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Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement
Application for Funding

Project Sponsors:

Cindy LeFleur, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Project Sponsor Contact information:

Cindy LeFleur, (360) 906-6708, Cindy.LeFleur@dfw.wa.gov

Address: 2108 Grand Boulevard, Vancouver WA 98661

Key Partners: WDFW Region 5 Wildlife Program

Proposal Title:

2017 Improvement of WDFW's "Wallace" Public Access Site on the Cowlitz River

Type of Proposal: **New**

Date of Submission: June 15, 2017

Effective Period of Funding: June 15, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Total Amount of Funding Requested: \$47,000

Project Location: WDFW's "Wallace" Public Access Site on the lower Cowlitz River off of Mandy Road, west of WDFW's "I-5" Access Site and north of WDFW's "Olequa" Access Site.

Project Description:

Background

Sport fishing access has been diminishing in recent decades as private land ownership expands throughout Region 5. WDFW's Wildlife Program maintains recreational access sites in Region 5. These sites are some of the last remaining places for the public to legally access rivers in southwest Washington. One such area, the "Wallace" Public Access Site, is located on the Cowlitz River.

The Cowlitz River is an extremely popular fishing location throughout the year for fall and spring Chinook salmon, summer and winter steelhead, Coho salmon, rainbow and cutthroat trout, and other fish species. The "Wallace" Public Access Site is ideally located for accessing the Cowlitz River. The WDFW is currently in a position to move forward with improvements to the site if funding is secured.

Description of Activities

The project will improve the "Wallace" Access site by constructing a 200'x 200' parking lot, surrounding it with a barrier, placing signs in the area to explain site use, and maintaining portable restroom facilities. Plans for this work would start as soon as funds

are made available. It is expected that funding will be available from the Wildlife program to assist with these improvements.

Effort/Assistance Required:

Assistance from the WDFW Region 5 Wildlife Program, including the Region 5 Lands Agent, is needed to make this project successful. The Wildlife Program is paying for the surveys of the site and may be able to contribute additional funds to improvement efforts.

Budget Summary:

<u>Labor (construction)</u>	\$12,000
<u>Goods and Services</u>	
Gravel	\$6,000
Riprap (for parking barrier)	\$4,000
Geotextile fabric	\$4,000
Equipment	\$8,000
Access site signage	\$3,000
<u>Engineering Administrative Costs</u>	\$10,000
<u>Total Budget Request</u>	<u>\$47,000</u>

*Note: These are estimated costs provided by WDFW engineers. Additional funds will be contributed by the WDFW Wildlife Program to cover remaining parking lot construction, administrative costs and portable restroom facilities.

Benefits of Proposed Activity:

The public often contacts WDFW Region 5 staff asking for help in providing more steelhead and salmon fishing access. The CRSSE fund is ideally positioned for helping improve fishing access. We expect this project to provide increased fishing opportunities on the Cowlitz River. Increased harvest of hatchery salmonids can create a more satisfactory fishing experience for the public and also reduce surplus hatchery fish on the spawning grounds. WDFW Catch Record Card harvest estimates for the Cowlitz River below Mayfield Dam were an average 19,450 for Chinook and Coho salmon and 15,412 for steelhead per year in 2012-2014. An average 194,497 salmon fishing trips and 154,120 steelhead fishing trips occurred each year on the lower Cowlitz River in 2012-2014, generating over \$20 million of economic value per year, based on WDFW harvest estimates and information from TCW Economics (2008). Maintaining and improving access sites will keep anglers returning to fish the Cowlitz River, benefiting businesses and communities that rely on this valuable fishery for years to come.

Project Reporting Due Date:

A progress report would be provided in January 2018 for work completed in 2017

References:

TCW Economics. 2008. Economic Analysis of the Non-Treaty Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in Washington State. Prepared for: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. With Technical Assistance from: The Research Group Corvallis, OR. TCW Economics, Sacramento, CA.