

## 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 threatened anadromous fish species by removing the diversion dam while maintaining water supply diversion at the site. A significant amount of funding towards project design and implementation is provided by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and City of Bellingham. Additional funding partners are needed. The project is currently in the design phase.

## THIS MONTH

- **Design** – A basemap and survey map were completed. CAD line work for the modified upstream intake was commenced and will continue to be developed. A geomorphic-based design approach to providing fish passage through the dam site was outlined.
- **Permitting** – Baseline environmental data was collected at the site. HDR delineated the OHWM and conducted a wetland reconnaissance and terrestrial habitat reconnaissance to determine suitability to support upland species of concern. HDR prepared a permitting matrix and timeline, for inclusion in the overall feasibility analysis.
- **Funding** – The project's funding strategy was updated to reflect schedules released in grant program solicitations in January. The State legislative session and bills related to project benefits are being tracked for opportunities.
- **Meetings** – A Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held on January 25th to provide a project funding overview, receive input on funding strategy, and permit streamlining opportunities targeting construction in summer 2019. The meeting was well-attended and input provided by representatives from the City of Bellingham, American Rivers, WDFW, Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, and the USFWS.
- **Other** – A 2-page project factsheet was prepared for public distribution. The city has distributed an early version. A final version will be distributed with the February monthly update.

## FEBRUARY 2018

- The first phase of design work will wrap up in February 2018. This includes completion of a feasibility analysis and an updated probable cost estimate for construction.
- A project NTA [factsheet] proposal will be submitted to the LIO by the February 6th deadline, in compliance with the process schedule for Near Term Action adoption consideration into the 2018-2022 Action Agenda of the Puget Sound Partnership.
- An Alternative Selection Workshop meeting is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> to precede and integrate with the scheduled WRIA 1 Salmon Team Recovery meeting. Upon selection of a preferred alternative, Phase 2 of project design will begin and advance the selected alternative through final design in the following months.
- A pre-application site visit and meeting with permitting contacts in March is being scheduled in February.