



MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Legislative District: 35 Congressional District: 6, 10

Other accomplishments:



Expanded knotweed control efforts by completing the first year of knotweed treatment in two high priority watersheds.



Owners of a new waste storage structure displaying their sign "Completed in Partnership with Mason Conservation District..."



Removed three road crossings on a salmon-bearing stream in partnership with South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

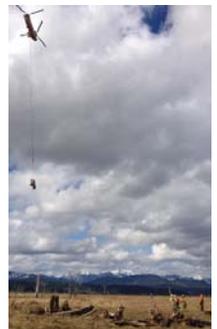
SKOKOMISH RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION

Resource challenge

Multiple plans identify loss and degradation of estuarine habitat as a key limiting factor in recovering salmon populations. The Skokomish Estuary complex constitutes the single largest contiguous saltmarsh habitat in Hood Canal and is utilized by many salmon populations. Here, estuary and ecosystem processes were altered and degraded by historic practices, including building levees and roads, manipulating flow paths, and installing culverts and tide gates.

Project summary and results

In 2007 Mason Conservation District received their first grant to begin restoration of the Skokomish Estuary. In 2017, the district and partners celebrated its completion. This \$8.57 million project restored function to 907 acres of habitat and reduced flooding on the Skokomish Reservation. It involved many elements, including removal of three miles of levee, placement of over 141,000 cubic yards of fill in remnant borrow ditches, restoration of 6.3 miles of tidal channel, removal or modification of 51 fish passage barriers, helicopter placement of 250 pieces of large wood, and planting more than 40 acres.



Helicopter placement of large wood.

Key partners: Skokomish Indian Tribe; Tacoma Public Utilities; Mason Co. PUD 1; Skokomish Watershed Action Team; Hood Canal Coordinating Council; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; US Environmental Protection Agency; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program; Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program; US Fish & Wildlife Service

Before removal of levee that surrounded estuary (2010), and after (2017) showing restored estuarine channel.



MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Fill critical unmet needs by responding to additional landowners waiting to implement water quality best management practices and expanding availability of shoreline landowner technical assistance and education.
- ▶ Continue implementation of species recovery plans and watershed assessments.
- ▶ Implement the Mason County Voluntary Stewardship Program.