

PROJECT: 24-1117 R, Race Lagoon Culverts - Phase 2

Sponsor: Island County Public Works Program: SALMON ST PROJ Status: Preapplication

MEETING: Initial Review

Shared: 3/27/2024

Review Panel: John Gaffney, Marnie Tyler

Review Status: Conditioned

Considerations: Budget concern, Scope concern

Conditions: Conditioned for Scope Reduction

The SRFB review panel conditions this project to reduce the scope to include final design and construction only for culvert No. 1893 (identified as Site ID 609593 in WDFW's Washington State's Fish Passage online mapping database). The project budget should be modified to remove design and construction elements related to culvert No. 1894 and reloaded to PRISM.

Given the limited fish access that will be achieved by correcting the blockage by the footbridge on private land downstream of culvert 1894 (Site ID 609594 in WDFW's database), the cost for correction of 1894 is not justified for the benefit. Fish would only have access to that stream at high-high tide.

We recommend that the final design for culvert 1893 be sized accordingly to accommodate the flows which currently access the lagoon through culvert 1894. Realignment of this channel through the field south of Race Road to tie into the unnamed tributary feeding culvert 1893 could occur at a future time, as could additional habitat restoration upstream of culvert 1893.

| Topics | Comments |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Review Panel Comments - Initial | |
| Questions (response required) | |
| | Was there a reason that you opted to correct the footbridge drop barrier with a straight channel rather than a meander as was originally planned (as described in 2023 comment form response)? |
| John Gaffney, Marnie Tyler | Reply: SFEG is updating a plan and coordinating with the property owner for a meandered downstream segment. We hope the updated plan will address the concerns and conditions of the project. After the Skagit Watershed Council site, we hope RCO will provide an updated comment. If the meandered downstream segment is determined to not be feasible, culvert #1894 will be dropped from the project scope and the project will be dropped from PSAR Large Cap. Island County and SFEG have concerns with the recommendations to combine the two watersheds into culvert #1893 and the necessary design changes. We discussed the recommendation with Island SRTCC during the pre-scoring meeting. After input, it was determined that if culvert #1894 was removed from the application, culvert #1893 design would stay as currently presented. |
| | How did the project sponsor reconsider a channel alignment approach that provides a more gradual long profile from the estuary to the open meadow space on the south side of Race Road? This approach could have included things such as meandering of the creek downstream of Race Road, or bringing the two tributaries into a single culvert under Race Road, where the channel is more developed and gradual leading into the actuary. This suggestion is |

Project Review Comments

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| | in line with the improvement comments and sponsor reply from the previous round review for this project. SRFB Comment on 22-1089 "A meander at this location will likely be necessary to accommodate the amount of drop observed on site." Reply "The updated proposal will include a design to remove the private crossing downstream (RFEG053) and re-meander the channel through the existing trees to eliminate this drop." | |
| Improvements to Make Project Technically Sound (response required) | | |
| | Describe any future restoration being considered upstream of the culverts. | |
| | John Gaffney, Marnie Tyler | Reply: SFEG has expressed interest in additional stream and riparian improvements upstream of Culverts #1893 and #1894. During stream evaluation and barrier assessment, upstream property owner(s) expressed interest. Currently, a document of support from the property owner(s) has not been acquired for future upstream restoration. |
| General Comments (response not required) | | |
| | Excellent material provided to supplement the application. Thank you for the fish use report. | |
| | John Gaffney, Marnie Tyler | Reply: Thank you. |

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| Topics | Comments |
|----------------------------|---|
| Lead Entity Comments | |
| Questions For Applicant | |
| | If project is reduced in scope and cost then the project can be removed from the Large Cap funding category. |
| John Gaffney, Marnie Tyler | Reply: SFEG is trying to resolve concerns with the stream downstream of Culvert #1894. We hope to get additional comments from RCO before May 21st to determine whether the project should be removed from Large Cap and not impact the Large Cap review process. |
| General Comments | |
| | Skagit project number 24-1732 |
| John Gaffney, Marnie Tyler | Reply: Updated project number for Skagit PRISM Project #24-1863 (Proposed) |