

RECAP

The City of Bellingham (COB), in coordination with American Rivers and partners, is proposing a multi-benefit project on the Middle Fork Nooksack River to improve fish passage for three ESA-listed native anadromous fish species through dam removal while maintaining a municipal water supply diversion (the original purpose of the dam). Funding from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation towards the planning and design phase of the project is provided through a cooperative agreement between American Rivers and the City of Bellingham. The project is currently in the planning phase.

THIS MONTH

- **Funding** – the core team continues to discuss a range of funding opportunities for this multiple benefits project. While main benefits are related to providing fish access to upstream habitat, characterization of additional benefits is necessary to attract sources capable of covering comprehensive project cost.
- **Design** – five design teams submitted a SOQ in response to the design consultant RFQ published in September. The selection committee reviewed and scored the SOQ's to select the top three teams.
- **Permitting and Environmental Compliance** – no updates
- **Communication Management Plan** – need primary points of contact to be identified for partner entities. Prepared draft FAQ and core team answers.
- **Scope and Schedule** – a comprehensive project timeline has been drafted. The design phase and permitting timeline will be refined with the selected design consultant.
- **Meetings** – efforts to convene the fisheries co-managers' meeting (identified as a need in 10/25/17 Salmon Team meeting) are underway. After that meeting occurs, a partner meeting will be scheduled to further engage project partners in efforts to keep the project timeline on track and move forward.

NOVEMBER

- The design consultant selection committee will interview the top three design teams.
- Schedule and conduct a partner meeting
- Outstanding: Identify and select potential candidates to ask participation on a technical *design review team*¹
- Outstanding: Identify key partner and stakeholder group representatives who would participate on a *partner advisory committee (PAC)*²

¹ *Design Review Team* purpose: provide technical support and input in developing specific project objectives, design criteria, and in the review of the 30/60/90 percent engineering plans. Expertise needed: compliance/permitting, geomorphic-based design approach, fishway design + construction, MF Nooksack species-specific fish passage requirements, water diversion intake requirements. Participation in the consultant selection process is optional. Contact April (amcewen@americanrivers.org) or Clare (cfogelsong@cob.org) for additional information.

² *Partner Advisory Committee (PAC)* purpose: to ensure representation of key partners and stakeholder groups in developing specific project objectives, selecting the preferred design alternative, resolving issues, and increasing opportunities for project construction starting in 2019.