

Condit Dam Decommissioning Project Overview



Condit Dam background and settlement agreement

The Condit Dam and other components of the Condit Hydroelectric Project were built during 1912-1913 on the White Salmon River in south central Washington State, spanning Skamania and Klickitat counties. The project was designed to produce hydroelectricity to supply the Crown Willamette Paper Co. in Camas, Wash. and the growing municipal market from Washougal, Wash. to Portland, Ore. After nearly a century of serving customers of the former Northwestern Electric Company, Pacific Power & Light and now PacifiCorp, physical removal of the Condit Dam began in late August 2011, fulfilling a multi-party settlement agreement signed in 1999.

PacifiCorp joined with 22 other parties to determine the future of the dam as part of a 1999 settlement negotiation regarding federal relicensing of the project. The parties included the

Yakama Indian Nation, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, numerous environmental groups and PacifiCorp. After two years of negotiations, the participants reached an agreement to shut down power generation at a future date and remove the dam. In reaching this agreement, settlement parties balanced the short-term impacts of dam removal with the long-term gains provided by restoration of a natural river environment and a cost-effective plan for PacifiCorp's customers.

Federal requirements led to local agreement

Hydroelectric dams across the United States are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Condit Dam was originally licensed in 1968 with an effective date of May 1, 1965 after enactment of the Federal Power Act. In November 1996, FERC issued a final Environmental Impact Statement that required

PacifiCorp to install fish ladders and screens for a state-of-the-art fish passage system. While fish ladders were part of Condit's original design, these facilities twice washed out due to floods during the dam's early years. FERC also required higher in-stream flows, which would reduce Condit's overall energy production from the current 14 megawatt average. Combined, the new requirements would have rendered the nearly 100 year-old dam uneconomical for PacifiCorp's customers.

Decommissioning moves forward

On December 16, 2010, following 12 years of studies, permit filings and stakeholder negotiations, PacifiCorp received a Surrender Order from FERC, providing for dam decommissioning. Subsequently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued an essential sediment management permit, the final major regulatory step in actual physical decommissioning and removal. FERC further modified the Surrender Order on April 21, 2011. These actions provided the regulatory certainty PacifiCorp needed to proceed in removing the 125-foot high dam. On June 8, 2011, FERC completed its review and approval of the requisite project removal design.

Benefits to the environment and the community

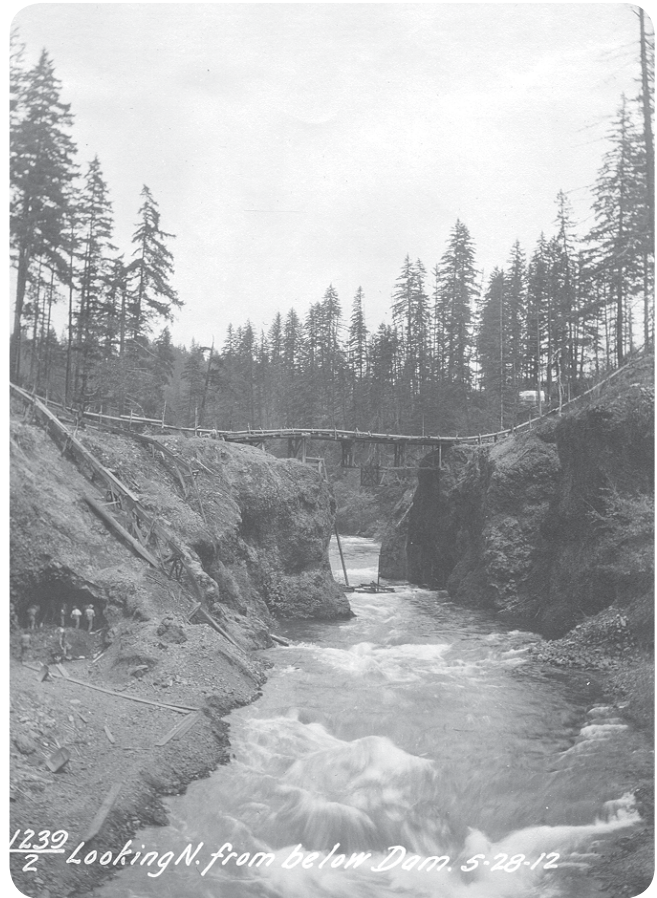
Removal of the Condit Dam will result in both environmental and cultural benefits for the local community. The dam is the only man-made impoundment between Mt. Adams and the Columbia River and its removal will open approximately 33 miles of new spawning and rearing grounds for steelhead and 15 miles of new habitat for salmon in the White Salmon River basin. Since as much as 2.4 million cubic yards of reservoir sediment is estimated to rest behind the dam, removal will occur during periods when fisheries are expected to be minimally affected.

The cultural benefits associated with the restoration of the White Salmon River fish runs and the traditional fishery is important to Northwest tribes. The Yakama Nation was a party to the settlement agreement and in statements released in June 2011 that said that restoration of the river habitat is an essential step in welcoming home the salmon, steelhead and lamprey that have been absent from the White Salmon River over the last century.

The White Salmon, Wash. community will also benefit from construction-related activities and expenditures that will be ongoing in the coming years as the dam is removed and the site is restored.

PacifiCorp customers will benefit from the company focusing on low net-cost electricity generation resources to meet their energy needs.

The multi-stage dam removal process and restoration is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2012. PacifiCorp has hired a local Vancouver, Wash. construction contractor, JR Merit Industrial Contractors, to perform the work.



Scan code here with your smart phone to link to PacifiCorp's Condit Dam page or go to pacificorp.com/condit