

# DeBay Slough Feasibility Study

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UPDATE #2

July through August 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 form a tributary to 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* –
  - No update
- *Existing Conditions and Feasibility Assessment* –
  - Existing Conditions hydraulic modeling completed
  - Completion of draft Existing Conditions summary memo
    - Draft submitted to County and WDFW August 5<sup>th</sup> for review and comment
    - Final version for sharing expected within a few weeks
  - Clarification of Extent and Nature of Property Ownership – Skagit County has begun looking into this concern. Likely will order a title report at the end of the month.
  - Completion of DRAFT Screening and Evaluation Criteria to be used to consider possible restoration actions.
    - Awaiting feedback from 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop with Advisory Group
- *Communication and Stakeholder Outreach* –
  - The [Project Website](https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/DeBay.htm) address was corrected from DeBays to DeBay.
  - The second virtual workshop was completed **Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**
    - Recording can be found [here](#).
    - Summary of meeting should be available week of August 22<sup>nd</sup> with meeting notes available week of August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## UPCOMING

- Finalization of Existing Conditions Summary Memo
- 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
- Conceptual Basis of Design report
- Fish Use Survey data collection (late 2022/early 2023)
- Potential selection of a Preferred Alternative (pending results of all previous tasks)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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