

Frequently Asked Questions

If I sign up for the Program and choose to fix a fish barrier at my own expense, can I still receive technical assistance for the project?

Yes. The Fish Passage Team can provide technical assistance, including guidance on necessary permits, project design, construction, etc..

If I do not enroll in the Program, am I still obligated to fix fish barriers on my property or fix fish barriers associated with a Forest Practice Application (FPA)?

Yes. Forest Practice Rules require that you address fish barriers located on your land. Barriers included in an active FPA for harvest must be addressed before any future FPAs are approved.

How are barriers prioritized for funding?

The Fish Passage Team evaluates and ranks projects based on the following:

- Number of salmon and trout species benefiting from correcting the barrier
- Quantity and quality of habitat to be opened by the project
- Location and number of other upstream and downstream barriers
- Project cost

Note: numerical values, thresholds, or targets have not been established for these criteria. Each project will be compared and contrasted to all projects in the current program cycle and those projects not funded during previous cycles.

When will I be notified whether my project is considered a high priority and will be funded?

Although applications are accepted year round, there is an annual deadline of June 30 for projects to be considered for funding in the following year. Those projects providing greatest benefit to public resources will be funded for construction the following year. You will be notified of funding decisions early the following year after the June 30 cut-off date.

If your project is not a high priority during one funding cycle, it will be reconsidered during future cycles. You need only apply to the program once.

How much money can I apply for?

You do not apply for a specific amount of money to fix your barriers. Rather, you apply to have your barriers placed on a ranked list for funding. Once a barrier correction has been funded and the work completed, you or the sponsor will be reimbursed for project costs minus any required matching amount.

Once a barrier has been fixed, who is responsible for maintaining the new structure?

You own the new structure and are responsible for maintenance. This may include: removing debris that accumulates at the culvert inlet and outlet or at the upstream side of a bridge, maintaining roads to prevent sediment delivery at a stream crossing, preventing damage to the structure during normal road maintenance activities, etc.

Can I receive funding for fixing more than one barrier?

Yes, if your projects are ranked high priority after the evaluation process.

Who determines whether or not I have fish in my stream, thus making a structure a potential fish barrier?

The Fish Passage Team will arrange to evaluate fish use in your stream.

If my culvert or bridge was damaged or destroyed during a flood, can I receive compensation to have my culvert or bridge replaced?

If the damaged culvert or bridge is a fish barrier your project may be eligible for funding.

If I have a fish barrier on one parcel but am harvesting timber on another parcel I own elsewhere in the state, will I still be required to provide matching funds for my funded projects?

Yes. Any time you harvest timber on any part of your forest ownership in the state between now and the time the state determines your project is a high priority you will be required to provide matching funds to fix your fish barrier.