

# Port Susan Bay Restoration

2021-2023 PSAR REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECT

RANKED  
#4 of 8



The Stillaguamish Delta is the largest tidal wetland complex and freshwater input to the Port Susan Bay. This project will restore 150 acres of estuarine tidal marsh in a critically important river-adjacent location by excavating new channels and tidal and river connections. The increased connectivity will improve drainage and sediment delivery to sustain marsh growth. By expanding the amount of viable estuary habitat in the delta, the project will provide access and habitat for out-migrating juvenile salmon, including Chinook salmon.

## KEY BENEFITS

- New tidal and river connections will increase drainage and create habitat to sustain marshes.
- More estuary habitat provides areas for juvenile fish to feed, grow, and mature.
- Improved freshwater delivery will allow native vegetation to grow.
- Supports Chinook salmon – a critical food source for endangered southern resident orcas.

## SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT

- Ranked #4 PSAR 2021-2023 regionally significant projects.
- Project addresses one of the six priority limiting factors leading to the decline of Chinook salmon populations in the Stillaguamish.
- Part of the 2005 Stillaguamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan's estuarine restoration strategy.
- This project supports tribal treaty rights.

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Funding Request

**\$3,218,542**

Congressional District: **2**

Legislative District: **10**

WRIA: **5** County: **Snohomish**

Project Sponsor:

**The Nature Conservancy**

## PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

**9 tidal outlets**

**2 new river**

distributary connections

**17,000  
linear feet**

of interior channel network

For more information about the PSAR Program please contact:

# Investing In Puget Sound

FOR SALMON, ORCAS, AND PEOPLE



## WHAT IS PSAR?

The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program was created in 2007 to help implement the most important habitat protection and restoration projects for Puget Sound. Funding is appropriated every two years by the Washington State Legislature and allocated through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The program has two parts, with \$30 million provided as base funding for locally significant projects and remaining funds allocated to projects that are ranked as regionally significant.

## A GOOD INVESTMENT

**PSAR projects restore habitat critical to the survival of Puget Sound salmon populations.**

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- Projects are thoroughly reviewed to ensure that they benefit salmon populations and local communities. The projects:
- Support recovery of Puget Sound salmon, a critical food source for endangered southern resident orcas
- Provide local jobs, public access, and recreational opportunities
- Align with the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Puget Sound Action Agenda
- Are informed by science and the NOAA-approved Chinook salmon recovery strategy
- Are endorsed by members of the public, cities, counties, tribes, non-profit organizations, and government agencies

## PSAR projects make cost-effective use of public money.

PSAR supports local communities by **creating more than 3,400 jobs in the last 13 years**. PSAR has also **leveraged \$157 million in federal and other matching funds and generated approximately \$560 million in economic activity**.

PSAR investments have supported the work of our partners to **restore and protect more than 3,200 acres of estuary habitat, 140 river miles for fish passage, and 12,000 acres of watershed habitat**. Many projects support multiple benefits.

The Puget Sound Partnership manages the PSAR program; funds are administered through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.