

## Snohomish County's Puget Sound Initiative

# Smith Island Restoration



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The purpose of the Smith Island Restoration project is to re-establish 400 acres of historic tidal marshlands that provide critical habitat for threatened Chinook salmon, as well as other salmon species, in the Snohomish River estuary. The project includes construction of a new setback levee to hold back flood and tidal waters to protect the adjacent properties including farmland, local businesses, and Interstate 5. The new levee is 80% complete and the project is scheduled for completion in 2018. The old levee is aging and not built to current standards.

Once complete, the old dike will be breached to let tidal water return to the historic estuary. The river water levels will ebb and flow with the tide once the old dike is breached, providing habitat for 125,000 to 250,000 juvenile salmon annually. The annual economic value of ecosystem services that will flow from the Smith Island project are estimated between \$4.99 and \$6.89 million dollars a year, as cited by a 2011 Earth Economics study.

