

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

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. The Steering Committee and consultant team have been meeting monthly since December 2009 and most recently on November 19 and December 17, 2010.

Most of the baseline data collections have been completed. Baseline data collections in the sloughs are ongoing. The attention of the Steering Committee and consultant team in November and December has been dominated by the task of completing the baseline assessment memos for WDFW's Fir Island Farm, associated sloughs and adjacent tidal marsh. The Steering Committee and consultant team hope to complete the baseline condition phase of the study by early January. The baseline assessment memos will be posted on WDFW's Fir Island Farm website as they are completed.

During this period, the Steering Committee and consultant team continued to refine the restoration alternatives that will be evaluated at WDFW's Fir Island Farm. The restoration alternatives were completed in December and will be posted on WDFW's Fir Island Farm website.

The Steering Committee and consultant team have developed the factors (metrics) that will be used to evaluate the different restoration alternatives. The evaluation factors focus on agriculture crop production, snow geese management, and juvenile Chinook salmon production.

Restoration cost will also be used to evaluate each restoration alternative. The Committee and consultant team have initiated the Alternative Analysis Phase of the study and are confident that sufficient progress will be made to host a public open house in February or March of 2011 when a draft restoration recommendation will be introduced.

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