

Whatcom County Fish Passage Barrier Removal

Public Works Culvert Work Group

Surface Water Work Session

September 19, 2023

Culvert Remediation MOA

Parties

- Whatcom County
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Johnson's Creek, Mosquito Lake Road

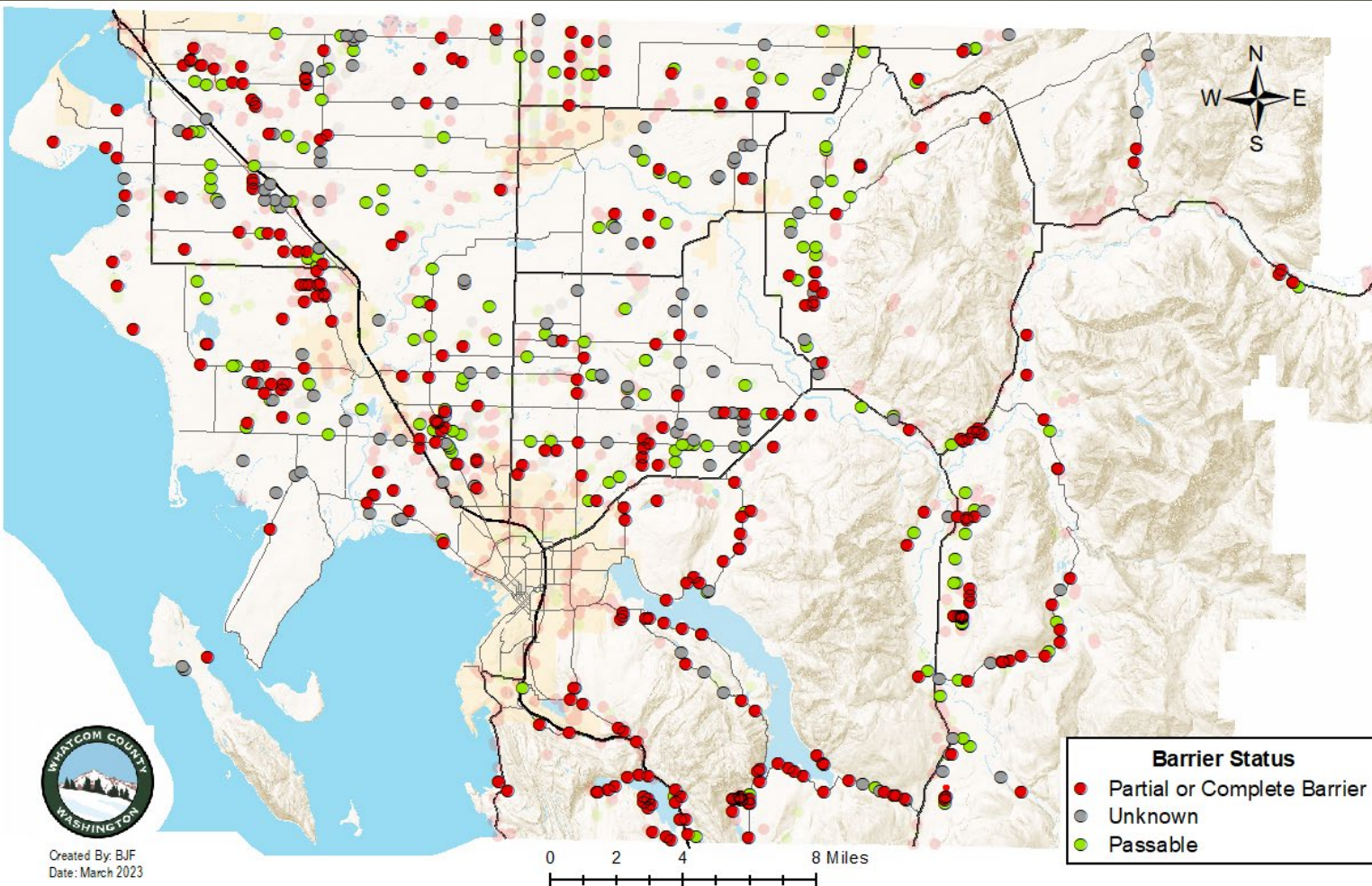


Johnson's Creek, Mosquito Lake Road

Major Components

- Culvert Inventory Updates
- Reassess Culverts with Changed Stream Conditions
- Collaborate on Pre-Application Field Measurements
- Collaborate on Prioritization Plan
- Agree on Proposed Schedule for Implementation
- Collaborate on Technical Support and Funding
- Annual Check In with Policy Group

Whatcom County Culverts - County Ownership -



- Approximately 195 County culverts are barriers that block >200m of historic habitat
- Sub-set of ~80 culverts have the most significant habitat gains
- Program Efficiencies
 - Less complex projects can move forward while larger, more complex, projects are designed & funded
 - Bundling Projects
 - Projects will be developed and sequenced across PW divisions

Grant Funding

Kenney Creek - Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (2 Grants for State Culvert Funding through the Recreation and Conservation Office)

- ◇ Status- Design Grant Awarded/Completed
- ◇ Status- Construction Grant Awarded/In-progress with 2024 or 2025 construction
- ◇ Design Budget- \$523,000
 - ◇ (\$443,000 grant/\$80,000 local match)
- ◇ Construction Budget- \$3,500,000
 - ◇ (\$2,975,000 grant/\$525,000 local match)
- ◇ Total Budget- \$4,023,000
- ◇ Components
 - ◇ Alternatives analysis through final bridge and stream restoration design
 - ◇ Landowner outreach and easements
 - ◇ Culvert, fill, obsolete fishway removal, bridge construction and site restoration

Grant Funding

Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead Grant (EPA National Estuary Program Funding)

- ◇ Status- Awarded/ Agreement Under Development
- ◇ Estimated Budget- \$790,000
- ◇ Components
 - ◇ Staff Capacity – 2 FTEs (1 Natural Resource Specialist; 1 Engineering Supervisor)
 - ◇ Contractor for Design
 - ◇ Support for Tribes and Small Cities
 - ◇ WRIA1 Coordination and 4-Year Work Plan Updates
 - ◇ Habitat and Fish Passage Barrier Training
 - ◇ Preliminary Design Black Slough Projects
 - ◇ Community Outreach

Grant Funding

Aquatic Organism Passage Grant (US Department of Transportation)

- ◇ Status- Awarded/Agreement Under Development
- ◇ Estimated Budget- \$1,100,039
 - ◇ (\$880,031 federal grant/ \$220,008 local match)
- ◇ Components
 - ◇ Alternatives Analysis, Preliminary Design and Construction Cost Estimates for 11 Culverts

Building Staff Capacity



- Cross-Division Program
 - Natural Resources
 - Bridge and Hydraulics
 - Maintenance and Operations
- Natural Resources (1 FTE)
 - Coordinate, Identify, Prioritize, Monitor, Grants & Contracts
- Bridge and Hydraulics (3 FTE)
 - Cost Estimates, Design, Construction, Grants & Contracts
- Maintenance & Operations (TBD)
 - Inspect, repair, replace

Next Steps

- ◆ Budget Supplementals (2023 and 2024)
- ◆ Grant Agreements
- ◆ Staff Recruitment
- ◆ Implement the MOA
- ◆ Continue Seeking Outside Funds
- ◆ Updates to Council

