

# Fish Barrier Removal Board

## *Work Plan*<sup>1</sup>

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In 2014, the Washington State Legislature created the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board to develop a coordinated barrier removal strategy and provide the framework for a fish barrier removal grant program. The board is established by Chapter 77.95 RCW. This workplan is intended to serve as a guide for the Board's work over the next several years. It will be reviewed annually. The due dates for each action are intended to be general, since the Board's workload will be variable and actual dates may be different. Detailed descriptions of tasks can be found in earlier versions of this work plan and the communications plan.

### **Mission**

The duty of the board is to identify and expedite the removal of human-made or caused impediments to anadromous fish passage in the most efficient manner practical through the development of a coordinated approach and schedule that identifies and prioritizes the projects necessary to eliminate fish passage barriers caused by state and local roads and highways and barriers owned by private parties.<sup>2</sup>

### **Values**

The board values all aspects of salmon recovery and the existing structure developed under the 1999 Salmon Recovery Act, and provides a statewide fish barrier removal strategy and program funding recommendations to the legislature. The board will ensure that the processes to identify, prioritize and fund projects are based on maximizing the opening of high quality habitat through a coordinated investment strategy that prioritizes projects necessary to eliminate fish barriers owned by state and local government, tribes, private parties, and others. This investment strategy values (1) opening high quality salmon habitat that can contribute to salmonid recovery, (2) coordinating with others doing barrier removals to achieve the greatest cost savings, and (3) correcting barriers located furthest downstream.

To achieve the mission, goals, and values the Board will:

- Improve coordination of existing fish passage programs to increase the benefits of barrier removal among multiple jurisdictions.
- Expedite the removal of barriers in the most efficient manner practical through economy of scale and streamline permitting processes.
- Facilitate collaboration, coordination, and communication among state, federal and local agencies, tribes, regional salmon recovery organizations, salmon recovery lead entities, regional fisheries enhancement groups, conservation districts, restoration contractors, landowners and other interested stakeholders on fish passage improvement programs and projects.
- Expedite implementation of on-the-ground projects by identifying and addressing institutional hurdles.
- Educate and increase the public and agency awareness of fish passage issues to develop support for solving problems and preventing new ones.
- Seek funding sources for fish passage projects within Washington and administer a strategic funding program to further the Board's mission once funding is secured.

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<sup>1</sup>Workplan update approved November 2018; list of communications tasks approved and added May 2018

<sup>2</sup> RCW 77.95.160 (2) (a)

**GOALS, ACTIONS AND TIMELINES**

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>Goal 1: The Washington Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife shall chair and administer a Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB).</b>		
Chair and Support Fish Barrier Removal Board	Ongoing	WDFW
Review bylaws annually	Winter 2019	FBRB
Periodically review FBRB membership and consider changes	Winter 2019	Chair and FBRB
Develop a workplan and update annually	Fall 2019	FBRB
<b>Goal 2: The Board will strive to operate transparently and reach out to interested parties in developing and implementing its programs.</b>		
Develop and implement a communication strategy to include fact sheets and webpage.	Ongoing	FBRB
Participate in Salmon Recovery workshops	Biennial in odd-numbered years	Chair/other members
Foster ongoing partnership with WFWA	Ongoing	WDFW
Develop a stand-alone FBRB website	Ongoing	WDFW
<b>Goal 3: The FBRB will continue to refine its coordinated approach to identifying and expediting the removal of fish passage barriers.</b>		
Continue to refine a prioritization methodology aimed at prioritizing which focus areas should be addressed first. Board should re-visit its priorities and refine the methodology based upon the funding received for the grant program.	Ongoing	FBRB
Develop a plan to coordinate information sharing and coordination <sup>3</sup> between the FBRB and other entities involved in fish passage barrier removal projects. The Board needs to understand the needs for this task as well as the funding needed to support this. This task may include developing the website referenced in Goal 2 above.	Winter 2019	FBRB
Determine the scope of technical assistance needed through the program and how it has been/will be provided, as directed in RCW 77.95.170 (5) (b).	Ongoing	WDFW with FBRB assistance
Develop and approve a grant manual for use by grant administrators. Monitor any issues and revise as needed.	Completed; revisions ongoing as needed	FBRB and RCO
Develop guidance as needed for future grant rounds, or a process for developing such guidance (e.g. funding removal of creosote pilings found during construction of funded projects)	As needed	FBRB
Consider whether to revise policy around issue of partial and full barriers downstream from barriers proposed for correction.	Before next grant round (2019)	FBRB
Track relevant issues including the impacts of stormwater on fish, climate change	As appropriate	FBRB
Consider SRFB collaboration regarding future use of Intrinsic Potential model	Winter 2019	FBRB, RCO

<sup>3</sup> RCW 77.95.160 (2)(C)

<b>Goal 4: The FBRB will strive to seek out available data and information and develop ways to make data and information readily available.</b>		
Database presentation to FBRB	Fall 2018	WDFW
Training program presentation to FBRB	Fall 2017	WDFW
<b>Goal 5: The FBRB will develop a Grant Program for distributing available funding in an efficient and effective manner.</b>		
Continue to refine the grant program that will allocate available funding, and address elements including match requirements, whether and how funding might be allocated between regions, provisions for opportunities that emerge (“just-in-time” or “shovel-ready” projects) and other factors.	Ongoing	FBRB
<b>Goal 6: The FBRB will participate in efforts to streamline Project Permitting and seek ways to efficiently use mitigation funding for barrier removal projects.</b>		
Seek permitting efficiencies and streamlining regarding federal permits.	Ongoing	WDFW

**COMMUNICATION TASKS**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Develop compelling story that communicates value and urgency of fish barrier removal	Ongoing	FBRB
Meet with SRFB periodically	As needed	FBRB
Reach out to Chehalis Basin program to explore connections	Fall 2018	WDFW
Work with SRFB regarding connections to Lead Entities on communications	Fall 2018	FBRB
Continue engaging with interested agencies to establish FBRB as a resource for fish barrier removal	Ongoing	FBRB
FBRB members update their websites regarding fish barrier removal	Ongoing	FBRB members
WDFW create archive of news stories	Ongoing	WDFW
Build relationships with media		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with WDFW public information office to reach out to media contacts</li> </ul>	Ongoing	FBRB, WDFW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue press releases when key milestones occur</li> </ul>	Ongoing	FBRB
Engage with national organizations and Federal agencies committed to fish passage	Ongoing	FBRB