

FAQ

Mann Rd & Ben Howard Rd

1. Where are the proposed improvements on Mann Road and Ben Howard Road?

Two locations on Ben Howard Road (A & B) and one on Mann Road at Devil's Elbow have been identified for road improvements. The locations were selected based on the findings of a feasibility study performed to understand flooding in this area. The study looked at where the roads flood, to what extent, and how the levels of the Skykomish River correlate with flooding. The results of the study identified four locations susceptible to flooding at or less than a two-year recurrence interval. Three of the four locations are planned to be raised.

2. Why can't 311th Ave SE be raised?

Due to the widespread flooding on 311th Avenue SE, it is not feasible to raise the entire one-mile stretch of road. The flooding is not localized like it is at the other locations. This would likely block the water flow and potentially have unintentional consequences to the surrounding area by creating a dam effect.

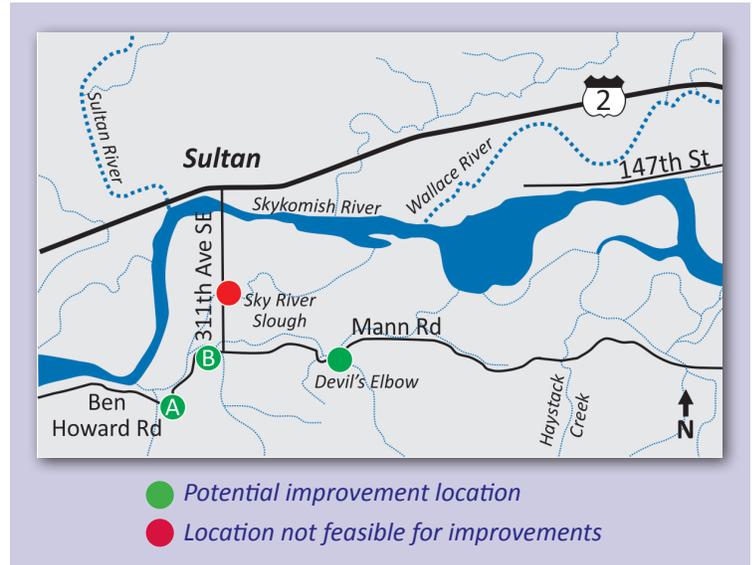
3. Why can't a bridge be built across the river to the east, connecting to US 2?

The portion of the Skykomish River, east of Sultan, is a braided reach, meaning it moves back and forth and is characterized by a network of conveyance channels, islands of varying stability, and temporary gravel bars. A bridge in this unstable section of river is not feasible at this time.

4. What is the current status of the project?

Currently, this project is in the early design, survey, and environmental review phase. County personnel will be collecting road and infrastructure data to support engineering design, and mapping of the project areas to identify sensitive environmental areas so potential impacts can be minimized or avoided.

A tentative project schedule is posted to the project web page: snohomishcountywa.gov/3759.



5. Why is the county requesting temporary construction easement from property owners?

As part of the permitting requirements, the county will be conducting environmental studies and performing topographic survey work. This includes reviewing the project vicinity to determine the presence of any protected habitat such as wetlands, streams or endangered species. A county biologist will be walking on roads and properties that have granted access, taking pictures and collecting soil samples using hand tools to investigate soil type near wetland locations. All holes will be backfilled after samples are taken. Temporary flags may be put in place to identify wetland boundaries and stream ordinary high-water marks.

In addition, a topographic survey will be performed by survey crews to collect ground contours, drainage features, utilities, large trees, existing structures and boundaries of critical areas. Any time county staff digs a hole on private property, it is considered construction and a temporary construction easement is required. The letter outlines the extent of what can be done on the private property.

(continued on next page)



Floodwaters backing up from the South Slough towards Ben Howard Road at Location A



Water inching towards Ben Howard Road at Location B

6. Is this project going to cause flood waters to rise higher than they would have prior to the project?

The project will be designed to allow water to pass under the road via culverts that will be installed at specific locations. Water is expected to be able to move under the road freely. As the design phase progresses, the county is required to perform additional hydraulic analysis to demonstrate the project will not impact flood levels or cause adverse impacts to the nearby properties.

7. During the environmental survey process, will the results of wetland delineation be reported?

Wetlands and streams delineated on private parcels will not be recorded with the Snohomish County Auditor's office. The information obtained from delineations by county staff will be used to determine the project's impacts to wetlands, streams, and their upland buffers. This information is required by local, state and federal agencies in order for them to issue permits applicable to the project. Only when a private-property owner submits an application for a development activity that requires a permit through a local, state, or federal agency, will critical areas be recorded with the Auditor's office.

8. What size culverts will be used in this project?

This project is still in the design phase so the specific sizes of the culverts have not been determined. It is likely that the current culvert at Devil's Elbow will be replaced with a larger rectangle culvert.

9. How will this project impact my well or other infrastructure on my property?

Snohomish County Public Works will keep existing infrastructure such as wells in mind during the design phase and construction of the project. Please tell us where your well or other infrastructure is located so we can minimize or avoid impacting it.

10. How can I report a flooding problem?

- Road flooding: Road Maintenance, 425-388-7500, Contact.PWRM@snoco.org
- Property flooding: Surface Water Management, 425-388-3464, SPW-ContactSurfaceWater@snoco.org

11. How can I get more information about the project?

Visit the project web page at snohomishcountywa.gov/3759

- [Mann Road Analysis Summary and Recommendations](#)
- [Mann Road Hydraulic Modeling Report](#)
- [Mann Road Public Meeting Handout](#)

12. How can I stay informed about the project status?

Sign up to receive project notifications at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WASNOHOMISHCO/subscriber/new?topic_id=WASNOHOMISHCO_66