



October 1, 2025

(sent electronically only)

Dear Members of the Washington State Legislature,

This letter responds to direction in the 25-27 Transportation Budget (ESSB 5161 Section 305 (14)(c)) for the Washington State Department of Transportation and the [Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board](#) to jointly provide an update to the Legislature on implementation of the statewide culvert remediation plan by November 1, 2025.

This update is provided in the form of the linked September 16, 2025 progress report from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to the Governor's Office on the [Development of a Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Removal Strategy](#).

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

As of June 1, 2025, WSDOT corrected 176 injunction barrier culverts and improved access to approximately 655 miles of potential habitat for salmon and steelhead. This has restored access to about 55% blocked habitat of significant gain barriers in the injunction area. With existing fish passage funds, we expect to have 155-175 barriers under construction contracts this biennium. Once those additional barriers are corrected, WSDOT will have restored about 75%-80% of blocked potential habitat of significant gain barriers. More information about our fish passage program may be found within our [Fish Passage Annual Report 2025](#).

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, appearing to read 'Ahmer Nizam'.

Ahmer Nizam
Environmental Services Office Director

cc: Tom Jameson, WDFW, Chair, Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board