



Snohomish County Public Works

Determination of Significance (DS) and Request for Comments on Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

PROJECT NAME: Smith Island Restoration Project, RR49206

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Snohomish County Public Works is currently evaluating a project, the Smith Island Restoration Project (the Project), that will allow for multiple uses of several hundred acres of land located in the Snohomish River estuary. The fundamental purpose of the Project is to restore estuarine tidal marshlands that provide critical habitat for ESA-listed salmon in the Snohomish River watershed. Besides the tidal marsh restoration element, the other primary project elements are a proposed compensatory mitigation program, and conservation and support of agricultural lands and activities. Additional project elements include: potential partnerships with the City of Everett; Williams NW Pipeline Company property donation; recreational and public access opportunities; improved flood protection; preservation of substantial green/open space area in a rapidly urbanizing region; and research and experimental opportunities associated with tidal marsh restoration.

In preparing the EIS, Snohomish County will evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives. These alternatives will include both no action and action alternatives. While the no action alternative would not result in environmental impacts, neither will it restore estuarine tidal marshlands that provide critical habitat for ESA-listed salmon. The action alternatives involve constructing a new setback dike and partial breaching of the existing dike adjacent to Union Slough.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: The Smith Island Restoration Project is located in parts of Sections 4, 5, 9 and 10, Township 29N, Range 5E, W.M. The project area occupies the northeastern portion of Smith Island, which is northeast of the City of Everett, and south of the City of Marysville, Washington.

PROPONENT: Snohomish County Public Works

LEAD AGENCY: Snohomish County

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, 5th Floor
Everett, WA 98201

EIS REQUIRED: The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required under RCW43.21C.030(2)(c). An environmental checklist or other materials indicating likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at our offices.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for expanded discussion in the EIS, including: land use, including agricultural issues and mitigation program; water resources; and fish, wildlife, and vegetation; geology and soils, including hazardous materials or waste; cultural and historic resources; displacement and relocation assistance; and transportation.

SCOPING: Agencies, organizations, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on and/or suggest alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. All comments must be in writing, and they should be mailed to the lead agency at the address noted below. Comments will be accepted until July 20, 2009.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Steven E. Thomsen, P.E., Public Works Director

DATE: June 26, 2009 SIGNATURE: 

All comments must be submitted by July 20, 2009 to:

Julie Highton, Senior Environmental Planner
Snohomish County Public Works
Transportation and Engineering Services
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201

Or by e-mail to: julie.highton@snoco.org

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Tribes:

Tulalip Tribes
Stillaguamish Tribe

Federal Agencies:

National Marine Fisheries Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Region 10
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
US Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service

State Agencies:

Washington Department of Transportation
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Washington Environmental Council, Snohomish Wetlands Alliance
Recreation and Conservation Office

Snohomish County

Snohomish County Executive's Office
Snohomish County Council District #2
Snohomish County Council District #5
Planning and Development Services Department
Public Works Surface Water Management Division
Parks and Recreation Department
County Engineer
Sheriff
Snohomish County Fire District #1
Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board
Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Board

Cities:

City of Everett
City of Marysville
City of Snohomish

Other Local Agencies:

Snohomish Forum
Port of Everett
Snohomish Conservation District
Snohomish County PUD #1, Environmental Affairs
Snohomish County Coordinated Diking Council
Diking District #1
Diking District #2
Diking District #3
Diking District #4
Diking District #5
French Slough Flood Control District
Marshlands Flood Control District
Stillaguamish Flood Control District

Others:

Puget Sound Partnership
Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership
This notice has also been sent to other interested parties, and residents and businesses within 1,000 feet of the project area.

Media: The Herald