



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

WELCOME

Today's Schedule

9:30	Open House
10:00	Presentation
10:20	Public Comment
10:50	Open House
11:30	Adjourn

Ways to comment:

Paper

Fill out a form at today's meeting and leave it in the comment box.

Online

www.bit.ly/DuckabushEstuary

Email

SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov

Mail

Lisa Wood, SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division
P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Provide informal oral comments today - sign up at the welcome table.

Scoping comments due **Friday July 26, 2019 at 5 p.m.**



Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

What is SEPA?

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review process helps decision-makers, and the public understand how a government action would affect the environment. Information learned through the SEPA review process can be used to approve, modify or deny a proposal.

What is your role in scoping?

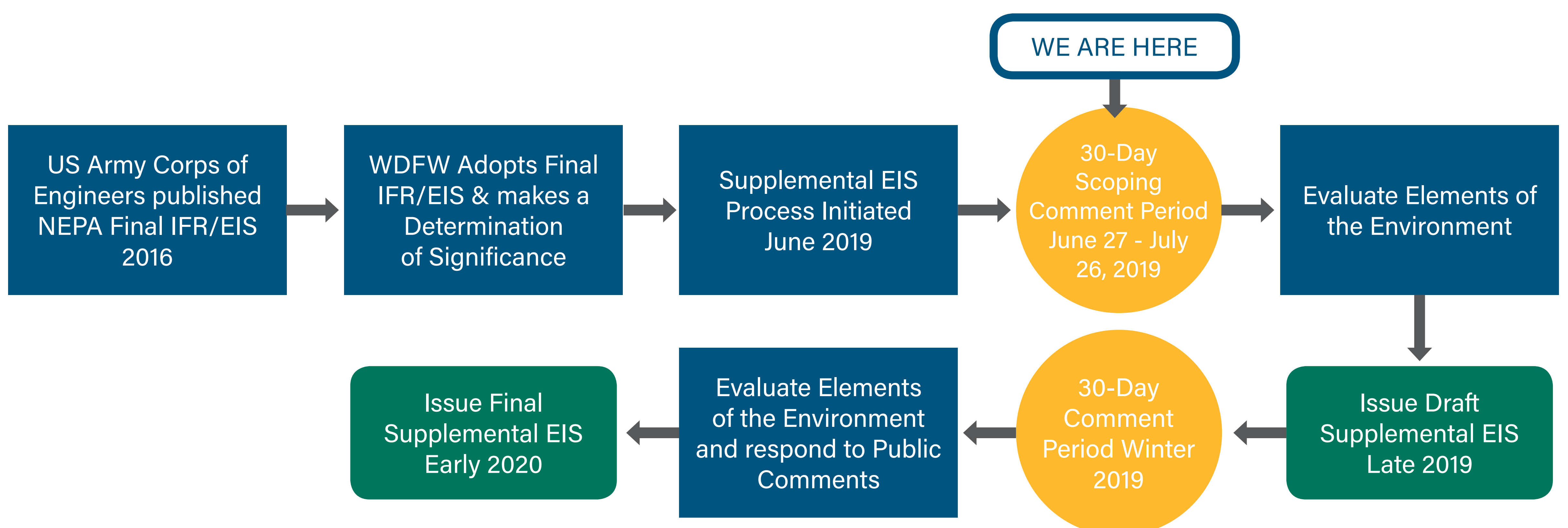
You can provide comments to help identify which environmental issues and concerns to evaluate in the SEIS.

How will comments be used?

Public comments and additional data will be evaluated and incorporated into a Draft SEIS. The draft document is expected to be available in late 2019 for review and comment.

Why is a SEIS being prepared?

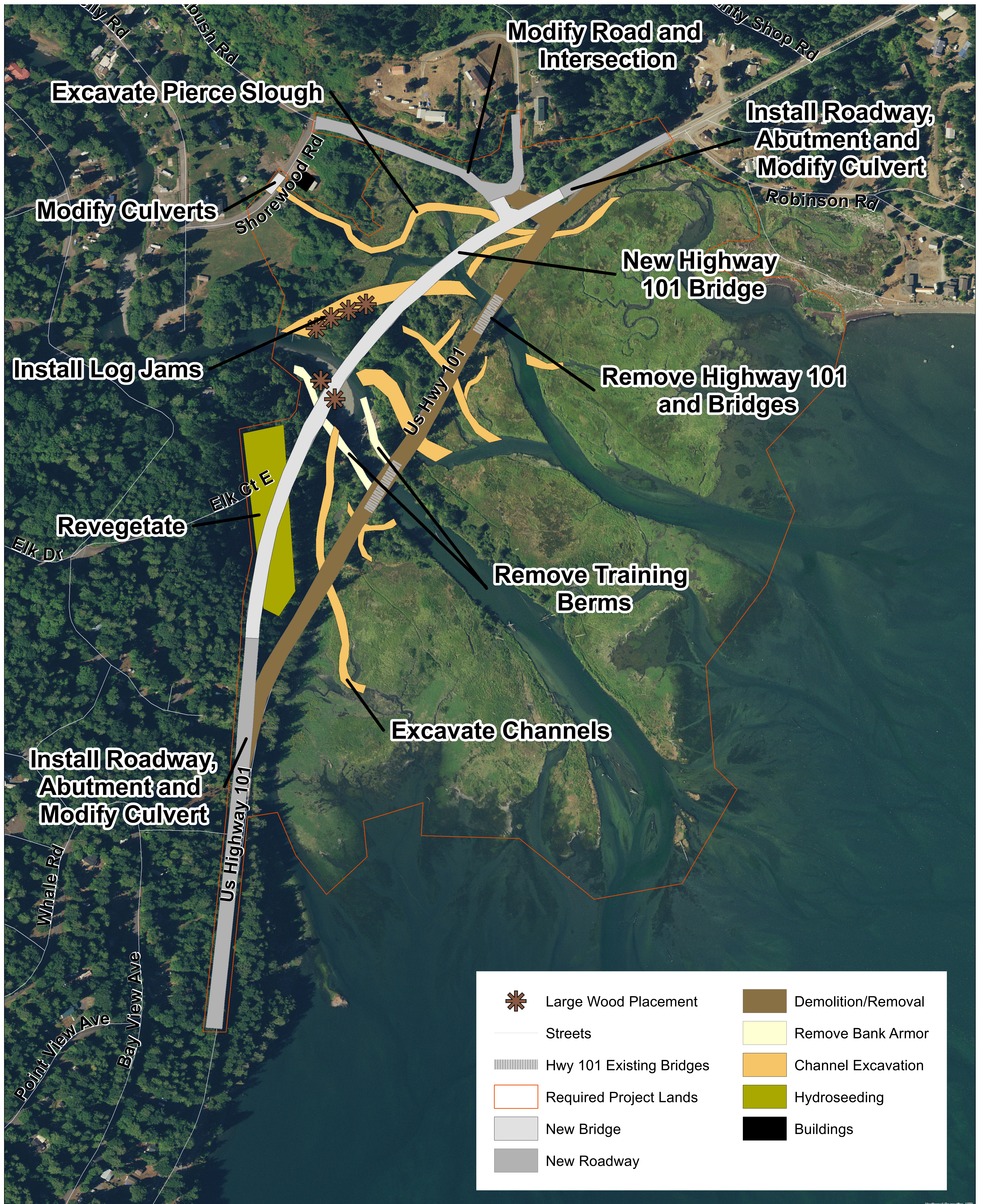
A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is a document that adds additional analysis to a previously published EIS. Federal environmental review of the Duckabush Estuary Restoration project was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to satisfy the EIS requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The document titled "Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration: Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement" was completed in 2016. WDFW is supplementing this EIS in order to provide more site-specific information and analysis.





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Conceptual Project Design





Project Description



The project would reconnect the Duckabush River to floodplains and wetlands by modifying local roads and elevating Highway 101 onto a bridge. These changes would improve the quality and quantity of wetlands within the estuary.

Project Features:

- Relocate and elevate Highway 101 upstream to reconnect channels and wetland habitat.
- Remove levees/berms to allow channel migration.
- Improve intersection of Highway 101 and Duckabush Road and modify Shorewood Road at Pierce Slough.
- Excavate channels, increase habitat complexity, and plant native vegetation.

Anticipated Project Benefits:

- Improved habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife, including endangered Hood Canal summer chum and chinook salmon.
- Modernized highway design with updated safety features.
- Improved natural filtration of water flowing through the estuary.
- Reduced seasonal flooding by eliminating current water flow bottlenecks.



Project Background

Duckabush Estuary Features

The Duckabush Estuary has salt marshes, eelgrass beds, and extensive mud and gravel flats. It is home to harbor seals, bald eagles, elk, and four endangered salmon species: chum, steelhead, bull trout, and chinook. The area is affected by fill, dikes, and road infrastructure, which blocks water channels and limits natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

Project Development

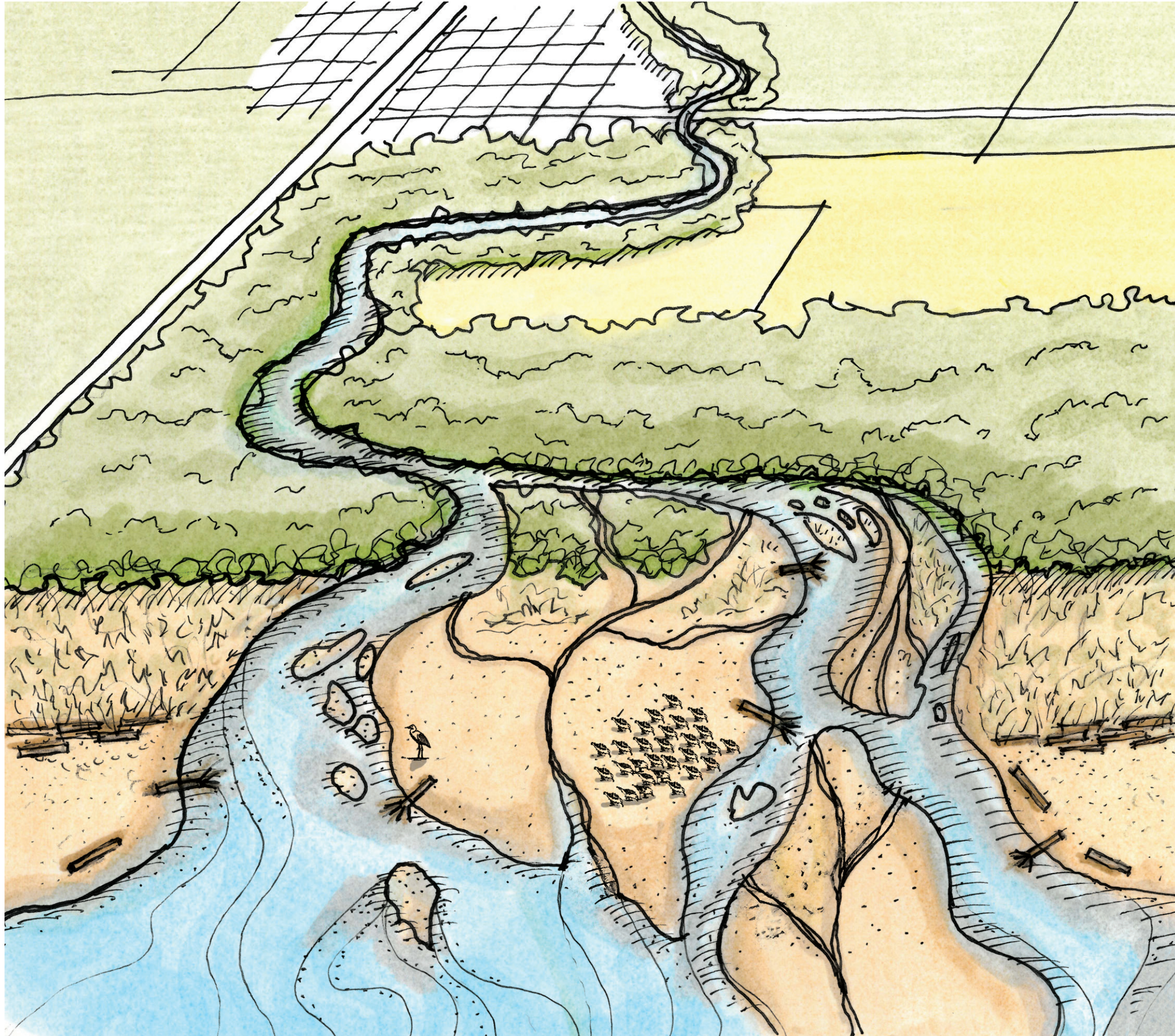
The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) is a federal-state partnership between WDFW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify significant water-related problems and improve places in the Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem. The purpose of PSNERP is to restore nearshore habitat that will sustain the biologic, economic, and aesthetic resources important to people. The Duckabush Estuary is one of several sites identified by PSNERP and is the first project to move into the design phase in partnership with the USACE.

PSNERP developed a conceptual design that identifies options to maximize ecological benefit. Future design work would include data collection and public input to address data gaps and uncertainties. The project would occur primarily on public lands of the Duckabush Unit of the North Olympic Wildlife Area.





Why Restore Estuaries and Tidal Wetlands?



Tidal wetlands occur in river estuaries where fresh and saltwater meet. Wetlands include channels, marshes, and mud flats. Tidal wetlands are important because they:

- Provide habitat for fish, birds, shellfish, and other wildlife.
- Contain nutrients and prey important to the food web.
- Improve water quality by naturally filtering pollutants.
- Provide area to absorb flood waters.

Loss of Puget Sound Tidal Wetlands

Since the late 1800s, over 55% of historical tidal wetlands (57,823 acres) in Puget Sound's 16 largest river deltas have been eliminated, which means there is significantly less natural habitat available for fish and wildlife to survive and thrive.

Restoration of estuaries increases wetland habitat available to support many things people benefit from.

Restoring the size and quality of estuaries is an objective identified by the PSNERP. It is also a metric tracked by the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to measure progress towards a healthy of Puget Sound.

