

Barnaby Reach Project Fact Sheet

The Barnaby Reach of the Skagit River extends from the mouth of Illabot Creek downstream to the Sauk River near the town of Rockport. There are vast opportunities to improve fish habitat in this reach as well as to provide community benefits such as flood risk reduction and recreation.

Opportunities for Fish Habitat

The Skagit River is straighter and steeper than it was historically in the Barnaby Reach. Barnaby Slough and Harrison Pond used to be connected to the Skagit River, making that area available to migrating fish. Unmaintained hatchery infrastructure in these sloughs is currently limiting fish passage to these habitats. Connection to floodplain sloughs like Barnaby Slough is one of the biggest needs for salmon recovery in the Skagit River watershed.

Project Sponsors	
Land Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seattle City Light - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - The Nature Conservancy
Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skagit River System Cooperative

Project Goals

The Barnaby Reach Restoration Project is needed for salmon recovery in the Skagit River. It is guided by the following goals:

1. Improve floodplain processes to benefit native fish and wildlife.
2. Increase amount and connectivity of Chinook salmon, steelhead and other salmonid rearing and spawning habitat
3. Protect private property and infrastructure from potential project effects on hydrology and floodplain connectivity.
4. Incorporate beneficial measures to reduce existing flood and erosion risks for adjacent communities.
5. Provide recreational access opportunities that meet community, stakeholder, and primary landowner needs.

Current Work Activities

Current work efforts focus on a detailed characterization of existing conditions. This includes collecting data - surface and groundwater levels, sediment, and a detailed survey. The team is taking a special look at local flooding in the south Rockport area to understand how different sources of floodwaters - Skagit, Sauk, and hillside streams - affect that area. Computer modeling tools will be calibrated to known flood elevations. Additional field investigations will help the team understand and predict potential future river erosion and channel migration.



No decisions have been made yet on what alternative configurations will be evaluated in this phase of technical work – that step will come later. The project sponsors seek configurations that provide excellent fish benefits and help the community lessen flood risks.

Project Schedule and Funding

The Barnaby project is in the first of five project stages (feasibility). The project sponsors hope to select a preferred project configuration in 2018. Following that, preliminary and final design / permitting will begin, during which time the project team will conduct detailed engineering calculations, design, cost estimating and continued impact analysis as the selected design alternative is refined. Regulatory and permitting agencies will review the project in detail for environmental, safety, and legal compliance. Public comment periods will also occur during the final design and permitting phase. 2020 is the target construction year.



Feasibility analysis, stakeholder engagement, and preliminary design has been funded by the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Final design and construction funding has not yet been obtained.

Stakeholder Involvement

Many people and organizations care about this project, including nearby private landowners, the Wildcat Steelhead Club, the Washington State Department of Transportation, Skagit County, Sierra Pacific Industries, and other organizations, tribes, and local residents. These stakeholders and tribes participate on a stakeholder advisory committee. In addition, the project sponsors maintain regular communications with the community, and hope to continue a meaningful dialogue with the community as their input is incorporated into the project.

Project and Contact Information

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