

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 completion of fish passage, dam removal, and channel restoration elements scheduled for completion in 2020.

THIS MONTH

- **Construction Activities**
 - The City issued Walsh Construction the Notice to Proceed on January 2, 2020. After an initial weather delay, mobilization of resources, clearing and access improvements, and development of temporary construction facilities began on January 21.
 - Four weekly construction progress meetings with the construction management team (i.e., Walsh, HDR, the City, and American Rivers) were held. These meetings will recur throughout the duration of project implementation.
 - Walsh Construction has begun pre-construction planning and project development activities. Several construction submittals, requests for information, and project related correspondence were submitted and reviewed in January.
 - DNR State Lands staff attended a site visit on January 28 to discuss the Plan of Operation and finalize operational requirements for temporary work on DNR State Lands in accordance with the Land Use License obtained for the project.
- **Outreach**
 - A sign was developed for posting at the project site acknowledging the significant contributions of partners in compliance with funding requirements.

February 2020

- Additional construction submittals will be completed and reviewed in February.
- Soil overburden excavation for the fish screen facility and pipeline extension will begin.
- A meeting will be scheduled with partners to occur in late February who have expressed interest in planning a “groundbreaking” event. The event would take place in late April or May 2020 prior to the start of in-water work in June.