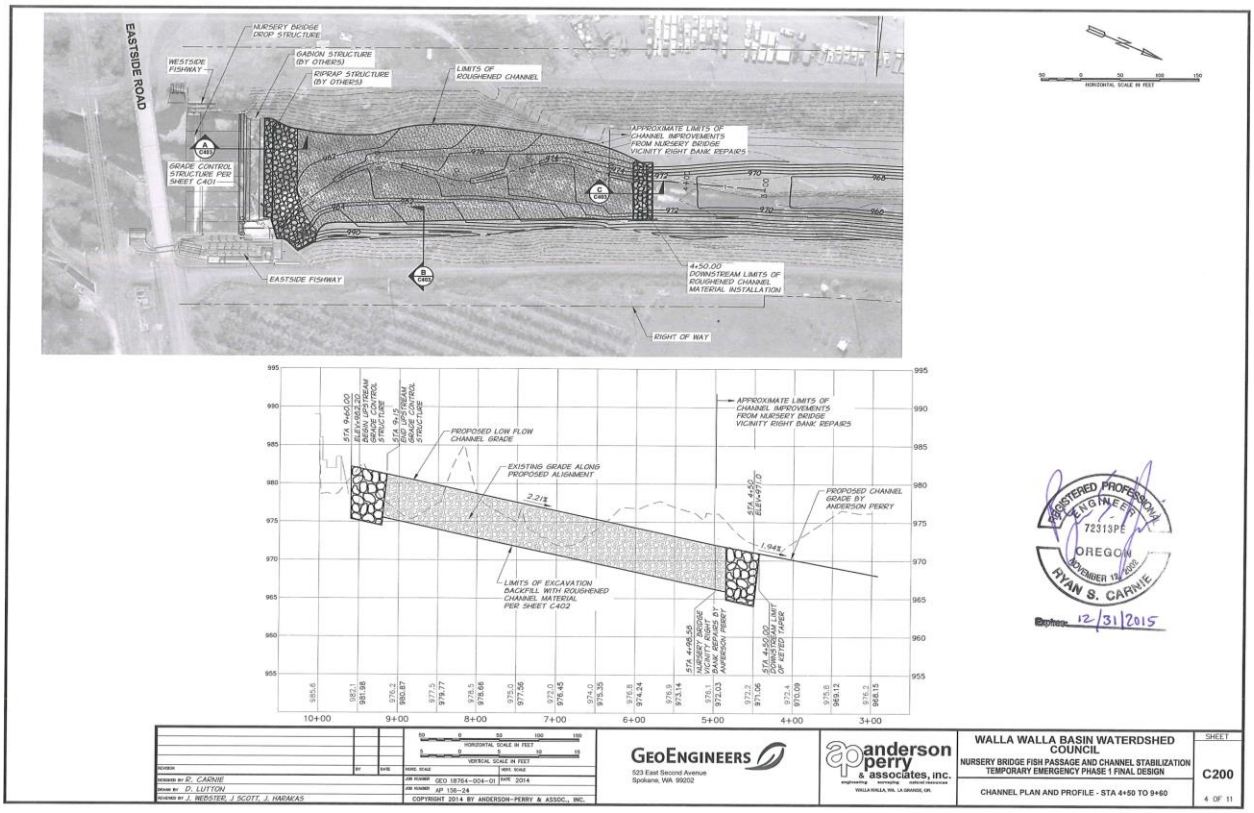
Nursery Bridge Fish Passage Project Phase 1

The Phase 1 emergency Nursery Bridge Fish Passage project was completed in 2014 and has been achieving its goal of ensuring temporary fish passage until a more permanent solution is implemented. In 2013, it became apparent to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) fisheries monitoring staff that adult steelhead were having difficulty accessing the downstream entrances to Nursery Bridge Grade Control fish ladders on both side of the Walla Walla River. This reach of the river is channelized and subject to down-cutting as a result of the Corps of Engineers Levee system installed in the 1950s to protect the community of Milton-Freewater from flooding. An emergency, temporary Phase 1 Nursery Bridge structure was installed when it became apparent that salmonids were not able to access the fish ladder at certain flows while migrating to upstream spawning areas. The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) used funding from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to complete a temporary emergency fish passage fix known as Nursery Bridge Fish Passage Phase 1. The Phase 1 project was designed, permitted and constructed in one year. The project cost $794,900 to construct. This 520 foot long, approximately 100 foot wide bank to bank (levee toe to levee toe), roughened riffle has been able to reduce channel down-cutting and our fish monitoring partners, ODFW and CTUIR, are able to document steelhead salmon and bull trout moving upstream past this location. The Nursery Bridge Fish Passage project addresses the last significant fish passage barrier on the main stem Walla Walla River. This site impacts fish passage to upriver spawning areas for ESA listed bull trout and ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead, and re-introduced Mid-Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon that utilize the Walla Walla River.

Project site during construction

Project photo immediately after project completion



Plan view and profile from the project design