

# Fish Passage Barrier Removal

A County Perspective

Washington State Joint Transportation Committee

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Washington State  
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# A Few County Road System Facts

- 39 Counties
- 39,170 Miles of Roads
  - 138 Miles in Wahkiakum County
  - 2,527 Miles in Spokane County
- 3,325 Bridges
- \$1.4 Billion Annually on County Road System (2018)
  - 35% (\$488 million) from Property Tax



# What We Know

- County fish passage barriers are both downstream and upstream of state owned fish passage barriers.
- For every WSDOT barrier, on average, there are 2 other (non-WSDOT barriers) downstream and 5 upstream.

*-July 2012 WDFW Study*



# Culverts: Our Current Understanding\*

- **# of inventoried county-owned culverts statewide: 3,987**  
Of those inventoried that block a significant reach: 2,800

Inventory is understated and changes daily  
Could be as many as 6,000 County Culverts Statewide

- **# of inventoried county-owned culverts in case area: 3,146**  
Of those inventoried that block a significant reach: 2,149

- Individual counties are replacing 2-5 culverts a year on average

\* Changes Daily!!!

# Costs: Our Current Understanding\*

- **2019-2021 County Owned Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project Cost Estimates:**
  - \$185,000 for Planning
  - \$1,035,000 for Restoration/Replacement/Construction
  - TOTAL AVERAGE PROJECT COST **\$1,250,000**

\* Changes Daily!!!



# Inventories and Assessments

- 2005 Limiting Factors Analysis Report –
  - Found – Eleven WRIAs insufficient data
  - Most WRIAS still need additional data do develop a complete barrier database or need further analysis to prioritize the data that exists.
- 2018 – 2019
  - Initiated an analysis to determine the status of each county’s Fish Passage Barrier Inventory and Assessment
  - WSAC providing funding to several counties to update inventories
  - Intent is to garner consistent “Level A and/or B Assessments” for all county owned culverts



# 2019 – 21 Biennium County Study Funding\*

- Complete the analysis to determine the status of each county's Fish Passage Barrier Inventory and Assessment
- Provide Funding to complete/update Fish Passage Barrier Inventories within the “Case Area” (14 Counties)
- Develop, where possible, preliminary cost estimates, with priority given to barriers that share the same stream system as state-owned fish passage barriers.
- Provide recommendations on the following:
  - How to prioritize county owned barriers within the same stream systems of state-owned barriers within the current 6 year construction plan; and
  - How future state six year construction plans should incorporate county owned barriers.
- Identify potential matching/funding sources

\* RCW 46.68.120(3)



# Closing Thoughts

- **No Barrier Left Behind** – A comprehensive strategy, program and funding mechanism to replace transportation system fish passage barriers – regardless of ownership;
- **Do not “Strand” Investments** - County fish passage barriers need to be systematically and strategically replaced in coordination with the states fish passage barrier replacements;
- **Adequate state funding and revenue generating authority** to remove fish passage barriers for all jurisdictions across the state, not just respond to the state’s obligations under the ruling;
- **Reduce or eliminate project match** requirements that inhibit achieving environmental outcomes and salmon recovery;
- Include funding for **monitoring and maintenance** of fish passable culverts and continued efforts to identify and inventory new barriers;
- Develop and implement activities to **streamline project permitting** to more efficiently plan and deliver projects; and
- Provide tools that **expedite project delivery**.



# Questions?

