National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Update & Fish Barrier Prioritization

This project will improve the accuracy of the NHD, Washington State’s surface water mapping, for the Puget Sound using field verified stream surveys. The corrected NHD will be used to develop a prioritization tool that compliments WDFW’s fish passage barrier database to help facilitate salmon habitat restoration.

What we are doing

WDFW will digitize 30+ years of stream location data using survey files. In partnership with the Dept of Ecology’s NHD Data Steward, those data will be used to correct ~1,500 miles of mapped stream locations. WDFW will then develop a new barrier prioritization tool to identify how many barriers to salmon migration are located upstream and downstream of all Puget Sound barriers identified in WDFW’s fish passage barrier database (FPDSI database). This tool will be publicly available via WDFW’s Fish Passage Map App.

What you can do

A coordinated approach to correcting fish passage barriers is the key to effectively restore access to salmon spawning and rearing habitat. There are multiple funding sources available to support fish passage barrier corrections, including the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB). Using these tools for prioritization will support identification of the next best corrections to undertake.

WDFW’s Fish Passage Division

WDFW offers fish passage services to organizations and landowners interested in planning restoration projects. Through direct support and training on our barrier assessment protocols, we can help identify and prioritize projects to effectively restore access to freshwater habitat for salmon and steelhead.

Why this issue is important

Correcting the NHD stream locations will allow for more effective salmon recovery planning. The new fish passage barrier prioritization tool will support collaboration and facilitate robust decision-making to restore access to salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/fish-passage/assessment

Christy Rains, WDFW Fish Passage Division
chrisy.rains@dfw.wa.gov, (360)-902-2574

Project based on NTA 2018–0436