

Duckabush Estuary Restoration

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Public Hearing and Open House

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

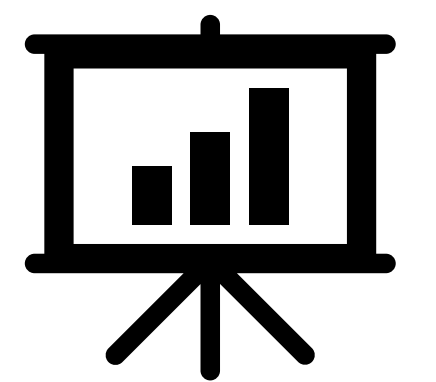
1 Visit the Stations

- Review new information that supplements a 2016 Environmental Impact Statement.
- Information directory located in Appendix B of draft SEIS document.



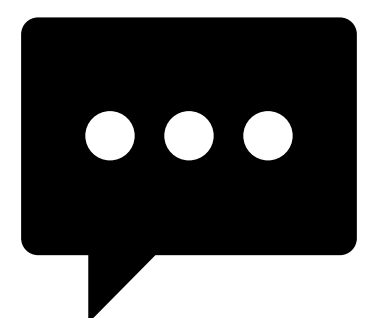
2 Read and Learn

- Conceptual design for proposed project.
- Potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for potential impacts.



3 Leave a Comment

- Like what you see? Is something missing? Have a suggestion for how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for an impact? *Tell us!*
- Your comments will help shape the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.



Why do environmental review?

- Identify and evaluate probable environmental impacts.
- Engage the public and decision makers early in a project.
- Required by state law.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will:

- Identify probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposal.
- Identify measures that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate for impacts at a high level.
- Provide an opportunity for public comment on the draft environmental document.

An EIS will not:

- Approve or deny the proposal.
- Include detailed mitigation. More engineering and design will be required to determine which measures will be most appropriate.
- Answer every question. It is one of many informational tools used by decision-makers and others as a project evolves.

State Environmental Policy Act

SEPA

What is the SEPA timeline?

- WDFW initiated the SEPA process in June 2019 after making a determination of significance (DS) and issuing a notice of adoption of an existing Federal environmental review of the Duckabush Estuary Restoration project completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2016 to satisfy requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- WDFW has drafted a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that includes additional site-specific analysis of 4 environmental elements to supplement the previously published NEPA document.

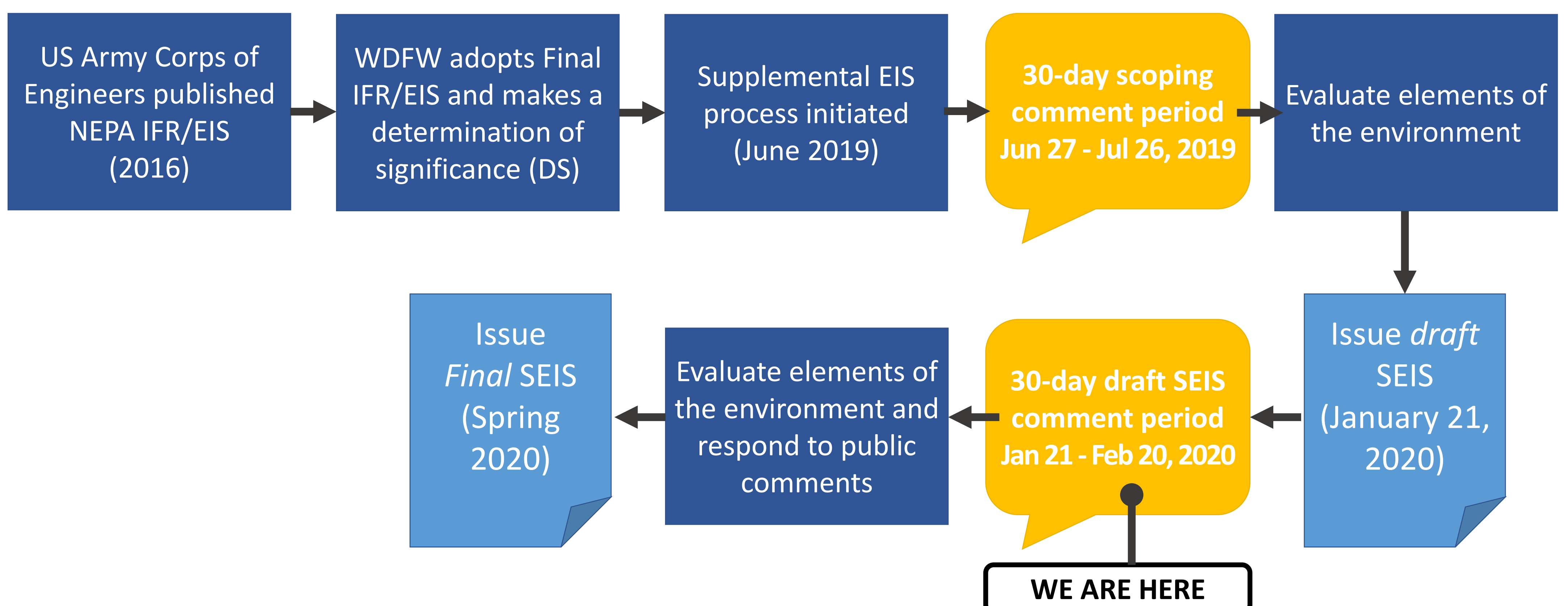
- Water

- Plants & Animals

- Transportation

- Noise

- **A draft SEIS is now available for public review and comment.**
- Comments will be evaluated and responded to in a final SEIS anticipated for release in Spring 2020.



Duckabush Estuary Restoration



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This project would reconnect the Duckabush River to floodplains and wetlands by removing fill, 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, and highway fill 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.

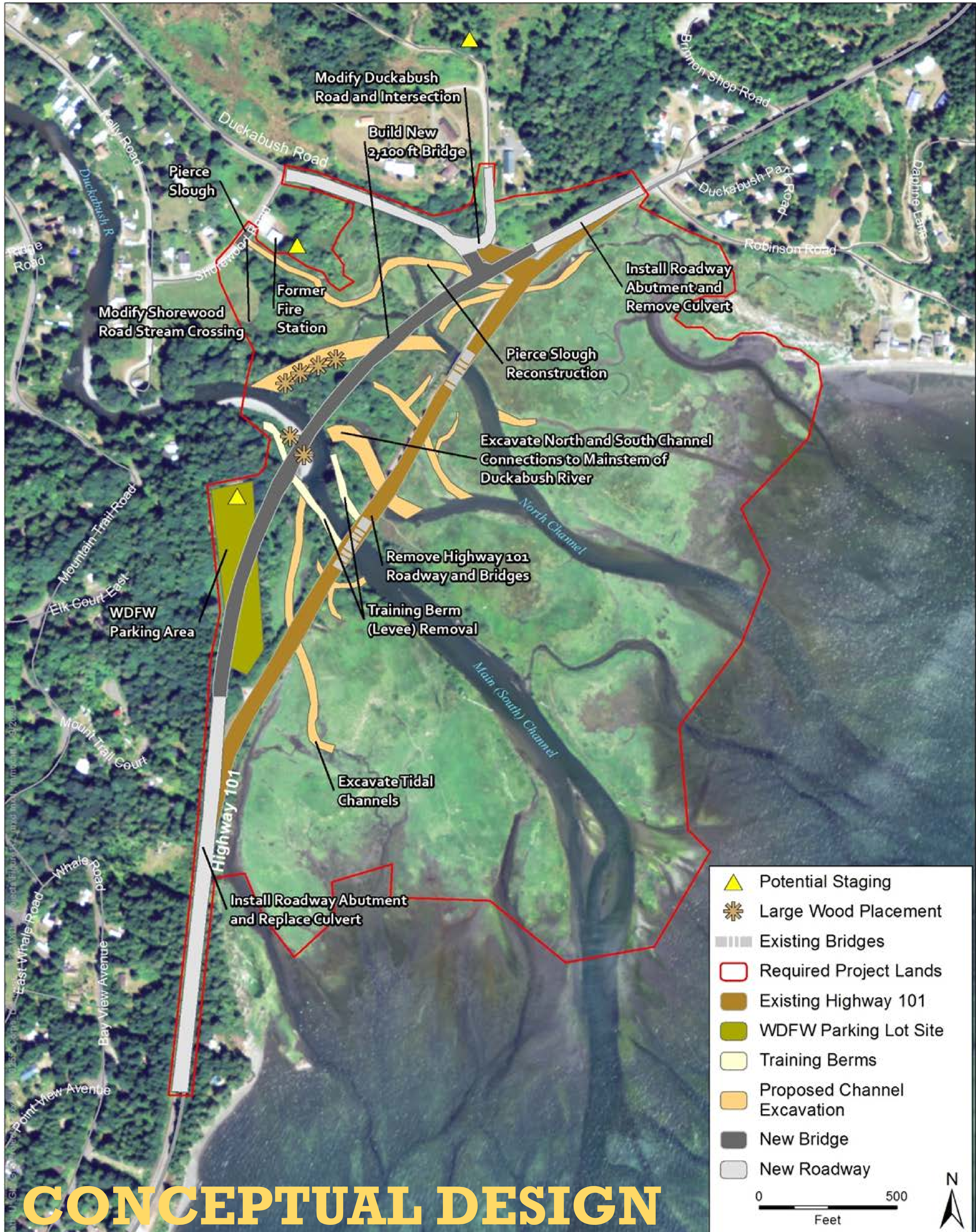
Anticipated Benefits

- 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 water flow bottlenecks.

Duckabush Estuary Restoration



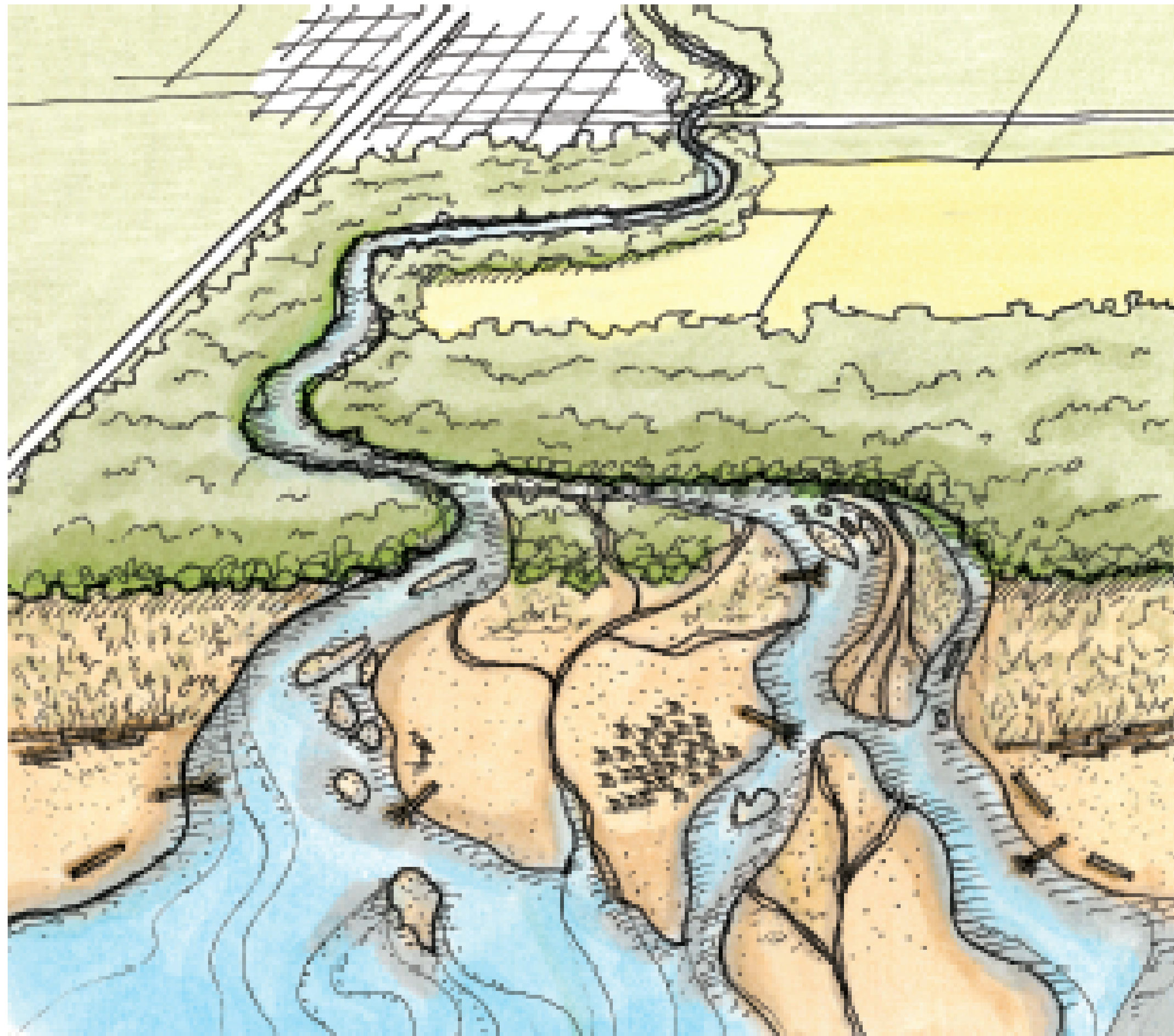
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Placeholder. Will reuse scoping poster



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:

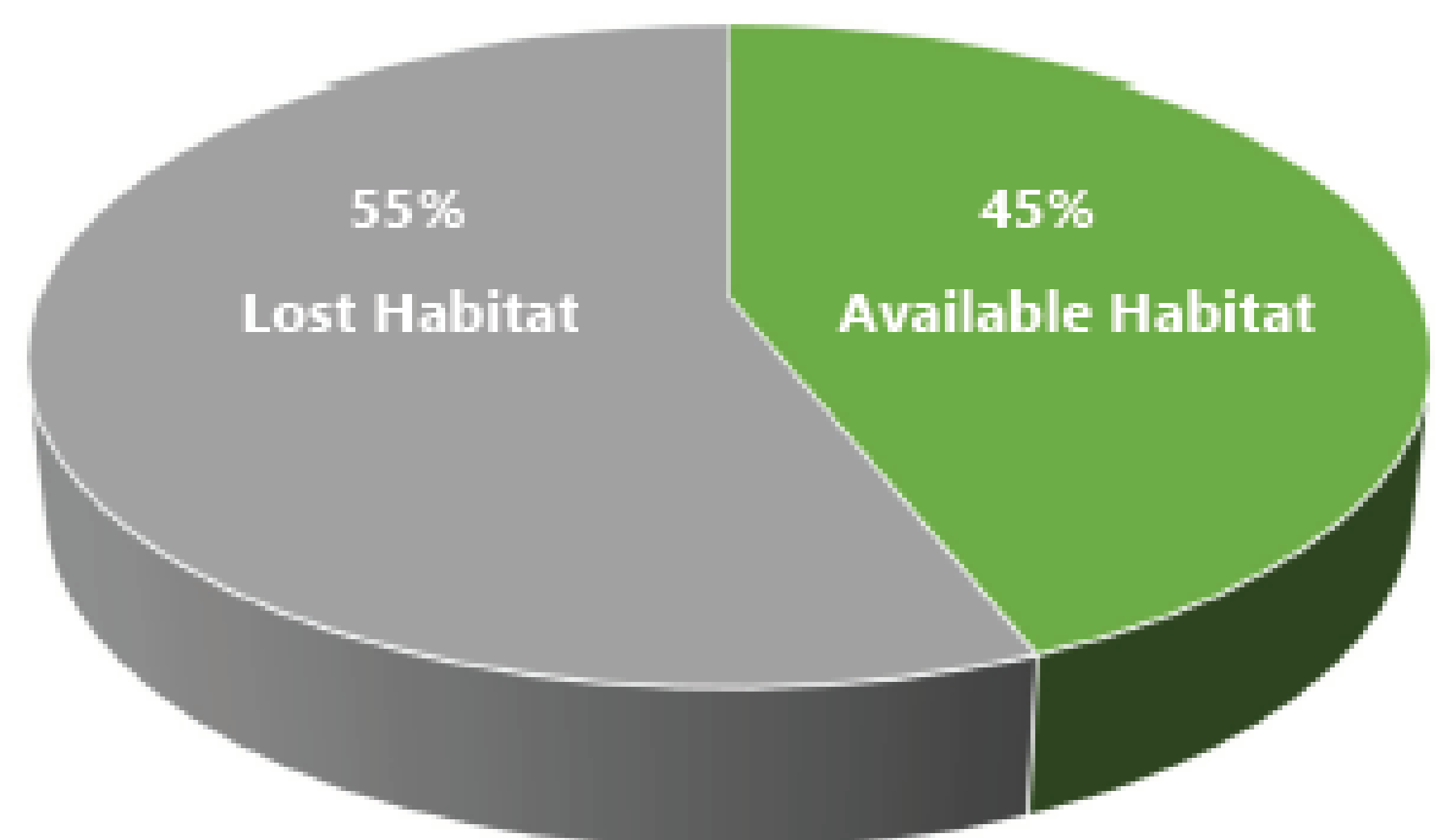
- Provide habitat for fish, birds, shellfish, and other wildlife.
- Contain nutrients and prey important to the food web.
- Improve water quality by naturally filtering pollutants.
- Provide area to absorb flood waters.

Loss of Puget Sound Tidal Wetlands

Since the late 1800s, over 55% of historical tidal wetlands 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 to measure progress towards a healthy Puget Sound.



Lost acres: ~58,000
Current acres: ~46,000

WATER

Duckabush Estuary Site Map with Water Bodies



HOOD CANAL

WATER



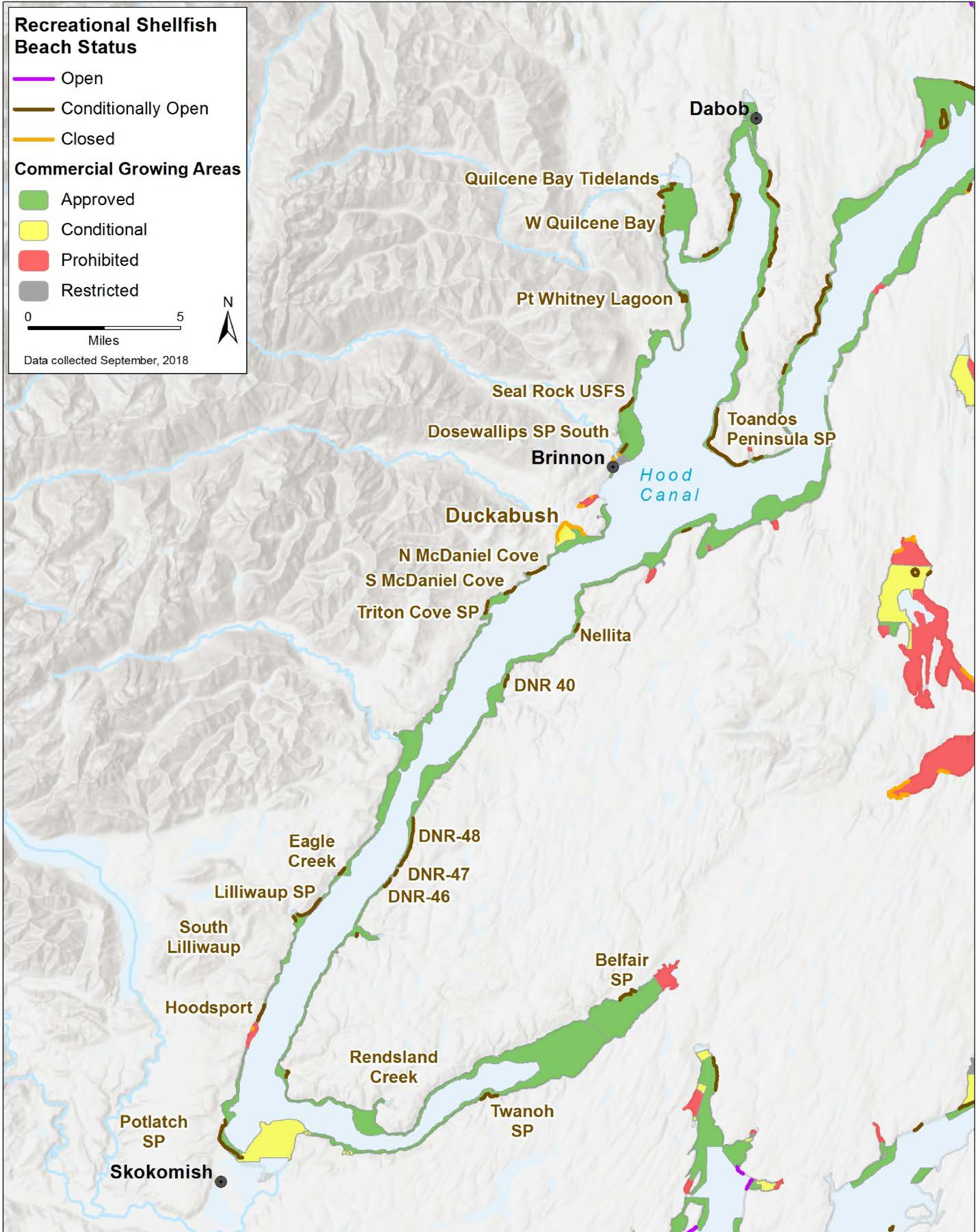
Project alternative is **not likely** to result in significant adverse impacts related to water quality (fecal coliform bacteria, drinking water, or flooding).

Findings:

- The replacement of the causeway with a elevated bridge will potentially reduce backwater and flooding associated with high flows on the Duckabush River.
- Project design will allow tidal water to move in and out of the estuary unobstructed but does not alter tidal water levels nor sea level rise projections and is not expected to increase upstream flooding.
- Potential impacts on water quality from fecal coliform bacteria would be less than significant because the Duckabush Project would increase estuary flushing and reduce failed septic system impacts.
- Strong hydraulic freshwater flow from the mountains means saltwater intrusion is not expected to be a problem that would result from the from the implementation of the Duckabush Project.

PLANTS & ANIMALS

WA Department of Health Shellfish Status (Sept 2018)



PLANTS & ANIMALS

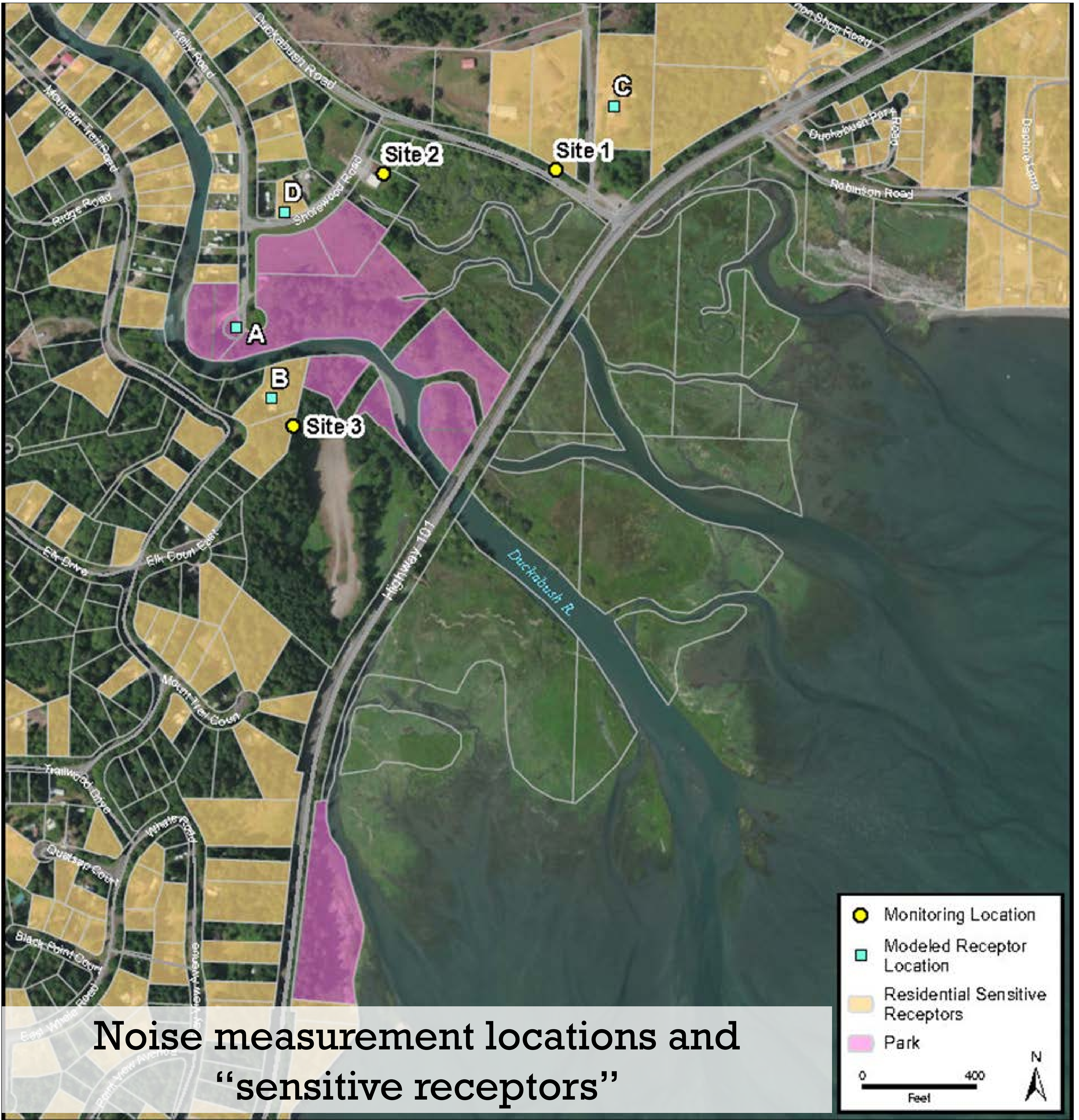


Project alternative is **not likely** to result in significant adverse impacts related to marine submerged vegetation, wetlands, riparian vegetation, or bivalve shellfish that cannot be mitigated.

Findings:

- Construction impacts to the marine environment will be minimized by following in-water work closures, limiting in-water work, and following common guidelines to reduce sediment input.
- Shellfish production would likely be temporarily reduced due to changing freshwater distribution in the estuary during a period of adjustment (~1-5 years).
- Shellfish would be expected to persist at locations throughout the estuary and produce larvae to allow the site to recover within a ~6-10 year timeframe.
- Portions of wetland will transition from freshwater wetland to tidal wetland leading to a greater diversity of rare wetland habitats.
- Marine and riparian vegetation may experience short term construction impacts but are expected to increase long term due to improvements in overall site conditions.

TRANSPORTATION & NOISE



| Modeled Receptor Locations ^a | Noise Level (dBA) ^b | | | Existing Maximum (Peak Traffic) | Modeled Maximum (Peak Traffic) | Change |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| | Existing | Modeled | Change | | | |
| A | 47.9 | 50.3 | 2.4 | 50.1 | 52.5 | 2.4 |
| B | 49.3 | 52.6 | 3.3 | 51.5 | 54.8 | 3.3 |
| C | 54.4 | 55.3 | 0.9 | 56.1 | 57.5 | 1.4 |
| D | 46.4 | 48.5 | 2.1 | 48.6 | 50.7 | 2.1 |

TRANSPORTATION & NOISE

Project alternative is **not likely** to result in significant adverse impacts related to traffic or noise that cannot be mitigated.

Findings:

- The traffic control plans will ensure that access is provided to the local community along Highway 101 and Duckabush Road for the duration of the project during construction. Any road closures would be short and temporary.
- Coordination with the Brinnon Fire Department will ensure no reduction to emergency services provided.
- Sensitive noise receptors would experience an increase of less than 10 dBA. Therefore, operation impacts associated with noise would be less than significant.
- The project would incorporate temporary noise reduction measures during construction and comply with any mitigation measures for noise attenuation that are required in permits.

Comment Station

Public Comments accepted Jan. 21, 2020 – Feb. 20, 2020

Like what you see? Is something missing? Have a suggestion for how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for an impact? *Tell us!*

Want to comment TODAY?

- Step into our **comment booth** and talk to us! We'll write it down for you! Or...
- Leave a completed a **comment form** in the box provided.

Want to comment later?

Ensure receipt by 5 p.m. (PST) on Feb. 20, 2020

- Email: SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- U.S. Mail Lisa Wood, SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division
P.O. Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200
- Online comment form at:

wdfw.wa.gov/duckabush