

Remove barriers to salmon recovery

Salmon and steelhead recovery depends on healthy streams with open passage for migration. Washington streams contain over 14,000 barriers that block fish from traditional habitat areas.

WDFW removes these barriers to reopen streams, which advances salmon and steelhead recovery. We want to work with interested landowners to improve our statewide inventory of fish barriers.

Locate fish barriers near you with our online mapping tool!

wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/fish_passage/data_maps.html



Contact us to learn more about fixing your barrier.



Opening just one stream can allow fish to access miles of habitat and improve our salmon populations.

More fish habitat = More fish



Larry Dominguez
Fish Passage Program Manager
360-902-2534

wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/fish_passage

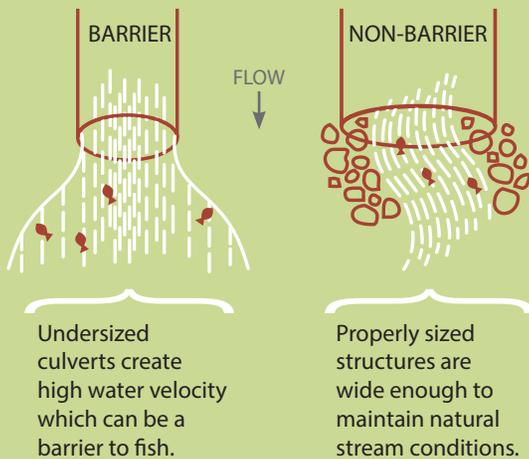
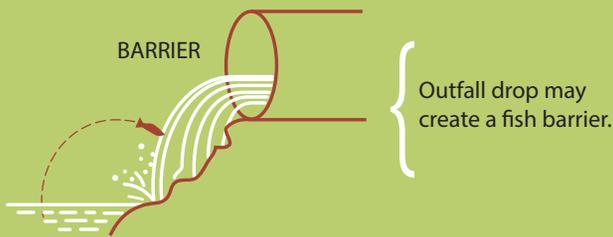


Restore salmon with healthier streams



What are fish barriers?

Fish barriers prevent migration to upstream spawning and rearing areas. These obstacles alter stream conditions and can create impassable heights, faster velocities, and fewer resting pools.



Walking streams to find barriers

Our biologists walk streams to gather information about fish barriers, such as:

- Outfall drop
- Water depth in culvert
- Culvert slope
- Water velocity

We also walk upstream to assess the quality of habitat to be gained by removing the barrier.

This information allows us to prioritize projects to maximize funds and fish benefits, while improving your watershed condition.



Visible benefits of barrier removal

Fish quickly take advantage of newly accessible habitat. Our biologists often see adult salmon and steelhead upstream within the same year of barrier removal.



When natural stream conditions are restored, local communities, fish, and wildlife benefit in many ways.

- Protect private property from flooding
- Greater salmon and steelhead production
- Prevent road washout and increase safety for land management
- Improve wildlife migration
- Create local construction jobs
- Enhance fishing opportunity
- Avoid emergency repairs
- Restore river health
- Reduce maintenance and save money