Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board
Project Summaries

Clallam County

North Olympic Salmon Coalition **Grant Awarded: $540,000**
Designing Fish Passage in Butler Creek

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to design the replacement of a Clallam County Road culvert in Butler Creek, a tributary that enters the Strait of Juan de Fuca just east of the mouth of the Pysht River. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Butler Creek forks into two streams just upstream of the culvert, and then crosses under U.S. Route 112 in culverts. The highway crossings completely block fish passage and are slated for correction by the Washington State Department of Transportation by 2029 in a separate effort. In combination with the state culvert correction, this project will restore unrestricted fish access to more than 2.3 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all three of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for cutthroat trout and lamprey in Butler Creek and the Butler Creek tributary. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1786.

Cowlitz County

Cowlitz County **Grant Awarded: $2,894,000**
Opening Fish Passage in Stillwater Creek

Cowlitz County will use this grant to remove a culvert under Allender Road, restoring fish passage in Stillwater and Becker Creeks, just north of Ryderwood in Cowlitz County. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. This culvert is the last barrier in Stillwater Creek between its start and its confluence with the Cowlitz River. The culvert blocks all fish migration because shallow water. Replacing the culvert with a bridge will open more than thirteen miles of habitat in the two creeks for Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Sea-run cutthroat and resident trout also use the creeks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1862.

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Chelan County

Chelan County **Grant Awarded: $346,000**
Removing Fish-blocking Barriers in Eagle Creek

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to design and replace five culverts in Eagle Creek, a tributary to Chumstick Creek in the Wenatchee River watershed. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Replacing these barriers will open nearly two miles of quality habitat for Chinook salmon, which is an endangered species, and steelhead trout, which is a species listed at threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. This project is part of a larger effort to correct fifteen fish passage barriers in the lower five miles of Eagle Creek. This proposal and other active and proposed projects will address thirteen of the fifteen barriers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1898.

Chelan County **Grant Awarded: $394,000**
Replacing the Sand Creek Culvert

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to replace the only barrier culvert in Sand Creek, an important tributary to Mission Creek near Cashmere. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Replacing the culvert will open passage to more than four miles of potential habitat for Chinook salmon, which is an endangered species, and steelhead trout, which is a species listed at threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Mission Creek watershed hosts one of the strongest wild steelhead populations in the Wenatchee River watershed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1908.

King County

King County **Grant Awarded: $1,307,000**
Replacing a Culvert Under Southeast High Point Way

The King County Road Services Division will use this grant to design a bridge to replace an undersized culvert that carries East Fork Issaquah Creek under Southeast High Point Way, north of the Interstate 90 Exit 20 interchange. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The bridge will span about seventy feet and restore full salmon access to at least 4.2 miles of stream. The bridge will be next to the Issaquah-to-Preston regional trail, which provides public access to areas that will benefit from improved recreation and angling opportunities. The creek is a high-quality

migration corridor and spawning habitat for Chinook salmon, a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for coho and kokanee/sockeye salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1822.

Sammamish **Grant Awarded: $4,455,000**
Removing Barriers in George Davis Creek

The City of Sammamish will use this grant to pay for final design and removal of three fish passage barriers on the lowest half-mile of George Davis Creek, east of Lake Sammamish. One of the barriers is a concrete dam upstream of Lake Sammamish. When combined with work by King County, the projects will eliminate four barriers between Lake Sammamish and the next barrier at Northeast 6th Street. The work will restore fish access beyond the dam to more than three-quarter-mile of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat used by steelhead trout, a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho, kokanee, and sockeye salmon, and cutthroat and rainbow trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1943.

Lewis County

Lewis County **Grant Awarded: $1,781,000**
Replacing a Culvert in Van Ornum Creek

The Lewis County Public Works Department will use this grant to replace a four-foot-wide corrugated steel pipe with a bridge where Van Ornum Creek crosses under Bunker Creek Road. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Replacing this too-high barrier will open habitat to coho salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The County also will regrade and move the creek bed and plant its banks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1788.

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Mason County

Mason County **Grant Awarded: $2,963,000**
Designing Fish Passage Corrections to Little Skookum Inlet

Mason County will use this grant to design corrections for six barrier culverts on four tributaries that feed into Little Skookum Inlet along its north shore. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The designs will be done for barriers in Lynch Creek (also called Bishop Creek), two sites in Deer Creek, and three sites in two unnamed streams. The project will culminate in designs that, when implemented, would restore fish access to nearly seven miles of spawning and rearing habitat for chum and coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and potentially steelhead trout. Steelhead trout is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1946.

Skagit County

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: $3,194,000**
Replacing a Barrier Under East Hickox Road

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to correct a fish barrier culvert under East Hickox Road in Carpenter Creek to open access to more than 2.6 miles of habitat. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. This project is part of a coordinated effort to remove all barriers in the Carpenter Creek watershed, which cumulatively will open access to 7.4 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat. The enhancement group will build a fish-passable structure under the road and improve four hundred feet of the creek. Carpenter Creek is in the lowest part of the Skagit River watershed and drains into Fisher Creek and Slough about a half-mile before draining into the South Fork Skagit River. Carpenter Creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon and resident cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1949.

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Snohomish County

Snohomish County **Grant Awarded: $4,677,000**
Restoring Little Pilchuck Creek Fish Passage

Snohomish County Surface Water Management will use this grant to replace four culverts and remove another to open fish passage to Little Pilchuck Creek, a tributary to the Pilchuck River north of Lake Stevens. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The culverts are in an unnamed tributary to Little Pilchuck Creek between 66th Avenue Northeast and 123rd Avenue Northeast. The tributary historically crossed 123rd Avenue three times and flowed into an adjacent large wetland. The stream has since been diverted into a roadside ditch, likely because debris blocked an undersized culvert. In addition to replacing the culverts, the County will move the stream back into its historic channel away from the street, reestablishing a channel that now is inaccessible. The County also is correcting a fish barrier downstream, and when combined with this project, the work will open the majority of the valuable habitat in this tributary. The stream is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho, chum, and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1813.

Walla Walla County

Tri-State Steelheaders Inc. **Grant Awarded: $3,070,000**
Improving the Flow of Mill Creek

The Tri-State Steelheaders will use this grant to improve fish passage in Mill Creek. Flood control measures on the creek include a two-mile section of weirs that restrict fish passage and allow the shallow water to get too warm for young fish. Work will be done in a stretch of the creek between completed projects at Roosevelt Street and Tausick Way. The enhancement group will notch the sills to lower the height of the drops and build a channel to improve passage during low flows, provide better cover for young fish, and reduce the water temperature. This is one of many projects to provide passage through the flood control project to more than fifty miles of critical and underused spawning and rearing habitat. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by reintroduced Chinook salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1795.

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Tri State Steelheaders Inc. **Grant Awarded: $2,815,000**
Removing a Too-High Jump for Fish in Mill Creek

The Tri State Steelheaders will use this grant to fix a five-foot-high jump that prevents fish from entering a fishway in Mill Creek. The jump was created by a record flood in Walla Walla in 2020 that scoured the creek bed below the fishway. A temporary passage has been in place since, but a long-term solution is needed. The fishway provides a transition between a seven-mile flood control channel and the natural creek bed. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout, which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act and by reintroduced Chinook salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1793.

Whatcom County

Bellingham **Grant Awarded: $1,572,000**
Designing Fish Passage Improvements in Padden Creek

The City of Bellingham will use this grant to design two corrections to culverts at the mouth of Padden Creek, where it meets Harris Avenue and the McKenzie Trail. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The City has improved the Padden Creek estuary by restoring saltmarsh habitat, stabilizing slopes, improving the planted buffer, and removing creosote-treated timber pilings. The City also installed an underground facility that treats polluted runoff draining to the estuary from ninety acres. The City also is planning to correct barriers upstream of this project site, at 12th, 14th, and 30th Streets over Padden Creek. Fixing all the barriers will open about seven miles of habitat to Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as to chum, coho, and kokanee salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1814.