

## OVERVIEW

The City of Bellingham (City), American Rivers (AR), and supporting partners are working to implement a multi-benefit project on the Middle Fork Nooksack River. The project aims to improve fish passage for three ESA-listed Puget Sound threatened anadromous fish species by removing the diversion dam while maintaining water supply diversion at the site. The project team has completed the design phase and have secured the majority of project funding. The project is now in the construction phase, with the Notice to Proceed issued on January 2, 2020. Dam removal and channel restoration elements are scheduled for completion in 2020.

## THIS MONTH

- **Construction Activities**
  - Mobilization of resources, clearing and access improvements, and development of temporary construction facilities continued throughout February.
  - Walsh Construction has continued pre-construction planning and project development activities. Several construction submittals were submitted and reviewed in February.
  
- **Outreach**
  - A sign was posted at the project site acknowledging the significant contributions of partners.
  - A planning meeting was held with partners interested in providing support for a small spring 2020 event celebrating the beginning of in-water work. Due to logistical and safety constraints at the active construction site, attendance at the May 1, 2020 event will be limited to key legislators, representatives from project partner entities, and media. A ribbon-cutting event will be held next year in Spring of 2021.

## March 2020

- Soil overburden and rock excavation for the fish screen facility and pipeline extension will begin.
- Additional upland and in-water construction submittals will be completed by Walsh and reviewed by the project team in March. The project team is targeting submittal of the In-Water Work Plan to regulatory agencies for early review in April.