



Future of the Lower White Salmon River

Results of Online Survey

Held Oct. 15 - 27, 2014

Survey Purpose

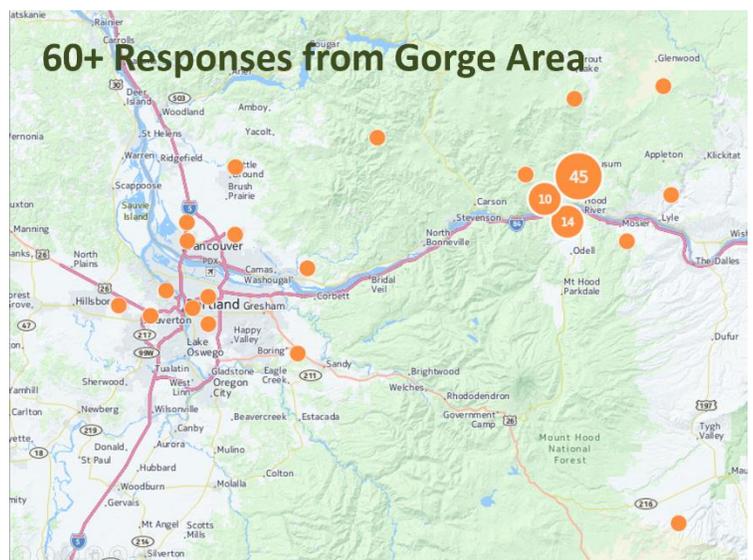
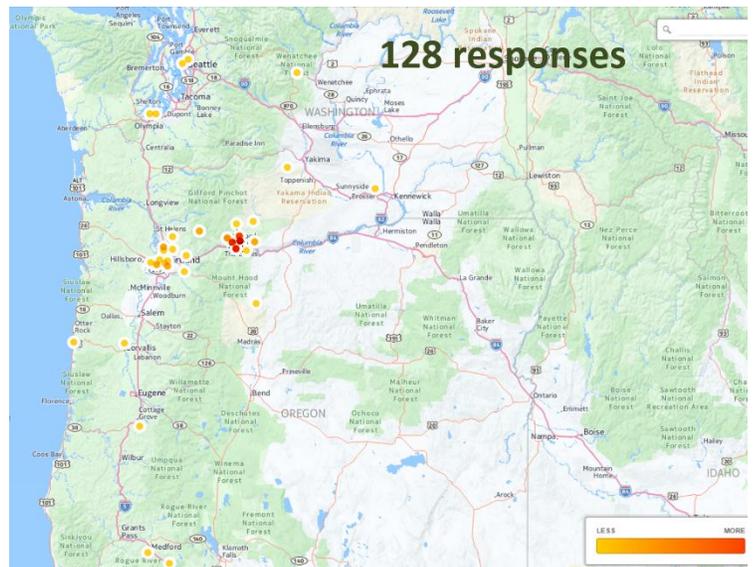
- The purpose of the survey was to reflect back ideas heard during previous project public engagement activities and gain additional input on draft vision, goals and geographic focus areas for the project.
- The survey was not intended to establish statistically significant results.

Notification

- Mid-Columbia Fisheries publicized the survey via, webpage, emails to project mailing list, Facebook post and a news release that resulted in an article in the Columbian.

Results

- 128 survey responses were collected from participants in Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming and Pennsylvania. About half came from the Gorge area.
 - 77 survey responses from Washington, about 48 from the local area
 - 30 survey responses from Oregon, about 14 from Hood River
- Respondents most commonly referred to themselves as:
 - Boaters (50%)
 - Year-round residents (54%)
 - Interested in ecological restoration (70%)
 - Interested in salmon recovery (78%)
- **What we heard: Fish habitat** -- Four primary concepts related to fish habitat emerged from the survey:
 - A healthy river ecosystem that supports all fish life stages is a priority
 - Effects to aquatic resources should be considered when





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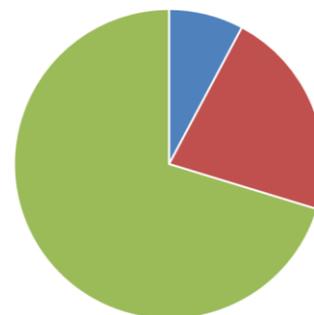
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- development decisions are made
- Support for continued natural river restoration over time
- Large wood in river supported for salmon, but causes a concern for boater safety
- **We we heard: Other concepts** -- Several other concepts came up in the survey that were important to the community but did not fit within the scope of the project.
 - Condit Dam was removed to improve fish habitat – not to create more recreation opportunities.
 - PacifiCorp needs to follow through on commitments to mitigate effects on private property owners and recreationists.
 - The uncertainty of future land ownership of PacifiCorp-owned property in the project area concerns many people.
 - There are many opportunities and ideas for how to enhance public recreational access within the project area.
 - Northwestern Park should remain a public park.
 - Property-owners are concerned about impacts to their property and their solitude due to increased river recreation.
 - There is a need to improve and enhance emergency access and response time to the river and shoreline residences.
 - Residents are concerned about wildfire risks

- Respondents shared their preferences for ownership of currently undeveloped PacifiCorp lands in the project area:
 - 92% favored public and/or trust ownership
 - 8% said undeveloped lands should remain privately held without new conservation easements or restrictions.

Future Ownership for Currently Undeveloped Lands



- Private ownership
- Conservation ownership focused on steepest slopes
- Public/trust ownership



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- **Vision statement for fish conservation:**
 - The following statements generated strong support with 87 – 92 percent of respondents saying they agree or strongly agree:
 - The river and banks in a natural state, including healthy riparian areas and functioning instream habitat.
 - Undeveloped lands held in public or land trust ownership, or a mix of that ownership and private ownership, that leads to protection of lands ill-suited to development due to steep slopes and proximity to the river.
 - Support for economically-beneficial uses such as rafting, fishing, hiking while protecting key fish habitat.
 - Continued river restoration.
 - Fish habitat that supports all salmon life history stages and produces healthy fish runs for fishing.
 - Defined public access points that balance ecosystem function, landowner privacy, safety, recreational opportunities and economic benefits.
 - Effects on natural resources are a key consideration when development decisions are made, particularly on steep slopes.

- **Fish Habitat Conservation Goals:**
 - The following statements generated strong support with 80 – 90 percent of respondents saying they agree or strongly agree:
 - Re-vegetate riparian and upland areas to promote healthy streambanks, reduce sediment transport to the river, and enhance salmon habitat.
 - Increase retention of naturally-occurring large woody debris to enhance development of pools and cover for salmon and re-locate large wood if necessary to reduce hazards to boaters.
 - Manage public access so that it doesn't adversely impact in-river fish habitat or adjacent riparian areas.
 - Increase public or trust ownership of currently undeveloped parcels in the project area to reduce potential impacts to fish habitat from future property development adjacent to the river.
 - Educate river users about spawning gravel identification, large woody debris and its benefits to salmon, value of the prevention of invasive species transport and spread, public access locations, and fish management goals.
 - Protect existing native riparian trees and shrubs from land clearing as required by existing shoreline regulations.

- **Geographic focus areas for conservation:**
 - Survey question was problematic.