



October 25, 2021

(sent electronically only)

Dear Members of the Washington State Legislature,

This letter responds to direction in the 21-23 Transportation Budget (SSB 5165, Section 306 (9) (b)) to provide an update on implementation of the statewide culvert remediation plan by November 1, 2021.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board sent the [Biennial Report on the Development of Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Removal Strategy](#) to the legislature, dated June 30, 2021, which summarized the work that was done on the principles that will form the basis of a statewide approach to barrier removal and recommendations to further refine an approach. There are no updates to that report at this time.

However, we want to take this opportunity to provide an update on implementation of WSDOT's fish passage program delivery. WSDOT appreciates the Legislature's continued support and efforts to ensure funding is available for the fish passage program that aligns with the culvert injunction compliance.

WSDOT received \$275M from the Legislature for the fish passage program for the 2019-2021 biennium. With this investment, WSDOT corrected a total of 22 fish barriers improving access to 75 miles of upstream fish habitat. In addition, another 54 barriers moved from the design phase to the construction phase and are currently within executed construction contracts. These 54 barriers are in various stages of construction and improve access to 180 miles of upstream fish habitat. WSDOT also has another 80 barriers in design and has plans for starting the design of another 100 barriers within the next year.

WSDOT has developed a WSDOT 2030 Fish Passage Delivery Plan to comply with the terms of the culvert injunction to restore access to 90% of the blocked fish habitat. This plan was shared with the Fish Barrier Removal Board in order to coordinate with the statewide culvert remediation plan.

Please contact Kim Mueller at (360) 705-7404 if you have any questions about WSDOT's fish passage program delivery.

Sincerely,

Megan White P.E.
Environmental Services Office Director