

Welcome to our e-newsletter that will provide information about Snohomish County's Smith Island Restoration Project. Please feel free to forward it to others who might be interested.



Smith Island project still on schedule, fully funded

With full funding, Smith Island is moving forward. That was Thursday's message to members of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum Board.

"The lion's share of the funding comes from RCO (the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office) and for that we're thankful," said Debbie Terwilliger, Snohomish County's Surface Water Management director and Smith Island project sponsor.



Last month, Snohomish County withdrew its final Environmental Impact Statement for the project while it also pursues a shoreline permit. The delayed FEIS will be reissued in October, but Terwilliger said the delay should have no bearing on the project's timeline.

"We believe we can have permits for construction in hand by the spring with construction slated to begin in the summer," she said. "This will allow for more public review and the inclusion of updated information."

The Smith Island Restoration Project will restore tidal marshlands in

August 2013

This e-newsletter will provide you with the latest information about Snohomish County's Smith Island Restoration Project.

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the Snohomish River estuary, re-establishing vital habitat for endangered Chinook salmon and other native fish. It is one part of Snohomish County's Sustainable Lands Strategy and covers about 400 acres.

Ten-year goals call for about 1,200 acres to be restored in the region, board members said, meaning the Smith Island project will account for about one-third of those goals.

With construction less than a year away, there's still plenty of work to be done, including communicating the worth of the \$18 million project to stakeholders and local residents. Snohomish County is redesigning its Web pages dedicated to the project and information can now also be found on [Facebook](#).

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Salmon recovery necessary on lower Skykomish River



Snohomish County employees Bob Aldrich (left) and Brett Gaddis (center) discuss key points to a proposed salmon restoration project on the lower Skykomish River as local farmer and property owner Jerry Labish listens. Along with the three were officials from Snohomish County and Washington state agencies including the Department of Natural Resources. The proposed project is part of the Sustainable Lands Strategy, which is working to improve fish habitat while protecting agricultural interests. While Smith Island provides necessary estuary improvements, work must also be done on the rivers feeding the Snohomish River basin.

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For more information about this project, visit our [Smith Island Web page](#).

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