# Salmon Program
## Federal Recovery Projects
### Post-Evaluation Project Summary

**TITLE:** Middle Fork Nooksack Fish Ladder-Design

**NUMBER:** 01-1331N (Non-Capital)
**STATUS:** Active

**SPONSOR:** City of Bellingham

**EVALUATION SCORE:**
**BOARD RANKING:**

**COSTS:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salmon Federal Projects | $531,250 | 84% |
| Local | $103,750 | 16% |
| Total | $635,000 | 100% |

**SPONSOR MATCH:**
Force Acct - Labor

**DESCRIPTION:**

Middle Fork Nooksack River ladder design will develop detailed construction design plans and cost estimates for the preferred ladder alternative from among the conceptual alternatives proposed (NHC 2001). The Middle Fork diversion dam is located at river mile (RM) 7.2 and was built under permit about 1960 without fish passage provisions.

A ladder would restore anadromous use to 10.1 miles of river (RM 7.2 to 17.3, with avg. gradient about 3.3% and at least 6.3 miles of tributary habitat. The mainstem to RM 16.2 is suitable habitat for steelhead and chinook (STS 1994). Habitat to RM 17.3 is expected to support anadromous bull trout, as reproductively isolated bull trout still exist to RM 17.3 and in numerous tributaries (WDFW 1998). An ongoing Nooksack Tribe assessment using WDFW (2000) guidelines determined the 6.3 miles of accessible tributary habitat, including 4.43 miles in the Clearwater drainage.

Additional habitat may exist in streams not yet field verified. Native chinook, bull trout, steelhead, and pink salmon have been observed jumping at the dam over the past decade, and anecdotal reports also include former coho use (Currence 2000). Once laddered, about 20% of the former habitat available to North Fork Nooksack spring chinook will be reconnected (Corrence 2000). Detailed ladder plans and costs are critical for securing funds and permits. Construction will optimally occur in association with the City's replacing diversion screens and dam maintenance.

**LOCATION INFORMATION:**
Middle Fork Nooksack

**ST SALMON REGION:** Puget Sound North
**LEAD ENTITY ORG:** Whatcom County Lead Entity
**COUNTY:** Whatcom
**WRIA:** Nooksack (1)

**SCOPE (ELEMENTS):**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Professional Services | Salaries & Benefits | Sales Tax |

**SALMON INFORMATION: (* in**

**Species Targeted**

Bull Trout
Chinook (Listed, Threatened (03/99))
Coho (Candidate (07/95))
Pink
Steelhead (Not Warranted (08/96))

**Habitat Factors Addressed**

Biological Processes
Loss of Access to Spawning and Rearing Habitat

**FISCAL YEAR:** 2002
**DATE PRINTED:** June 12, 2003