

Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda

Candidate Initiatives

Complete the Nisqually Estuary Restoration Project

Description

Finish restoration of 762 acres of Nisqually Estuary, by removing dikes to return the area to tidal influence. The project will also restore 37 acres of riparian surge plain forest, enhance freshwater wetlands, and provide for recreational opportunities. Construction will occur over three to four years beginning in 2009.

Rationale

Estuaries are important habitats for fish and wildlife, and restoring estuaries is essential to recovering Puget Sound. More than 80% of estuary habitat in Puget Sound has been lost due to diking, draining, and development. This project is the largest estuary restoration project in the Pacific Northwest, and provides important habitat, including an extremely depleted type of tidal forest, for salmon and other fish and wildlife species. The project is the top priority for recovering Chinook salmon in the Nisqually watershed, and is the final alternative identified in the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (2004).

Lead: Nisqually Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Type of Action

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education/Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Programmatic | <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Monitoring |

Puget Sound Partnership Role

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lead-Funding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocate-Funding | <input type="checkbox"/> Convener /Facilitator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead- Implementer | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate- Policy | |

Partners

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Role</i>
1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Project lead and funding partner
2. Nisqually Land Trust	Advocate and funding partner
3. Ducks Unlimited	Advocate and funding partner
4. Nisqually Indian Tribe	Advocate

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Biennial Work Plan

<i>Step</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
1. Construction of new exterior dike	July 2008	2009
2. Construction and restoration of areas inside old exterior dike (e.g., removal of interior water control structures and cross dikes, soil disking, and restoring riparian surge plain forest)	2009	2009
3. Removal of old exterior dike	2009	2009
4. Construct new boardwalk trail on base of old dike	2010	2010

Measurable Results

<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Target FY 10</i>	<i>Target FY 11</i>
1. Acres restored	760	
2.		
3.		

Budget Estimate 2009-11

	<i>FY 10</i>	<i>FY 11</i>	<i>2009-11</i>
Estimated Expenditure	\$5 million		\$5 million