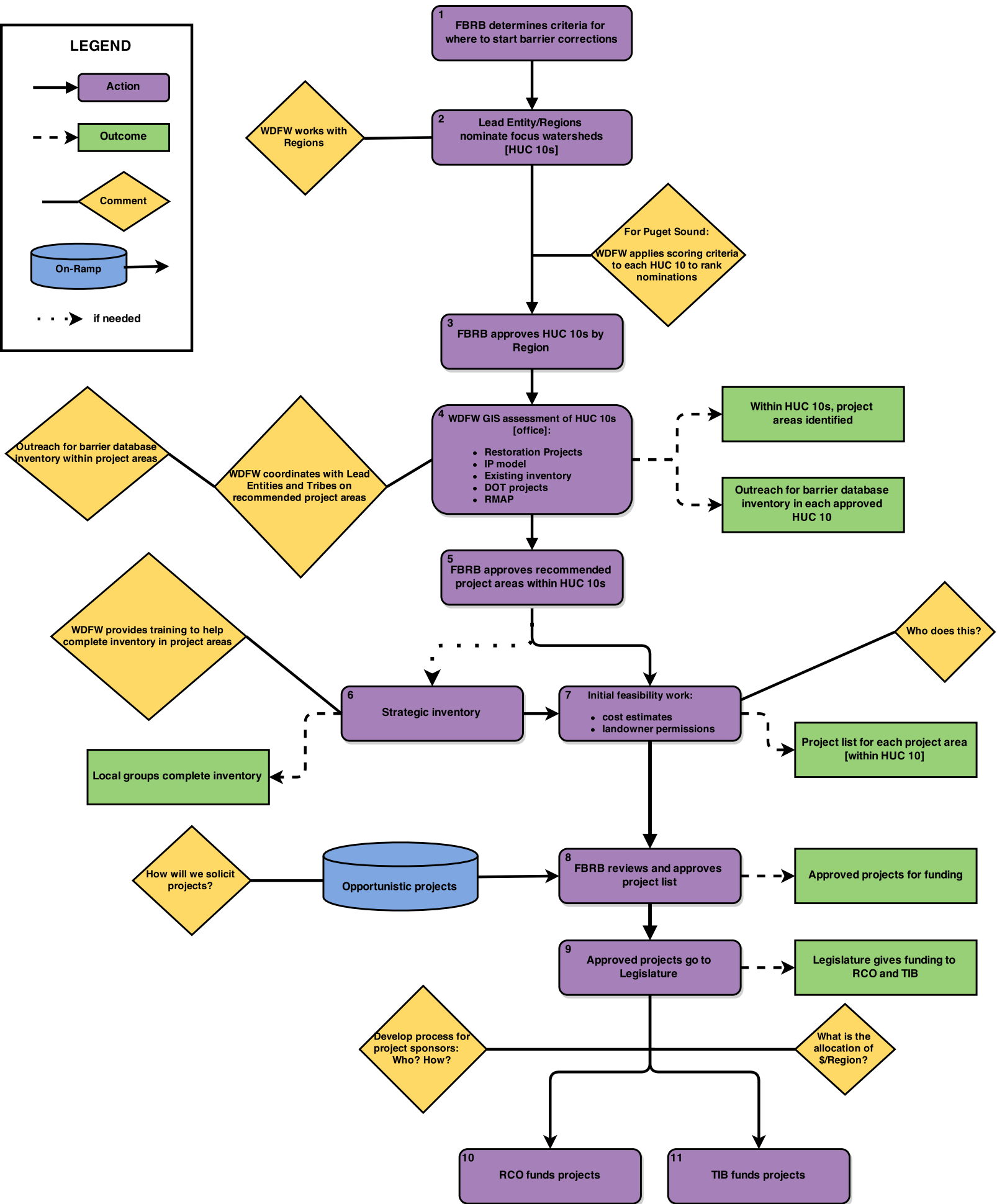
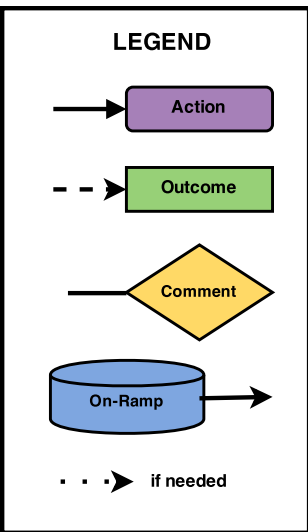


FBRB Program Process

March 17, 2015



Fish Barrier Removal Board

Draft Work Plan

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 grant program. The board is established by Chapter 77.95 RCW.

Mission

The mission of the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board is to protect and restore anadromous salmonid species, and other aquatic organisms, in Washington by promoting collaboration among public and private sectors for fish passage improvement projects and programs.

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 opening high quality habitat through a coordinated investment strategy that prioritizes projects necessary to eliminate fish barriers owned by state, local government, and private parties. 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) correct barriers located furthest downstream.

To achieve the mission, goal, 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, 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 barriers.
- 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.

Goals & Strategies

The board provides support to local fish passage programs based on its priorities, available resources, and emergent opportunities.

Goal 1: The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife shall maintain and chair a Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board (FBRB).

- A. *Action:* The WDFW will organize, chair, and provide staff support for the Fish Barrier Removal Board.¹

Timeline/Responsible Party: Ongoing /WDFW

- B. *Action:* WDFW was not given any additional resources to support the Fish Barrier Removal Board. Additional resources are needed to support the development of the Fish Barrier Removal Board statewide strategy, prioritization methodology, and development of grant program framework. Additional resources will be located and made available to support and provide guidance to the FBRB.

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015/?

- C. *Action:* Create clear communication to describe board role and duties. Some of this has already been accomplished, including Board by-laws and meeting notes. Additional item to develop include, work plan, fact sheet, and webpage **[what is missing?]**

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015/FBRB

Goal 2: The FBRB will develop a coordinated approach² to identifying and expediting the removal of fish passage barriers.

- A. *Action:* WDFW will coordinate with WSDOT and other state agencies to ensure fish barrier passage removal programs are synchronized with each other. WSDOT routinely distributes planned projects for the biennium with forecasts of projects up to six years in advance (subject to change). WDFW will work with WSDOT to overlay the projects to maximize opportunities for coordinated projects and grant project pathways. **[What does this mean and how to coordinate?]**

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX **[With what frequency should this be done?]**/WDFW

- B. *Action:* Connect with the Washington Forest Protection Association for outreach and to clarify efforts to coordinate with the barrier removal projects of their members. Retrieve RMAP data from DNR annually to maximize opportunities for coordinated projects and grant project pathways

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015/?

- C. *Action:* Develop a statewide strategy for barrier removal. [More actions are needed for this item.]

¹ RCW 77.95.160 (1): "The board must be composed of a representative from the department, the department of transportation, cities, counties, the governor's salmon recovery office, tribal governments, and the department of natural resources. The representative of the department must serve as chair of the board and may expand the membership of the board to representatives of other governments, stakeholders, and interested entities."

² RCW 77.95.160 (2) (a) "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."

D. *Action:* Meet with on-the-ground implementers of barrier removal projects to gain an understanding of their perspectives on a strategy. **[At a FBRB meeting? Invite them and have a dialogue]**
Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015/?

E. *Action:* Develop a prioritization strategy aimed at prioritizing which barrier focus areas should be addressed first. This includes choosing specific areas of the state to emphasis barrier removal. Once those areas are chosen then conducting strategy inventories and developing prioritized lists of barriers

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015/FBRB

F. *Action:* Follow-up with the regional salmon recovery board on their first efforts at responding to FBRB questions – e.g. meet with them in May 2015 during the May salmon recovery conference and develop next iteration of their prioritization efforts. This next iteration may include their focus areas; any inventories already done within their geographic area; and how they will identify existing barrier removal programs.

Timeline/Responsible Party: By May 2015

G. *Action:* Continue to work with the Puget Sound Partnership to define a Puget Sound approach.
[What does this look like?]

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015

Goal 3: Coordinate Information [What does this mean?]

A. *Action:* The FBRB will discuss technical assistance through the program and how it will be provided.

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015

Goal 4: Develop Recommendations

A. *Action:* The statute³ addresses the development of recommendations. **[What are these recommendations - are they recommendations to the Legislature? What should these recommendations include? How do we address the requirement to coordinate efforts within each WRIA?]**

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015

Goal 5: WDFW Fish Passage Database

A. *Action:* The FBRB receives a database management update from WDFW. **[What is needed here beyond this?]**

³ RCW 77.95.160 (2)(d): “Recommendations must include proposed funding mechanisms and other necessary mechanisms and methodologies to coordinate state, tribal, local, and volunteer barrier removal efforts within each water resource inventory area and satisfy the principles of RCW 77.95.180. To the degree practicable, the board must utilize the database created in RCW 77.95.170 and information on fish barriers developed by conservation districts to guide methodology development. The board may consider recommendations by interested entities from the private sector and regional fisheries enhancement groups.”

- B. *Action:* The FBRB receives a briefing on WDFW’s training program as described by the enabling legislation. The purpose of the training is to increase the awareness and consistency of fish passage barrier data collection, use of WDFW’s database, and modern techniques of fish passage barrier correction methods.

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015

- C. *Action:* Clarify the authorizing legislation⁴ reference to this as a “database directory.” What does this mean?

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015

Goal 6: Develop a Communication Strategy

- A. *Action:* The Board will identify communication strategy elements and timeframes for implementing them. Elements may include coordinating with other fish barrier removal programs; deciding how to share information developed by this Board; connecting with other entities including the federal government, tribes, and railroads; and deciding on an education and information strategy. **[What else is needed? How will this be done - will communications professionals be used to prepare this?]**

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX

- B. *Action:* WDFW will prepare a report to the legislature by October 31, 2016 (as required by enabling legislation).

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX

Goal 7: Grant Program

- A. *Action:* Identify new and available funding that could be used for the program.

Timeline/Responsible Party: No earlier than end of the 2015 legislative session/?

- B. *Action:* Develop a grant program that will allocate available funding, and address elements including match requirements, whether and how funding might be allocated between regions, and other factors. Continue developing the “hybrid option #3” discussed at the February 2015 meeting of the FBRB.

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015

Goal 8: Project Approval

- A. *Action:* Coordinating with the Governor’s office, WDFW initiates contact with USACE, NOAA, and USFWS to explore and develop the feasibility of bundling of projects under any available

⁴ RCW 77.95.170 (5) (a): “The department shall establish a centralized database directory of all fish passage barrier information. The database directory must include, but is not limited to, existing fish passage inventories, fish passage projects, grant program applications, and other databases. These data must be used to coordinate and assist in habitat recovery and project mitigation projects.”

nationwide permits for the purpose of achieving streamlined federal permitting.

Timeline/Responsible Party: By XXXX 2015

A. Action: [What else is needed for this goal?]

DRAFT

TIMELINE

[List action items in chronological order for easy reference]

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Establish Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board	6/2014	WDFW

DRAFT

FBRB Project Eligibility:

Fish Passage Barrier Owners:

Eligible for FBRB Funding:

- Private landowners
- Counties
- Cities
- Tribes

Not Eligible for FBRB Funding: Although they are not eligible for FBRB funding, coordination with these entities will be essential to achieve fish passage goals.

- State Agencies
- Large forest landowners (Rayonier, Weyco, Green Diamond, etc.)
- Small forest landowners (They are the focus of FFFPP)
- Federal Barriers – including railroad barriers

Fish Passage Project Types:

Eligible Barrier Corrections involving:

- Road-associated Culverts
- Small dams (NOT FEDERAL)
- Road-associated-Tide Gates

Remedies/Barriers replaced with:

- New Culverts – Stream Simulation
- Abandonment
- Bridges
- Fishways?

Not Eligible:

- Natural Barriers (Beaver Dams, Waterfalls, etc.)
- Large Dams (Bureau of Reclamation)
- Large Bridges
- Levees and Dikes
- Pump Diversions
- Irrigation Channels and irrigation dams (small)??

