

# Mason Conservation District

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Board Chair: David Mackey



State Legislative District #35  
Congressional District #6

## 2014 Feature Accomplishment: Skokomish River Estuary restoration project - Phase 3

### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

The District continues restoration of the Skokomish River Estuary, the largest estuarine habitat in Hood Canal. The project is critical to the successful restoration of healthy salmon populations in the Hood Canal. Nearly 20,000 linear feet of dike had been constructed in the salt marsh wetlands. The goal of this project is to restore the natural habitat forming processes, functions, and connections that characterized this landscape prior to conversion to agriculture.



Skokomish Estuary on Southern Hood Canal

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** District staff designed and implemented all phases of the project. In 2007, the project removed over a mile of dike, restoring over 118 acres of salt marsh habitat. In 2010, Phase 2 removed an additional 13,000 feet of dike, restoring over 220 acres of estuarine habitat. Phase 3 (2013) restored historic hydrologic connectivity of large freshwater wetland complex to the estuary of the Skokomish River. This created brackish water conditions characterizing healthy estuarine ecosystems. This project resulted in significant improvements of quantity and quality of available estuarine habitat in the Skokomish estuary and mid-Hood Canal area.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Skokomish Indian Nation; Hood Canal Coordinating Council; WA Resource Conservation Office; US Fish and Wildlife Service; NOAA National Coastal Wetlands; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Other Accomplishments



Johnson Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPPP) project



Greenfield livestock bridge



Skokomish Estuary culvert installation

### More Work to Do!

- Continuing strong interest and requests for assistance for stormwater management and remediation.
- Increasing demand from landowners for salmon recovery projects to remove fish passage barriers, restoring watershed functions to benefit salmon spawning and rearing habitats.
- Respond to expanding interest in small farms and increasing demand for technical and financial assistance to implement water quality best management practices.