

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Recreational Angler Board
Application for Funding

Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Contact: John Weinheimer, (360) 906-6746; Tom Wadsworth, (360) 906-6709

Proposal Title: Land access acquisition on mainstem Columbia and tributaries in Region 5 - **renewal**

Type of Proposal: The purpose is to acquire/improve public fishing access on the Columbia River and tributaries for salmon and steelhead fishing.

Date of Submission: 1/29/16

Effective Period of Funding: May 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Amount of Funding Requested: \$16,411

Activity to be Funded: 2 months of work for a lands agent/real estate agent

Background: Sport fishing access has been diminishing on the Columbia River and tributaries in Region 5. Staff and interested members of the public have put together a list of potential sites for improved public access throughout the region. See the list below with the priorities underlined.

Proposed Activity: One Lands Agent would be funded for 2 months to pursue acquisition of public access on a prioritized list of sites (see Site List and Figure 1). Some access may be available through land surveys, cooperative agreements with landowners, private, federal, state, and county, and purchased easements and/or property.

Effort/Assistance Required: A dedicated lands Agent is needed to make this project successful. This is beyond the expertise of the Fish Program staff. District Fish Biologists and other District Team members, Enforcement, Habitat, and Wildlife can assist with local knowledge of the areas being explored.

Budget Summary:

Salaries and Benefits

Property & Acquisitions 6 (2 months @6844/mo.)	\$13,688
Personnel Service Charge	\$55
HRMS Service Charge	\$68

Goods and Services

Office/Field supplies	\$1000
Vehicle lease/mileage (2 months of lease \$300/month and mileage 2000 miles)	\$1600

Total Budget Amount **\$16,411**

Need for Proposed Activity: The public is always asking for more fishing access. This funding source is a great way to make this happen because the money can be used for specific projects that benefit salmon and steelhead anglers.

Benefits of Proposed Activity:

Public/Angler Benefit: Issues such as where the boundary between public and private land can be cleared up. Public land that has been blocked by private land can be re-opened. Cooperative agreements between Federal Agencies and WDFW can be formed resulting in new access for bank and boat fishing.

Benefit to Resource: The fishing public can be directed to specific sites and have access to harvestable hatchery salmon and steelhead.

Additional Considerations: This is a high priority concern for the public. WDFW consistently receives requests to improve access in Region 5.

Land Access Site List

2016 priority sites (rank order decided by Region 5 CRSSRAB members):

- 1) Klickitat River - drift boat launch/pull out, parking, BLM land
- 2) Cowlitz River – Gerhart Gardens Park boat launch, needs dredging
- 3) Mainstem Columbia – Tina Bar access, policing, garbage, portable bathrooms
- 4) Mainstem Columbia – bank access from County Line Park
- 5) Grays River – Gorley’s access site, mark/enforce WDFW easement, parking and ramp
- 6) Mainstem Columbia - Lyle boat ramp sanded in, improvements needed

Future sites (in alphabetical order):

Coweeman – public access in rearing pond area

Elochoman River – drift boat pull out near Foster Risk Road

Elochoman River – establish conservation easement below Beaver Creek Hatchery

East Fork Lewis – boat pull outs and access, Hamm’s and Roler’s area.

Green River – Weyerhaeuser Company access?

Mainstem Columbia – Abernathy Point, plunking access, currently WSDOT owned?

Mainstem Columbia – Nassa Point, boat fishing access

Mainstem Columbia – boat ramp around Hood River Bridge area

North Fork Lewis – Gas Pipeline boat access, secure and improve, currently very rough

Rock Creek (Skamania Co) – bank public access below falls

Salmon Creek – increase public access especially around Hwy 99

Skamokawa - boat ramp

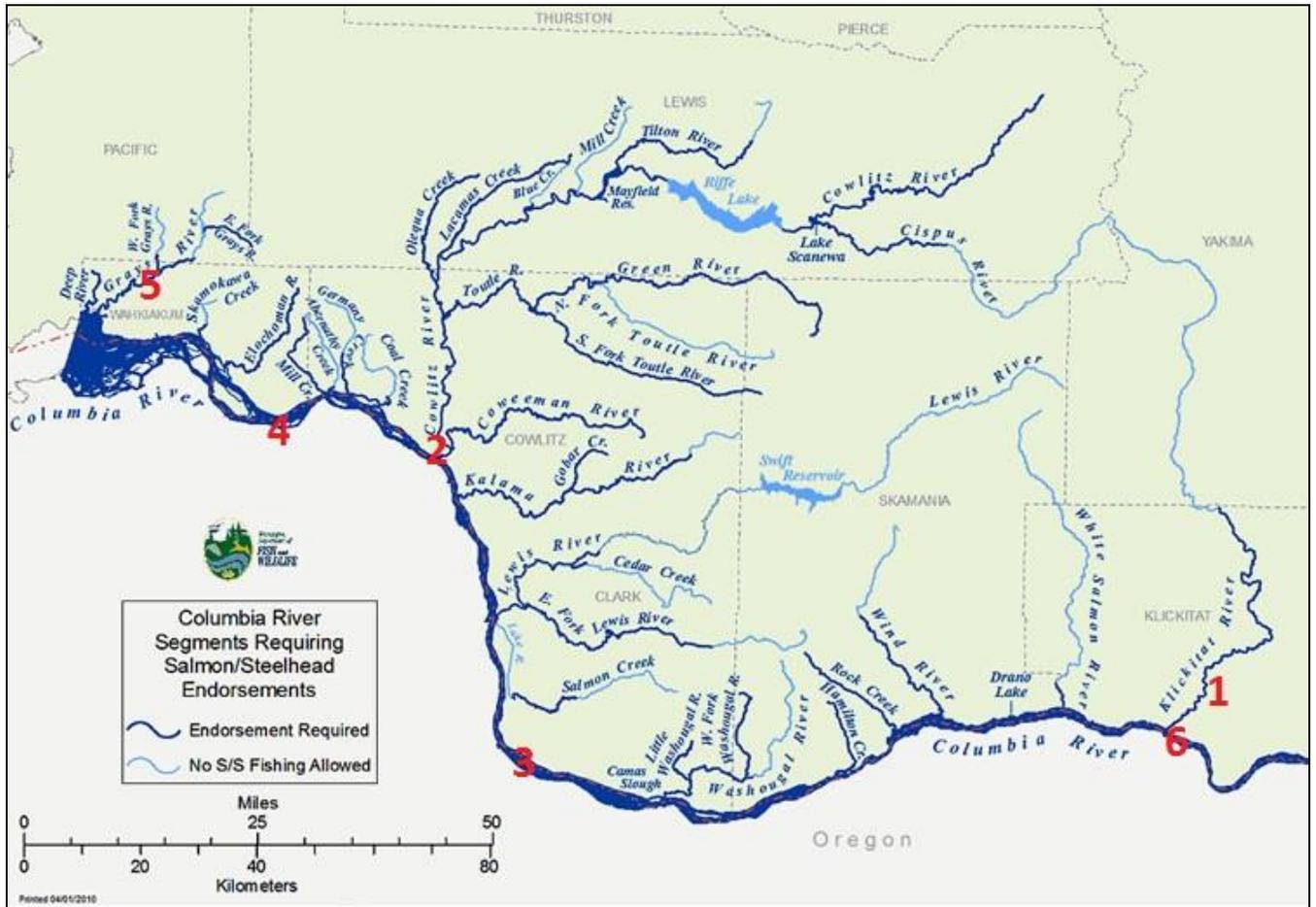
South Fork Toutle – Weyerhaeuser Company access?

Washougal River – public access at mouth of NF Washougal, below Salmon Falls, public access on mill property for Camas Slough

West Fork Grays - hatchery bridge downstream, keep access open.

Wind River – Point area, sky bridge, access to Little Wind area upstream, get access to public land, porta potty, garbage, Shipherd Falls bridge and build east side trail.

Figure 1. Map of 2016 priority sites to evaluate for improving angler access on the lower Columbia and tributaries



- Ranked priority sites:
- 1) Klickitat River - boat access
 - 2) Cowlitz River - Gerhart Park boat ramp
 - 3) Mainstem Columbia - Tina Bar bank access
 - 4) Mainstem Columbia - County Line Park bank access
 - 5) Grays River - bank and boat access
 - 6) Mainstem Columbia - Lyle boat ramp