

### OVERVIEW

The City of Bellingham (City), American Rivers (AR) and 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 has secured significant private and public funding, has completed design and permitting, and is in the construction bid document development process. For more information, including a description of the project's Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) and Design Review Team (DRT), visit the project [webpage](#).

### THIS MONTH

- **Funding –**
  - Governor Inslee signed the 2019-2021 Capital Budget on May 21, 2019.
  - A milestone worksheet was sent to RCO to initiate grant contract development for PSAR funds.
- **Outreach –**
  - Select Project media items:
    - Project [website](#)
    - [Short video](#)
    - King 5 news [story](#)
    - City [press release](#) related to State funding
    - Bellingham Herald [article](#)
- **Permitting –**
  - SEPA: Determination of Non-Significance. Issued in September.
  - Northwest Clean Air Agency Demolition Notification: Issued in January.
  - DNR Forest Practices Permit: Issued in January.
  - WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA): Issued in January.
  - USACE National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation: Completed in January.
  - WDFW Management issued a letter relative to agency approval of project as fish habitat enhancement project per RCW 90.58.147, for Whatcom County Shoreline Exemption. Completed in January.
  - Joint Services Programmatic (PROJECTS) ESA Section 7 and MSA consultation: Completed in February.
  - USACE CWA 404: Completed in February, with issuance of Nationwide Permit verification.
  - ECY NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit: Verification of coverage issued in February.

# Middle Fork Nooksack River Fish Passage Project

## Update #21

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May  
2019

- Whatcom County Shoreline Exemption Permit: Issued in February.
- Whatcom County Building Permits: permit submitted. Permit issuance occurs during the project construction phase.
- Department of Ecology CWA 401: Issued March 6
- Department of Ecology Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act Consistency Determination: Issued March 7
- DNR Aquatic Lands Use Authorization: required other in-water permits to be secured prior to negotiation. All other in-water permits have been issued and received by DNR. Negotiation is underway.
- ***Bid Process/Procurement***
  - An informational flyer was developed to provide project information relevant to interested Contractors.
  - Bidding and contracting document development continued in May.

### June 2019

- Bid document development will be completed.
- A pre-bid site visit will be held for interested Contractors.
- Coordination with RCO will continue to ensure timely execution of a grant contract in July.