



BRIAN ABBOTT

**FISH BARRIER
REMOVAL BOARD**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2021-2023

November 1, 2019

ABOUT THE FISH BARRIER REMOVAL BOARD GRANT PROGRAM

The Washington State Legislature (Legislature) established the grant program of the Brian Abbott Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) in 2014 to assist in identifying and removing impediments to anadromous salmonid fish passage. All FBRB-funded grant projects shall match the principles provided in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 77.95 §§ 160, 170, and 180, and are reviewed and approved by the FBRB. The grant program is administered jointly by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). For more information about the FBRB, please visit: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb/>.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The FBRB is accepting proposals for fish passage projects for FBRB grant program funding. Funding is intended to leverage fish passage investments that have been made by the Washington Department of Transportation, forest industry, local governments, and other entities by funding barrier corrections near or in coordination with other fish passage investments.

A proposal may be for either of two project types: Planning (i.e., ‘design-only’) or Restoration (i.e., construction). Planning projects that are approved for funding will be developed to full design. Restoration projects that are approved for funding will be constructed within the grant award period.

The FBRB grant program is a highly competitive process and not all RFP submissions will be invited to submit a project narrative. All proposed fish passage projects will be evaluated by the FBRB, and only the highest priority projects will be recommended to the Legislature for funding. For more information about the FBRB funding strategy, see Manual 22, Section 1).

Note: This RFP is for statewide projects and projects in designated priority watersheds (See Manual 22: Appendix A). The FBRB expects the participants in priority watersheds to continue implementing projects from their approved and prioritized lists in future grant rounds. If lead entities or salmon recovery regions want to propose new projects in their designated priority watersheds that are not included in the FBRB-approved lists, or to change their designated priority watersheds, they must work with their WDFW fish passage biologists to get FBRB approval.

ELIGIBILITY

All eligibility requirements outlined in this section must be met for a project to be considered.

Per RCW 77.95.160, the duty of the FBRB is to identify and expedite the removal of impediments to anadromous fish that are caused by state and local roads and highways, and barriers owned by private parties.

The project must correct a complete or partial barrier to anadromous salmonids, as defined in the WDFW’s barrier assessment manual (link provided in Resources section). Projects with a full barrier (0% passable) downstream are ineligible.

Restoration (i.e., construction) projects must have recently completed preliminary-level designs submitted with the final application, unless the total requested amount is less than or equal to \$500,000. Preliminary design deliverables are described in Manual 22, Appendix C-2.

Applications that are incomplete or unclear will be deemed ineligible.

It is not the intent of the FBRB grant program to fund mitigation obligations.

PROJECT SCORING CRITERIA AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The FBRB and the FBRB's Technical Review Team (TRT) review fish passage projects to ensure that the approved projects create actual benefits to anadromous salmonids, have anticipated benefits that outweigh the costs, have a high likelihood of being successful, and satisfy the founding principles outlined in RCW 77.95.180.

Proposed fish passage projects will be reviewed for eligibility and potential benefits to anadromous salmonids.

During this initial review, projects will be scored and ranked based on the following criteria:

- Barrier severity and linear habitat gain
- Clearly outlined anticipated costs
- Project readiness, i.e., design level, permits, sponsor capacity, etc.
- Habitat quality
- Design approach and climate change resilience
- Absence of downstream barriers
- Number of anadromous species affected by the barrier
- Occurring in a designated priority watershed

Proponents of eligible projects will be invited to submit an online Application to RCO (PRISM) that will include a project narrative that will be used to evaluate the proposed project based on:

- Application Completeness
- Benefits to productivity and life history stages
- Clearly identified and appropriate project scope, goals and objectives, milestones, and schedule
- Level of coordination with other habitat restoration projects, i.e., estimated total benefits from recent efforts that would be realized as a result of the proposed barrier correction
- Cost effectiveness and a clear, detailed budget
- Stock status of anadromous species that would benefit
- Contribution to an approved recovery plan
- Other relevant information presented by project proponent
- Provides benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whale prey species found in [NOAA's Priority Chinook Stocks Report](#).

The final prioritized list of fish passage projects is the culmination of a thorough scientific review and investigation of the merits of each project. The FBRB will submit a funding request for the final prioritized list of fish passage projects to the Legislature.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

For Restoration (i.e., construction) projects, a minimum of 15 percent match of the grant award is required. For Planning (i.e., ‘design-only’) projects, match is not required if the funding request is less than or equal to \$200,000 and final designs are completed within 18 months of funding approval; time extensions are not allowed. If the funding request for a Planning project is greater than \$200,000, then 15 percent match of the grant award is required and final designs must be completed within 2 years; time extension requests may be considered.

Matching resources may include cash, bond funds, grants (unless prohibited by the funding authority), in-kind labor, equipment, and materials. See Manual 8 (link provided in Resources section) for information on match and reimbursements.

SCHEDULE

Date	Task	Description
November 1, 2019	Request for Proposals	Publication of FBRB Request for Proposals
January 15, 2020	Proposals Due	Submit complete RFP materials to FBRB@dfw.wa.gov
January - March 2020	TRT Reviews Proposals	Initial review of projects by WDFW Technical Review Team (TRT) for eligibility and potential benefits to anadromous salmonids.
April 1, 2020	Invitation to Submit Application into PRISM	Proponents of eligible and high priority projects are invited to submit an online Application into Recreation and Conservation Office's project management database called PRISM
May 15, 2020	Complete PRISM Application Deadline	Complete all sections and submit all attachments in PRISM including Project Narrative.
May 15 - July 31, 2020	FBRB and RCO Reviews Complete Applications	Projects reviewed and ranked by TRT and recommended for funding by FBRB.
August 1, 2020	FBRB Requests Funding	Ranked project list and funding recommendations published and submitted to the Legislature.
TBD - 2021	Funding Notification	Funding notification dependent upon final state budget. Funds expected to be available July 1, 2021

SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS

To submit a project for consideration, applicants will email Proposal materials as a single, complete package to FBRB@dfw.wa.gov. Links to required forms are available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb/>, [RCO website](#) and in Manual 22.

Minimum requirements for Proposal:

- Barrier Evaluation Form or Fish Passage Database Site Report
- Maps, including:
 - 1 map that clearly shows the location of the proposed activity within the state, and

- 1 large scale detailed map showing the site clearly marked and labeled with GPS coordinates, road names, and correctly mapped streams
- Photos, including:
 - 1 photo of the barrier, preferably of outlet (downstream end) if safe to acquire,
 - 1 photo of the upstream habitat, and
 - 1 photo of the top of the road showing utilities, guardrails, etc. if applicable
- Landowner Acknowledgement Form(s)
- FBRB Proposal Questions - responses to questions about project readiness, anticipated costs, habitat quality, design approach, and watershed.

Proponents of eligible projects will be invited to submit an Application into [PRISM](#), RCO's online grant management system (link provided in Manual 22).

Minimum requirements for PRISM Online Application:

- Complete all sections of the PRISM Online Application
- Attach the following required forms (in PRISM):
 - ALL Draft Proposal materials
 - Applicant Authorization Form
 - FBRB Cost Estimate Spreadsheet
 - Design Documents (required for Restoration projects greater than \$500,000)
 - Map: Restoration Worksite (for Restoration Projects)
 - Map: Planning Area (if requesting funding for designs)
 - Map: Area of Potential Effect
 - Correction Analysis Form (for restoration projects with no designs)
 - FBRB Project Narrative Questions - responses to questions about limiting factors, level of coordination, project scope, and additional supporting information.

CONTACTS

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RESOURCES

WDFW Fish Passage Program: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/fish-passage>. Includes links to WDFW's barrier assessment manual, barrier map, and design guidance.

FBRB webpage: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb/>. Includes Request for Applications and required forms.

PRISM: <https://rco.wa.gov/grants/apply-for-a-grant/prism/>. Logon and link to create a PRISM account.

RCO grant manuals:

Manual 22 <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FBRB-Manual22.pdf>

Manual 8 <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Manual8.pdf>

Manual 18 <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SAL-Manual18.pdf>

Manual 7 <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Manual7.pdf>

FBRB - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

Questions will be evaluated based on the clarity and completeness of responses.



1. Project Information

Please describe your project in this section. Include information such as number and severity of barriers you are proposing, whether you are requesting planning (design only) or restoration (construction) funds, and how much funding you are requesting. Also include the amount of habitat gain the proposed project will provide to the next partial or full barrier. (*Note: 100% passable barriers are ineligible for funding.*)

2. Anticipated Costs

What are the anticipated costs of full designs for your project? If requesting funding for a Restoration Project, what are the anticipated costs of construction for your project, and how were these costs determined? (*Note: if invited to submit an application, a complete, itemized cost estimate will be required with your application.*) Limit 250 words.

3. Project Readiness

Please describe the readiness of your proposed project. Include information about existing designs, permits, easements, landowner willingness, site-specific constraints, project scope, resource commitments (match), and any other pertinent information that supports the completion of your project within the grant award period (*Note: for Restoration Projects only, if invited to submit an application and the requested amount is greater than \$500,000, recently completed preliminary-level designs are required to be submitted with your application. Preliminary design deliverables are described in Manual 22, Appendix C-2.*) Limit 1,000 words.

4. Habitat Quality

Describe the type and quality of the obstructed habitat for the species that are affected by the barrier. Limit 500 words.

5. Design Approach

For the proposed project, describe the current level of designs, how the project will meet or exceed stream simulation criteria, and how the project will accommodate the anticipated effects of climate change. (*Note: for Restoration Projects only, if invited to submit an application and the requested amount is greater than \$500,000, then recently completed preliminary-level designs are required to be submitted with your application. Preliminary design deliverables are described in Manual 22, Appendix C-2.*) Limit 500 words.

6. Downstream Barriers

Does your proposed project have any downstream barriers? If so, please list them by WDFW Site ID or by Lat/Long in decimal degrees and their corresponding barrier passability using approved protocols by WDFW. Projects with partial downstream barriers are still eligible but will receive a lower score based on the number and severity of DS barriers. (*Note: If there is one or more 0% passable barriers downstream the project is ineligible for funding.*)

7. Anadromous Species Use

What salmon species (including steelhead) will benefit from the habitat opened by the proposed project?

8. Priority Watershed

Will your project occur in a designated priority watershed as defined in Manual 22: Appendix A? Please also identify the priority ranking of this project within the designated priority watershed.