

# 2SHB 2251 – Fish Passage

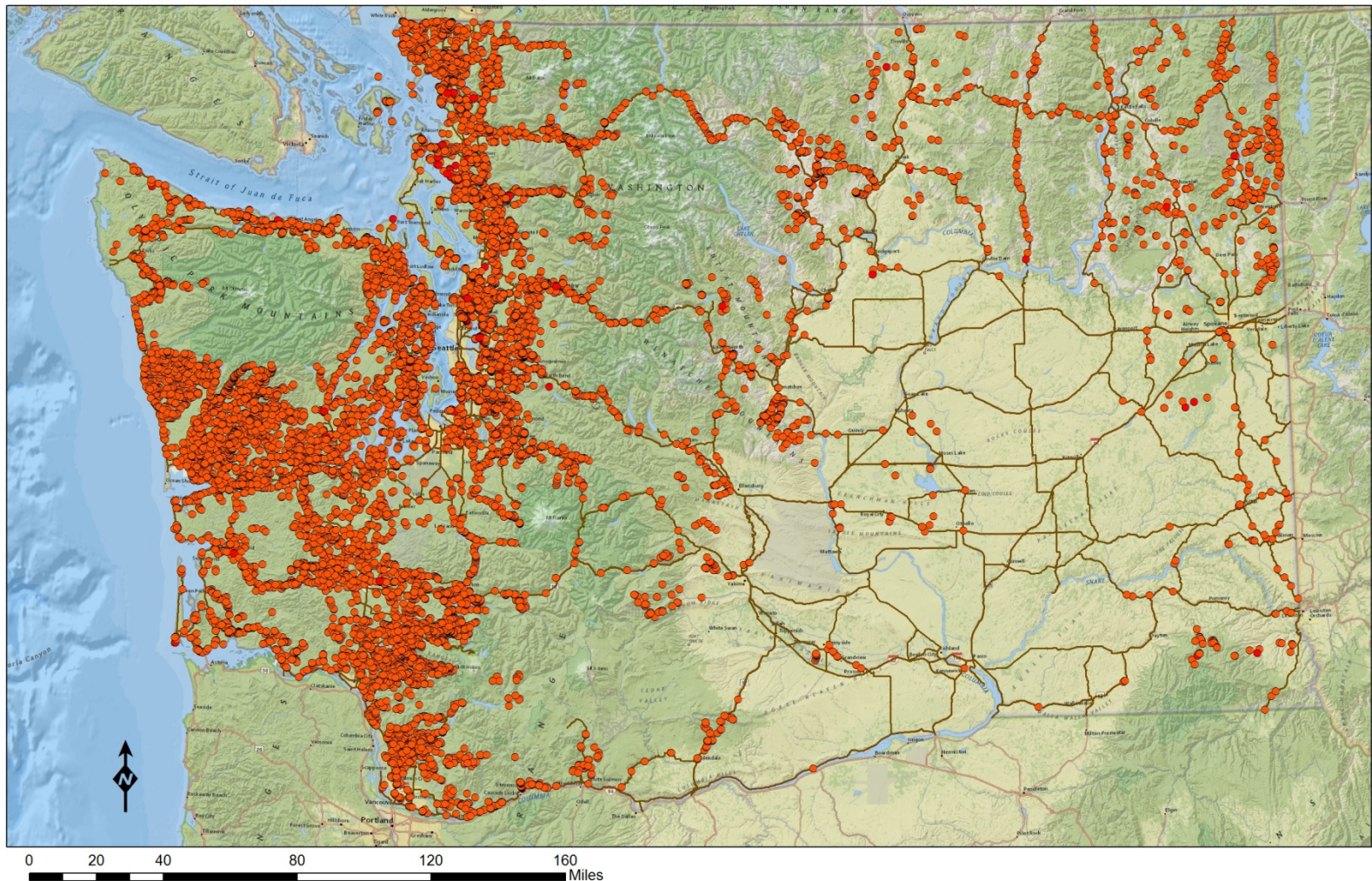
Overview for the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board

Julie Henning, WDFW

360-902-2555

# How big is the problem?

13,939 barriers statewide in the Database



# Background

- 1997 Task Force (2SSB 5886)  
recommendations to legislature
  - A program to identify and remove fish barriers
- Forest Industry – corrected over 5,000 barriers
- State will be correcting barriers at an accelerated rate

# Culvert Lawsuit

- o Applies to State owned roads in Western WA.
- o Applies to WSDOT, DNR, WDFW, and State Parks
- o Salmon bearing streams
- o Deadlines

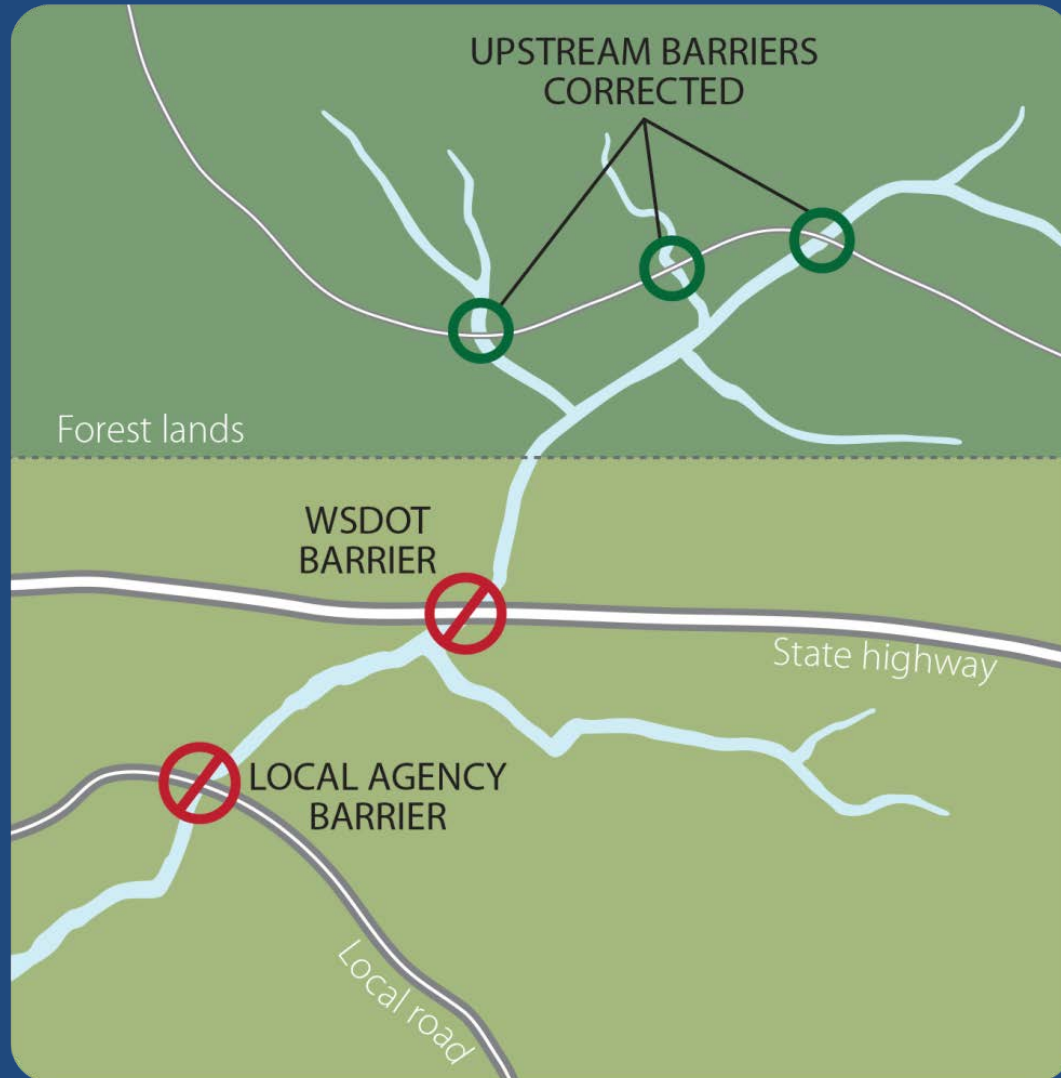
**Culvert Case Area WRIAs 1-23**



# Background

- Momentum around fish passage
  - Culvert lawsuit (WRIAs 1-23)
  - Need for coordination and project efficiencies
  - Inventories
- Need for dedicated funding source and a plan!

# A coordinated approach is necessary



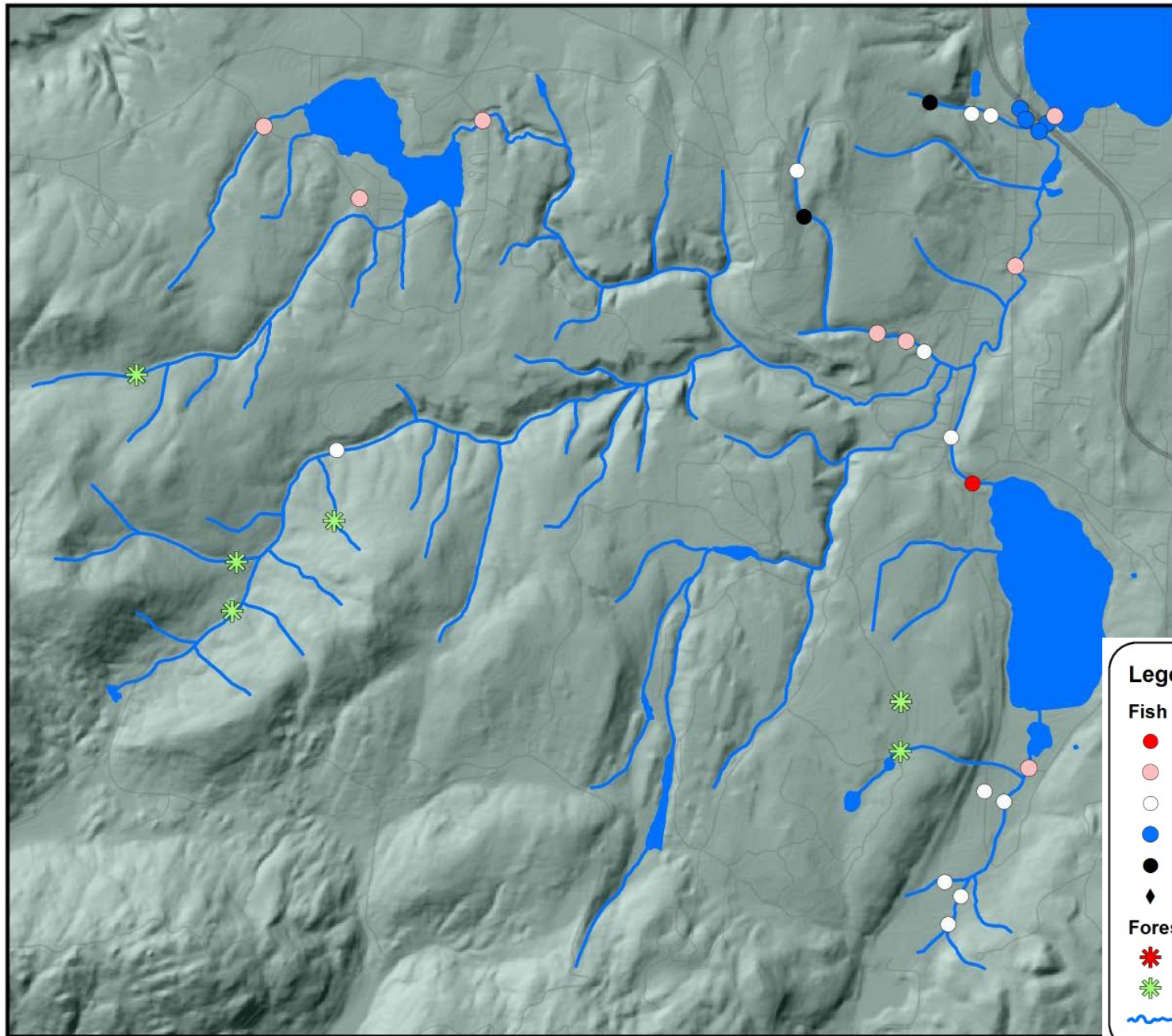
# 2SHB 2251

- Streamlined local and state permitting via RCW 77.55.181 (Hydraulic Project Approvals) through WDFW for stand-alone fish passage projects
- Creates a Fish Barrier Removal Board chaired by WDFW with members representing local governments, WSDOT, Tribes, Governors Salmon Recovery Office, DNR, with authority to add other interested parties
- The purpose of the board is to develop a statewide strategy that will be based on maximizing habitat recovery through correcting multiple barriers in whole streams rather than through individual, isolated projects.
- Directs WDFW and WSDOT to work in partnership to identify and complete fish passage projects
- WDFW will develop a barrier inventory training program that qualifies participants to conduct inventories (i.e. volunteers, conservation districts, regional fisheries enhancement groups). This info will assist with the board's prioritization efforts to recommend projects for funding.
- WDFW must report back to the legislature on progress made with prioritization methodologies, potential funding mechanisms, streamlined permitting, and project bundling

# 2SHB 2251

- Creates a Fish Barrier Removal Board chaired by WDFW with members representing local governments, WSDOT, Tribes, Governors Salmon Recovery Office, DNR, with authority to add other interested parties
- The purpose of the board is to develop a statewide strategy that will be based on maximizing habitat recovery through correcting multiple barriers in whole streams rather than through individual, isolated projects
- WDFW must report back to the legislature on progress made with prioritization methodologies, potential funding mechanisms, streamlined permitting, and project bundling
- Board approves barrier removal project list for submittal to the legislature
- Other tasks such as development of a coordination strategy





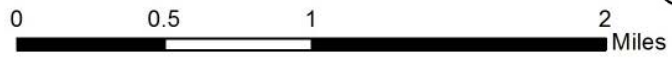
**Legend**

**Fish Passage Barriers by Ownership**

- City
- County
- Private
- State
- Other
- ◆ Natural Barrier

**Forest Fish Passage Site**

- ✱ Barrier
- ✱ Passable
- ~ Stream



# Key Prioritization Principles

- Prioritization will be of streams/sub-basins not of individual projects
- Highest priority streams/sub-basins to benefit endangered, threatened, or depressed fish populations (most important populations necessary to have a positive impact on recovery)
- Habitat quality and availability (good quality habitat upstream accessible to anadromous fish)
- Remove barriers from downstream to upstream (make sure there are no barriers downstream before you do a project)
- Full passage barriers should have priority over partial passage barriers
- Coordinated efforts with adjacent barrier removals

# Where do we start?

- What basins or watersheds would have the largest contribution to salmonid populations if barriers were removed?
- Coordination with other fish passage projects and habitat restorations
- Utilize existing databases and knowledge

# Timelines and Deliverables

- WDFW must report back to the legislature on progress made with prioritization methodologies, potential funding mechanisms, streamlined permitting, and project bundling
  - Statewide strategy: Complete in about one year by the board (not specified in legislation)
  - Funding strategy: due to legislature Oct 2016
  - Streamlined federal permitting: complete and report by October 2016
  - Project bundling: complete and report by October 2016