

Fish Passage Infrastructure



2023-25 Funding Request

Ongoing funding
\$1.48 million



WDFW manages 100 fishways that provide access to 1,768 miles of spawning and rearing habitat, and more than 100 fish screens that protect downstream migrating fish, many of which need repairs.

The Problem

Most of the fishways are more than 70 years old and are in such disrepair that many are now obstacles to fish passage, with the worst fishways acting as fatal traps for migrating fish. Many populations of salmon and steelhead are currently listed as “threatened” or “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act. The loss of spawning and rearing habitat, or access to it, is one of the primary limiting factors in recovering these species.

The Solution

This request would provide WDFW with the capacity to keep its fishways and hatchery screens appropriately maintained and functioning as designed to help recover our state’s fish stocks and those wildlife species that depend on them for prey. WDFW proposes to do this by re-establishing the WDFW Fish Passage Maintenance Team. This team will provide the capacity to:

- Inventory, assess, maintain, repair, and operate WDFW-owned fish passage structures to ensure they meet state and federal criteria.
- Provide technical assistance to fishway and fish screen owners to protect state investments in wild salmon and steelhead recovery.
- Conduct research and development on new passage and screening designs and criteria for new applications.

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