Program Partners*

PROGRAM OUTREACH

Department of Natural Resources
Small Forest Landowner Office
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
Phone: 360-902-1404
Fax: (360) 902-1428
Email: sflo@wadnr.gov
www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo

PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Management Program
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Phone: 360-902-2534
Fax: (360) 902-2946
www.wdfw.wa.gov

PROGRAM FUNDING

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
Phone: 360-902-3000
Fax: (360) 902-3026
www.iac.wa.gov

LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION

Washington Farm Forestry Association
PO Box 7663
Olympia, WA 98507
www.wafarmforestry.com

* The three agencies are responsible for implementing the program. The Washington Farm Forestry Association joins the agencies on a steering committee.

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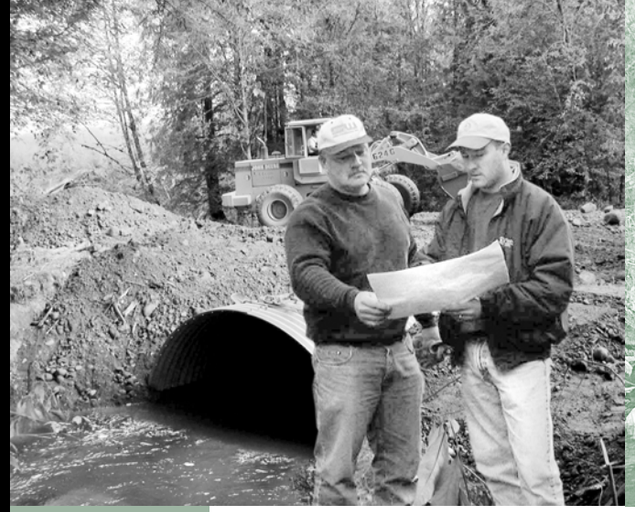
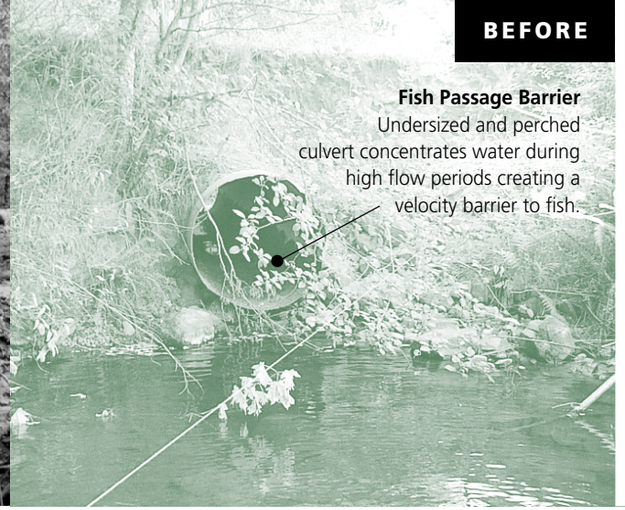
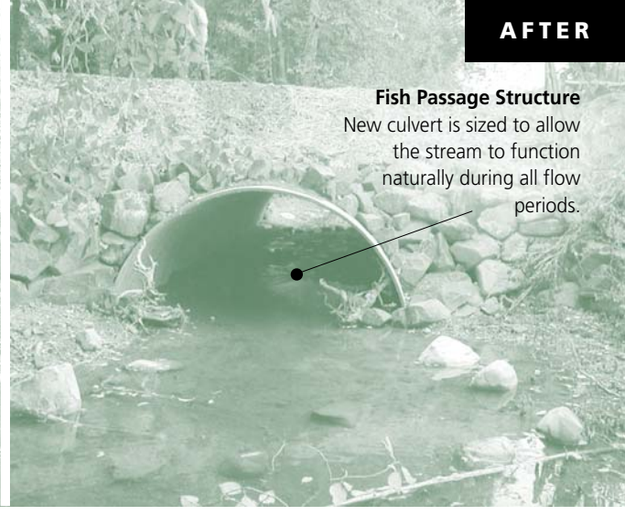






Family Forest Fish Passage Program

a Cost-Share Program for Small Forest Landowners to Improve Fish Passage

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

Interagency Committee for OUTDOOR RECREATION
SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF Natural Resources

Small forest landowners own 4.2 million acres of Washington's forests — about half the private forestland in the state. These family forests are important to fish and include thousands of miles of fish-bearing streams.

A major key to restoring fish populations is removing barriers to fish passage. A single artificial barrier on a stream can keep fish from reaching many miles of habitat upstream. To help protect fish (a public resource), state Forest Practices rules require that these barriers be removed.

Because eliminating fish passage barriers can be costly, especially for the family forest landowner, the Legislature established the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, a cost-share program that helps private landowners protect public resources.

Not sure if your instream structure is a barrier to fish?
Apply to the program to have it evaluated

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL HELP

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program provides financial and technical assistance to family forest landowners who have fish barriers on their forestlands.

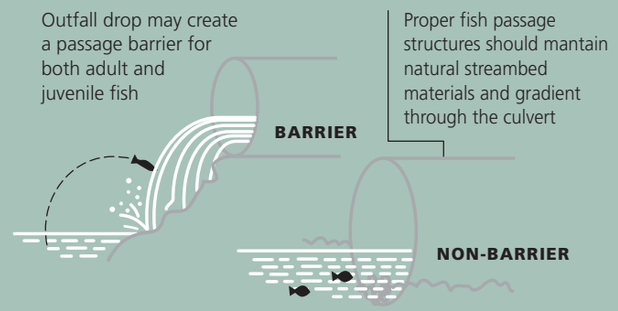
By signing up for the program, a landowner is relieved of any Forest Practices obligation to fix a fish barrier until the state determines the barrier is a high priority.

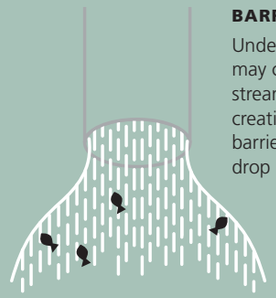
The program addresses barriers on a worst-first basis within each watershed. Each year the highest priority projects are funded. When a project is selected for funding, the state will provide 75–100 percent of the cost of fixing a fish barrier.

◀ Field worker measuring a fish barrier.

COVER PHOTO: PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT. BEFORE AND AFTER: BRIAN ABBOTT. FIELD WORKER AT BARRIER: SRFB. GRAPHIC DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATIONS: LUIS PRADO

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program helps restore fish access to habitat.

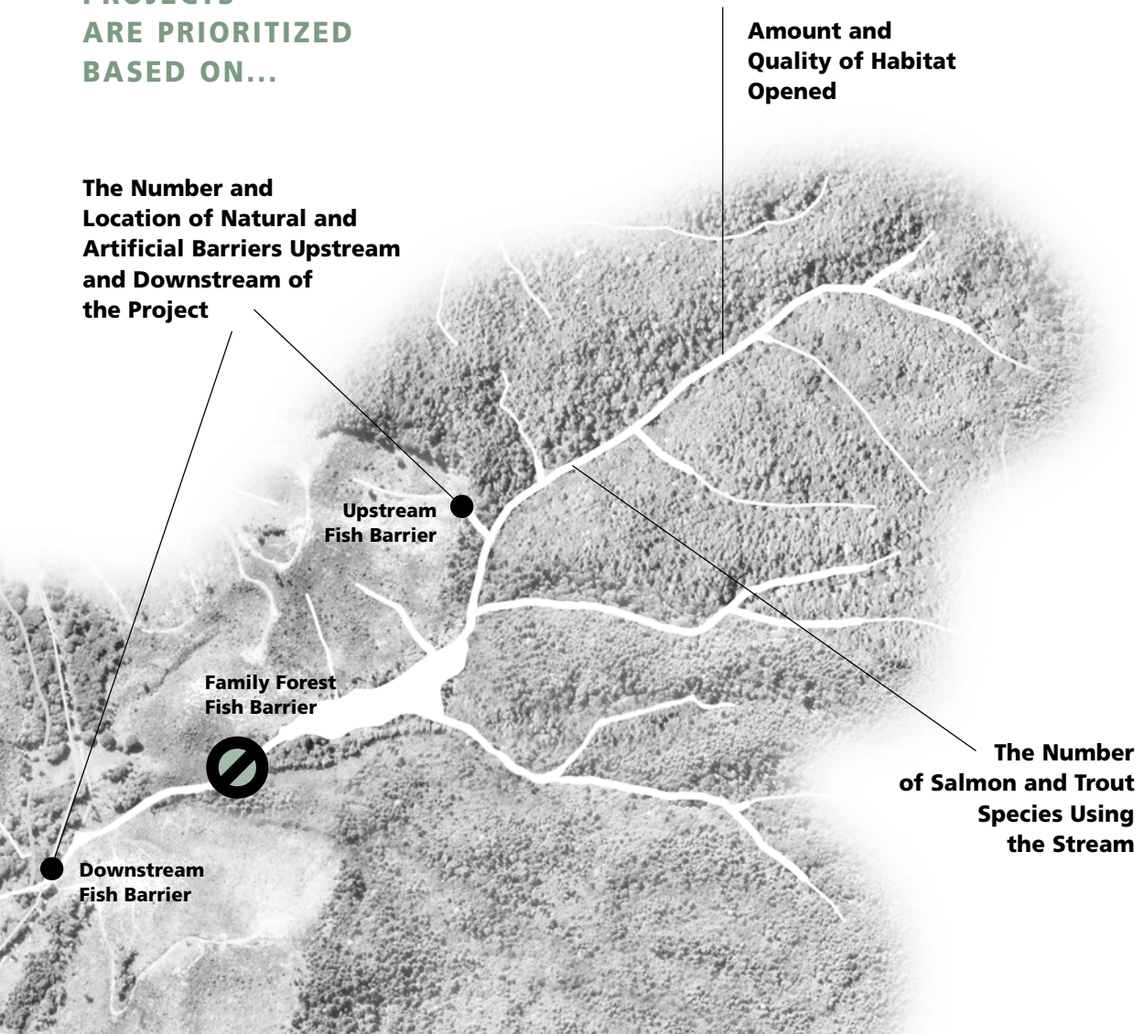




BARRIER
Undersized culverts may concentrate stream flow, thereby creating a velocity barrier and/or outfall drop

NON-BARRIER
Proper fish passage structures should be wider than the stream

PROJECTS ARE PRIORITIZED BASED ON...



Who is eligible for the program?

You qualify for the program if:

You are a private, small forest landowner.
You harvest less than 2 million board feet of timber each year from lands you own in Washington.

and

The fish barrier is on forestland.
The land is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and is not being used for anything incompatible with growing timber. Forestland does not include crop fields, orchards, vineyards, pastures, feedlots, Christmas tree farms, etc.

and

The structure is on a fish-bearing stream.
Any stream wider than 2 feet with a gradient less than 16 percent is considered potential fish habitat. Smaller or steeper streams may be fish-bearing; this will be determined by a site-specific evaluation. All artificial instream structures are required to allow passage of all fish species at all life stages—e.g., fingerlings to adult.

Qualifying barriers must be human-made, such as:

- Culverts
- Dams
- Weirs
- Puncheons
- Spillways

June 30th
ANNUAL APPLICATION DEADLINE

How does the program work?

1. **Landowner applies**
   Request an *Application for Fish Passage Barrier Evaluation* from the Small Forest Landowner Office at DNR and submit it to the office.
2. **Barrier is assessed**
   A field technician will contact you to make a site visit to assess the fish barrier.
3. **Barrier is prioritized**
   The barrier will be prioritized within your watershed. After the annual application deadline, landowners will be notified of the priority of their project the following year.
4. **Barrier is funded when it becomes a high priority**
   The barriers presenting the highest benefit to fish habitat are fixed first.
5. **Project sponsor manages the project**
   The program recommends that landowners work with a project sponsor to manage all aspects of a project, including engineering, permits, contractors and accounts. A sponsor may be a local conservation district, a regional non-profit fish enhancement group or another organization familiar with such projects. Landowners may also sponsor their own project. Program staff will assist you in identifying sponsors for each project.