

Projects in Cowlitz County

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Improving the Banks of Bear Creek

Grant Awarded: \$46,500

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 3.1 miles of Bear Creek in the department's Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area in Cowlitz County. The department will remove invasive plants, establish tree cover, and plant the banks of the creek. The creek is used by coho salmon, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, and steelhead. Coho and steelhead in the surrounding Toutle River watershed are trucked around a sediment retention facility and about 60 percent are released into Bear Creek for spawning, making the tributary one of the most critical for recovery in the watershed. If the banks are restored, other animals will benefit as well. Elk can feed on creek bank plants when their normal food is buried in deep snow. Although fish and elk are the primary animals helped by this project, other animals, such as western toads, northern alligator lizards, and yellow-rumped warblers also will benefit from improved creek banks. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (12-1315)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Reducing Erosion of the Banks along the Toutle River

Grant Awarded: \$336,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to protect critical elk winter range and improve the banks of the North Fork Toutle River in the department's Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area. The department will install log structures, which will slow the river and slow bank erosion, allowing the forest along the riverbanks to recover. The department will install log walls to move the main channel away from eroding banks and small logjams to increase floodplain roughness, fostering a more stable river channel. Most of the work will be done upstream of previous work. The department also will plant shrubs and trees to speed recovery of habitat and further increase bank stability. Reducing erosion will improve water quality, both on site and downstream. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (12-1316)

Project in Grays Harbor County

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring the Chehalis River Surge Plain Ecosystem

Grant Awarded: \$87,400

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to remove invasive plants and replant part of the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve. The preserve is an extraordinary

wetland near the mouth of the Chehalis River, between Aberdeen and Montesano, in Grays Harbor County. The primary wetland community is a Sitka spruce-dominated forest, with wide gaps created by wind-thrown trees, numerous winding channels, and dense native vegetation. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (12-1253)

Projects in Island County

Whidbey Camano Land Trust Conserving Ebey's Prairie

Grant Awarded: \$215,000

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement¹ that conserves 10 acres of prime, productive farmland in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island. The agreement will ensure the land remains farmland for at least the next 50 years. The land has been farmed for more than a century and grows a wide variety of crops, including produce, seed crops, alfalfa, wheat, barley, and corn. Farmed by the fifth generation Engle Family Farms, the land is part of a large swath of farmland and is the only piece not protected by agreements. The land is highly sought for development because it is near the historic town of Coupeville, is surrounded by protected lands, and boasts outstanding views of lake, Puget Sound, and mountains. The land trust will contribute \$215,000 in conservation futures and a federal grant. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (10-1684)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust Conserving Ebey's Reserve Farmland on Penn Cove

Grant Awarded: \$262,500

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement² to conserve 26 acres on Penn Cove, a noted shellfish growing area. The agreement will prevent all but agricultural use and the existing residential use. The property has been farmed for more than a century and produces a variety of crops, including seed crops, alfalfa, wheat, barley, and corn. Farmed by the 3 Sisters Family Farm, the land is highly desirable for housing development because it is on Penn Cove and has outstanding views of mountains and the Puget Sound. The land trust will contribute \$262,500 in conservation futures and a federal grant. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (10-1677)

¹ Voluntary land preservation agreements also are called agricultural conservation easements.

² Voluntary land preservation agreements also are called agricultural conservation easements.

Project in Skagit County

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Secret Harbor Estuary and Salt Marsh

\$480,207

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore a continuum of estuarine, salt marsh, wetland, stream, and forest habitat at Secret Harbor, in the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area and Aquatic Reserve in Skagit County. The department will remove 300 feet of dike, which disrupted salt marsh habitat, and remove the fill behind the dike to allow the saltwater to return. The work will provide critical habitat for migrating salmon as well as marine birds and waterfowl. Work will include filling irrigation ditches to restore ground water flow to freshwater ponds and wetlands, removing two culverts, and replanting. Cypress Island supports marbled murrelet, Pacific salmon, crabs, marine birds, and bald eagles to name a few. Restoration of this site will expand and improve the habitat to support them. The department will contribute \$100,000 from a federal grant and cash. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (12-1046)

Project in Snohomish County

Snohomish County Restoring Smith Island Estuary

\$3,043,844

Snohomish County will use this grant to restore 250 acres of tidal marsh in the Smith Island estuary to support federal- and state-listed shorebirds and salmon. The County will build nearly a mile of setback levee and remove about a half-mile of existing levee. Adult Chinook salmon entering the estuary from Puget Sound swim about 21 miles past Everett, Lake Stevens, and Marysville up to where the Snohomish River splits into the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers near Monroe. Beginning in the 1860s, habitat conditions in the Snohomish River estuary were altered substantially as settlers harvested timber, drained thousands of acres of marsh, ditched tributaries, and constructed more than 44 miles of levees. Of the 16 river deltas in Puget Sound, about 90 percent of estuarine emergent marsh, scrub shrub, and tidal forested wetlands were lost in Puget Sound. With this grant, the Smith Island project has received more than \$15 million in federal and state grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, and RCO, bringing the total funding amount, including local match, to more than \$16 million. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (12-1426)

Project in Thurston County

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Woodard Bay Wetland and Shoreline

Grant Awarded: \$97,700

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the wetlands and shoreline in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area. The 867-acre conservation area is north of Olympia, on Henderson Inlet, in Thurston County. It contains important shoreline, an estuary, freshwater wetlands and streams, a small lake, and habitat for many wildlife species. The department will restore the saltwater shoreline and enhance degraded and poorly buffered wetlands and shorelines. The department also will rebuild forested wetlands and the banks of a lake. On Weyer Point, disturbance from the historic log dump created areas dominated by invasive species along the shoreline. The department will control invasive species and plant native species on 26 acres. Large portions of Weyer Point already have been restored; this project will complete the restoration. The conservation area is used by bats, migratory waterfowl, and Neotropical, migratory birds. The department will contribute \$7,000 from donations of labor and materials. This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). See more [information and photographs](#). (12-1119)