

## Island Unit Advisory Group – Information Requests

The following questions/information requests are summarized from discussions with Island Unit stakeholders, including members of the Island Unit Advisory Group. The questions raised by the group will guide the development of information that is presented to the Advisory Group and incorporated into the alternatives analysis.

- How much does it cost to operate Island Unit, as currently managed?
- How many hunters use Island Unit?
- Have there been any studies of waterfowl or other birds at Island Unit?
- Where will birds that currently use the Island Unit move, if the area is restored?
- Are there particular areas within Island Unit that are more/less valuable for waterfowlers?
- What is the status of the tidegates at Island Unit and cost/likelihood of repair?
- What are projected climate change impacts at Island Unit?
- Are there estimated post-restoration maintenance costs? (e.g., invasive species removal - primarily cattails)
- What are the projected gains in salmon returns under the various Island Unit restoration scenarios?

### Additions from meeting #1:

- Is there any unique habitat at Island Unit that would be displaced under the full restoration scenario?
- Is there more detailed information on forecasted positive and negative impacts to fish and waterfowl under each management alternative?
- How have hunting opportunities changed over the past several years in the North Puget Sound region?
- What is the impact on hunting of changing the Island Unit from current status to tidal estuary?

In addition, we received comments related to the Island Unit during the Skagit Wildlife Area planning process open house and comment period (summer 2019). Many of the questions and information requests from that process were similar to those posed by the Island Unit Advisory Group, and fell into the following general topic areas:

- Estuary restoration and salmon
- Fish harvest policy and management
- Waterfowl conservation
- Waterfowl hunting
- Tidegates/infrastructure

WDFW used the list of information requests gathered through the Island Unit Advisory Group process and the Skagit Wildlife Area Open House to form the topic areas addressed at the Island Unit Advisory Group Workshop on February 3, 2020. This list will continue to be used as a reference throughout the process.