



2008 ESTUARY AND SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM REPORT

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Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration

Since 2001 the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) has been building tools to support Puget Sound recovery. In 2006, the Washington State Legislature gave the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) a \$2.5 million capital appropriation to begin implementation of early actions, creating the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). A \$12 million appropriation followed in the 2007-09 biennium with the development of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and increasing support for Puget Sound recovery. ESRP is a building block of the Puget Sound Action Agenda collaboratively managed by the PSP, WDFW and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). ESRP implements the strategies and guidance of PSNERP.

ESRP is a prototype for funding and tracking nearshore ecosystem restoration (see the image below). By applying the emerging strategies of PSNERP we anticipate improving on-the-ground results. Projects are selected through regional competitions using peer review and criteria driven by the best available science. Funds are distributed in increments to maximize the activity generated by public investment, maintain accountability and minimize re-appropriation. Projects are evaluated and contracted as part of an integrated learning strategy to improve future work. ESRP funding compliments salmon recovery while reaching new constituencies and developing new approaches necessary to recover and sustain ecosystem health.



Implementing the Puget Sound Action Agenda:

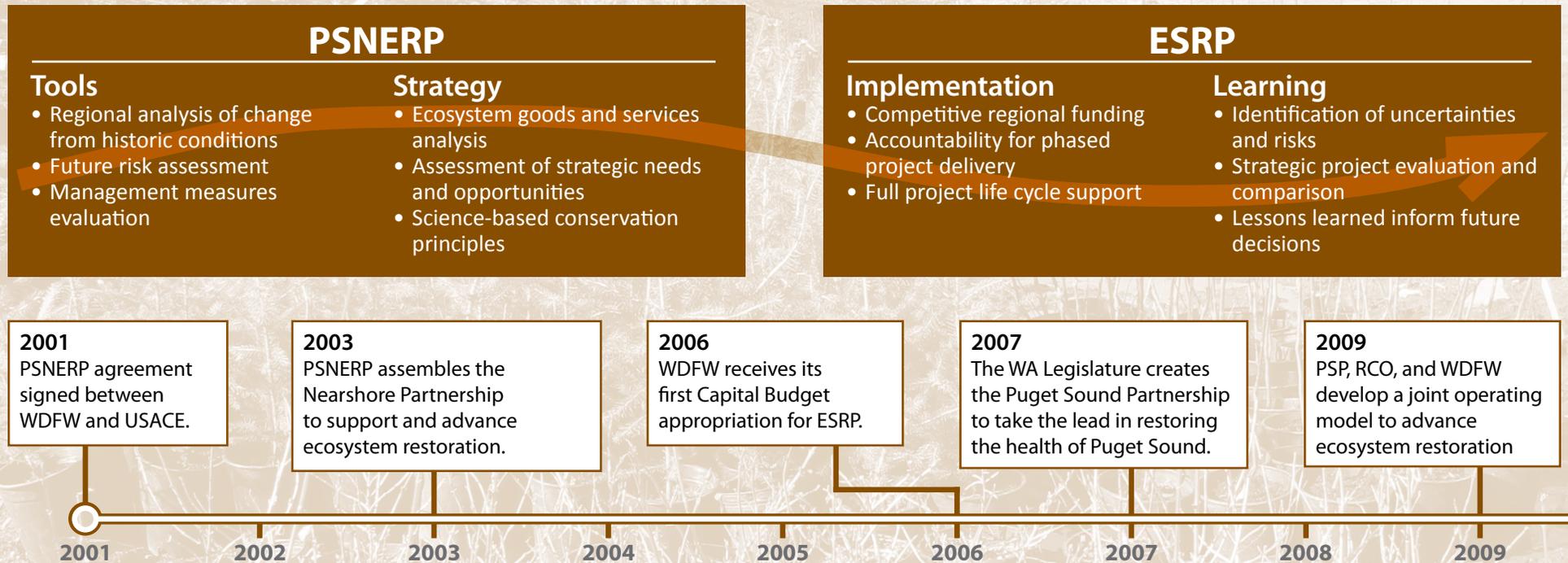
The Nearshore Initiative (the integrated efforts of PSNERP and ESRP led by WDFW) directly contributes to four of five Puget Sound Action Agenda priorities:

Priority A – Protect intact ecosystem processes, structures, and functions – ESRP project funding has resulted in 192 acres of high quality shoreline habitat coming under legal protection, including feeder bluffs that supply sediment to miles of natural beaches and sand flats.

Priority B – Restore ecosystem processes, structures and functions – ESRP supports restoration projects on most major deltas in Puget Sound as well as a variety of embayment and shoreline sites. ESRP projects have completed 251 acres of habitat restoration. An additional 524 acres of implementation will occur in 2009. 1,761 additional acres, currently using ESRP funds for design development or early phases of construction, aim to be completed in the coming biennium. 794 additional acres will complete the feasibility phase under the existing contracts. Our 2009 spending plan advances existing projects, and brings an additional 1,167 acres to completion and another 1,767 acres through the feasibility phase.

Priority D – Work effectively and efficiently together on priority actions – The Nearshore Initiative crosses departmental boundaries, integrating staff from across state, federal, tribal and non-profit partners. PSNERP is creating a system that will identify strategic and prioritized opportunities for nearshore ecosystem restoration. Utilizing that information, ESRP will continue to be an ecosystem restoration prototype that combines diverse resources and articulates a process for collective learning.

Priority E – Build an implementation, monitoring, and accountability management system – ESRP is testing innovative grant management strategies; to track projects through completion, to incorporate project-based learning (which increases the effectiveness of capital funds) and to connect state and federal resources.



Project Portfolio

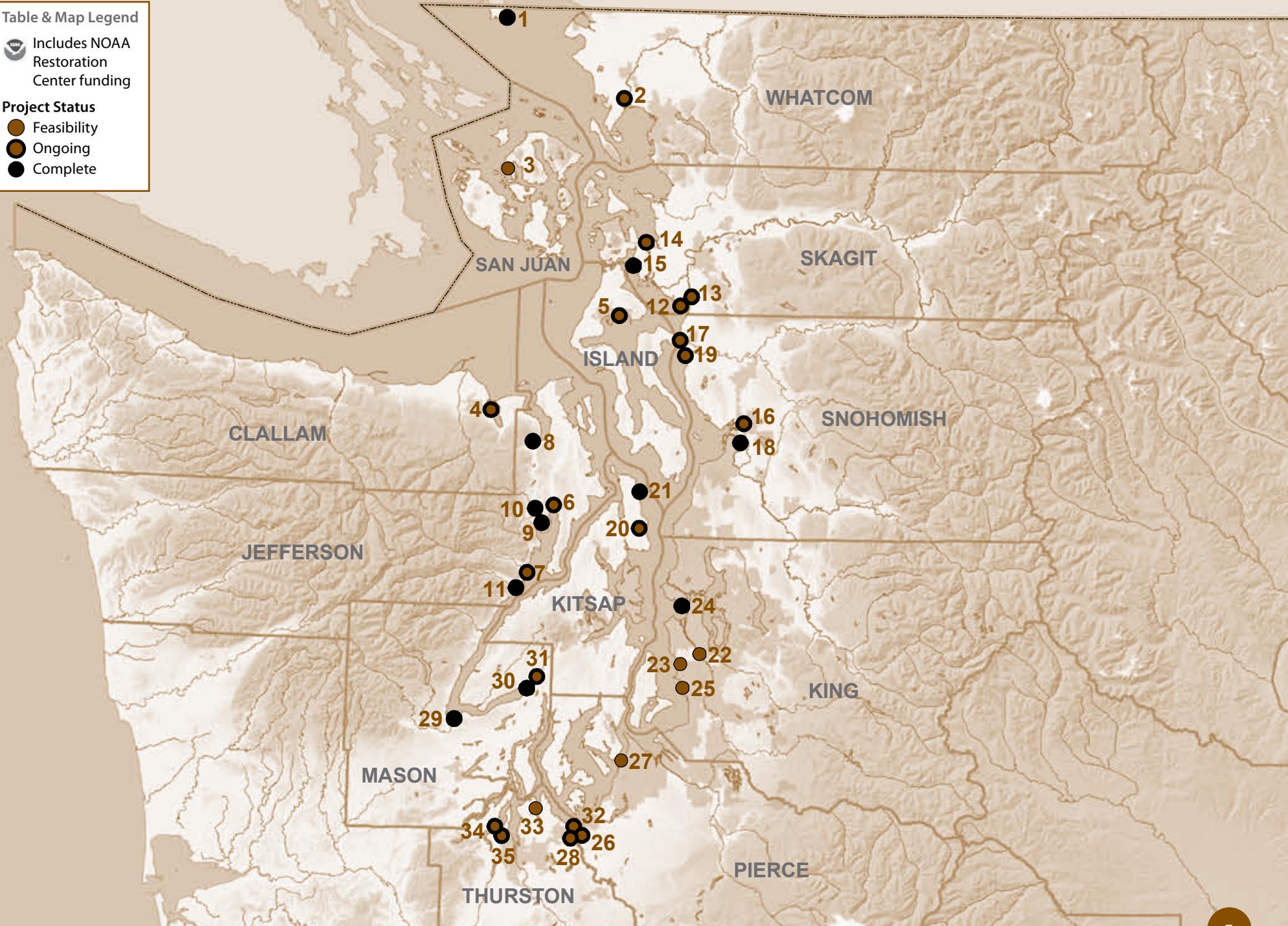
	Sponsor	County	Area	Investment	System	Negotiation Parcel ID	Protection	Feasibility	Design	Implement	Evaluation
Whatcom County											
1	Lily Point Acquisition	Whatcom Land Trust	130 acres	\$1,750,000	Beach						
2	Smugglers Slough Tidal Reconnection	Lummi Nation	620 acres	\$438,000	River delta						
San Juan County											
3	Deer Harbor Bridge Replacement Feasibility	People for Puget Sound	15 acres	\$153,741	Embayment						
Clallam County											
4	Pitship Barrier Estuary Reconnection	North Olympia Salmon Coalition	4.2 acres	\$179,145	Embayment						
Island County											
5	Crescent Harbor Tidal Reconnection	Skagit River System Coop	300 acres	\$417,722	Embayment						
Jefferson County											
6	Tarboo/Dabob Bay Acquisition	The Nature Conservancy	28 acres	\$504,500	Beach						
7	Lower Dosewallips Floodplain Restoration	Wild Fish Conservancy	26 acres	\$471,750	River delta						
8	Salmon Creek Fill Removal	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	11 acres	\$360,000	Embayment						
9	Little Quilcene Estuary Rehabilitation	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	26 acres	\$300,000	River delta						
10	Big Quilcene Ring Dike Removal	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	3 acres	\$200,000	River delta						
11	Duckabush Robinson Road Levee Setback	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	3 acres	\$200,000	River delta						
Skagit County											
12	Wiley Slough Dike Removal	Skagit River System Coop	175 acres	\$541,848	River delta						
13	Fisher Slough Freshwater Tidal Wetland Restoration	The Nature Conservancy	50 acres	\$416,900	River delta						
14	Swinomish Channel Fill Removal	Skagit River System Coop	6 acres	\$120,000	Embayment						
15	Lone Tree Lagoon Adaptive Management	Skagit River System Coop	5 acres	\$35,700	Embayment						
Snohomish County											
16	Qwuloolt Marsh Restoration	Tulalip Tribes of Washington	360 acres	\$433,306	River delta						
17	Leque Island Dike Setback	Ducks Unlimited	115 acres	\$295,158	River delta						
18	Union Slough Dike Breach	Everett Public Works Department	43 acres	\$215,000	River delta						
19	Port Susan Bay Dike Removal	The Nature Conservancy	150 acres	\$191,325	River delta						
Kitsap County											
20	Carpenter Creek Restoration	Kitsap County	26 acres	\$637,000	Embayment						
21	Pilot Point Acquisition	Kitsap County	34 acres	\$505,000	Beach						
King County											
22	Duwamish Gardens	City of Tukwila	2 acres	\$500,000	Artificial						
23	Seahurst Park N Shoreline Feasibility	City of Burien	5 acres	\$375,471	Beach						
24	Olympic Sculpture Park Pocket Beach	Seattle Public Utilities	1 acres	\$177,712	Artificial						
25	Normandy Park Acquisition	Cascade Land Conservancy	3 acres	\$65,000	Beach						
Pierce County											
26	Red Salmon Slough Levee Removal	Nisqually Indian Tribe	150 acres	\$65,000	River delta						
27	Titlow Beach Pocket Estuary Feasibility & Design	South Puget Sound SEG	6 acres	\$51,860	Embayment						
28	Red Salmon Slough Revegetation	Nisqually Indian Tribe	45 acres	\$48,188	River delta						
Mason County											
29	Skokomish West Bank Dike Removal	Mason Conservation District	108 acres	\$940,380	River delta						
30	Belfair State Park Berm Removal	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	6 acres	\$200,000	Beach						
31	Klingel Marsh Restoration	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	13 acres	\$54,000	Embayment						
Thurston County											
32	Nisqually Refuge Restoration	Ducks Unlimited	762 acres	\$2,000,000	River delta						
33	Woodard Bay Restoration Feasibility	WA Dept of Natural Resources	350 acres	\$150,000	Embayment						
34	Snyder Cove Culvert Modification	People for Puget Sound	0.5 acres	\$83,833	Beach						
35	Snyder Cove Bulkhead Feasibility	People for Puget Sound	1 acres	\$25,165	Beach						

Table & Map Legend

 Includes NOAA Restoration Center funding

Project Status

-  Feasibility
-  Ongoing
-  Complete



Emerging Priorities in Restoration

River Delta Restoration

Large river delta wetlands fuel regional food chains and provide critical habitat for a wide variety of species, including imperiled Chinook and Chum salmon. Beginning with awards in 2006, ESRP has supported projects in Nooksack, Skagit, Stilliguamish, Snohomish, Duwamish, Nisqually, Skokomish, Duckabush, and Quilcene River deltas. We are working with regional experts like The Nature Conservancy, Northwest Fisheries Science Center and the Skagit River Systems Cooperative to develop methods for evaluating and comparing projects so that we can make better funding decisions and learn from past work to develop better projects in the future. The 2009 spending plan would complete removal of dikes on the Skokomish and Nisqually Deltas and prepare for massive restoration efforts in the Snohomish Estuary.

Shoreline Restoration

Current investments have preserved feeder bluffs that provide sediments to nourish our beaches and protected large shoreline parcels that create 'habitat islands' providing refuge for nearshore dependant species. ESRP is restoring coastal inlets, hotspots for conservation of nearshore biodiversity and evaluating techniques for restoring the ecological function of urban shorelines. The 2009 spending plan continues acquisition of high priority sites that protect shoreline biodiversity, while advancing opportunities to protect and restore beach sediment supply. The innovative products of PSNERP, based on Puget Sound-wide data analysis, will provide an increasingly detailed road map for strategic protection and restoration of our shorelines.

Accountability and Collaboration

ESRP continues to implement and evaluate its approach to more efficiently deliver on-the-ground ecosystem restoration guided by a diverse stakeholder community representing a cross-section of nearshore restoration partners. Close integration with PSNERP science will continue to inform competitive proposal review and support the Puget Sound Action Agenda. The partnership with NOAA Restoration Center continues to provide a valuable link to federal capital and expertise. ESRP's contracting approach allows us to share project documentation and maintain accountability for project goals, budgets and time lines, while minimizing unnecessary administrative burdens on our local partners. Our evaluation strategies use monitoring to answer important questions and solve problems to improve the next generation of projects.



The Estuary and Salmon Program restores the health of the Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem by funding and facilitating community action to protect and restore nearshore ecosystem processes.





“ESRP provides critical funding to restore Puget Sound shoreline habitats which have been neglected for too long. I appreciate the program’s commitment to strong science and partnering with local groups.”

Ginny Broadhurst
Director, Northwest Straits Commission

“The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program is a success story. It identifies and funds projects that are based on solid ecosystem science and helps us address protection and restoration challenges in a comprehensive manner.”

John Ladenburg
Pierce County Executive

“The Nature Conservancy shares the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program’s commitment to restoring and protecting the Puget Sound’s critical shoreline habitats. ESRP staff identify and fund the most promising nearshore conservation actions, and then work with project proponents to strengthen each project to assure success and provide learning where possible, an approach TNC fully endorses.”

Jacques White
Marine Conservation Program Director,
The Nature Conservancy

“The ESRP has filled a critical gap allowing us to accelerate our work to protect and restore critical estuary and nearshore habitat in Puget Sound before it is permanently lost.”

Jeanette Dorner
Salmon Recovery Program Manager/
Nisqually Watershed Lead Entity
Coordinator, Nisqually Tribe

“The ESRP is exceptional at using emerging science of the nearshore to help guide salmon habitat restoration and protection efforts in Puget Sound. The program is particularly unique in supporting learning opportunities that inform policy decisions of elected officials.”

Doug Osterman
City of Normandy Park Councilman