

## 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 planning and design phase, secured project funding to meet the estimated need, and developed construction bid documents. For more information, visit the project [webpage](#).

## THIS MONTH

- **Funding –**
  - The Washington State Recreation Conservation Office and the City of Bellingham executed a grant contract for construction funding (\$10,560,250) on July 23, 2019.
  - NOAA notified American Rivers of a recommended project implementation funding award (\$651,038). The grant proposal requested \$860,653 for project implementation and funding to assist the Nooksack Tribe with species monitoring above the dam. The award recommendation was adjusted to allocate a small portion of monitoring funding in FY19, with potential for additional biological monitoring funding in FY20-21. NOAA [press release](#) on recommended funding.
- **Outreach –**
  - Select Project media items:
    - Project [website](#), [video](#), King 5 news [story](#), City [press release](#) related to State funding
  - Staff from the Nooksack Tribe Natural Resources Department held a project presentation on June 5 for members of the Tribal TFW group.
  - A meeting with partners interested in assisting with project public outreach was held on June 25. The meeting was attended by representatives of American Rivers, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, City, and USFWS staff.
- **Permitting –**
  - A Land Use License for temporary construction work on parcels owned by the Department of Natural Resources State Lands Division was issued on July 15, 2019.
  - A minor modification to the Hydraulic Project Approval was approved on July 18, 2019.
  - All project authorizations have been secured.
- **Bid Process/Procurement**
  - A pre-advertisement site visit was held for interested Contractors on June 27. The site visit was well attended with other 40 representatives from 23 companies.
  - Bid documents were finalized in July.

**AUGUST 2019**

- American Rivers expects to execute a grant contract with NOAA by the end of August.
- The project will be advertised for Construction Bidding in early August 2019.
- Pre-bid site visits will be scheduled for interested bidders/construction contractors on August 20 and September 4.