

FISH/FLOOD STRATEGY



The pristine state of many streams has been influenced by agriculture, flood control efforts, timber harvest, roads, and other man-made efforts.

Skagit County, together with a variety of agencies and concerned citizens, evaluates the *stream physics* (hydrology, hydraulics, sediment transport, and riparian area), the *needs of the landowners* (timber harvest, flood control, and land use), and the *needs of the fish* (riparian habitat, temperature, water quality, and pools). Many animated discussions ensue, and a balance is eventually struck between the competing uses. A long-term strategy is then developed that includes the projects and programs necessary for the plan's implementation.

Projects include: Hansen Creek (featured), Jackman Creek (featured), Wiseman Creek, Fisher Creek, and the South Mount Vernon Watershed

Hansen Creek Restoration Project

Hansen Creek has a history of flooding due to large amounts of sediment that originate in its headwaters and accumulate in the lower channel. A watershed plan that keeps fish habitat and passage foremost is presently being developed to address the ongoing flood and sedimentation problems associated with the creek. An advisory committee, with representatives from the Skagit County Parks Department, Skagit System Cooperative, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Northern State Task Force, and local property owners, has been formed to review, evaluate and develop the plan. Construction of any stream modifications that will follow, depends on a developed scope and funding availability. Ultimately, this project could result in the rehabilitation of up to five miles of Hansen Creek.

Benefits

- Regains spawning and rearing habitat.
- Reduces flooding to properties neighboring the creek.
- Reconnects wetlands isolated from Hansen Creek.
- Presents opportunity for integration with proposed recreational uses on public property.

Jackman Creek Restoration Project

Jackman Creek has a history of sediment build-up originating from its headwaters. Several properties along the creek are frequently flooded during high water events. Historically, the creek has been dredged to maintain the necessary channel depths to convey floodwaters. Grants were obtained to develop a watershed plan and potentially purchase flood-prone properties. A plan will be developed to reduce sedimentation and increase habitat in the creek.

Benefits

- Regain spawning and rearing habitat.
- Reduce flooding to properties neighboring the creek.
- Reduce the number of repetitive flood loss properties.
- Reintroduce natural processes to Jackman Creek.



1995 flood debris cleanup measures at Jackman Creek

Watershed

Hansen Creek (WRIA 03.0267)

Cost

\$1.5M Estimated project cost
\$65,000 Study cost

Revenue

92.5% Salmon Recovery Funding Board
7.5% Hansen Creek Sub-Flood Control Zone

Partners

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Local Property Owners
Skagit County

Watershed

Jackman Creek (WRIA 4.0626)

Cost

\$180,000 Study and implementation costs

Revenue

100% Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Partners

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Local Property Owners
Skagit County