

DUCKABUSH ESTUARY RESTORATION

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) is working in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore habitat at the mouth of the Duckabush River. The project will reconnect the Duckabush River to adjacent wetlands by modifying local roads and elevating Highway 101 onto an estuary-spanning bridge, restoring rare estuarine habitat important to native fish and wildlife.

MORE PROJECT INFO AVAILABLE AT:

- pnwsalmoncenter.org/duckabush-restoration-project
- wdfw.wa.gov/duckabush

PROJECT UPDATES

The Duckabush Estuary project recently celebrated a milestone merging the transportation design and the estuary design into one combined package of draft plans and specifications known as the 65% design.

A lengthy design phase is typical for complex projects. Because the Duckabush Estuary is a sensitive wetland and endangered species are present, the project must consider many environmental regulations that affect construction materials, methods, and locations. The intersection of US 101 and Duckabush Road is a good example of this where roads, lighting, maintenance pullouts, underground utilities, stormwater treatment facilities, and public parking all must be located in an area half the size of a football field. Any design change has a cascade effect on other features that must be evaluated to ensure everything still fits, is compliant with environmental regulations, and that traffic can flow during construction.

Design refinements will continue through final design (anticipated in late 2025), but major changes are unlikely. Known project features include:

- New 1,614-foot-long bridge.
- New left turn lane from NB US 101 to Duckabush Road.
- Bridge will have 9 supporting piers, and the largest bridge span will be 228 feet long.
- One culvert removal and three culvert replacements.
- Reconnection of 4 blocked river channels.
- Treatment of surface water run-off in 5 new swales or retention facilities.

DUCKABUSH ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

Brinnon Community Center
Saturday May 4TH
10AM - 12PM

The Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project design is progressing, and we would like to invite you to an open house to chat with design team members about the project. HCSEG will be hosting representatives from WDFW, US Army Corps of Engineers, and WSDOT. This informal drop-in event will include a brief welcome and project overview and provide an opportunity to visit with design team members at various information stations.

The new 1,614 feet long bridge spanning the Duckabush Estuary will be just over 5 football fields long - or 2.6 Space Needles.



DUCKABUSH ESTUARY EDUCATION TOURS

The Estuary Education Tour series returns to the Duckabush Estuary this summer with a new lineup of guests presenting on a wide variety of local topics. From May through September, join us on the last Wednesday afternoon of each month to learn how the Duckabush will be transformed through restoration. Each tour will feature a different local expert who will share their knowledge on subjects like native plants, local history, salmon biology, and more! Save the dates, and stay tuned for more details!

May 29

June 26

July 31

August 28

September 25

ALL TOURS ARE FROM:

2:30PM - 4PM

MEET AT:

WDFW Duckabush River
Access, Brinnon WA



2023: A PINK SALMON YEAR

You may have noticed a lot of salmon in the Duckabush River this summer. That was because it was a “pink year.” Unlike other species of salmon, Pinks have an extremely regular life history and spawn in rivers every other year - so they won’t be back to the Duckabush until 2025.

Last year, 201,772 Pink salmon returned to Duckabush, and 983,310 to the Hood Canal as a whole. This is the largest return in recent years - and 3 times the ten year average! Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for returning numbers of other salmon species.

With the Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project, we are working to create the essential, viable habitat for all species

of salmon and steelhead that call this river home. Due to the channelization of the river from the current estuary bridge and fill, sediment buildup makes spawning upriver difficult - at times impossible - for the Chinook, Coho, and steelhead that return to spawn in the Duckabush. Our hope is that one day, the Duckabush can be a thriving ecosystem for all native salmon species, and that they can join the Pinks in their mighty returns.



Pink Salmon
Photo by WDFW

QUESTIONS?

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