

RECAP

The City of Bellingham (COB), in coordination with American Rivers and partners, is proposing a multi-benefit project on the Middle Fork Nooksack River. The project aims to improve fish passage for three ESA-listed native anadromous fish species by removing the diversion dam while maintaining municipal water supply diversion at the site. Funding from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation towards the planning and design phase of the project is provided through a cooperative agreement between American Rivers and the City of Bellingham. The project is currently in the design phase.

THIS MONTH

- **Design** – HDR Inc. was contracted to provide design + permitting services; design work was initiated in December. Design will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 includes review of previous studies, feasibility evaluation, alternatives analysis, and selection of a preferred design alternative to meet project goals. This necessary initial design work benefits from previous studies completed.
- **Funding** – Funding proposals were submitted to the Resources Legacy/Open Rivers Fund and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Fish Passage Program.
- **Meetings** – A project partner¹ meeting was held on December 7th, 2017 in Bellingham. Project partners articulated their primary project goals are related to fish passage and instream flow protection. Several individual meetings occurred with supporting organizations, including Northwest Conservation, Long Live the Kings, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Puget Sound Partnership.
- **Other** – The project was pre-registered and proposed on December 22, 2017 as a Near Term Action to be considered for adoption into the 2018-2022 Action Agenda of the Puget Sound Partnership.

JANUARY 2018

- The first phase of design work will continue through January, with selection of a preferred design alternative scheduled to occur in February 2018. The preferred alternative will then be advanced through final design in the following months.
- Individual meetings with permit contacts will be scheduled in January.
- HDR permitting staff will collect site information needed to populate various permitting documents on January 10th. This site visit will be held in conjunction with on-site cultural resources reviews by Drayton Archaeology.
- A Partner Advisory Committee meeting to discuss permitting and funding strategy is expected to be held in mid-January.

¹ Consisting of the fishery co-managers involved in the original project Memorandum of Agreement (2002): WDFW, Lummi Nation, and Nooksack Indian Tribe.