

## OVERVIEW

The City of Bellingham (City), American Rivers (AR), and supporting partners are working to implement 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. The project team has completed the design phase and have secured the majority of project funding. The project is now in the construction phase, with the Notice to Proceed issued on January 2, 2020. Dam removal and channel restoration elements are scheduled for completion in 2020.

## THIS MONTH

- **Construction Activities**
  - Mobilization of resources, clearing and access improvements, and development of temporary construction facilities continued into March.
  - Walsh Construction has continued pre-construction planning and project development activities. Several construction submittals were submitted and reviewed in March.
  - Soil overburden and rock excavation for the fish screen facility and pipeline extension between the fish screen facility and new intake is currently in progress. Boulders salvaged from upland excavation in the extant dam construction spoils area are being stockpiled for reuse in channel restoration.
  - The Site-specific safety plan was amended to include COVID-19 safety guidelines and procedures.
  
- **Outreach**
  - The in-person Groundbreaking event scheduled for May 1 has been cancelled. A Ribbon-cutting event is anticipated to occur in May 2021.
  - Several media outreach approaches during the in-water work period this summer are planned:
    - A press release when in-river work begins (June 2020).
    - A media toolkit updated regularly with construction photos/video. Periodic updates/reminders to the media will be emailed as in-water work progresses through the summer.
    - Video footage of work being completed and key moments (dam removal, channel restoration, channel rewatering) will be captured for social media clips and development of short films to be produced by American Rivers and the City of Bellingham in the future.
    - A social media package for partner use.

**April 2020**

- The project team will submit the In-Water Work Plan to ECY and WDFW for review in early April.
- Additional upland facility and in-water construction submittals will be completed by Walsh and reviewed by the project team in April.
- Soil overburden and rock excavation of the pipeline trench from the fish screen facility to the existing water diversion intake will begin.
- Test blasts and blasting for rock excavation of the fish screen and pipeline will be conducted.