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| Project Name | McNeil Island Estuary Restoration - Bodley Creek & Floyds Cove |
| Enter your project summary. Include your goals and objectives. | <p>In this project, we will restore full tidal exchange and tidal connectivity to Bodley Creek and Floyds Cove on McNeil Island. In focusing on restoration of habitat processes, the project will also provide full fish passage and improved habitat conditions within the estuary.</p> <p>Floyds Cove is a former pocket estuary that was impacted by road construction prior to 1956. Pre-development Floyds Cove was an open estuary with a barrier beach extending to the south from the northern shoreline. Four small streams flow into Floyds Cove. The embankment that impounds the existing pond was constructed to help provide freshwater to Butterworth Reservoir, similar to the Bodley Creek site. There is an existing pump house and diversion that are inoperable currently. Additionally, the shoreline is heavily armored with a combination of riprap, piling, and submarine cable bulkheads.</p> <p>Bodley Creek is tidal marsh bisected by a road. The 36" culvert is fitted with a 10' standpipe, completely disconnecting the extensive freshwater wetlands with the tidal marsh. Beaver use in the freshwater wetland is evident, although they may not be present at this time due to lack of appropriate vegetation.</p> <p>The work will be phased as funding becomes available. In the first phase we will improve the habitat for beaver use and reduce the impoundment. We will be planting the site this month with native plants such as willows and cottonwoods, including some in exclusion areas to allow the plants to establish. If permits are available in summer, we will gradually remove the standpipe to lower the impoundment and construct beaver dam analogs as the water drops.</p> <p>At Floyds Cove, the culvert will be replaced with a 80-100' bridge at the opposite end (as shown in the T-sheet) to allow full tidal exchange. In addition, shoreline armor will</p> |

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| | <p>be removed and replaced, where necessary, using soft-shore techniques wherever practical. With existing funding and this award, we expect to be able to complete the beaver-assisted Bodley Creek preliminary work and the Floyds Cove culvert replacement and shoreline modifications.</p> <p>The final phase of this work will replace the Bodley Creek culvert with a fish-passable structure (80' x 20') that also restores full tidal connectivity.</p> |
| Category | Restoration |
| Please list all other related projects. | <p>We have been working toward marine shoreline restoration at McNeil Island in partnership with DNR & Dept of Corrections since 2014. In 2015, WDFW & DNR developed a marine habitat restoration feasibility study (available on request) to identify projects for development and implementation. WDFW completed the Barge Landing project in 2018, using funds from Dept of Ecology through the Asarco settlement. DNR completed a marine shoreline debris removal in 2018 using DNR Aquatic Restoration funds. WDFW completed the Milewa Estuary Restoration Project in 2021 using funding from DOE Asarco settlement and ESRP (PRISM 18-2072). WDFW is currently working on design and permitting for Bodley Creek and Floyds Cove with remaining ESRP funds (including 21-1456 in progress). DNR is continuing work on Still Harbor restoration projects using DNR Aquatic Restoration funds. We provided a general overview of restoration work at McNeil Island during a November 2021 TAG meeting and can provide more information on these projects as needed.</p> |
| Is this project identified in a salmon or steelhead recovery plan, watershed assessment and restoration plan, nearshore recovery plan, or recovery strategy? | Yes |
| Please identify which and explain. | <p>McNeil Island has not had a high profile in salmon recovery or watershed plans, often due to limited access to the island. While the streams are short-run and would likely support limited salmon use, the nearshore habitat is documented for use by juvenile</p> |

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| | <p>salmon and forage fish. McNeil Island is approximately 5.5 miles north of the Nisqually River delta. The Nisqually Indian Tribe Department of Natural Resources conducted a delta fish ecology assessment around McNeil Island between 2010 and 2015. The results of this work show that the highest number of hatchery Chinook salmon (50%) caught along the McNeil shoreline during this sampling period were from the Nisqually Basin. This study found the highest number of salmon that used the nearshore of McNeil Island were pink, chum, and Chinook (2010-2015 Juvenile Fish Ecology in the Nisqually River Delta and Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve). Bodley Creek culvert replacement was identified in the KGI Nearshore Restoration Plan (2011) as Project 50 and in the Nearshore Chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook recovery plan (2005) as Not Properly Functioning pocket estuaries (McNeil Island -17, 18 & 19) with potential feeding benefits for Chinook. The estuary restoration projects are identified in the updated WDFW South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Plan.</p> |
| <p>Has the landowner acknowledged the project?</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Explain your answer here</p> | <p>WDFW is the landowner for the proposed projects. WDFW is working in partnership with DNR and DOC, adjacent landowners.</p> |
| <p>Which species will benefit from this project?</p> | <p>Juvenile Chinook salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, surf smelt, Pacific sand lance and estuarine fish species (e.g. flatfish, perch).</p> |
| <p>Describe the limiting factors and/or ecological concerns that your project will address (e.g., issues related to fish passage, riparian conditions, water quality and quantity, and climate change).</p> | <p>Bodley Creek and Floyds Cove project objectives are to restore full tidal exchange and tidal connectivity to the sites. At this time, fish passage is fully blocked by undersized culverts and standpipes. Our proposal will allow habitat transition from saltwater to freshwater habitats, provide fish passage and improve habitat conditions to support juvenile salmon that use estuarine habitats. In addition, shoreline armor at Floyds Cove will be removed and shoreline protection, where needed, will be improved to use soft shore techniques wherever possible.</p> |

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| | <p>In the Salmon Recovery Portal, I checked NO because only the Bodley Creek project was identified (SS McNeil 11-50) and not the Floyds Cove project. The Bodley Creek project needs to be updated. It would also be good to add or update the projects we've completed recently.</p> <p>For the project list, I checked NO because the projects are not currently there. However, DNR & DFW submitted the list during the transitional period, so it's likely that it's in progress and doesn't indicate lack of support.</p> |
| Project Sponsor | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Primary Contact | Doris Small |
| Is this project on the Salmon Recovery Portal (formerly known as Habitat Work Schedule)? | No |
| Is this project on West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery's 2021-2022 Planned Project Forecast List (PPFL)? | No |
| For which grants are you applying? | TBD |
| What is the total cost of the project? | \$1,700,000 |
| What is the total request of the grant? | \$495,250 |
| What are the available matching funds? | \$1,204,750 |