

## Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board Tasks

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In 2014, the Washington State Legislature created the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board to develop a coordinated barrier removal strategy and provide the framework for a fish barrier grant program. The board is established by Chapter 77.95 RCW.

Below is a table documenting the legislative language with key elements and tasks for each item.

### Legislation summary

Item	Legislation language	Key Elements	Tasks
1	The department shall maintain a fish passage barrier removal board. (Sec 4(1), pg7)		
2	The board must be composed of a representative from the DFW, DOT, cities, counties, the governor’s salmon recovery office, tribal governments, and DNR. The representative of the DFW will serve as chair and may expand the membership of the board to representatives of other governments, stakeholders, and interested entities. (Sec 4(1), pg7)		Discuss board membership
3	The duty of the board is to identify and expedite the removal of human-made or caused impediments to <b>anadromous</b> fish passage in the <b>most efficient manner</b> practical through the development of a <b>coordinated approach and schedule</b> that <b>identifies and prioritizes</b> the projects necessary to eliminate fish passage barriers caused by state and local roads and highways and barriers owned by private parties. (Sec 4 (2a), pg7)	Main duty: to correct barriers in a coordinated approach and schedule that prioritizes projects in anadromous streams	Develop a prioritization strategy for removing barriers.
4	The <b>coordinated approach</b> must address fish passage barrier removals in <b>all areas of the state</b> in a manner that is consistent with recognition that scheduling and prioritization is necessary. (Sec 4(2b), pg7)	Statewide approach	Board will need to define what a statewide coordinated approach is.

5	The board must <b>coordinate and mutually share information</b> , when appropriate with other fish passage correction programs, other salmon recovery efforts, and conservation districts and RCO, and <b>maximize the value of</b> , other salmon recovery efforts and habitat improvements that are not primarily based on removal of barriers. (Sec 4(2b), pg7)	Coordinate with other barrier removal programs and salmon recovery efforts.	Develop a strategy for communication and coordination
6	Recommendations must include proposed <b>funding mechanisms and methodologies to coordinate</b> state, tribal, local and volunteer barrier efforts <b>within each WRIA</b> and satisfy <b>principals in RCW 77.95.180</b> . (Sec 4 (2d), pg8)	The board will develop and adopt recommendations to DFW that will include proposed funding mechanisms and methods to prioritize fish barrier projects. The prioritization that will be developed must satisfy the principals in RCW 77.95.180 (Sec 2) as well as the board will consider the methods in Sec 4 (e)	Discuss the deliverable. Is it a framework? Prioritization of watersheds?  Is the product a report? A project list? Etc. Discuss timing of deliverable.
7	To the degree practicable, the board must utilize the <b>database created in RCW 77.95.170</b> and info on fish barriers developed by conservation districts to guide methodology development.	Board will utilize WDFW fish passage database, as well as other databases	WDFW will present the fish passage database.
8	Board may consider recommendations by interested entities from the private sector and regional fisheries enhancement groups.	Outreach to interested entities	Develop a strategy for communication
9	Nothing in Sec 2. Is intended to alter the process and prioritization methods in implementation of the forest practices rules, or FFFPP (Sec 2 (3a),p5)	Related to Board authority	
10	Nothing in Sec 2 is intended to <b>prohibit or delay</b> fish barriers project s undertaken by DOT or another state agency that are a component of an overall transportation project or being undertaken as a direct result of state law, federal law, or court order. (Sec 2 (3b),p5)	Related to Board authority	
11	DOT or another state agency is required to work in <b>partnership with the fish barrier board</b> to ensure that the scheduling, staging, and implementation of these projects are, to maximum extent practicable, <b>consistent with the coordinated and prioritized approach adopted by the fish barrier board</b> . (Sec 2 (3b), p5)		

12	DFW must initiate contact with USACE, NOAA, and USFWS to explore the feasibility of bundling projects under any available nationwide permits for the purpose of achieving streamlined federal permitting (Sec 7, pg 9)	No board action	
13	DFW must <b>report back to the legislature</b> , by <b>Oct 31, 2016</b> , summarizing the information gathered and any progress made toward using the <b>bundling concept to streamline permitting</b> for transportation related fish barrier removal projects (Sec 7, pg 9)	DFW will report to legislature on streamline permitting, funding mechanisms, and the coordinated and prioritization approach that the board has adopted.	
14	Sec 3 discusses a <b>grant program</b> . Priority shall be given to project that match the principals provided in <b>RCW 77.95.180</b> (Sec 3 (2), pg6)		
15	All projects subject to this section shall be <b>reviewed and approved</b> by the fish passage barrier removal board created in RCW 77.98.160 (Sec 3 (3), pg 6)	Board will review and approve barrier projects that are funded through a fish passage grant program	

*Sec 1 – fish habitat enhancement project permit is not included in this table.*

#### Prioritization/coordination strategy in legislation:

Prioritization principal (Sec 2) the board must satisfy:

- Maximizing opening habitat through a coordinated investment strategy, that prioritizes opportunities: to correct multiple fish barriers in whole streams rather than individual projects, coordinate with others doing barrier removals to achieve the greatest cost savings, and to correct barriers located furthest downstream.

When developing a prioritization methodology (Sec 4 e) the board must consider:

- Projects benefiting threatened and endangered stocks
  - Projects providing access to available and high quality habitat
  - Correcting the lowest barriers within a stream first
  - Whether an existing culvert is a full or partial barrier
  - Projects that are coordinated with other adjacent barrier removal projects
  - Projects that address replacement of infrastructure associated with flooding, erosion, or other environmental damage.
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## Values/Principals of a barrier removal strategy:

*Need agreement on information that the board will consider for development of a prioritization strategy/framework in order to refine a work plan.*

Examples of information that could go into the development of a prioritization strategy/framework are below:

- Projects benefiting threatened and endangered stocks
  - What are the high priority watersheds? What info is needed to determine this?
    - NOAA population stock status and viability information
    - # of salmonid species
    - Intrinsic potential models
    - Regional recovery plans and their associated assessment tools (EDT, Shiraz, Intrinsic Potential, other models, professional judgment).
- Coordination with other fish barrier projects that have been completed or will be completed (opportunities to bundle).
  - Salmon recovery projects
  - RMAP – state and private timberlands
  - Federal land programs
  - Tribal programs
  - Local government programs
  - WSDOT program
  - WDFW program (inventory/database)
- Projects providing access to available and high quality habitat
  - What we know (inventory)
  - IP models
- Correcting the lowest barriers within a stream first
- Whether an existing culvert is a full or partial barrier

## Key Actions/Deliverables:

- Develop and adopt a coordinated and prioritized approach to removing barriers in whole stream systems. Ensure the above principals in RCW 77.95.180 are met. (in legislation)
- Develop a communication strategy (not in legislation as a deliverable but important for coordinating)
- Funding mechanisms (in legislation)
- Review and approve of projects to move forward for funding (not in legislation as a deliverable but identified in Sec 3)

## Key questions for Board discussion:

- What does the product look like?
- How are we going to develop a coordinated and prioritized approach?

- a. Discuss approaches
- Prioritizing
  - a. individual barriers to prioritizing stream systems
  - b. Maximizing efficiencies verses salmon recovery

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# Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board

## Purpose

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### Mission

The mission of the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board is to protect and restore anadromous salmonid species, and other aquatic organisms, in Washington by promoting collaboration among public and private sectors for fish passage improvement projects and programs.

### Goal

The goal of the Board is to restore connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout the historic range of anadromous fish using a coordinated approach.

### Values

The board will ensure that the processes to identify, prioritize and fund projects are based on maximizing opening high quality habitat through a coordinated investment strategy, that prioritizes opportunities. This investment strategy values (1) opening high quality salmon habitat that can contribute to salmonid recovery, (2) coordinate with others doing barrier removals to achieve the greatest cost savings, and (3) correct barriers located furthest downstream.

To achieve the mission, goal, and values the Board will:

- Improve coordination of existing fish passage programs across jurisdictions to improve the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of fish passage efforts.
- Facilitate collaboration, coordination, and communication among state, federal and local agencies, tribes, restoration contractors, landowners and other interested stakeholders on fish passage improvement programs and projects.
- Expedite implementation of on-the-ground projects by identifying and addressing institutional barriers.
- Educate and increase the public and agency awareness of fish passage issues to develop support for solving problems and preventing new ones.
- Seek funding sources for fish passage projects within Washington and administer a strategic funding program to further the Board's mission once funding is secured.