

From: [Rick Hartson](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Scott Schuyler](#); [Jon-Paul Shannahan](#)
Subject: Comment on SEPA No. 20021
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 9:22:44 AM

On behalf of Scott Schuyler, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, please accept the following comments related to SEPA DNS 20-021: North Leque Island Restoration:

Upper Skagit Indian Tribe supports restoration of tidal process to North Leque Island. The restored habitat would be utilized by juvenile salmonids migrating from the Skagit River. The Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan and subsequent research highlights the importance of nearshore tidal habitats for survival and growth of juvenile Chinook. Many Chinook emigrating through the South Fork Skagit River head south along nearshore habitats, reaching North Leque Island within one day of travel time. Due to the close proximity to the Skagit River and the known importance of historic habitat types at North Leque Island, the project would provide an important benefit to Skagit Chinook and salmonid recovery efforts. The Tribe believes that restoration of full tidal process should be the ultimate goal for the area. This includes the proposed removal of dike 1 and the expected future phase to cut dike 2.

Thank you,

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