

Ministry of Forests & Range LBIS Funding Request Form

Investment Category: FISH PASSAGE
Investment Category Contact: Ian Miller (287-8398) or Richard Thompson (MoE; 250-356-5467)
Amount Requested: \$10 Million
Request Rationale (no more than 1 page):
<p><i>Size and general area of impact within the province:</i></p> <p>Fish passage problems primarily occur with closed-bottom structures, i.e. culverts. Use of culverts for stream crossings is more prevalent in the interior, however fish passage problems do occur province-wide. The best estimate is that between 134,000 and 200,000 culverts are currently potential barriers to fish passage in B.C.</p> <p><i>Total funding required to resolve the issue:</i></p> <p>For assessments of 150,000 stream crossings: <u>\$30 Million (approx)</u></p> <p>For remediation of 100,000 of the highest priority crossings: <u>\$10 Billion (approx)</u></p> <p><i>How long it would take to resolve the issue at the proposed funding level</i></p> <p>2000 years (approx)</p> <p><i>Describe the magnitude of the impact in addressing the Land Based Investment Strategy goals, objectives, and strategic priorities resulting from the investment. Does the investment result in a significant contribution to achieving the provincial goals and objectives?</i></p> <p>An investment of \$10 Million is 2.5 times the current annual investment of \$4 Million. The requested funding would exceed at least one of the 2010/11 LBI goals, by funding proportionately more assessments in order to better define the magnitude and scope of the problem. The current program is incrementally improving our understanding the true scope, as well as providing new aquatic connectivity to about 200 km of high-quality fish habitat per year. This work improves security of fisheries values for ecological goods and services, ecosystem health and food production, but does not adequately identify or address the actual magnitude of the problem.</p> <p><i>Describe any multiple benefits that can be achieved from the investment. Does the investment assist in the achievement of indicators or targets in other LBIP investment categories?</i></p> <p>No specific assistance in achievement of targets and indicators in other LBI categories, however investments in fish passage assessments and restoration will help achieve LBIS Goal #3 (co-ordination and integrated planning of the use of forest and range resources), Goal #2 in the MFR 2010/11-12/13 Service Plan (well managed forest and range resources) and the province's Great Goal #4 (lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.). Investments in fish passage also help BC achieve DFO's policy for "no net loss of fish habitat", and their Wild Salmon Policy.</p> <p><i>Describe how the investment addresses structural timber supply or ecological integrity issues;</i></p> <p>Loss of freshwater habitat is one of the largest threats facing salmon today. Continued substantial investment in assessments is required to ensure restoration investments are targeted to achieve maximum returns. Investments in assessments and remediation directly address <u>ecological integrity</u> through connectivity of fish habitats, from lower levels (lake or ocean) to headwater tributaries. Connectivity provides maximum access to, and utilization of, all types of fish habitat (spawning, feeding, resting, etc) for all fish species present.</p> <p>On-going investments in improving fish passage may preclude DFO direction to immediately remediate crossings that present "harmful alteration, disruption, and/or destruction" of fish habitat. Such actions would likely result in disruptions and limitations to road access, which in turn would likely limit <u>timber supply</u> in some areas.</p> <p><i>Describe any specific biological windows that would impact success related to the investment.</i></p> <p>All stream crossing remediation projects involve in-stream works, which are limited by the in-stream timing windows mutually agreed-to by DFO and MoE, generally the period of low water in late summer.</p>

Amount Allocated (to be filled out by FPIB):

Allocation Rationale (to be filled out by FPIB):

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