

# 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.<sup>2</sup>
- Highlighted as the number one Priority Action in the Water Resource Inventory Area 1 Salmon Recovery Plan.<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

*Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding is critical to project success!*

## PUGET SOUND SPECIES RECOVERY BENEFITS

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



## PROJECT BENEFITS

**14-16 miles**

Chinook and Bull Trout Habitat Restored

Spring Chinook<sup>1</sup> salmon and Bull Trout 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 Chinook<sup>1</sup> salmon population abundance will increase.<sup>2</sup>

## Additional Benefits

The project has multiple socio-economic benefits such as improved public safety for recreational kayakers, and increased protection of the culturally significant upper watershed.



Targeted  
Completion  
2020



Total Funds  
Raised to Date  
**\$5.5 million**  
Funding Request  
**\$10.5 million**



Project Status  
Shovel-ready

<sup>1</sup> North/Middle Fork Nooksack spring Chinook salmon population

<sup>2</sup> Based on Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment [EDT] analysis

### Project Partners:



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