


Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Conservation Action Plan (2012) Progress Tracker – River Delta

Last updated 8/15/2023.




Progress Legend			
Color coding for each action:			
Needs refinement/consider relevance	No progress made; needs attention	Some progress made; not meeting targeted goals	Progress is on-track or complete

Conservation Target 1: River Delta. The river delta is where the freshwater Stillaguamish River meets saltwater. This includes wetland habitats (or salt marsh), eelgrass, mud flats, and the physical processes that form them. These are the environments that form important habitats for other conservation targets.					
Objective	Strategic Action	2012 Opportunity Rank	Resources to track and report on progress	Actions Completed To-Date	Action Metrics (if applicable)
Objective 1: Increase delta complexity of approximately 100(+/-) acres between South Pass and Hat Slough and improve flood conveyance by creating a restoration project that increase freshwater inputs to the mudflats by 2020.	Strategic Action 1: Develop agreements and incentives for landowners to redistribute flood water into new distributary channels on their land by 2015.	High	Seek updates from <u>Snohomish County' Sustainable Lands Strategy</u> . In 2012, there were plans for the Stillaguamish Watershed Council partners to solicit interest from local delta landowners (particularly those who have known stormwater flooding issues) <u>Upcoming project to track:</u> Channel Migration Easements (Snohomish County). As of 2022, this is still a pilot program in the Lower Skykomish	Agricultural Resilience Plan, Snohomish Conservation District	
	Strategic Action 2: Design and build appropriate (historic) distributary channels to convey flood water to 200 (+/-) acres of mudflat by 2020.	High	Seek updates from <u>Snohomish County' Sustainable Lands Strategy</u> <u>Upcoming projects to track:</u> zis a ba II (2024 or 2025), Stillaguamish Tribe; Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration (enhancement of the 150 acres), The Nature Conservancy	Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration Project, Port Susan Bay Preserve (2012, The Nature Conservancy)	150 acres of estuary restored
				Livingston Bay Pocket Estuary Restoration (2012, The Nature Conservancy)	10 acres restored
				Greenwood Creek Enhancement Project (2014, Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish County SWM, Snohomish MRC)	1 barrier culvert replaced; 250 ft of stream made accessible
			zis a ba Estuary Restoration (2017, Stillaguamish Tribe)	87 acres of estuary restored	

				Kristopherson Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project (2018, Snohomish Conservation District)	2 culverts replaced; 1.6 miles of stream made accessible
				Leque Island Restoration Project (2019 WA Department of Fish and Wildlife)	250 acres of estuary restored
				Martha Creek Pocket Estuary Restoration (2021, Tulalip Tribes)	.2 acres of estuary restored .1 miles of stream restored
				Leque Island Restoration Project North (2022 WA Department of Fish and Wildlife)	26 acres of estuary restored
	Strategic Action 3: Work with the Snohomish Conservation District and WSU Snohomish County Extension Agriculture Educators to improve BMPs in new and existing channel drainage areas to meet all DOE water quality regulations by 2020.	High	Seek updates from the <u>Snohomish Conservation District</u> <u>Upcoming project to track:</u> Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Phase 3, Snohomish Conservation District Consider adding new partners and refining this action. There is a new funding landscape and stakeholder engagement efforts		<i>Percent of property owners in new and existing channel drainage areas that received education and outreach and have implemented BMPs</i>
Objective 2: Reduce the delivery of flood water to the whole delta area to accommodate more productive agriculture that allows farmers to return a portion of their land to natural functioning conditions (either buffer or marsh). Goals for marsh and buffers are consistent with salmon recovery plan of restoring a minimum of 315 acres of estuarine area by 2016.	Strategic Action 1: City of Stanwood and Snohomish County solidify wetland protection, connection, and restoration components as part of stormwater retrofits in Comprehensive Plans by 2015, to create increased water storage in agricultural fields and decrease runoff.	High	Seek updates on discussions with the <u>City of Stanwood</u> . Connect with Kevin Hushagen, Public Works Director, City of Stanwood <u>Project to track:</u> Irvine Slough Retrofit, City of Stanwood	Irvine Slough Retrofit (2022, City of Stanwood)	
	Strategic Action 2: Retrofit Stanwood developments with low impact development (LID) techniques by 2020.	Medium	Seek updates on discussions with the <u>City of Stanwood</u> . Connect with Kevin Hushagen, Public Works Director, City of Stanwood <u>Project to track:</u> Irvine Slough Retrofit, City of Stanwood	Irvine Slough Retrofit (2022, City of Stanwood)	
Objective 3: Work with farmers, researchers and marketers to develop profitable and environmentally sustainable opportunities to farm under the changing conditions in the Stillaguamish Delta.	Strategic Action 1: Farm Link connects Snohomish Farm Incubator (farm hands-on training center, including classes on regulations and ecosystem processes) graduates with Stillaguamish properties to encourage incoming farms to promote stewardship and environmentally friendly productivity techniques.	Medium	Seek updates on funding for <u>Farm Incubator program</u> Connect with <u>Lisa Neunzig and Snohomish Conservation District</u> about the Incubator Resource Center		
	Strategic Action 2: WSU Snohomish County Extension Agriculture and Snohomish Conservation District conduct outreach to teach environmental stewardship and productivity	Medium	Port Susan Food and Farming Center no longer in existence	Snohomish County Agriculture Resilience Plan (2019, Snohomish Conservation District)	<i>Number of acres of farmland that are using environmentally sustainable techniques</i>

	techniques for farmers to respond to growing demand for local food produced with good environmental stewardship techniques (and increase profitability by 10-20% overall).		Seek updates from the <u>Snohomish Conservation District</u> Seek updates from <u>Sustainable Lands Strategy</u> and <u>Community Floodplain Solutions</u> Consider refining strategy and adding more partners – there is a new funding landscape and stakeholder engagement efforts		
	Strategic Action 3: Promote local sustainable seafood harvesting options for salmon, clams and crustaceans.	Low	Investigate other existing communication materials for sustainable seafood harvesting for salmon and crustaceans <u>To track:</u> Stillaguamish Tribe’s plans for Triangle Cove. As of 2022, no apparent plans for commercial shellfish aquaculture Consider adding additional context for connections to Water Quality	Shellfish Foraging Guide to Port Susan and South Skagit Bay (2014, Pacific Shellfish Institute) Port Susan Shellfish Dinner (2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, Snohomish County SWM)	N/A N/A
Objective 4: In areas that have degraded flood protection infrastructure, construct set back dikes that ensure that fields behind the setbacks will be better protected and return a portion of the original property to tidal marsh in partnership with the Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS), Stillaguamish River Flood Control District, and the Stillaguamish Technical Advisory Group (STAG).	Strategic Action 1: Evaluate areas with high salinity due to frequent tidally influenced river flooding.	None	Seek updates from the <u>Sustainable Lands Strategy</u>	Ag Resilience Plan, Snohomish Conservation District Groundwater study including salinity, Snohomish Conservation District	
	Strategic Action 2: Construct set back dikes that protect property.	None	Seek updates from the <u>Sustainable Lands Strategy</u> Consider follow up with the Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, and the Tulalip Tribes	Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration Project, Port Susan Bay Preserve (2012, The Nature Conservancy Snohomish Co) Martha Creek Pocket Estuary Project	2012: 150 acres of estuary restored
	Strategic Action 3: Restore areas on the waterward side of the dike.	None	Seek updates from the <u>Sustainable Lands Strategy</u> . Consider follow up with the Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, and the Tulalip Tribes	Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration Project, Port Susan Bay Preserve (2012, The Nature Conservancy Snohomish Co) Martha Creek Pocket Estuary Project	2012: 150 acres of estuary restored
<i>Conservation Target Summary: River Delta</i>					
	Progress has been made on 9 out of 11 strategic actions listed in the original plan. No strategic actions are characterized as “needs attention” and the acreage goal for restoration was exceeded by over double.				

Progress icons indicating Conservation Target status:

	On track; meeting or exceeding expected progress on objectives and actions
	Room for improvement; some progress made but more needed
	Little to no progress made; work to do in next 10 years

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