

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. 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. A significant amount of funding has been secured towards project design and implementation. For more project information, including a description of the project's Partner Advisory Committee and Design Review Team, visit <https://www.cob.org/services/environment/restoration/middlefork/>.

THIS MONTH

- **Meetings** – An Alternative Selection Workshop meeting with members of the project's Partner Advisory Committee (PAC), Design Review Team (DRT), and the WRIA 1 Salmon Team was held on February 12th in Bellingham, WA. An overview of alternatives was presented, and merits of various alternatives discussed in selection of a preferred alternative. Q&A from the meeting will be documented in the final Conceptual Alternatives Report.
- **Design** – The preferred alternative began refinement from the conceptual level into preliminary design to support the finalization of the Conceptual Alternatives Report.
- **Permitting** – A matrix presenting a strategy for securing necessary permits was developed and continues to be refined as more is understood about permitting needs. A cultural and historical resources site reconnaissance for the estimated area of disturbance was completed. A draft memo is being prepared and will be available for the City's review by end of March.
- **Funding** – A project Near Term Action (NTA) proposal was submitted to the LIO on February 6th, in compliance with the process schedule for NTA adoption consideration into the 2018-2022 Action Agenda of the Puget Sound Partnership. A pre-proposal for funding consideration by the NOAA Coastal Resiliency grant program was prepared.
- **Other** – A project webpage was developed. Monthly updates and additional project information is available at your convenience (see link above).

MARCH 2018

- The cultural resources site assessment draft will be sent to the PAC for review. The draft Conceptual Alternatives report will be sent to the PAC and DRT for review then finalized.
- Several funding applications will be submitted, including a proposal to the USFWS Puget Sound Coastal Program, a pre-proposal to NOAA's Coastal Resiliency Program, and final NTA proposal submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership.
- A regulatory agency project review meeting and site visits are scheduled for March 29th and April 6th.
- Continued design refinement towards a 30% design level for the preferred alternative.