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.2
• Highlighted as the number one Priority Action in the Water Resource Inventory Area 1 Salmon Recovery Plan.2
• 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.

PASSAGE OF THE FY20 FEDERAL BUDGET IS CRITICAL TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT BENEFITS

14-16 miles
Chinook and Bull Trout Habitat Restored
Spring Chinook1 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 Chinook1 salmon population abundance will increase.2

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.

1 Based on Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) analysis
2 North/Middle Fork Nooksack spring Chinook salmon population

MIDDLE FORK NOOKSACK RIVER FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

Restoring Habitat for Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout

PROJECT BENEFITS

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For more information, please contact
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amcewen@americanrivers.org
Steve Day, Project Engineer, City of Bellingham
smday@cob.org

Project Partners:

Passage of the FY20 federal budget is critical to project implementation

PUGET SOUND SPECIES RECOVERY BENEFITS
• Spring Chinook Salmon
• Coho Salmon
• Steelhead
• Bull Trout
• Southern Resident Killer Whales

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Passage of the FY20 federal budget is critical to project implementation

Targeted Completion
2020

Total Funds Raised to Date
$16,736,632
Funding Needed
$4 million

Project Status
Shovel-ready