



Meeting Handouts

June 19, 2018

1. Ostrander Creek – Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board request
2. FBRB 2018-2019 Timeline
3. Update: Status of Work Plan Tasks



Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

2018 BOARD

June 4, 2018

Tom Linde, Chair
Skamania County Citizen Designee

Mr. Cade Roler
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, Washington 98501

Todd Olson, Vice-Chair
Hydro-Electric Representative

Dennis Weber, Secretary/Treasurer
Cowlitz County Commissioner

Subject: Applications for 2019-2021 Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB)
Watershed Pathway Grant Program

Taylor Aalvik
Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Dear Mr. Roler:

Mike Backman
Wahkiakum County Commissioner

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) has received your April 24, 2018 letter regarding the 2019-2021 FBRB Watershed Pathway Grant Program applications. We understand that Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) is currently soliciting new proposals, as well as feedback regarding potential reprioritization of existing proposals. We offer the following for your consideration.

Marc Boldt
Clark County Councilor

F. Lee Grose
Lewis County Citizen Designee

Richard Mahar
Skamania County Commissioner

The LCFRB's focal area for the Watershed Pathway is the Lower Cowlitz subbasin. Our original list of candidate projects for the Watershed Pathway included projects in Ostrander Creek, which is situated within the eastern portion of the focal area, and within the same HUC 10 as Priority 1 Delameter/Arkansas Creek projects currently proposed for funding. Projects within the Delameter/Arkansas Creek portion of the focal area demonstrated a high linear gain compared to other watersheds, including Ostrander Creek. However, at the time of the initial prioritization, the HUC 10 inventory was incomplete. For example, Cowlitz County's Ostrander Creek culvert at McGreary Road (FPDI Site ID 106c0159) had an "unknown" passability rating. In addition, the upstream "railroad culvert" (FPDSI Site ID 601773) was not included in the statewide barrier database, and was therefore not included in the initial prioritization discussions.

Hal Mahnke
Cowlitz County Citizen Designee

Gary Stamper
Lewis County Commissioner

Don Swanson
SW WA Environmental
Representative

Dean Takko
WA State Senate

Olaf Thomason, Sr.
Wahkiakum County Citizen Designee

Since the initial prioritization, WDFW completed targeted culvert inventories throughout the HUC, which included the Cowlitz County Ostrander Creek culvert (FPDI Site ID 106c0159), which now has a passability rating of 67%, as well as the railroad culvert (FPDSI Site ID 601773), which has a passability rating of 0%. Based on WDFW's work, we have learned that correction of the railroad culvert would restore access to approximately 18 miles of high quality habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed steelhead, coho and fall Chinook salmon. Correcting this barrier would open up nearly the same amount of habitat as all existing Delameter/Arkansas Creek Priority 1 barriers combined. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe (CIT) recently prepared a preliminary design for removing this barrier through total abandonment, and is willing to sponsor this project. In addition, the CIT has submitted a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) request for approximately \$100,000 to partially fund the project and provide the required FBRB 15%

Jade Unger
Clark County Citizen Designee

Open
SW WA Cities Representative

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Steve Manlow  
Executive Director

TO: Cade Roler

RE: LCFRB Comments

Application for 2019-2021 Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) Watershed Pathway Grant Program  
6/4/18, Page 2

match. WDFW has also completed an upstream assessment of habitat conditions to support the design. Copies of these documents are attached.

As noted, the Ostrander Creek railroad barrier described above is also located upstream of the Cowlitz County Ostrander Creek culvert (FPDI Site ID 106c0159). Although this concrete box culvert is 67% passable, it contributes substantively to chronic flooding, maintenance and safety problems along Ostrander Creek Road. Routine maintenance dredging at the culvert inlet also contributes to habitat degradation both locally and downstream, with the dredged material (spawning substrate) being removed from the system and placed in an upland location. Cowlitz County Public Works has indicated they would sponsor a FBRB Watershed Pathway application to complete a design for replacing this culvert (personal communication, Roger Maurer). Correcting this culvert barrier would substantially improve habitat conditions in the lower reaches of Ostrander Creek by allowing natural sediment transport, and eliminate the need of repetitive maintenance actions, such as dredging and bank stabilization. It would also ensure passage is fully restored, including during high flow conditions.

Based on the above, the LCFRB is requesting that WDFW and the FBRB authorize adding the Ostrander Creek railroad culvert (FPDSI Site ID 601773) as the highest priority 1 project within the FBRB HUC 10. Because of its functional relationship to the railroad culvert, the downstream Cowlitz County culvert (FPDI Site ID 106c0159) would be our second highest priority. Adding these Ostrander Creek projects will not affect the existing focus on Delameter/Arkansas Creek. To ensure we are continuing to advance fish passage restoration efforts within the Delameter/Arkansas Creek portion of the focal sub-basin, we propose including a design-only proposal for Delameter Creek crossing on Garlock Rd (FPDSI Site ID 106c0057). Cowlitz County has indicated a willingness to sponsor this design project as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our priorities for the FBRB's Watershed Pathway grant program. We believe that this revised proposal capitalizes on new information, aligns well with our original prioritization for the Lower Cowlitz Sub-basin focal area, and would result in implementation efficiencies as well as improved benefits to ESA-listed salmon and steelhead populations. Once the Ostrander barriers are corrected, we would return full focus to other Delameter/Arkansas Creek projects. Formal application materials will be submitted prior to the July 31, 2018 deadline.

Thanks again for the opportunity to submit this request. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

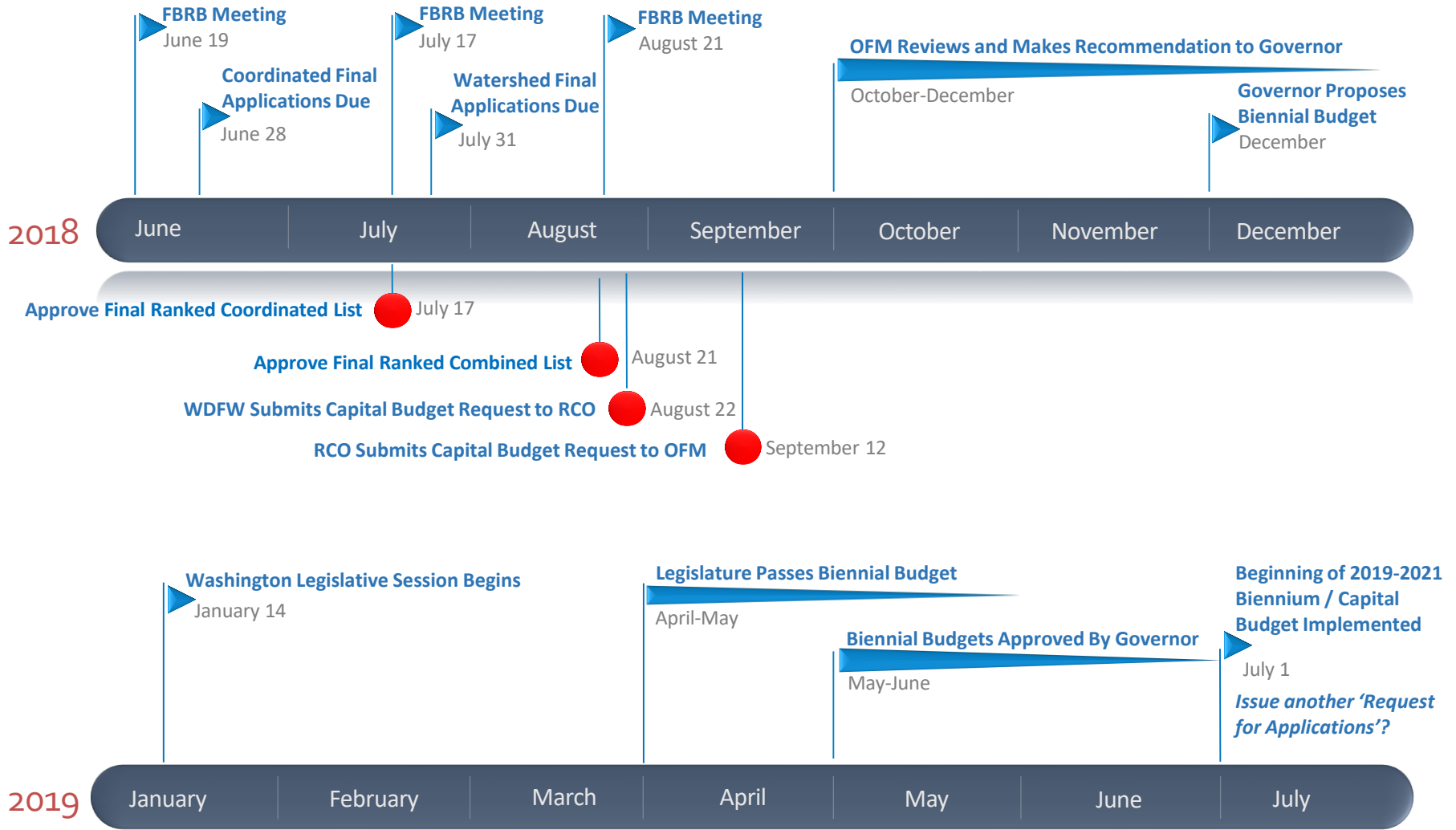
Sincerely,



Steve Manlow  
Executive Director



# FBRB 2018-2019 Timeline



**UPDATE: STATUS OF WORKPLAN TASKS**  
**June 2018**

| <b>ACTION</b>                                                                            | <b>TIMELINE</b>                                  | <b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Chair and Support Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board                                     | Ongoing                                          | WDFW                   |
| Review internal bylaws and communication                                                 | Ongoing                                          | FBRB                   |
| Review bylaws annually                                                                   | Summer 2017                                      | FBRB                   |
| Periodically consider FBRB membership                                                    | Summer 2017                                      | Chair and FBRB         |
| Develop workplan and update annually                                                     | Adopted July 2015;<br>currently under review     | FBRB                   |
| Periodically review and update communication plan                                        | Adopted December 2015;<br>currently under review | WDFW w/FBRB assistance |
| Participate in Salmon Recovery workshops                                                 | Biennial in odd-numbered years                   | Chair/other members    |
| Foster ongoing partnership with WFPA                                                     | Ongoing                                          | WDFW                   |
| Review and refine the approved prioritization methodology                                | As needed                                        | FBRB                   |
| Describe ongoing technical assistance and identify gaps                                  | Summer 2017                                      | WDFW w/FBRB assistance |
| Annual report to FBRB on WSDOT and WDFW coordination efforts                             | October 2017                                     | WDFW, WSDOT            |
| Database presentation to FBRB                                                            | Spring/Summer 2017                               | WDFW                   |
| Training program presentation to FBRB                                                    | Fall 2017                                        | WDFW                   |
| Continue to refine grant program                                                         | Ongoing                                          | FBRB                   |
| Seek efficiencies/streamlining for federal permits                                       | Ongoing                                          | WDFW                   |
| Seek authorization for using local/state mitigation funding for barrier removal projects | Ongoing                                          | FBRB                   |

## COMMUNICATION PLAN TASKS

| ACTION                                                                                                                      | TIMELINE  | RESPONSIBILITY                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Develop compelling story that communicates value and urgency of fish barrier removal                                        | Ongoing   | FBRB                              |
| Meet with SRFB periodically                                                                                                 | As needed |                                   |
| Reach out to Chehalis Basin program to explore connections                                                                  |           |                                   |
| Work with SRFB regarding connections to Lead Entities on communications                                                     |           |                                   |
| Consider SRFB collaboration regarding future use of Intrinsic Potential model                                               |           |                                   |
| Continue engaging with interested agencies to establish FBRB as a resource for fish barrier removal                         |           |                                   |
| Train key messengers using tools and an outreach strategy to tell story of fish passage                                     |           |                                   |
| Develop stand-alone website                                                                                                 |           |                                   |
| FBRB members update their websites regarding fish barrier removal                                                           |           |                                   |
| WDFW create archive of news stories                                                                                         |           |                                   |
| Build relationships with media                                                                                              |           |                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with WDFW public information office to reach out to media contacts</li> </ul> |           |                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue press releases when key milestones occur</li> </ul>                          |           |                                   |
| Engage with national organizations and Federal agencies committed to fish passage                                           |           |                                   |
| Designate lead Board member to guide implementation of communication plan and outreach strategies                           |           | Carl Schroeder, AWC has done this |