

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 native anadromous fish species by removing the diversion dam while maintaining municipal water supply diversion at the site. Funding from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation towards 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** – no updates
- **Design** – HDR (Project Manager: Ed Zapel) was unanimously selected on 11/8/17 to provide design + permitting services.
- **Permitting and Environmental Compliance** – A site visit was held with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss any potential use authorizations that may be required if the project is on state-owned aquatic lands.
- **Scope and Schedule** – Negotiation of design consultant scope of work and fee is ongoing.
- **Meetings** – Representatives of DNR's Aquatic Lands Division met for a site visit on 11/29/17 to discuss the project and any potential use authorizations.

DECEMBER

- A scope, schedule, and fee will be negotiated, and design consultant contract signed in early December.
- A meeting to convene the Project Partners is scheduled for December 7th. This meeting will provide opportunity to outline future Partner representation, input, and direction of each partner entity in the project.
- A Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting will be scheduled in December to discuss opportunities for permit streamlining and funding coordination.
- Design work is scheduled to start in early December and will begin with review of data and studies previously completed.