



# FLY PAPER

April 2022

## LOOKING UPSTREAM

- April 9 **General Meeting** Walla Walla Point Park near the swimming/casting pond
- 5:00 Meet n Greet n bring your own chair
  - 5:30 BBQ 6:00 Meeting Starts
- April 22-24 **Blue Lake Club Outing** – the Best Attended Outing of the Year
- See below and on the Outings webpage for more details
- May 5 Board Meeting
- May 12-15 **Big Twin Lake Outing**
- May 19 General Meeting
- Brian O'Keefe
- May 21 WFFF Virtual Auction
- August 13 FFI Fly Casting Fair Montlake Terrace, WA

### In Memory of Four Legged Buddies - No Longer By Our Side



**Murphy Whiteside** 12/20/2006 – 10/25/2021



**Thai Daniels** Good Friend

Age 11 Passed on 7/13/2021



**Furball** aka Kitty

Jains Camping Cat Age 20+

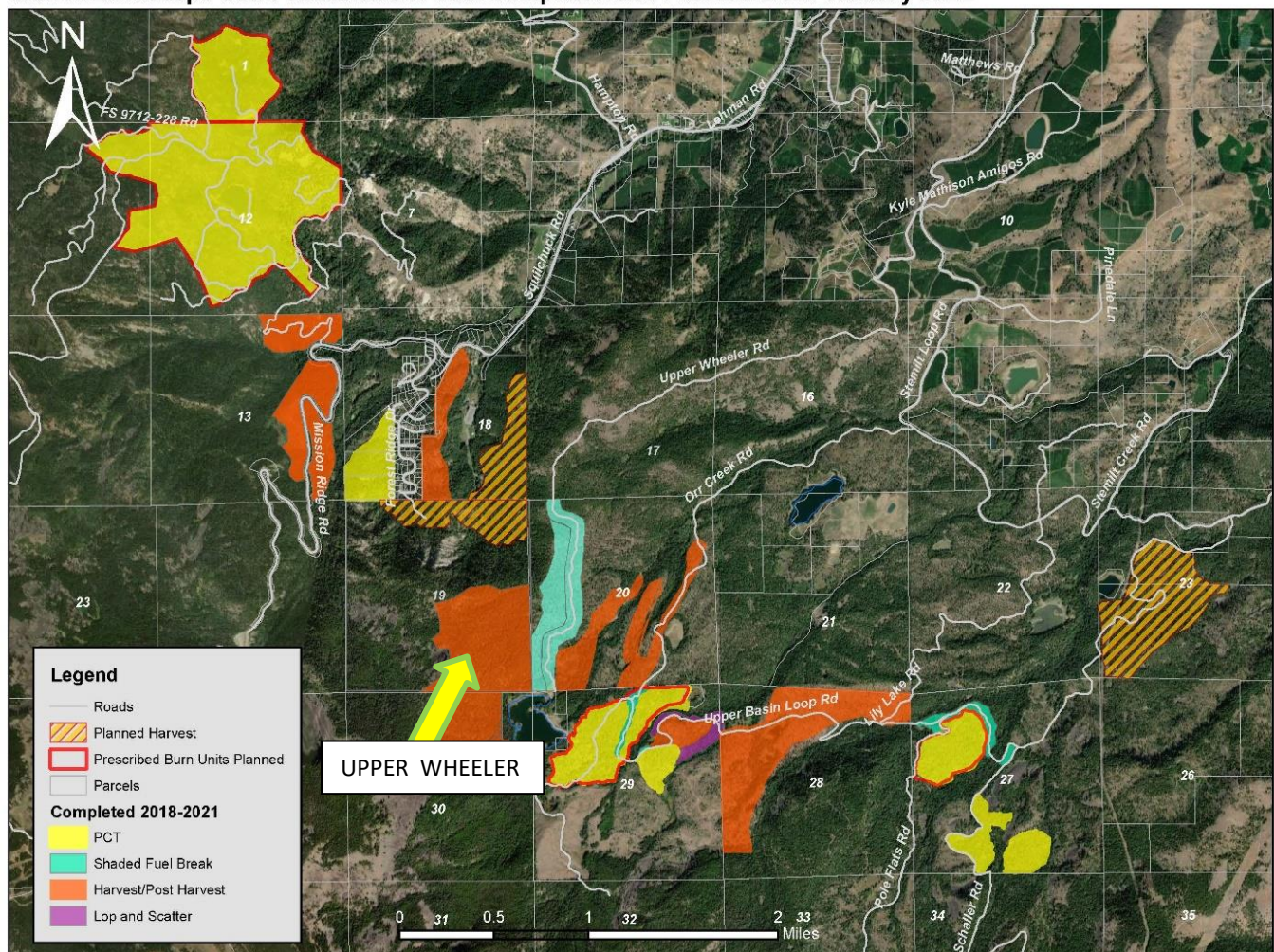
# Stemilt Partnership Update March 2022

Home to Upper Wheeler Reservoir, the only 'Fly Fishing Only' lake in the region

## Forest Health/Fuels Reduction

Strategic forest health and wildfire risk reduction work continues in the Stemilt-Squilchuck watershed. Chelan County was able to complete 105 acres of pre-commercial thinning on County Section 1 near Beehive Reservoir in August 2021, and 85 acres of pre-commercial shaded fuel break thinning on WDFW Section 20 along Upper Wheeler Road in October 2021. These units were funded by DNR Forest Resilience grants and FEMA post-fire recovery grants respectively. Thinning on private Section 13 along Squilchuck Road was completed, for a total of ~113 acres harvested and finished with mastication of slash and fine fuels. This work was completed under an agreement between the landowner, DNR Landowner Assistance Program, and DNR Forest Resilience grants. About 45 acres of prescribed burning occurred on a previously thinned unit in County Section 29 near Upper Wheeler Reservoir in May 2021, but no burning occurred in fall due to agency-related obstacles.

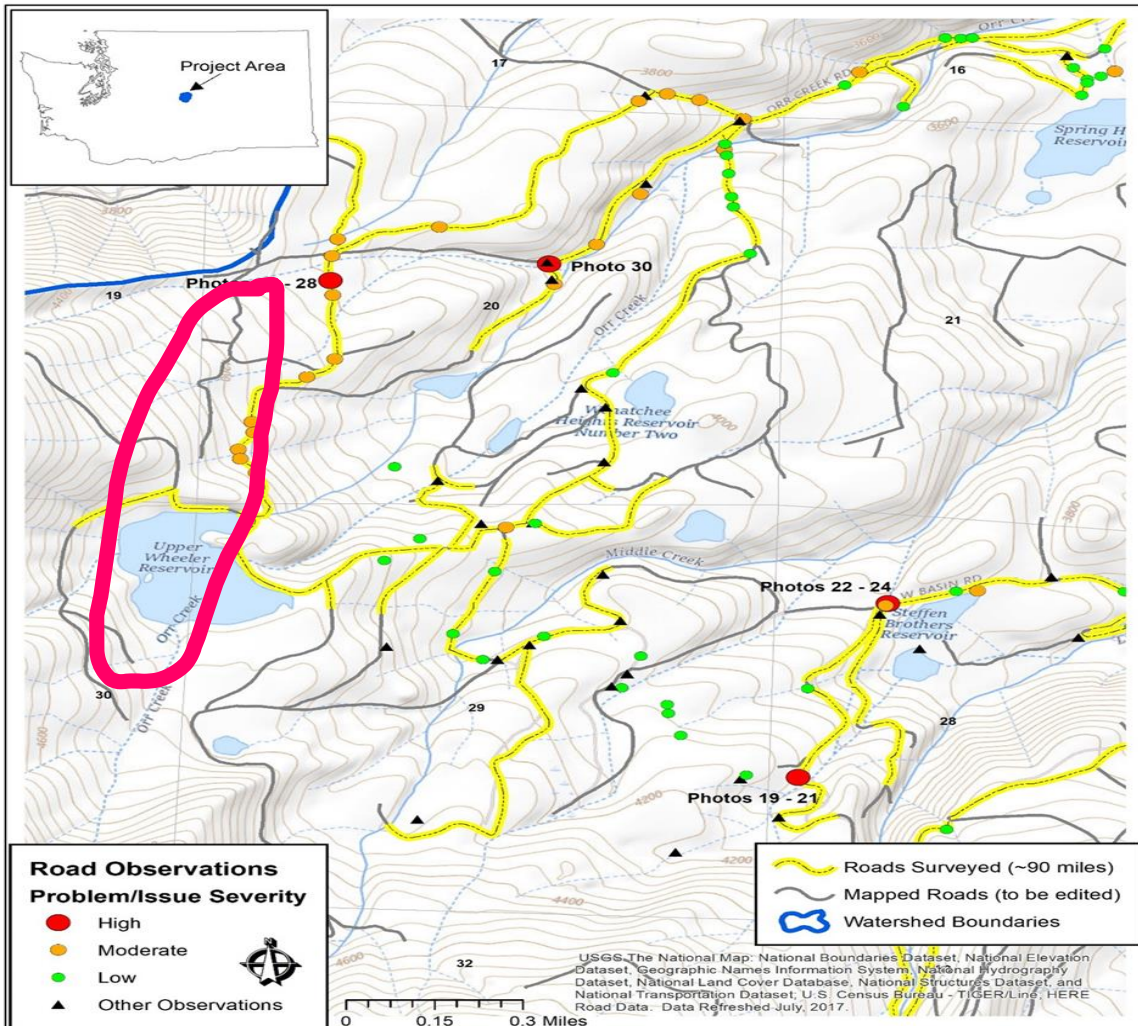
Stemilt Landscape Scale Restoration Area: Completed and Planned Units January 2022



Sections are labeled by section number and ownership; sections without ownership labels are privately held. Chelan County GIS 2021.

## Road Management

In early 2021, the Stemilt-Squilchuck Road Condition Survey to assess road/water interactions and identify priority areas to focus work in order to reduce impacts of roads on aquatic systems was completed. The road improvements through Section 20 were funded with DNR Landscape Restoration funding, while the rest of the road improvement costs were shared between the landowners with planned harvests. See map below from the Road Survey report showing the high priority problem areas that were addressed with the drainage improvements completed on Upper Wheeler Road in fall 2021.



A proposal to gate green dot road entrances off the Stemilt Loop Road during the melt-off season (early March through mid-April or earlier in low-snow winters) was brought to the green dot road advisory committee meeting this winter. This now open for public input. The goal would be to reduce impacts to road surfaces during melt-off and keep wheeled vehicles off of groomed snowmobile routes while they are still in use.

# LOOKING DOWNSTREAM

A Club is Born by Bruce Merighi

The first official meeting of the WVFF occurred on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1984 at the Chieftain in Wenatchee. A film called 'Angler's Autumn' was shown and the topic of discussion was about the main objectives of the new fly club and to capture their opinions via a questionnaire. After they appointed a nominating committee tasked with finding folks that were interested in running this new venture, they watched a slide show about the nature, purpose and benefits of being affiliated with the Fly Fishers Federation.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, again at the Chieftain, 30 members were in attendance and Ty Duhamel, a local attorney discussed the advantages that incorporation would have for the club. Components that would limit the potential liability of the clubs directors, allow the club to petition for a tax exempt status and formalize the club so that it might exist as an organization into the future. A proposed club logo, created by Greg and Tori McEwen was on display and you can see that original logo/patch on the 'About Us' page of your website. The first door prize was made by Ron Hannon and consisted of a Swannundaze Chironomid fly, a brief natural history of the bug and a short bio and description of other Chironomid patterns.

The December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting occurred at the Four Seasons Inn, in East Wenatchee and had 23 attendees. The Bi Laws were discussed and a slate of potential officers was announced. They were all unanimously elected: President Ray Bull, 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Conolly, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Greg McEwen (who recently rejoined the club), Secretary Gary Anderson (who stills graces us with his knowing smile at every meeting), Treasurer Rob Hannon, Ghillie Mike Chambers, Past Acting President Bill Barnett and Directors Archie Mills and Dick Pieper. Ray Bull then generously donated a personally crafted graphite fly rod and a film called 'Fishing the Dry Fly' by Gary Borger was shown. And for the record, later that month on December 19, 1984 a Washington State Certificate of Incorporation was issued to the club.

The January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting had 15 in attendance and a dues structure was established for membership. Regular members would pay \$20 a year, a family cost \$25, an associate member got off with only paying \$10 and Youth (14-18 and not from a members family) only had to pay \$5. This time the door prize was 12 steelhead flies tied by Mike Chambers and Greg McEwen.

During their February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, current member John Murio won the door prize, a book entitled, 'Flyfishing Always'. On that date our club considered its first project to help local fisheries. The Rocky Ford fishery needed fish tank barrier walls needed to be raised in height and a general clean-up of the site was sorely needed.

As the spring air brought the meeting numbers up to 26 attendees for the March 21<sup>st</sup> gathering, they voted to work on the proposed Rocky Ford project. Current member and man about town, Gordy West relayed information about a serious litter problem at Warden Lake and hoped the club could buy some trash cans to help alleviate the eyesore. To round out the night, Lucky John Murio, again, won a door prize of a whip finishing tool and Gary Anderson won a fine selection of gold ribbed hares ear flies.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> the treasurer reported to the meeting attendees that their club coffers were in good condition with a balance of \$1,074. Easily financing the \$145 expenditure on the Rocky Ford Project, our first effort to help local fisheries. The clubs first outing was planned for Dry Falls and Lake Lenore and to everyone's pleasure, the titles of the clubs BETA videotapes were read and became available for members to rent. Today, our Ghillie hosts a wheeled library of books and DVDs available for free use by any member. We just need to hold a meeting again so everyone can access those goodies.

To wrap up the first eight months of our clubs existence, the May 16th meeting produced club patches that were made available for all dues paying members and the Fly Paper was officially named and pronounced the clubs official newsletter. Interestingly enough, Mike Chambers collected fines levied on members who had 'violated' fly fishing ethics. For the record:

- Bob Fitzsimmons was fined \$1 for irreverently referring several times in public to the Lahontan cutthroat trout as something sounding like "Lahootanuuns". (That first dollar received as a fine from a WVFF member was framed and saved for its historical/hysterical value.)
- Rob Hannon (who had already suffered self-inflicted floggings) was fined 75 cents for somehow having a barbed fly attached to his tippet while fishing at the Dry Falls outing.
- Gary Anderson, who engaged in an unauthorized 'experiment' involving two different nymph patterns being attached to his leader at once while fishing Dry Falls. Gary noted that, he was looking for some food preference data; but only a single fly was allowed by law at that time. Larry Brown, a club member, was the district biologist for our area and in those days he was authorized to write tickets for violations but proclaimed that Gary probably should have been fined but he was found 'not guilty' based on Mr. Browns interpretation of the fishing regulations. Hearty laughs were shared around the meeting tables.

Stay tuned to discover more about the 'early days' of your club and thereby better understanding what we are about and where we come from. And as you can see, in 38 years of club history, some things have changed and some things are constant. Gary still fishes with two nymphs, only when necessary.

## FOR SALE

### Bucks Bag South Fork Float Boat \$500

includes

2-Anchoring Systems, Front Motor Mount, Air Pump, Oars, Stripping Apron, Carrying Bag, 2 Extra Carry Bags, Battery Box, Fish Finder Brackett

### Bucks Bags Hi-N-Dry Float Tube \$250

with Force Fins size 10

Contact Dry Side Fly Club Member - Robert Hagerty

Home # 509-855-5311 or Cell # 425-785-44367 or [ACDRHAG@comcast.net](mailto:ACDRHAG@comcast.net)

## March 3, 2022 WVFF Board Minutes

Attended: Steven Aguilu, Dan Hammond, John Richmond, Gary Anderson, Bruce Merighi, Bruce Phillips, Wayne Steele, Al Smith, Bob Bartlett

Absent: Quincy Lake trout

Call to order: 6: 34 PM

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February 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve:

Second:

Vote:

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President's Report:

### Communication:

- Please use "flyfishingsteve@comcast.net" or my phone number for communication with me

### Executive Actions:

- Lent WVFF Club endorsement of USFS Legacy Roads and Trails Letter to Congress (see documents attached to meeting invite)

### 2022 Fundraiser

- Plans are falling into place. Thanks to Bob for securing the venue and Dan and Bruce M. for their input. Others if I have forgotten
- Current plan per my understanding:
  - The live silent auction will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at Eastmont Community Center 230 Georgia Ave, East Wenatchee
  - The live auction may morph into an informal live gathering with simple sandwiches, snacks and beverages, depending on the pandemic
  - The online auction could be opened as much as a week before and like Ebay would allow people to review the items carefully and decide what and how much to bid on each.
  - I would recommend sequential closure of the auction items through the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup>, perhaps at 30 minute intervals to give people who miss an item, time to line up and bid on another.
  - Survey/signup is out... raging responses of 4 with one yes to hold member donations until the auction and a donation of books. One maybe and checking calendar and two nyets...
- Any board members with leads on vendor donations?
- Suggest we split up the vendor list amongst those willing to call or (better) visit vendors. Dan will take this on.
- No further discussion/recommendations.

### Election of Officers for 2022:

- Still waiting for secretary volunteer

### Vice President's Report:

- Thoughts on the fundraiser?

### Education

- April 9-10<sup>th</sup> Casting Clinic : Aaron Culley at Walla Walla Point Park
- Will include BBQ of hamburgers and hot dogs
- List filling quickly so will open up Sunday for additional slots
- Will hold slots for members until March 19th then open to non-members

### Conservation Report:

- Bruce M. ran thorough the list of potential projects and outlined each. We are still considering several options and will consider holding some of the money for distribution to other projects later in the year.
- He will present current selections for member vote at the Casting Clinic member meeting if enough members are present for a decision.

### Website:

- Still some issues
- Decided against member bulletin board. Let people connect for fishing through emails
- Will need to consider spending some of the IT budget to smooth out some of the glitches

### Treasurer's Report:

- John reported on current balances and dues progress
- Dues due by the first of April to maintain membership

### Outings Chair:

- Outings schedule be published on web site at first of year
  - Schedule should list all known club outings
  - Additional outings added to schedule as they are developed
- 2023 Schedule Planning start in November of 2022 with update after spring WDFW program

### Membership Report:

- Bruce P. reported connections with Nabur and Wenatchee World
- Spike in member signups since WW article
- Discussed buddy system for new members. No specific decision
- Will be updating members list after April 1 deadline and then monthly

### Program Chair:

- Joe Roeter from Red's Fly Shop for the Program
- No program for April
- May program not arranged yet

### Old Business:

- Board Decision-Making Process:
- Expedited member approval process.

### New Business: ?

Adjournment Time: 8:44 PM

# President's Message April 2022

Greetings Friends,

The weather was perfect, the fishing was perfect, the catching was... well, not so perfect. As my boat carved quietly across Quincy Lake to our lunch gathering, I was struck by the stillness, the sky, unbroken blue mirrored in the water of unbroken glass, that's what they say...the water was smooth as glass that day.

Jumping metaphoric rails, I thought of the half full and half empty glass, the cynicism of a skunked fisherman rose up within me and I said out loud, "Yeah, and this glass is completely empty". Thus ended my first half day of fishing. But hang on... there is a better ending to this story.

I hope you all have had a good month as we watch the winter season roll into spring.

If you missed our last meeting, **Joe Rotter from Red's Fly Shop** gave one of the most unique and practical fly-fishing presentations I have ever seen. Most of the pros go on about this fly pattern or that method but Joe's discussion was all about strategic planning of fishing outings to maximize use of time and chances of success. It was like being in a war room with aerial photos of parking places, public access areas, even water reading using Google Earth and BaseMap.com. Time is the most precious commodity and fishing time is the gold standard of life's currency. **Watch the video when it comes up on the WVFF website. It will help you get the most out of your fishing hours.**

The board has made a final decision about the **2022 fundraiser**. There will be no live auction, nor will we meet at the East Wenatchee Community Center in person. Instead, we will have an **online auction starting at noon on May 21<sup>st</sup>. It will run for two weeks and end at 8 pm June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Check out the web site. We will be posting items as they are pledged. Full instructions on bidding will be coming out soon, so watch your emails. We will be running it as proxy bid, similar to E-bay. And we have invited members of other clubs, so have your bids ready!

**Our next club meeting will be Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>** (instead of the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) at Walla Walla Point Park the evening of the fly-casting weekend. I will be out of town so VP Dan Hammond will sub for me at the meeting.

- 5:00 PM: We will gather for a meet and greet at Walla Walla Point Park near the swimming area where the casting lessons are scheduled.
- 5:30 PM: Burgers n Dogs. WVFF will supply the sides and beverages. Bring your own if you want but please, no alcohol. Free cholesterol testing the following Sunday morning.
- 6:00 PM: Club Meeting
  - Bob will discuss the plans for the fundraiser and answer questions
  - Bruce Merighi will discuss the Conservation Grant Applications and will ask the club to vote on the proposed projects. We have a total of \$6000 available for donations.



And have picked out several great projects, plus kept some money back for projects later in the year (see Bruce M's column in this issue).

- Dan will talk about the Blue Lake outing April 22-26<sup>th</sup> co-hosted by Bill and Shirley Ward and Tom and Pat Whiteside. Details can be found on the WVFF website. Hope to see you all there. It is always a fun outing.
- Bruce Phillips will be proudly announcing our new members, some of whom will be at the casting clinic. He (and his wife Pat) are doing a bangup job of bringing in new people. When we go live again, we will have to cram into the Eagle's back room or find another venue!

**Start thinking about the Big Twin Lake outing May 12-15<sup>th</sup>.** I believe I rented the last cabin but there are still some campsites available. Rumor has it that the "Big" in Big Twin means **big fish** this year!

Back to lunch at Quincy Lake...

The grills were cooling. Only a few burned dogs awaited latecomers and the rest of us were busy drowning their fishless sorrows with IPA brews. Gary Anderson was holding forth on the hot summer theory to explain the lack of fish and Bruce Phillips describing his latest catch of new members. Tom Whiteside humbly relayed that he caught fish... all large holdovers that survived the heat of 2021... three out of only five caught by the entire group.

As I stood watching the gathering, I felt the need to say something about our first foray into a real outing in two years.

"It is so nice to see the faces of old friends and new, to be reminded of those who are no longer with us but here in spirit. We have come through a time of isolation and fear, said goodbye to some friends and family and return here as survivors.

It is time again to share the sport that we all love. And in the sharing, the whole becomes more than the sum of its individual parts. And once more we find ourselves connected by the invisible bonds forged between us by our love of the natural world.

And in spite of the fishing being less than we had hoped, the fellowship is the greatest reward for making the journey here. Thank you for being part of my best day of fishing."

Then one by one, the few of us (fool)hardy enough to go back out to empty water, climbed aboard our various conveyances and slipped hopefully into Quincy Lake.

Now, you might think my day ended with one of those big fish or having found the pocket holding a few of the thirty-plus fish I caught last year, grown to a net-choking 22 inches but most stories end, not with big fish but rather big lies. I won't lie about this one. It was a fishless afternoon.

Yet as I motored back out onto the water, it remained smooth as glass. But it was no longer empty... and it was not just half full. It was brimming with the azure sky, the emerald water, the

ochre and chocolate cliffs, the peace that comes with being outside after long days, chained to a desk. And most of all, it was full of the faces, the laughter and stories. It was full of the people that bring me back time after time, to fish in this pond of fellowship we call the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers. Just so you know, in the latter case, I don't do catch and release. I keep them for life.

Tight Lines! Steve Aguilu

## **WDFW Fish Passage Inventory and Assessment Training**

**Wed, May 4, 2022 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM PDT**

By Dan Barrett WDFW Fish Passage Biologist

There is an open registration for the WDFW Fish Passage Inventory and Assessment training course next month. This introductory course provides an overview of the culvert assessment methods described in WDFW's 2019 Fish Passage Inventory, Assessment, and Prioritization Manual. Due to current work gathering restrictions, we are not offering the field portion of the training at this time. This first course of the year is still going to be in a digital format – hosted over Microsoft Teams. We are cautiously optimistic that it will be possible to host in-person training again later this year, with a field training component. The course registration can be found at the following address:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wdfw-fish-passage-training-inventory-and-assessment-course-1-tickets-310618978727>

If you have any questions, or are having issues with the registration, please don't hesitate to shoot me an email, or give me a ring at: [Daniel.Barrett@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Daniel.Barrett@dfw.wa.gov) or (360) 870-2195.



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