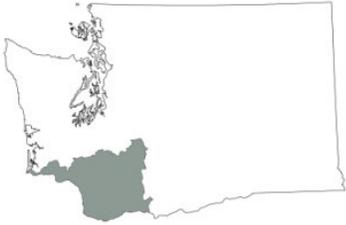
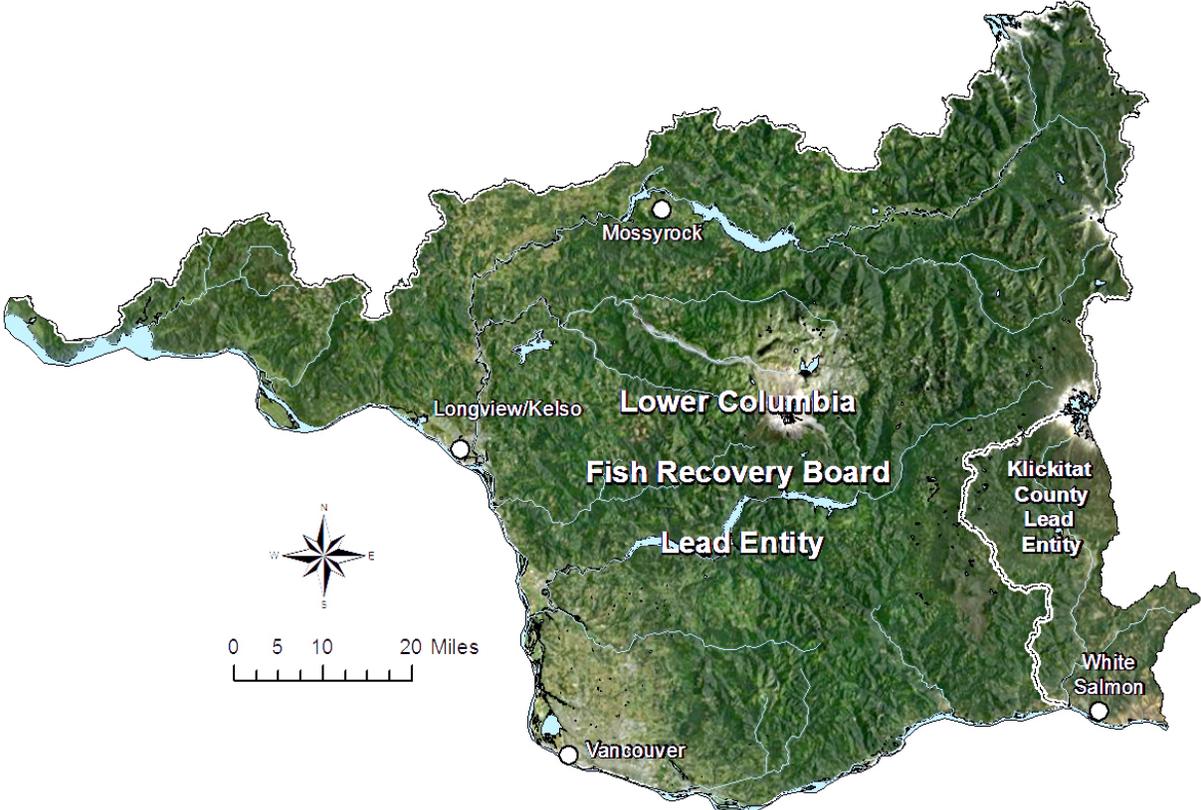


Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region



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SalmonPORT

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Region Overview

Geography

The Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region encompasses Clark, Skamania, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties, and portions of Pacific, Lewis and Klickitat counties.

Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA)

Willapa, Chinook and Wallacut (24), Grays-Elochoman (25), Cowlitz (26), Lewis (27), Salmon-Washougal (28), and Wind (29A)

Federally Recognized Tribe

Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Yakama Indian Nation, The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Endangered Species Act Listings

Table 1. Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

Species Listed	Listed As	Date Listed
Lower Columbia River Chinook	Threatened	March 24, 1999
Lower Columbia River Coho	Threatened	June 28, 2005
Columbia River Chum	Threatened	March 25, 1999
Lower Columbia River Steelhead	Threatened	March 19, 1998
Bull Trout	Threatened	June 10, 1998

Salmon Recovery Plan

Table 2. Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan

Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan	
Regional Organization	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Plan Timeframe	25 years
Actions Identified to Implement Plan	350
Estimated Cost	\$220,899,827 (habitat restoration project needs only)
Status	In July 2013, NOAA adopted the lower Columbia domain recovery plan ¹ incorporating the Oregon, Washington, and White Salmon management plans, and the estuary module.

¹ESA Recovery Plan for Lower Columbia River Coho Salmon, Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon, Columbia River Chum Salmon, and Lower Columbia River Steelhead, NOAA, June 2013

Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan	
Implementation Schedule	A detailed strategy has been completed for implementing habitat actions in the recovery plan. SalmonPORT identifies reach-level restoration needs and priorities, and tracks habitat protection and restoration projects. The system also identifies and provides the ability to track implementation of all recovery plan actions by federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, and other entities.
Web Information	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Web sites: SalmonPORT and www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us Klickitat County Lead Entity Web page

Region and Lead Entities

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (Board) was established by State legislation (Revised Code of Washington 77.85.200) to oversee and coordinate salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in the Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. The law also designated the Board as the lead entity for the entire region, except for the White Salmon River. The Board serves as the citizen’s committee and final approval authority for the region’s project list.

The Klickitat County Lead Entity was established under Revised Code of Washington 77.85.050 in 1999 to serve a geographic area consisting of WRIA 29b White Salmon and WRIA 30 Klickitat. WRIA 31 Rock-Glade was added to the Klickitat County Lead Entity’s geographic area in 2011. WRIA 29b is a shared watershed. Fall Chinook, coho and chum salmon are listed under the Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region, and steelhead are listed under the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. WRIAs 30 and 31 are also in the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. Klickitat County is the lead entity for these WRIAs.

Regional Area Summary Questions and Responses

Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across lead entities or watersheds within the region?

The Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region currently receives an allocation of 15 percent of the statewide total for habitat projects by the SRFB. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board is the lead entity for 17 of the 18 subbasins in the region, as well as the estuary. Klickitat County serves as the lead entity for the remaining subbasin, the White Salmon River. The Board does not review White Salmon River proposals. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board has historically provided 5% of the Lower Columbia project allocation to the Klickitat County Lead Entity for projects in the White Salmon River.

The allocation of funding within and across the watersheds in the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity area is accomplished through a habitat strategy and project evaluation and ranking process based on the goals, measures, actions, and priorities of the *Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan* (recovery plan).²

The *Lower Columbia Habitat Strategy*³ (habitat strategy) identifies protection and restoration needs and priorities using the same analytical methods and criteria across the region's 17 subbasins and estuary. The Board's project evaluation and ranking process uses the strategy as the basis for assessing a project's potential benefits to fish. It also applies uniform criteria in assessing each project's certainty of success and cost. As a result, the ratings and scores for projects are comparable allowing projects to be ranked and funding allocated within and across subbasins.

Habitat Strategy

The Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region includes more than 1,987 anadromous reaches, encompassing 2,280 river miles and 268 estuary shoreline miles. Each reach supports from one to six Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead populations. The Lewis River also supports Endangered Species Act-listed bull trout. Lower watershed reaches, the mainstem Columbia, and the estuary also support out-of-basin populations

The *Lower Columbia Habitat Strategy* is based on and consistent with the goals, measures, actions, and priorities of the recovery plan. It identifies reach-level restoration needs on both a multi-species and individual population basis. The strategy is based on an analysis of species presence, key life history stages affected, and key habitat limiting factors. During project development, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board staff works with project sponsors to ensure that their proposals are consistent with the priorities in the strategy.

Reaches are ranked using a four-tier approach, with Tier 1 reaches being the highest priority for protection and/or restoration, and Tier 4 reaches being the lowest. A reach's tier designation is based on the following factors:

- The number of populations using a given reach;
- The recovery priority of the populations (Primary, Contributing or Stabilizing);
- The importance of the reach (actual and potential) to the performance of each population; and

²Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, 2010, 2013

³www.lowercolumbiasalmonrecovery.org

- Potential use by other Columbia River basin stocks.

In addition to ranking reaches, the strategy uses the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) model to identify and rank:

- The relative importance of restoring or preserving conditions within a specific reach; and
- Reach-specific habitat restoration needs based on the salmonid life history stages and their associated limiting factors. Restoration needs or habitat attribute priorities within a reach are rated as high, medium, or low.

As funding has permitted, additional analyses have been conducted within selected subbasins to identify and prioritize potential project sites within priority reaches.

The strategy is incorporated in SalmonPORT. It includes an interactive map of salmon recovery and watershed health projects associated with a reach, description of species present, and factors affecting their recovery. SalmonPORT also links specific assessments, strategies and design documents to each subbasin.

Project Evaluation and Ranking Process

All projects in the region are evaluated and ranked using the same criteria. Each project's ranking is based on its benefits to fish, certainty of success, and cost.

The habitat strategy provides the basis for determining a project's benefits to fish. Specifically, the evaluation of a project's benefits to fish is based on:

- The ranking of the target reaches;
- The importance of the habitat needs or attributes addressed by the project; and
- The estimated effectiveness of a project at protecting or restoring the targeted habitat attributes.

The extent to which a project addresses key habitat attributes and their effectiveness is based on the review of the project and related data by Board staff and the Technical Advisory Committee. Additionally, the size of the area being treated and the project objectives and approach are considered. To allow a comparison among projects, the size of the area being treated is measured in "habitat units," which generally are equivalent to 500 feet of stream length.

Per Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board policy, the Technical Advisory Committee may also give a project special consideration when a sponsor provides information or data that indicates the habitat strategy does not accurately capture or reflect site conditions, fish usage or reach

potential. This grant round, the Technical Advisory Committee gave special consideration to three projects:

- **16-1516 Goldinov Site Restoration**

The recovery plan does not indicate fall Chinook usage in Wilson Creek. WDFW data shows sporadic use by fall Chinook in upper Wilson Creek, but it is noted it was not comparable to that of the mainstem. Utilization is likely correlated with high flow years. Therefore, presence of fall Chinook was added, but the species reach potential (SRP) was set based on a presumed Low utilization.

- **16-1521 Germany Creek Stream Restoration Gohdino**

The recovery plan does not indicate fall Chinook usage in Germany 6 and 7. WDFW data shows sporadic use in both reaches. Utilization is likely correlated with high flow years. Therefore, presence of fall Chinook was added, but the SRP was set based on a presumed Low utilization.

- **16-1557 Grays 3B Pond Reconnections Design**

Based on WDFW information and data, there is limited but consistent coho use for spawning and rearing in the upper Grays, above Grays Reach 3B. WDFW also presumes coho presence in lower Alder Creek based on usage in similar tributaries upstream. Coho was added to the score, but, given the limited information on use, the SRP was presumed to be Low.

A project's certainty of success is based on the Technical Advisory Committee's review of the project using the following criteria:

- The project's objectives and scope;
- Technical approach;
- Coordination and sequencing with other recovery work;
- Technical, physical, legal, or funding uncertainties;
- Sponsor capabilities;
- Community and landowner support; and
- Stewardship;

The Technical Advisory Committee also evaluates each project to determine if the cost is reasonable relative to the work performed and the likely benefits. This evaluation is based on professional judgment taking into consideration labor, material, and administrative costs in

comparison to past projects. The following questions guide the Technical Advisory Committee’s cost evaluation:

- Is the requested amount reasonable relative to the likely benefits? Projects receiving a “high” rating must demonstrate exceptional benefit for the cost;
- Has the sponsor obtained significant in-kind or cash match beyond the required minimum for the project type;
- Is the total project cost reasonable relative to the amount and type of work being proposed;
- Are costs well described and justified; and
- Are more appropriate fund sources available for the project?

Projects are given high, medium, or low ratings for benefits to fish (BTF), certainty of success (COS), and cost (Co\$t) as well as numerical scores (Table 3). Projects are placed in four ranked groupings based on their ratings and are then ranked within their group using their numerical score to generate a regional ranking of projects. If a project receives a low rating in any category, it is not recommended for funding.

Table 3. Project rating groups

Final Rating	BTF / COS / Co\$t		
Group 1	H/H/H		
Group 2	M/H/H,	H /M/H	H /H/M
Group 3	M/M/H,	H/M/M	M/H/M
Group 4	M/M/M		
Group 5	Projects with a low rating will not be considered for SRFB funding.		

This approach ensures that high priority reaches for one or more primary population(s) rates higher for funding than reaches used only by lower priority populations. If projects were ranked only by their numerical scores, projects focusing on restoration of high priority reaches used only by a single primary population would rank lower than projects focusing on lower priority reaches and/or multiple lower priority populations. This practice is also the reason why a project in a higher priority group may have a lower numerical score than a project in a lower priority group.

Based on the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations and the Board's deliberations, the Board submitted a ranked list of 22 projects to the SRFB (including 13 alternates and 1 project proposed for funding through the Intensively Monitored Watershed funds).

Because the LCFRB acts as both the lead entity and regional organization for this area, answers to questions 2, 4, and 5 have been combined below.

Regional Technical Review Process

How was the regional technical review conducted?

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board adopted its updated grant round schedule, policies, and habitat strategy on February 5. The call for projects was announced February 10. LCFRB staff held a grant round information workshop on February 18 and conducted in-office consultations with each sponsor during February and March. The Board received 24 complete draft applications on April 11. Site visits were conducted the first week of May. Members of the Board, Technical Advisory Committee and the SRFB Review panel, the RCO grant manager, and a representative from Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler's office attended the site visits. The group traveled about 200 miles each day for four days. On May 18-19, the Technical Advisory Committee conducted formal reviews of the draft applications. Project sponsors were provided the opportunity to present and discuss their projects with the Technical Advisory Committee. The goal of this review is to assist project sponsors in preparing final applications that are technically sound and complete. Detailed comments were recorded and provided to sponsors in the form of a comment matrix, to assist them in preparing their final applications. Comments were also submitted by the SRFB Review Panel and added to the comment matrices. Sponsors are required to identify where and how they addressed each of the Technical Advisory Committee's and SRFB Review Panel's comments in their final applications.

Twenty-four final applications were submitted by the June 17 deadline. On July 13-14, the Technical Advisory Committee scored and ranked projects on their benefits to fish, certainty of success, and cost as described earlier. Following the Technical Advisory Committee's evaluation, one project was recommended for funding set aside by the SRFB for projects within Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW). In the Lower Columbia, the Abernathy, Mill and Germany Creek (MAG) Complex is one of the four state IMWs funded by the SRFB. This project will be submitted to the SRFB for funding consideration after review by the SRFB Review Panel, SRFB Monitoring Panel and the IWM Oversight Committee. Both the IMW and regional ranked project lists were adopted by the LCFRB on July 29 and submitted to the SRFB on August 15. For the 2016 Round, the ranked list includes 22 project proposals from 7 sponsoring organizations, for projects in 13 of the 17 Lower Columbia subbasins and estuary, across 6 counties.

What criteria were used for the regional technical review?

All projects in the region are evaluated and ranked using the same criteria. Each project's ranking is based on its benefits to fish, certainty of success, and cost.

- **Benefits to Fish**

Each project receives a "benefits to fish" rating of high, medium, or low and a numerical score of up to 200 points. The scoring is based on the:

- Importance of the fish populations targeted by project to the recovery of lower Columbia River salmon and steelhead;
- Importance of the river segment or reach targeted by the project to those populations;
- Importance of the habitat attributes addressed by the project; and
- Likely effectiveness of a project in protecting or restoring the targeted habitat attributes.

The information on the importance of the populations, river reaches, and habitat attributes is provided in SalmonPORT. The extent to which a project addresses key habitat attributes and its effectiveness is based on the review of the project and related data by the Board's staff and the Technical Advisory Committee. Consideration is given to the size of the area being treated and the project's objectives and technical approach. To allow a comparison among projects, the size of the area being treated is measured in "habitat units," which generally are equivalent to 500 feet of stream length.

- **Certainty of Success**

The Technical Advisory Committee assigns each project a certainty of success rating of high, medium, or low, and a numerical score of up to 200 points. The scoring is based on the:

- The project's objectives and scope;
- Technical approach;
- Coordination and sequencing with other recovery work;
- Technical, physical, legal, or funding uncertainties;
- Sponsor capabilities;
- Community and landowner support; and

- Stewardship.
- **Cost**

The Technical Advisory Committee assigns each project a cost rating of high, medium, or low, and a numerical score of up to 100 points. The cost score is based on the:

- Request amount relative to the likely benefits; Proportion of matching funds pledged;
- Total project cost relative to the amount and type of work being proposed; and
- Justification and description of costs.

Only projects receiving high or medium ratings for benefits to fish, certainty of success, and cost are considered for funding. These projects are placed into four priority groupings depending on their ratings:

- Group 1 – Projects with all high ratings
- Group 2 – Projects with two high ratings and one medium rating
- Group 3 – Projects with one high rating and two medium ratings
- Group 4 – Projects with three medium ratings

Within each group, projects are ranked based on their grand total numerical scores.

Who completed the regional review (name, affiliation and expertise) and are they part of the regional organization or independent?

Projects are reviewed by the Board's Technical Advisory Committee and submitted to the Board, who reviews the recommended ranking and approves the final list. The Board may remand issues back to the Technical Advisory Committee or amend the list based on policy considerations such as community support, economic impacts and social and cultural issues.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Technical Advisory Committee was established pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 77.85.200. The principle role of the 10-member Committee is to advise the Board on technical matters relating to habitat protection and restoration. By statute, the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, Transportation, and Natural Resources are required members. The Board added additional members from federal and state agencies, local government, and private business to augment the breadth and depth of technical expertise. Table 4 below lists current Technical Advisory Committee members.

Conflict of Interest

The Board recognizes that, given the Technical Advisory Committee’s experience and expertise in fish-related issues, some members may have knowledge of or some connection to a proposal. That does not necessarily prevent a Technical Advisory Committee member from participating in the project evaluation process. It is the policy of the Board that Technical Advisory Committee members conduct an unbiased review of the proposals. If, for any reason, a member believes that he or she cannot be unbiased, the member is expected to recuse himself or herself from the process. If a Technical Advisory Committee member stands to gain personally if a proposal is funded, this is a legal conflict of interest and the Technical Advisory Committee member must recuse himself or herself. For the record, no conflicts were noted.

Table 4. Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Technical Advisory Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Expertise
Daniel Evans	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Bachelor of Arts, ecology, Wetlands Scientists Certification
Jim Fisher	Private consultant	Bachelor of Science, zoology and chemistry
Angela Haffie	Washington Department of Transportation	Master of Science, environmental sciences
Dave Howe	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Bachelor of Science, natural resource science
Kelley Jorgensen	Private consultant	Bachelor of Science, Northwest ecology and natural history
Allen Lebovitz	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Master of Science in forestry and environmental studies
Ian Chane	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Bachelor of Science, fisheries science and Bachelor of Science, wildlife science
Ron Rhew	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Master of Science, entomology
Doug Stienbarger	Washington State University Extension	Master of Science, land management
Randy Sweet	Private consultant and Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board member	Masters of Science, geology and biology
Open, Ex-Officio	Washington Department of Ecology	
Open, Ex-Officio	Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office	
Open, Ex-Officio	U.S. Forest Service	
Open, Ex-Officio	NOAA-Fisheries	
Open, Ex-Officio	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

The Board serves as the citizen committee and has final approval authority for the region’s project list. The Board is responsible for the resolution of any dispute arising from the Technical Advisory Committee’s decisions. The Board may remand issues back to the Technical Advisory

Committee for further consideration, or amend the list based on policy considerations as noted above. Table 5 below provides a list of Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board members.

Conflict of Interest

As with the Technical Advisory Committee, the Board recognizes that, given members’ experience and expertise in fish-related issues, some members may have knowledge of or some connection to a proposal. That does not necessarily prevent a Board member from participating in approving the ranked list. If, for any reason, a Board member believes that he or she cannot be unbiased, the member is expected to recuse himself or herself from the process. If a member stands to gain personally if a proposal is funded, the member must recuse himself or herself. For the record, no conflicts were noted.

Table 5. Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Membership

Member	Affiliation
Taylor Aalvik	Cowlitz Indian Tribe
The Honorable Mike Backman	Wahkiakum County commissioner
Lee Grose	Lewis County citizen designee
The Honorable Gary Stamper	Lewis County commissioner
The Honorable Sean Guard	Southwest Washington cities representative, mayor of Washougal
Tom Linde	Skamania County citizen designee and Chair
The Honorable Bob Hamlin	Skamania County commissioner
Olaf Thomason, Sr.	Wahkiakum County citizen designee
The Honorable Tom Mielke	Clark County councilor
Todd Olson	Hydro-electric operators representative, PacifiCorp
Don Swanson	Southwest Washington environmental representative
The Honorable Randy Sweet	Cowlitz County citizen designee, private property designee and Port of Kalama commissioner
The Honorable Dean Takko	Washington State Senate, 19 th Legislative District
Jade Unger	Clark County citizen designee
The Honorable Dennis Weber	Cowlitz County commissioner

Were there any projects submitted to the SRFB for funding that were not specifically identified in the regional implementation plan or habitat work schedule?

(If so please provide justification for including these projects to the list of projects recommended to the SRFB for funding. If the projects were identified in the regional implementation plan or strategy but considered a low priority or is a low priority area, please provide justification.)

All projects on the Board's final project list stem directly from the habitat strategy and all projects target high priority populations and river reaches (Table 6).

The strategy is based on, and is consistent with, the goals, measures, actions, and priorities of recovery plan. It identifies reach-level restoration and preservation needs on both a multi-species and individual population basis. The strategy is based on an analysis of species presence, key life history stages affected, and key habitat limiting factors. During project development, the Board's staff works with project sponsors to ensure that their proposals are consistent with the priorities in the habitat strategy. For a number of subbasins, the Board has further refined the habitat strategy by identifying site-specific project opportunities within a given reach. The Board has worked with agencies, sponsors, and landowners to complete several assessment and project identification efforts. These include:

- Lower Kalama Off-Channel Habitat Assessment,
- Eagle Island Siting and Designs,
- Grays River Restoration Technical Report,
- Woodward Creek Habitat Restoration Project Siting and Design,
- Lower Cowlitz River and Floodplain Habitat Restoration Project Siting and Design,
- Lower East Fork Lewis River Strategy, and
- Abernathy and Germany Creeks Intensively Monitored Watershed Treatment Plan.

These assessments identified site-specific project opportunities, prioritized them according to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board project evaluation criteria, developed cost estimates, and provided a number of designs in varying degrees for high priority projects. In addition to the LCFRB-sponsored assessments, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Conservation District was funded to complete strategies for the Coweeman and Skamokawa Rivers. Nine projects on the list this year directly resulted from assessments listed above, including the Sarah Creek restoration proposal submitted for funding under the Intensively Monitored Watershed fund.

In addition, the LCFRB funds a number of designs each year, and many of them are seen in subsequent years for construction. This year, 6 previously funded design projects are returning this year as construction projects including: 16-1517 (Baldwin Site Restoration, Phase 2), 16-1532 (Kalama 1A Tidal), 16-1601 (Toutle Confluence Restoration Phase 2), 16-1521 (Germany Creek Restoration Gohdino), 16-1533 (IMW Sarah Creek Habitat & Passage Enhancement), and 16-1534 (Lower SF Grays Restoration).

Table 6. Fish and Priority Tier Reaches Addressed by the Project

Species and Tier Priorities	Steelhead		Chinook		Chum	Coho	OOB	Reach Tiers			
	Wtr	Sum	Fall	Spr				1	2	3	4
Elkinton Property Stream Restoration	C		P		P	P		✓			✓
Coweeman Headwaters Design	P		P			P		✓			
Baldwin Site Restoration Phase 2	C		P		P	P		✓			
Lower South Fork Grays River Restoration	P					P		✓			✓
Kalama 1A Tidal Restoration	P	P	C	C	C	C	P				✓
Kalama Stream Restoration Project Gaddis	P	P	C	C	C	C			✓		
Columbia-Pacific Passage, Hungry Harbor Design	P		P		P	P	P	✓			
Skamokawa Stream Restoration Project McClellan	C		P		P	P		✓			
Toutle Confluence Riparian	P		P	C		P		✓			
Ridgefield Pits Restoration Assessment	P	P	P		P	P		✓			
Elochoman Stream Restoration Cothren	C		P		P	P		✓			
Goldinov Site Restoration	C		P		P	P			✓		
Toutle River Confluence Restoration- Ph. II	P		P			P		✓			
Germany Creek Stream Restoration Godinho	P		P			C		✓			✓
Lower Elochoman Habitat Strategy Development	C		P		P	P		✓	✓		✓
Grays 3B Pond Reconnection Design	P					P		✓			✓
NF Toutle 3 Habitat Restoration Design	P		P	C		P		✓			
Coweeman Stream Restoration Kuhn	P		P			P			✓		
Mason Creek Acquisition	P				P	P			✓		
Colvin Dam Removal Design	C		P		P	C		✓		✓	✓
Sarah Cr. Habitat & Passage Enhancement	P					C			✓		

Key:

OOB = Other Columbia River Basin stocks

P = Primary

C = Contributing

S = Stabilizing

How did your regional review consider whether a project:

Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability?

In addition to limiting factors analysis, SaSI, and SSHIAP⁴, what stock assessment work has been done to date to further characterize the status of salmonid species in the region?

The consistency of a project with the priorities of the recovery plan is an integral element in the project evaluation and ranking process and criteria. The consistency of the overall project list with the recovery plan is determined based on three factors. Specifically, the project evaluation assesses whether the projects on the list target:

- Priority populations for recovery;
- Priority reaches;
- Priority limiting factors or habitat attributes;
- Benefits to other Columbia Basin stocks⁵; and
- Chum Populations outside of the Lower Gorge and Grays River subbasins

The recovery plan sets three population priorities or categories: primary, contributing, and stabilizing. The Table 7 below provides the definitions for these categories. While highest priority is given to primary populations, it should be noted that the NOAA-approved recovery plan requires improvement in the abundance, productivity, spatial distribution, and diversity for all populations, except stabilizing, to achieve recovery.

Table 7. Population Classifications

Population Classification	Viability Goal	Description	Persistence Probability*
P Primary	High (H) or Very High (VH)	Low (negligible) risk of extinction (represents a “viable” level)	95-99%
C Contributing	Medium	Medium risk of extinction	75-94%
S Stabilizing	Low	Stable, but relatively high risk of extinction	40-74%

*100-year persistence probabilities.

⁴SaSI=Salmonid Stock Status; SSHIAP=Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program

⁵While out-of-basin stocks are not considered in the recovery, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board recognizes the importance of estuarine habitat where upriver stocks use these areas during their migration seasons.

Reach priorities are established in two steps. First, reaches are grouped into ranked tiers using the criteria in Table 8. Reaches are then ranked within tiers based on:

- The number of populations using a reach;
- The recovery priority of each population; and
- The importance of the reach (actual and potential) to the performance of each population; and
- The importance of the reach to each population is rated as high, medium, or low based on Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment analysis.

Table 8. Reach Tier Designation Rules

Reaches	Rule
Tier 1	All high priority reaches (based on Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment) for one or more primary populations.
Tier 2	All reaches not included in Tier 1 and which are medium priority reaches for one or more primary species and/or all high priority reaches for one or more contributing populations.
Tier 3	All reaches not included in Tiers 1 and 2 and which are medium priority reaches for contributing populations and/or high priority reaches for stabilizing populations.
Tier 4	Reaches not included in Tiers 1, 2, and 3 and which are medium priority reaches for stabilizing populations and/or low priority reaches for all populations.

Additional consideration is given for other upper Columbia Basin stocks using the tidally influenced reaches of tributary streams and the importance of such reaches to these stocks.

The Technical Advisory Committee also evaluates benefits to high priority stocks based on the degree to which proposals target key life history stages and associated limiting factors for each population, and have the proper scope and technical approach to achieve biological goals and objectives. The certainty that a project will deliver benefits to high priority stocks is also evaluated through “certainty of success” criteria that address project coordination, sequencing, constraints and uncertainties, sponsor qualifications, community support and stewardship.

Addresses cost-effectiveness

The Technical Advisory Committee considers the cost of a project during its evaluation of final applications. The consideration of cost is based on professional judgment taking into consideration labor, material, and administrative costs in comparison to past projects. The following questions guide the Technical Advisory Committee’s cost evaluation:

- Are the request amount and total project cost reasonable relative to the likely benefits? High scoring projects should demonstrate exceptional benefit for the cost;
- To what extent has the sponsor obtained significant in-kind or cash match beyond the required minimum for the project type;
- Is the total project cost reasonable relative to the amount and type of work being proposed;
- Are costs well described and justified; and
- Are other appropriate fund sources available for the project?

Local Review Processes

Provide project evaluation criteria and documentation of your local Citizens Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group ratings for each project, including explanations for differences between the two groups' ratings.

The LCFRB serves as both the regional recovery organization and the lead entity for all WRIAs in the region except for the White Salmon, for which Klickitat County is the lead entity. The project evaluation criteria for the review process are described above in the regional section.

Identify your local technical review team

The Technical Advisory Committee members are identified above in the regional section.

Explain how and when the SRFB Review Panel participated in your local process, if applicable.

Two SRFB Review Panel members (Mr. Tom Slocum and Ms. Kelley Jorgensen) attended the site visits. Formal comments on the draft applications were received from the SRFB Review Panel between May 3 and May 5, and were included in the comment matrices to assist sponsors in completing their final applications. Review Panel participation can provide early notice of issues of potential concern to the review panel and allow sponsors an opportunity to address or resolve these issues in their final applications. Sponsors received a comment matrix for each proposal and were required to submit the matrix with their final applications indicating how and where in the final applications the comments were addressed. The Board requests that the SRFB and SRFB Review Panel consider the Technical Advisory Committee comments in their project reviews.

Local Evaluation Process and Project Lists

Explain how multi-year implementation plans or habitat work schedules were used to develop project lists.

Salmon recovery priorities and actions are guided by the NOAA-approved lower Columbia domain recovery plan for both the Columbia estuary and main stem, and the subbasin tributaries. The Board's habitat strategy serves as its 6-year implementation work schedule. It is reviewed annually as described earlier and is consistent with the priorities outlined in the recovery plan. When individual subbasin strategies are completed, information on site-specific project opportunities are incorporated. This information is captured in SalmonPORT and helps sponsors target high priority areas and restoration types to craft their proposals.

With regard to the 24 projects (including 1 project in the IMW) on the final Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region's project list all projects, at a minimum:

- Benefit Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 reaches;
- Target one or more primary populations identified in the recovery plan; and
- Target one or more high priority restoration or protection needs.

Explain how comments of technical, citizen, and policy reviews were addressed in finalizing the project list. Were there any issues about projects on the list and how were those resolved?

The public was provided opportunities to comment on both the draft and final proposals. Public comment is also taken at both Board and TAC meetings. At the July 13 TAC meeting Eli Asher and Rudy Salakory of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe offered comments on two projects:

- **16-1515 Elkinton Property Stream Restoration** – Eli Asher noted that it is difficult to plan for and attend a design review by the TAC given the busy construction season and the TAC meeting timing.
- **15-1524 Columbia Pacific Passage, Hungry Harbor Design** – Rudy Salakory questioned whether the SRFB was the proper funding source for this project noting that projects in the estuary should be funded through BPA. Additionally, Eli Asher questioned the staff's recommended High SRP rating, and noted that it departs from how the LCFRB has assigned them in the past. He questioned the validity of a High SRP rating in light of what that EDT value implies from a population abundance and productivity perspective, in the context of the Lower Columbia Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) as a whole.

At the July 29 Board meeting comments were received on the Toutle Confluence Riparian project (16-1694) by two residents in the project area. Both encouraged the Board to move the project into the fundable range based its extensive support and interest by the community. The Board recognized that the evaluation by the TAC considered community support. In recognition of the socioeconomic value of the project, the Board chose to adjust the project's ranking to the first alternate.

Project List Summary Table

Following is the project list summary table based on the regional project list as submitted on November 8, 2016. For the Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region excluding the White Salmon subbasin, there are 22 projects with a grant funding request of \$5,512,067 and a total match of \$1,521,754. The total grant request includes \$698,824 for the IMW Sarah Creek Habitat & Passage Enhancement project.

Klickitat Projects in the Shared White Salmon Subbasin

For the past five years, the LCFRB and the Klickitat County Lead Entity have agreed that up to 5 percent of the regional allocation would be made available each year for habitat projects in the White Salmon River subbasin. This percentage was derived by applying an approach similar to that used by the SRFB in setting regional allocations. The method gives varying weights to the number of:

- Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs),
- Salmon and steelhead river miles,
- Salmon and steelhead populations, and
- ESA listed salmon and steelhead populations.

The Klickitat Lead Entity recommends two project proposals for the White Salmon River, requesting grant funds totaling \$99,720. The Klickitat County Lead Entity is responsible for evaluating project proposals and submitting a recommended ranked list to the SRFB for funding consideration. With the exception of monitoring projects, the LCFRB has no direct involvement in reviewing or ranking White Salmon projects.

In May the Board stipulated that if the Klickitat Lead Entity proposes a monitoring project for the White Salmon subbasin it must:

1. Be reviewed by the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to ensure the proposal meets the eligibility criteria set forth in the LCFRB Project Administration Manual;

2. Be included within the funds designated by the Board to the Klickitat Lead Entity;
3. Not exceed the 10 percent threshold of the funds the Board designates to the Klickitat Lead Entity; and
4. Per the SRFB Manual 18, be certified by the LCFRB in its capacity as the regional salmon recovery organization for the Lower Columbia Region, which includes the White Salmon Subbasin.

Manual 18 and the LCFRB's Project Administration Manual (PAM) require that for a project to be certified it must address high priority information needs and data gaps identified in the recovery plan, the Lower Columbia RM&E Program, and the NOAA guidance on salmon and steelhead recovery monitoring. The PAM also requires that proposals be accompanied by a well-developed monitoring strategy. At the July 29 meeting the Board certified the White Salmon monitoring proposal. Additionally, the Board approved allocating \$98,197 (5% of the regional allocation) to the two projects in the White Salmon subbasin.

Table 9. Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Proposed Projects

Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy[1]
1	16-1515	Elkinton Property Stream Restoration	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Fall Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH D-87; 88; 90; 92
2	16-1668	Coweeman Headwaters Design	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Fall Chinook, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH H-72; 74; 77
3	16-1517	Baldwin Site Restoration Phase 2	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Fall Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH D-88; 92
4	16-1534	Lower South Fork Grays River Restoration	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Winter Steelhead	CH C-78; 81
5	16-1532	Kalama 1A Tidal Restoration	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Fall Chinook, Spring Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Summer Steelhead, Coho	CH J-90; 93
6	16-1522	Kalama Stream Restoration Project Gaddis	Cowlitz Conservation District	Fall Chinook, Spring Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Summer Steelhead, Coho	CH J-87; 90; 93
7	16-1524	Columbia Pacific Hungry Harbor Design	Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce	Fall Chinook, Spring Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Summer Steelhead, Coho, Other Columbia Basin stocks	CH B-52; 55; 59
8	16-1520	Skamokawa Stream Restoration - McClellan	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Fall Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH D-88; 90; 92
9	16-1694	Toutle Confluence Riparian	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Fall Chinook, Spring Chinook, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH H-87
10	16-1366	Ridgefield Pits Restoration Assessment	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	Fall Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Summer Steelhead, Coho	CH L-85; 87; 91; 92
11	16-1519	Elochoman Stream Restoration - Cothren	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Fall Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH D-88; 92
12	16-1516	Goldinov Site Restoration	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Chum, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH D-88; 89; 92
13	16-1601	Toutle River Confluence Restoration Phase II	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Fall Chinook, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH I-87; 88; 92
14	16-1521	Germany Creek Stream Restoration - Godinho	Cowlitz Conservation District	Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH E-85; 86; 87; 88

Appendix N Regional Area Project Matrix
Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Rank	Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy[1]
15	16-1381	Lower Elochoman Habitat Strategy Development	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	Fall Chinook, Chum, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH D-84; 88; 90; 91; 92
16	16-1557	Grays 3B Pond Reconnection Design	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Winter Steelhead	CH C-78; 80; 81; 83
IMW	16-1533	IMW Sarah Creek Habitat & Passage Enhancement	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH E-85; 88; 90
18	16-1805	NF Toutle 3 Habitat Restoration Design	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Fall Chinook, Spring Chinook, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH I-87; 88; 92
19	16-1523	Coweeman Stream Restoration Kuhn	Cowlitz Conservation District	Fall Chinook, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH H-72; 74; 77
20	16-1696	Mason Creek Acquisition	Clark County	Chum, Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH L-82; 87; 91; 92
21	16-1556	Colvin Dam Removal Design	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Winter Steelhead, Coho	CH K-197; 198

¹[Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan, Volume II \(LCFRB 2010, 2013\)](#)