



June 1, 2024

*(sent electronically only)*

Dear Members of the Washington State Legislature,

This letter responds to direction in the 23-25 Transportation Budget ESHB 1125 Section 305 (12)(c)) to provide an update on implementation of the statewide culvert remediation plan by June 1, 2024.

On March 15, 2024, WDFW provided an updated Progress Report on the [Development of a Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Removal Strategy](#).

We want to take this opportunity to provide an update on implementation of WSDOT's fish passage program delivery.

As of June 2024, WSDOT has corrected 146 injunction barriers, improving access to approximately 570 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat since the injunction was established in 2013. This has restored access to 50% blocked potential habitat of significant gain barriers in the injunction area. With existing fish passage funds, we'll have approximately 200 barrier corrections under construction contract by June 2024. Once those additional barriers are corrected, WSDOT will have restored more than 70% of blocked potential habitat, reserving some funds to keep designing projects to maintain program momentum. The remaining work to get to 90% habitat restored required in the injunction requires additional funding estimated between \$3.5-\$4 billion.

WSDOT appreciates the Legislature's continued support and efforts to ensure funding is available for the fish passage program that aligns with the culvert injunction compliance.

Please contact Kim Rydholm at (360) 705-7404 if you have any questions about WSDOT's fish passage program delivery. For general fish passage program questions, please contact Susan Kanzler at (360) 705-7250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ahmer Nizam".

Ahmer Nizam  
Environmental Services Office Director