

Damon Creek at Kirkpatrick Road Fish Passage Project  
Grays Harbor County Request for Letter of Support from the  
Chehalis Basin Board  
September 7, 2023



### Purpose

Grays Harbor County is applying for a grant through NOAA's Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants Under the BIL and IRA, Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2023-2008056 to correct 33% passage fish passage barrier 127H0049 on Damon Creek.

### Background

This site is 33% passable fish passage barrier culvert at the mouth of Damon Creek, at road mile 2.05 on Kirkpatrick Road north of Copalis Crossing at mile 10.3 on the Humptulips River. The correction was designed and permitted under SRFB grant 21-1184. Designs are complete, cultural resources and ESA consultation done, and permits have been issued. This grant application is for construction funds. Eight barriers have been corrected upstream. This project would open 5.82 miles of excellent spawning and rearing habitat in forestlands to five species of migratory salmonids including Chinook, coho and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout. The existing structure is a squash corrugated steel culvert, 7 feet wide, 5 feet high and 100 feet long. It is undersized for the 25-foot-wide channel. The planned correction is a bottomless arch culvert with a 35' 6" span, 21' 9" rise, and 80' length. It has been designed to accommodate potential climate-related flow increases. Kirkpatrick Road is the tsunami evacuation route for coastal communities to the west. An existing boat launch downstream from the culvert will be improved, another safety feature and community benefits for boaters. Thus, replacing the deteriorated culvert will provide community safety benefits.

### Strategy Relevance

The site ranks in the top 1% in the Chehalis Basin on the Lead Entity's prioritized list; it is 10th on the list of barriers basin-wide. This project is consistent with the goals of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, which works with landowners to restore habitats for salmon and other aquatic life and prepares the Chehalis Basin region and future generations to be resilient to a changing climate and catastrophic flooding. This project supports the habitat restoration as well as climate resiliency goals of the Chehalis Basin Strategy by improving fish habitat access in a near-term priority implementation area according to the Chehalis Basin Strategy Near-term Implementation Report, 2021-2031 (figure 5). The correction is designed to meet climate-change induced increased flows. Additional benefits include improving safety on the Kirkpatrick Road by replacing a deteriorating culvert. The project will increase fish production to contribute to Quinault Indian Nation net fisheries in Grays Harbor as well as recreational saltwater fisheries in the Harbor and offshore.

### Total Cost

Total project cost: \$3,224,118

SRFB grant 23-1071: \$237,059, ranked #1 on list of projects recommended for funding.

BAFBRB grant 21-1445: \$740,500, ranked #1 on the program's statewide funding list.

NOAA request: \$2,246,559