

INVESTING IN HABITAT RESTORATION AND PROTECTION TO BRING BACK PUGET SOUND'S DYNAMIC NATURAL SYSTEMS — FOR SALMON, PEOPLE, AND COMMUNITY



PSAR PROJECTS COMPLETED IN THE 2013 – 15 BIENNIUM RESTORED AND PROTECTED 1,289 ESTUARY AND NEARSHORE ACRES, 770 FLOODPLAIN ACRES, AND 14 RIVER AND STREAM MILES.

WHAT IS PSAR?

The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program was created in 2007 to help implement the most important habitat protection and restoration priorities for Puget Sound. Funding is appropriated by the Legislature and allocated through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The Puget Sound Partnership works with local entities to identify and prioritize projects.

WHY IS PSAR AN EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT?

- **PSAR-funded projects restore critical habitat and salmon populations to Puget Sound.**

Because the projects are thoroughly reviewed, their benefit to improved salmon habitat in Puget Sound is significant. The projects:

- ✓ Are **locally vetted** and locally supported
- ✓ Are informed by science and the NOAA-approved Chinook recovery strategy
- ✓ Are **endorsed** by citizens, cities, counties, tribes, non-profit organizations, and government agencies
- ✓ Generate multiple benefits, such as **local jobs** and recreational opportunities

- **PSAR projects make efficient use of public money.**

To be eligible for funding, proposed projects must first advance through a series of **rigorous, science-driven reviews**. The reviews occur at the local and regional level and ensure that all PSAR projects align with the **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan**, as well as with the Puget Sound Partnership's ecosystem recovery targets, listed in the **Puget Sound Action Agenda**.



PSAR projects completed in the 2013 – 15 biennium restored and protected 1,289 estuary and nearshore acres, 770 floodplain acres, and 14 river and stream miles. Many restored habitats are already being used by salmon and other species.

Staff with the Puget Sound Partnership manage the PSAR grant fund program; PSAR funds are administered through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. For more information about the funding process, or to apply for a PSAR grant, go to www.rco.wa.gov/grants/salmon.shtml

PROJECT NAMES

QWULOOLT ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT

PSAR FUND

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration

In 2015 the Tulalip Tribes along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project, a broad-based interagency and community effort to restore historic tidal processes and a functioning estuary intertidal marsh system to 354 acres of isolated floodplain within the lower Snohomish River estuary, in Marysville, WA. The project included restoring more than 1 mile of historic and new creek channel, planting native vegetation and treating invasive reed canary grass, constructing a new levee, retrofitting stormwater/sewer infrastructure, constructing wave attenuation berms, breaching the Ebey Slough levee, and lowering 1,500 feet of old levee.



WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

- Restored hydrological connection and function to 354 acres of floodplain
- Unrestricted access for fish to 16 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat for several salmon species, including threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout.
- Additional habitat to migratory waterfowl
- Improved water quality treatment for stormwater runoff from industrial and residential areas.
- Within 2 months after project completion, smelt and salmon were returning.



COUNTY: Snohomish

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT: 38

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 02

SALMON RECOVERY REGION: Puget Sound

STATUS: Completed

COST: \$1,550,000



For more information about the PSAR Program please contact:

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