
 - Take Brood from First Arrivals
 - Release Goal of 308,000 smolts

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Fall Chinook Population Monitoring Update:



John Serl, Erick Rockwood, and Kale Bentley, WDFW

Estimates of fall Chinook abundance in the lower Cowlitz River using mark-recapture

Castle Rock to Barrier Dam (~33 miles) between September – December

- Weekly Carcass surveys
- Bi-weekly Aerial flights for redds

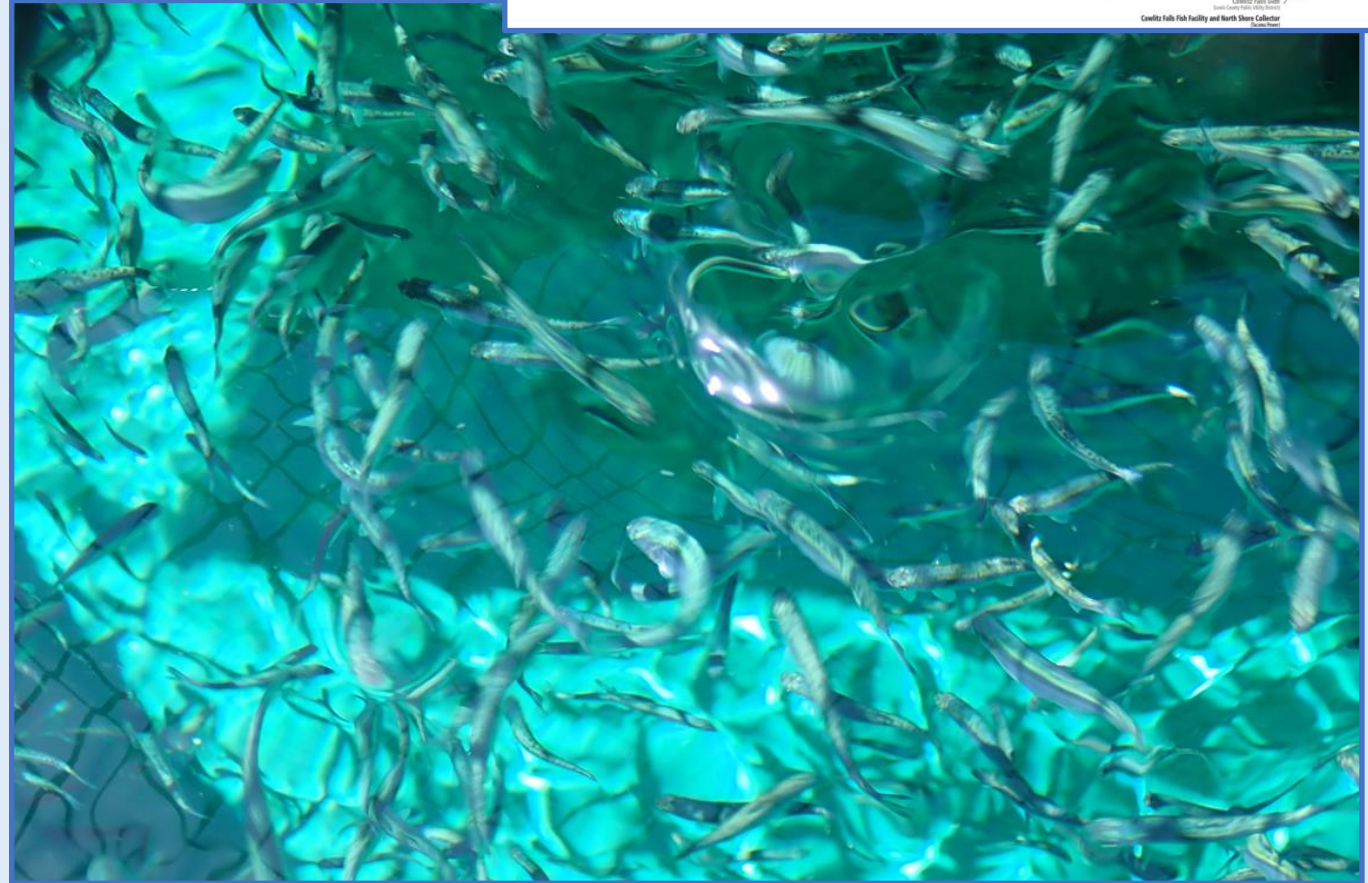


Annual Program Review:

**Matt Bleich, TPU, Bryce Glaser, WDFW
and Eric Shoblom, TPU**

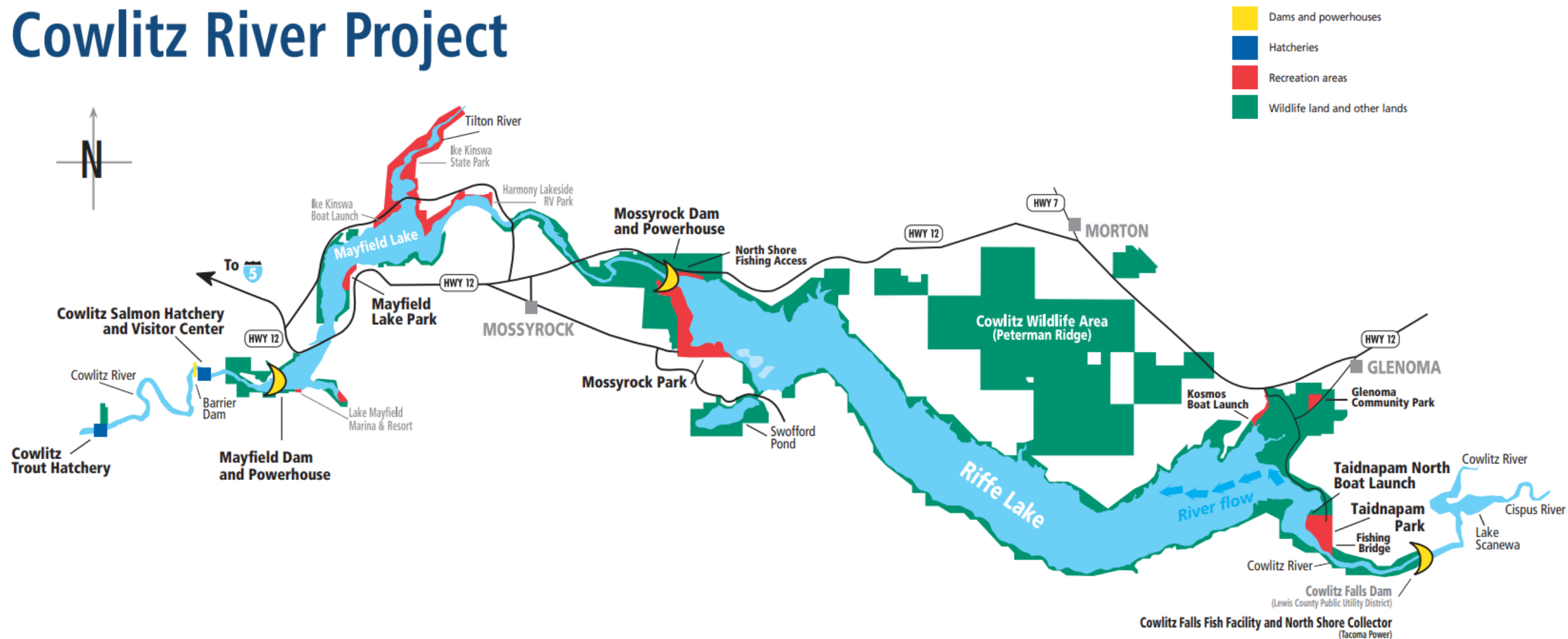
- Fish production plan that sets the number of fish reared and released
- Synthesized with other important management actions
- Intent – develop population management strategy for the coming season

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Next Conference & APR - Save the date! April 16, 2025

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Thank you!

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