



June 1, 2022

(sent electronically only)

Dear Members of the Washington State Legislature,

This letter responds to direction in the 21-23 Supplemental Transportation Budget (ESSB 5689, Section 305 (13) (b)) to provide an update on implementation of the statewide culvert remediation plan by June 1, 2022.

The [Biennial Report on the Development of Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Removal Strategy](#), dated June 30, 2021, summarized the work done to create the principles for a statewide approach to barrier removal along with additional recommendations. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board have no further updates to the 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.

As reported in our June 2021 [WSDOT Fish Passage Performance Report](#), WSDOT has corrected 86 injunction barriers, improving access to more than 383 miles of habitat, since the establishment of the injunction. Our 2022 Fish Passage Performance Report is in progress and will be published this summer. This report will include the fish barriers corrected in summer 2021. During the 2021-2023 biennium, our plan includes executing construction contracts for 116 fish barrier corrections with another 156 fish barrier corrections completing the design phase.

Move Ahead Washington (MAW) provides \$2.4 billion towards WSDOT's obligation to correct fish barriers. This additional funding provides the certainty to comply with the minimum requirements of the injunction through 2030. With this certainty, WSDOT is fully implementing our 2030 Fish Passage Delivery Plan to restore access to 90% of the blocked fish habitat as required by the injunction. MAW provides funding for 350-375 fish barrier corrections, which improves access to approximately 650 miles of fish habitat. This plan was shared with the Fish Barrier Removal Board 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,

Ahmer Nizam
Environmental Services Office Director