

Smith Island Restoration Project

History of the Proposed Project Site

As with most of the Snohomish River estuary, Smith Island was logged, diked and drained for agricultural purposes near the end of the 1800's and early 1900's. Previously, the area had consisted of estuarine tidal marshlands subject to daily tidal inundation and seasonal river flooding.

While a large portion of Smith Island has since been developed for industrial and commercial purposes, most of the proposed project site today remains agricultural land, primarily fallow pasture. Other current uses include an inactive commercial tree nursery, a horse boarding operation, and the City of Everett's wastewater treatment plant and poplar tree plantation. Significant wetlands remain on the site although the original diking system prevents daily tidal inundation and seasonal flooding.

Snohomish County began acquiring lands on Smith Island in 2001 because of the high suitability of the project site for restoring prime tidal marsh in the Snohomish River estuary, critical habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and bull trout.

