

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 is now in the construction phase, with the Notice to Proceed issued on January 2, 2020. In-water work began June 1, 2020 and is scheduled for completion on September 30, 2020.

THIS MONTH

- **Construction Activities**
 - 36 *O. mykiss* were relocated during fish salvage efforts associated with dewatering of in-river work areas. *O. mykiss* rescued from the work area above the dam were reported as resident rainbow trout, while the *O. mykiss* rescued from the work area below the dam were reported as steelhead based on the potential for anadromous passage/presence.
 - Demolition of the dam was successfully initiated via controlled blasting on June 13 and 21st. The remaining minor demolition work was performed with conventional heavy equipment. Existing water supply intake equipment was also removed in June.
 - Differing subgrade conditions than those interpreted by the consultant design team during the planning phase required redesign of the new water intake and fish screen facility shoring system. The project team continues to work closely with the Contractor in negotiating cost and schedule impacts associated with the differing conditions.
- **Outreach**
 - The project received ample media coverage highlighting the dam demolition and fisheries benefits; links to recent articles are available [here](#).
 - North Fork Studios and Earthscape Productions collected film footage of dam demolition. This will result in high quality time lapse and video footage that will be used in multiple film products, including short films funded by American Rivers, the City, and RLF, as well as featured in BBC's upcoming *Planet Earth III* series and Netflix's *Biosphere* (working title) series.

August 2020

- Channel restoration throughout the previous dam site, including regrading and boulder jam construction, is scheduled to be completed in August.
- Fish bypass outfall work area isolation, dewatering, defishing, and construction will occur in August.
- Water supply intake construction work will continue throughout August.