

Family Forest Fish Passage Program



FACT SHEET

Removing Barriers

More than 804 miles of streams have been opened for salmon to feed, grow, and reproduce.

Who may apply?

Private, small forest landowners, if:

- They harvest less than 2 million board feet of timber each year from land they own in Washington.
- The fish barrier is on forested land and on a fish-bearing stream.

Types of Projects Funded

- Removal of fish passage barriers, such as replacing a culvert

Funding

Funding comes from the Legislature through the sale of general obligation bonds.

Partners

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Recreation and Conservation Office

Recreation and Conservation Office

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Helping Salmon Find their Way Home

Salmon are a vital part of Washington's economy, recreation, culture, and heritage. Salmon also play an important role in our environment, supporting more than 130 species, including orca whales, who rely on them for food.

But salmon populations are in peril. As people settled the Northwest and built cities, they modified the streams and waterways. Roads that cross streams sometimes block adult salmon from getting upstream to spawn or block juvenile salmon from getting out to sea.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program focuses on helping small forest landowners fix inadequate or blocked culverts on logging roads in order to get salmon to or from the headwater creeks.

Purpose

Removing blockages so salmon can reach places to feed, grow, and reproduce is an effective way to increase salmon numbers. Because correcting fish passage barriers can be costly, the 2003 Legislature created the Family Forest Fish Passage Program to provide financial and technical resources to families who own small tracts of forest land.

Under the program:

- The state provides 75-100 percent of the cost of correcting fish barriers.
- Barriers are repaired on a worst-first basis.
- Work is done by local engineers, construction companies, and other contractors

How are Projects Selected?

Once an application is received, a field technician evaluates the barrier and determines if it meets the fish passage criteria. A team from the three partner agencies ranks the projects in each watershed based on several criteria, including the habitat opened, the benefit to salmon, and the cost.

After all projects are prioritized, a steering committee prepares the final list. Those projects providing greatest benefit are funded for construction in September each year. Lower priority projects remain in the program to be funded once they become a high priority and money is available.



A pipe perched this high above the stream makes it impossible for salmon to migrate upstream.