

**NAME:** Salt Creek Estuary Restoration

**LOCATION:** Salt Creek Watershed, Clallam County, Washington

**ACRES:** 22.5 acres saltmarsh

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** North Olympic Salmon Coalition

**PROJECT COST:**

Total Project Cost	\$1,187,484
Total Federal Share of Project Cost	\$771,881 (65.0%)
ERA amount	\$771,881
Other Federal funds	\$0

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Salt Creek Estuary Reconnection project will significantly enhance tidal and fluvial hydrology to 22.5 acres of salt marsh, which will return the salt marsh to its historic size of 77 acres. The project proposes to remove two dams to reclaim habitat for ESA listed chinook salmon, ESA listed steelhead and other anadromous fish species. Through the installation of two bridges, tidal hydrology, fish passage, nutrient cycling and tidal channel forming processes will be restored to the isolated marsh.

**EXPECTED BENEFITS:**

Project design will create a restoration project that is completely self sustaining through the creation of bridge openings that allow adequate tidal inundation and flushing. The influx of salt water will halt the transition of vegetation to upland species. Regular tidal flooding of the existing marsh surface will maintain constructed tidal channels and increase their complexity. Fish and wildlife that rely on estuarine salt marsh habitats will have access to the restored marsh from adjacent Salt Creek. Restored hydrology will increase fish use of this critical nursery environment and the restoration of appropriate plant and fish communities will support bird and mammalian communities who use intact salt marsh as important feeding grounds.

**STATUS:** Planning and Design