

Capital Project Request

2017-19 Biennium

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Version: BD 17-19 Capital Budget

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/8/2016 11:33AM

Project Number: 30000421

Project Title: Fish Barrier Removal Board

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2018

Project Class: Grant

Agency Priority: 33

Project Summary

In 2014, the Washington State Legislature created the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) to develop a coordinated barrier removal strategy and provide the framework for a fish barrier grant program (RCW 77.95). Salmon populations continue to decline, with 2016 among the worst years on record for population abundance and commercial, tribal, and recreational opportunity. While fish passage has been aggressively addressed by private forest landowners in the headwaters, most streams remain blocked due to fish passage barriers downstream. This request funds the fish barrier removal projects identified and prioritized by the Board.

Project Description

Over the past 15 years, a multitude of organizations, private citizens and governments have spent millions of dollars restoring habitat and improving fish and wildlife management across our state to bring back endangered salmon and steelhead to our rivers and streams. While thousands of fish passage barriers have been corrected on private forest lands in Washington under the Forests and Fish agreement (Family Forest Fish Passage Program), most of these barrier corrections still have other barriers up or downstream from them. An estimated 40,000 fish passage barriers still exist in Washington State, which in most cases stand in the way of salmon accessing prime habitat. The Fish Barrier Removal Board has developed a statewide strategy to repair barriers in a whole watershed and coordinated pathway. This request is to initiate barrier corrections throughout the state using the project lists developed under this strategy.

This request will fund the design, engineering and construction of 79 fish passage barriers throughout the state. Of the 79 projects, 59 would be design and construction, while 20 would be design only.

Barriers to salmon migration would be corrected using priorities established by the Board. WDFW and salmon recovery Lead Entities prioritized watersheds throughout the state to repair barriers in whole watersheds, rebuilding whole salmon populations. Failure to fund the program will likely mean continued declines of salmon and declining opportunities for fisheries (an annual \$100M industry in Puget Sound alone).

Local governments and private landowners will become partners in efforts to remove salmon barriers under the program. With this request, the Board will prioritize projects to repair barriers on local government ownership (50), private ownership (22), and state ownership (7). When all projects are completed, WDFW estimates that 154 miles of habitat will become available to salmon and steelhead. Grants will be managed by RCO.

The request supports IT related activities only to the extent that RCO uses a portion of its administrative funds to support its IT infrastructure and PRISM project database. All larger IT enhancements follow the OCIO review process.

The FBRB approved a 15 percent local match requirement for the 2017-19 biennium, with match requirements subject to change at the discretion of the Board in future biennia. Matching resources may include cash, bond funds, grants (unless prohibited by the funding authority), in-kind labor, equipment/materials and/or another ecologically-connected barrier removal project.

This package supports Results Washington Goal 3: Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment – Protect and restore Washington's wildlife. It will increase the miles of stream habitat opened and the number of fish passage barriers corrected per year (outcome measures 2.2b and 2.2c).

Correcting fish passage barriers on waterways that drain into Puget Sound directly supports the 2016 Puget Sound Action Agenda. Nine items in the Habitat Near-Term Actions document relate to fish passage by restoring access to historic anadromous salmonid habitats by removing or replacing human-made barriers with passable structures such as side-arm floodgates, larger culverts, or bridges.

Eligible Grant Recipients:

* Local governments: cities, towns, counties;

* State agencies;

* Non-profit organizations;

* Conservation Districts

* Regional Fish Enhancement Groups; and

* Tribal governments.

Revenue Source: General obligation bonds.

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Description

Location

City: Statewide

County: Statewide

Legislative District: 098

Project Type

Grants

Grant Recipient Organization: See project description for full list of eligible recipients

RCW that establishes grant: RCW 77.95.160

Application process used

In 2015, the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) solicited project nominations from cities and counties, as well as lead entities, to address both small and larger-scale projects. Project proposals were evaluated based upon cost, benefit to threatened and endangered stocks, quality of the habitat, correcting the lowest fish barrier first, the severity of the barrier (full or partial), and how well the project coordinates with other adjacent barrier correction projects. Proposals were then ranked by a technical review committee within WDFW resulting in a proposed ranked project list presented to the FBRB for approval. The board selected 79 projects as the highest priority barrier removal projects for anadromous fish state-wide. If all 79 projects are funded and implemented, more than 154 miles of new salmon habitat will be created.

Growth Management impacts

GMA is not considered for this program.

Funding

Acct Code	Account Title	Estimated Total	Expenditures		2017-19 Fiscal Period	
			Prior Biennium	Current Biennium	Reappropriations	New Appropriations
057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	257,065,000				51,413,000
	Total	257,065,000	0	0	0	51,413,000

Future Fiscal Periods

Acct Code	Account Title	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
		057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	51,413,000	51,413,000
	Total	51,413,000	51,413,000	51,413,000	51,413,000

Operating Impacts

No Operating Impact

Narrative

This is pass through grant program.