

# Skokomish Estuary Island Restoration

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## **Project Description**

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This [second phase](#) of the Skokomish Estuary will focus on restoring 214+ acres of habitat that were isolated from the surrounding environment in the 1940s. Over 2 miles of perimeter levees will be removed, several miles of internal roads and berms will be scarified, and nearly 3 miles of man-made borrow ditches will be filled in an effort to obliterate anthropogenic stressors.

Our focus will be on restoring habitat-forming processes to this reach, including but not limited to:

- natural tidal inundation,
- tidal channel formation,
- channel migration/avulsion,
- fluvial and tidal sedimentation,
- marsh accretion,
- freshwater input,
- overbank deposition,
- and connectivity.

Though the entire island is available for restoration, there are no property developments implicated within the action area, and the policy direction is to commit full, process-based restoration for the benefit of salmon recovery and water quality, there are constraints that the project team has had to address that inhibit meeting our goals even in this area that is typically considered undeveloped.

Principal constraints include:

- Upstream stressors to reach-scale processes that affect habitat trajectory, including dam construction and associated major water diversion, significantly increased sediment loads from forest practices, and floodplain isolation from diking
- Significant instream channel aggradation and impacts to restoration site
- Tacoma Power and Mason PUD power lines and towers
- Issues of constructability around machine access and water quality issues

## **Presentation Overview**

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This presentation will provide a quick synopsis of the site, its history, ecological stressors to habitat forming processes, and constraints that affect our ability to conduct full, process-based restoration.