

August 24, 2011

AUGUST PROGRESS UPDATE

With the assistance of a Steering Committee and consultant team (Shannon and Wilson), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is evaluating a range of alternatives to restore tidal processes, tidal marsh habitat and tidal channel habitat at WDFW's 264 acre Fir Island Farm project site. The Steering Committee and consultant team have been meeting monthly since December 2009 and met most recently on August 18, 2011.

The Steering Committee and consultant team, WDFW hosted an open house at the headquarters of Diking District #3 in Conway on June 2, 2011. The comments received and WDFW's responses were posted on WDFW's website.

In August, the Steering Committee completed the implementation of the alternative analysis phase of the study. After carefully considering 33 evaluation factors and 5 prioritization criteria, WDFW and the Steering Committee selected restoration alternative 2A as the preferred restoration alternative for the study site. Restoration alternative 2A restores approximately 127 acres of tidal marsh including approximately 17.4 acres of tidal channels. It retains approximately 120 acres of farmland in order to maintain a viable snow goose reserve. It does not include Dry Slough, Brown Slough or the Hayton Family Farm. Restoration alternative 2A will be subject to further analysis and design leading to a draft 30% design report in October.

WDFW anticipates hosting a second open house in November to introduce the draft 30% design report for restoration alternative 2A to the local community.

Study related information can be accessed at WDFW's web site via the following pathway: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/> (WDFW Homepage) under Conservation, click on [WDFW Lands](#) click on [Wildlife Areas](#) (select) [Skagit](#) and click on [Fir Island Farms](#).