

# DeBay Slough Feasibility Study

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UPDATE #3

August 16<sup>th</sup> through September 30, 2022

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## OVERVIEW

Skagit County owns and maintains DeBay's Isle Road which leads to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Johnson/DeBay Slough Game Reserve property. The road has a culvert that has been identified as a barrier to fish passage. DeBay Slough is a relic oxbow of the Skagit River; the slough and its connector channel now function as an off-channel area for the Skagit River. The property is surrounded by public and private lands.

This phase of the project (County project WA402242) will complete a feasibility study to determine if there is potential to improve juvenile Chinook rearing habitat at the site in a manner sensitive to the variety of human, fish, and wildlife use the site supports. Funding has been awarded from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (PRISM #20-1367).

For more background or funding information see the [Project Website](https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/DeBay.htm):  
<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/DeBay.htm>

## UPDATE

- *Background Data Collection* –
  - WDFW working on completing a map for reserve area boundary.
  - Skagit County survey staff worked with the State to determine ownership of the two parcels currently identified as “No Ownership” by the Skagit County Auditor. These two parcels are considered property of WA State.
- *Existing Conditions and Feasibility Assessment* –
  - *Site Assessment Report*: The final report summarizing existing conditions has been posted under Reports and Results on the project website:  
[https://skagitcountywa.gov/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/Documents/DeBay/DeBaySlough\\_Site%20Assesment\\_Report%20and%20Appendices\\_Combined\\_092622.pdf](https://skagitcountywa.gov/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/Documents/DeBay/DeBaySlough_Site%20Assesment_Report%20and%20Appendices_Combined_092622.pdf)
  - *Fish Use Study*: Skagit County is working on securing funding to address the question of what fish are currently in the site and when. If funding is secured, fish use work will begin this fall.
- *Communication and Stakeholder Outreach* –
  - Overview section above has been updated to clarify DeBay Slough is an off-channel area, not a tributary.
  - Meeting notes have been added to Website for Workshop #2
  - Skagit County is working on securing additional funding for transitioning the next meeting to in-person and to adding another Advisory Group meeting during the conceptual design process.

## UPCOMING

- WDFW to provide reserve boundary map
- Fish Use Survey data collection begins (late 2022/early 2023) if funded and continues through September 2023

Following this work:

- Refinement of Screening and Evaluation Criteria based on Advisory Group input
- Development of potential restoration actions
- Evaluation of actions against criteria and development of conceptual alternatives
- Completion of draft conceptual alternatives and collaboration with Advisory Group
- Proposed condition hydraulic modelling
- Finalization of up to 3 conceptual alternatives
- Stakeholder meetings (beginning again after fish use data collection)
- Conceptual Basis of Design report
- Potential selection of a Preferred Alternative (pending results of all previous tasks)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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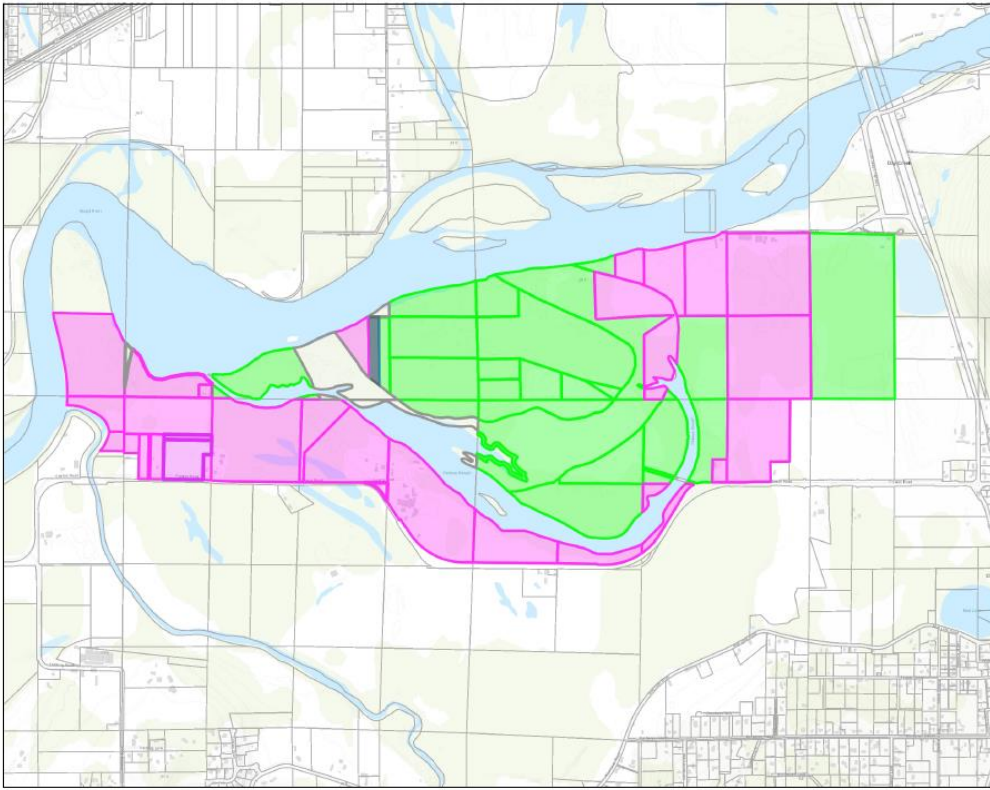
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# DeBay Ownership



**Legend**

- Tax Parcels
- City Limit Lines
- County Boundary

**Notes**

All ownership per Skagit County Assessor's database 2022.

- Dark Blue - Skagit County
- Green - Public (WDFW and DNR)
- Pink - Private Ownership
- Gray Outline - Washington State

0.71 0 0.35 0.71 Miles

Scale 1: 22,434

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