Middle Fork Nooksack River Dam Has Been Removed

Removing the Middle Fork Nooksack River Dam will restore access to 16 miles of relatively pristine habitat for threatened chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. It is estimated that removing the dam will increase chinook salmon populations in the Nooksack River region by more than 30% and will increase steelhead habitat in the Middle Fork Nooksack by 45%.

Removal of the Middle Fork Nooksack River Dam has opened up over 16 miles of potential anadromous salmonid habitat.

The Middle Fork Nooksack diversion dam has been a fish passage blockage for 60 years since its construction for Bellingham city water in the early 1960s. Removal of the Middle Fork Nooksack Dam was the number one priority of the WRIA 01 Salmon Recovery Plan, and is considered to be the single most important habitat improvement for increased chinook populations. It also benefits bull trout, coho, steelhead, and the southern resident killer whales that forage on chinook salmon.

Most importantly, it returns a physical and spiritual connection to this sacred river and watershed for the people of the Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation.