

MIDDLE FORK NOOKSACK RIVER FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

*Restoring Habitat for Puget Sound Chinook Salmon,
Steelhead, and Bull Trout*



OVERVIEW

The Middle Fork Nooksack Fish Passage Project will reestablish access to approximately 16 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat for Puget Sound Endangered Species Act listed Chinook salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout.

- Project elements include:
 - Removal of City of Bellingham's diversion dam to restore fish passage;
 - Maintaining municipal water supply by relocating intake upstream; and
 - Adding a fish screen for fish protection.

PROJECT IMPORTANCE

- Determined to be the single most effective action for this watershed to increase Chinook populations.²
- Highlighted as the number one Priority Action in the Water Resource Inventory Area 1 Salmon Recovery Plan.²
- Cited by Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan as a prime example of a major action to restore historic Chinook salmon spawning and rearing habitat in Puget Sound.
- Poised to contribute to Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery through increased prey availability.
- Helping to restore sacred fish populations for Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe.

PUGET SOUND SPECIES RECOVERY BENEFITS

- Spring Chinook Salmon
- Coho Salmon
- Steelhead
- Bull Trout
- Southern Resident Killer Whales



Project Partners:



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PROJECT BENEFITS

16 miles

Pristine Fish Habitat Restored

Spring Chinook¹ salmon, Bull Trout and steelhead will regain access to historic pristine spawning and rearing habitat.

45%

Steelhead Habitat Restored

Steelhead will regain access to an estimated 45% of their historic habitat in the Nooksack Middle Fork watershed.

31%

Increase in Abundance

Spring Chinook¹ salmon population abundance will increase.²

Additional Benefits

The project is of significant cultural importance to local tribes, provides improved public safety for recreational kayakers and increases water supply reliability.

¹ North/Middle Fork Nooksack spring Chinook salmon population
² Based on Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment [EDT] analysis



Targeted
Completion
2020



Total Funds
Raised to Date
\$18,736,632
Funding Needed
\$2 million



Project Status
Construction

For more information, please contact

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