

PROJECT SUMMARY

NAME: Secret Harbor Estuary and Salt Marsh Restoration

LOCATION: Cypress Island/Skagit/Washington

ACRES: 27.5 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:

Washington Department of Natural Resources

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will restore a continuum of estuarine, riverine, and palustrine wetlands and adjacent upland habitat using a phased construction approach. Phase I will restore mud-flats and an estuarine dendritic channel pattern by breaching the existing dike. Phase II will include filling a ditch and recontouring topography to restore upland, riparian and wetland habitats up-gradient of the restored estuarine wetlands. Phase III will focus on restoration and reconnection of a stock pond and abandoned sewage lagoon with the restored stream channel to provide stream flow and off-channel rearing habitat.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

This project will improve water quality in the pocket estuary through restoration of tidal exchange and salt marsh habitats. Greater structural habitat complexity will support greater diversity of species and increase net productivity. Nearshore fisheries resources will benefit by restoring the pocket estuary, as will human services for recreation and education.

STATUS: Planning and Design