

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 by maintaining municipal water supply and enabling diversion dam removal. Funding from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation for 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** -- drafted a funding strategy for the construction phase of the project. This strategy identifies a range of potential public funding sources, grant range, and schedule for preparing and submitting MF Nooksack project construction grant applications.
- **Design** -- published a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit a consulting firm to complete full design + permitting (available on City e-bid website). Held an on-site meeting with potential consultant design teams (9/22).
- **Permitting and Environmental Compliance** -- began identifying project permits and regulatory compliance, including agency contacts, dependencies, surveys/assessment needed, and potential project timeline impacts
- **Communication Management Plan** -- initiated comprehensive identification of project stakeholders, relationship/role/interest in project, and communication strategy
- **Scope and Schedule** -- developed draft timeline to include tasks in each core planning component: project management, funding procurement, communication/outreach, design, and compliance/permitting
- **Meetings** -- provided project update at the WRIA 1 Management Team meeting (9/13) and presentation at the Salmon Team meeting (9/25)

NEXT MONTH

- Design consultant selection committee will be reviewing and scoring Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) from potential design teams.
- Refine comprehensive funding strategy.
- Gain more input on environmental compliance requirements and strategies for streamlining that process from WRIA 1 Salmon Team.
- A fisheries co-manager's meeting coordinated by Joel Ingram (WDFW)
- Identify and select potential candidates to participate on a *design review team*¹
- Identify key stakeholder group representatives who would participate on a *stakeholder advisory committee*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.

² *Stakeholder Advisory Committee* purpose: to ensure representation of key stakeholder groups in developing specific project objectives, selecting the preferred design alternative, resolving issues, and increasing opportunities for project completion by the end of 2019.