

Priorities for Restoration Projects and Land Acquisition:

The CRR Implementation Plan identifies priorities for habitat restoration and land acquisition activities that will support the restoration and recovery of Cowlitz Basin listed salmonid populations originating upstream of Mayfield Dam, as follows:

1. Activities upstream of the Barrier Dam
2. Activities downstream of the Barrier Dam to the mouth of the Toutle River, which provide matching funds that support cost sharing with other fund sources
3. Activities downstream of the Barrier Dam to the mouth of the Toutle River.

The CRR Implementation strategy further prioritizes habitat restoration and land acquisition activities based on geographic area and target species, as follows:

- Upper Cowlitz and Cispus basins upstream of Cowlitz Falls Dam
- Spring Chinook

Spring Chinook are prioritized over other species because of their importance to recovery. Recovery of the Lower Columbia Chinook Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) requires that Upper Cowlitz and Cispus spring Chinook achieve Recovery Plan population viability goals. The Upper Cowlitz and Cispus basins are prioritized over other parts of the Cowlitz subbasin based on the Recovery Plan population viability recovery objectives for Upper Cowlitz and Cispus populations.

The Upper Cowlitz and Cispus basin each support a total of three primary populations (spring Chinook, coho and winter steelhead) while the Tilton basin supports one contributing (winter steelhead) and two stabilizing (spring Chinook and coho) populations. The Upper Cowlitz/Cispus/Tilton fall Chinook population is designated as stabilizing. This initial prioritization presented above may be reevaluated upon completion of a habitat assessment and/or changes in the Recovery Plan.

While this Implementation Strategy prioritizes activities focusing on spring Chinook in the Upper Cowlitz and Cispus, it does not exclude activities from occurring in other geographic locations (e.g. Tilton River) as long as it also benefits other species (e.g. coho and winter steelhead) originating upstream of Mayfield Dam.

Habitat activities downstream of the Barrier Dam will be evaluated based on their benefits to populations originating upstream of Mayfield Dam. Activities benefiting Upper Cowlitz or Cispus spring Chinook will be prioritized over those benefiting other populations.