

Downstream Habitat Protection and Restoration

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The Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan recognizes that protection and restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat in the lowlands of the Lake Washington basin below the Landsburg Diversion dam constitutes a critical element in regional salmonid recovery.

The HCP provides for more than \$5.5 million in funding for the protection and restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat on the mainstem of the Cedar River, downstream from the Landsburg Diversion Dam for all species of anadromous fish.

The HCP Downstream Habitat Protection and Restoration Program places emphasis on the protection of the highest quality remaining habitat by means of land acquisition and deed restrictions limiting land use activities. Potential acquisition projects are prioritized by applying criteria that evaluate biological merits of the property, the feasibility of purchasing the land, and economic factors such as collaboration opportunities with other funding agencies. In the evaluation process, biological factors are weighted more heavily than feasibility and economic factors to ensure that high priority is placed on acquiring lands that possess characteristics needed for good salmon habitat, and restoration projects are prioritized according to the level of impacts they would have on salmon recovery.