

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**


**ELIZABETH KOSA
DIRECTOR**



NATURAL RESOURCES
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive and the Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

FROM: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 

DATE: June 5, 2023

RE: **Memorandum of Agreement with Nooksack Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife with Respect to Remediation of Fish Barrier Culverts**

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, with County Council approval, enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the County, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to guide remediation of County culverts that block salmon passage.

Background and Purpose

Public Works has developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Nooksack Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Co-Managers) to collaboratively prioritize and create a schedule for remediating culverts owned by Whatcom County that block or partially block anadromous salmon passage and to secure funding sources as they become available. The MOA provides for:

- the establishment of a technical work group and a policy group composed of representatives from each entity;
- the review and update, as necessary, of the existing inventory of County owned culverts;
- the development of criteria to plan and prioritize barrier remediation;
- establishing a priority list and schedule for barrier remediation;
- a means to ensure that future culverts pass all species of salmon at all life stages where the fish would naturally seek passage; and,
- Co-manager technical support for project development and pursuing outside funding for design and construction.

The Co-Manager support provided under this MOA will help Public Works to strategically focus existing staff and capital resources to provide the greatest benefit to salmon and will help define how to best grow the Public Works culvert barrier remediation program in the future.

Funding Amount and Source

No funding is involved with this MOA. Future grant funds or additional service requests related to salmon barrier remediation will be brought to Council separately for approval as they occur.

Please contact Elizabeth Kosa at extension 6282 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.