



Smith Island FEIS released; project closer to construction

Snohomish County and its partners are a step closer to greatly improving Chinook salmon numbers in the Puget Sound following the release of a final environmental impact statement for the [Smith Island Restoration Project](#).

The project, part of the regional Sustainable Lands Strategy, will improve critical habitat for Chinook and other salmon species in the Snohomish River basin by providing food and shelter for thousands of juvenile salmon making their way to the ocean each year. The project also protects the best farmland on the site while also increasing flood protection for neighboring farms and businesses.

“The release of the FEIS and accompanying shoreline permit puts us closer to construction of a project that will help the Puget Sound region repair past damage to Chinook salmon runs,” said Debbie Terwilleger, director of the county’s Surface Water Management division. “Connected with other SLS projects, we’re doing our best to protect salmon and farmland at the same time.”



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This e-newsletter will provide you with the latest information about Snohomish County’s Sustainable Lands Strategy.

Contacts

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In the mid-1800s, Smith Island was a productive estuary for juvenile salmon. The county's restoration project proposes to restore roughly 400 acres of historic tidal marshlands by removing sections of a 1930s-era dike and constructing a new dike that will greatly improve flood protection in the area. The site is bounded by Union Slough to the east and north, I-5 to the west, and Everett's wastewater treatment plant to the south.

As part of the [Sustainable Lands Strategy](#), the Smith Island project and others like it are balancing the need to restore vital salmon habitat and protect the viability of local agriculture. Both farming and salmon play a key role in the history, culture and economy of Snohomish County and can be protected through sustainable land projects.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2014. The project has garnered widespread support from federal, state and local agencies, many of which have provided funding and resources, including:

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund

- Tulalip Tribes
- Puget Sound Partnership
- NOAA Restoration Center
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- City of Everett
- Snohomish County.

To review the final environmental impact statement for the Smith Island project, [click here](#).

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SLS booth, info a popular hit at Focus on Farming Conference



Snohomish County Public Works spent the day at the recent Focus on Farming conference updating participants on the latest Sustainable Lands Strategy news. The booth, with its large displays featuring maps and information on each reach scale and Smith Island, was

a stopping point for lots of discussion and interaction. The opportunity to update farmers and agriculture activists on the SLS's "net gain strategy" was popular.

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