

Lorenzen Creek

Alternatives Analysis and Design

UPDATE #2

June and July 2021

OVERVIEW

Skagit County operates a maintenance facility in Concrete, WA. This facility, located at 44510 Concrete Sauk Valley Road, is used to stockpile sand and salt, store equipment and signs for east county maintenance operations, and provide a small office and bathroom space. It used to provide re-fueling opportunities and although not currently in use, the infrastructure is still in place.

Lorenzan Creek, a salmon bearing stream, flows within a culvert under the length of the property (WDFW ID GR18). Lorenzan Creek supports Coho Salmon, a federal species of concern, and Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout. This culvert is a documented barrier to fish passage. All stormwater on site is directly discharged into this culvert. This includes runoff from the parking surfaces, roof structures, and discharged stormwater from WSDOT's system to the north of the property.

This phase of the project (County project WA402245) will complete an alternatives analysis for the site that will include, at a minimum, daylighting Lorenzan Creek, retro-fitting the stormwater system while providing fish passage improvements, and no-action. Jason Quigley, Stormwater Permit Program Coordinator, will oversee stormwater project elements. Emily Derenne, Habitat Restoration Specialist, will manage the project and oversee habitat project elements. Funding has been awarded from the Department of Ecology and PSE Article 505 as described in Update #1.

JUNE 2021 UPDATE

- *Communication* – Updated the Stakeholder List and Communication Plan. Scheduled the stakeholder kick-off meeting for July 12th at 3:00 on site.
- *Design* – Skagit County installed a water level logger at the inlet of the culvert. Herrera began basin delineations for hydrologic modeling
- *Permitting and Environmental Compliance* – The County submitted the 05-05 Cultural Consultation Initiation form to Ecology. Preliminary determination requires archeological monitoring.

JULY 2021 UPDATE

- *Communication* – Stakeholder meeting was attended by 15 people. Notes attached. Jason Miller, Concrete Mayor, stated that the creek is actually Lorenzen Creek so spelling has been corrected here. Attached updated Stakeholder List as WDFW Habitat Biologist Wayne Watne has left WDFW.
- *Design* – Skagit County removed the water level logger as the creek is dry. Herrera inspected the stormwater structures on site. Waiting on cultural resources concurrency from DAHP to continue with geotechnical, wetland, and geomorphic analysis. The schedule has been shifted

slightly due to delays scheduling the kick-off meeting and other factors. We still anticipate a completed list of alternatives to review with the stakeholder group by October.

- *Funding* – County reviewing agreement with PSE. Anticipate having this agreement completed by the end of August.

UPCOMING

- Complete Cultural Monitoring Plan if required
- Determine alternatives based on stakeholder meeting
- Complete field work such as geotechnical, geomorphic, and wetland analyses – scheduled for Sept 2nd.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Lorenzen Creek Kick-off Meeting Minutes
2. Stakeholder List

Lorenzen Creek kick-off Meeting notes

July 12th, 2021: 3:00-5:00

Attendees:

- Skagit County:
 - Emily Derenne, County PM
 - Jason Quigley, County PM Stormwater
 - Shaun Tawes, Operations
 - John Davidson, Operations Division Manager
 - Mike See, Natural Resources Division Manager
 - Rick Owens, ER&R Division Manager
- Herrera
 - Colleen Mitchell, Consultant PM
 - Tina Mirabile, Permitting
 - Ellen McClure, Habitat
 - Annie Saunders
- Concrete: Jason Miller (Mayor)
- USIT: Rick Hartson
- WSDOT: Jeff Kamps
- WDFW: Wayne Watne
- Veda: Maie Rothlis Berger

Meeting Notes:

(grouped by stakeholder and theme, not necessarily in chronological order)

Town of Concrete (represented by Mayor)

Future Plans

- Project is outside of the Town, but inside the Urban Growth Area (UGA)
- Concrete Sauk Valley road is start of Concrete's UGA--very invested in the project connecting with the Town's long-term economic growth and planning
- The western edge of the UGA is near the Red Apple grocery store
- Would like to replace the County's contracted Sheriff program with the Town's own Sheriff system. This may impact the Sheriff's willingness to share a new County property should relocating be the preferred alternative. Ideally Concrete wants the County to relocate their services outside of the town's limits and the UGA and would not be supportive of adding any additional County operations/property within the Town of Concrete's limits.

Lorenzen Creek project history

- Wishes this project was re-routing upstream because about 900 ft of the river is underground at main street
- The mayor had previously supported plans to route the stream through Silo Park and create an inviting park in conjunction with a daylighted riverbed
- Emily mentioned grading restriction (can't dig deeper than 5-feet), inhospitable ground (Silo Park was an old dumping ground for concrete), cost, ideal habitat that would be lost by re-routing etc as barriers to this plan. She believes a past study was completed and will ask around.

Flooding issues

- Developer built a large storage facility east of the project site in wetlands--against Concrete's clearly communicated wishes
- The development pushed the low point on to Pine Street, which now experiences severe flooding (Mayor showed picture from 2015 of entire road in front of houses turned into a pond)

- Town dredged Lorenzan Creek upstream of the project site along Fir Street in 2016, and a downstream section near Cedar and Pine Streets later. Extensive flooding hasn't been observed at Fir Street since then.
- Creek consistently silts up again. Reed canary grass traps sediment in the low slope section. Their emergency permit did require planting that appears to not have occurred.
- Not much info on downstream flooding, but knows secondhand that there are wetlands that will pond water in the winter. Nothing that is currently causing any properties problems.

Skagit County

Current uses

- Supports east county operations--salt/sand storage, equipment drop-off, reduces travel to Burlington
- ~1 full-time employee
- Floor drains are currently plugged which does cause water to pond inside the truck bays; everything on site though eventually drains to Lorenzan Creek
- Everything works, just "40s vintage old"
- Fuel tanks are under temporary closure--fuel is within 1" of the bottom and the current fuel level monitor shows that nothing is leaking. County intends to decommission and remove the tanks.
- County discourages washing of vehicles at SW corner of the property site near the outlet of the stream, but still a popular activity; there is an oil trap in the CB which can't function correctly with soap

Future plans

- Would prefer a larger site for their operations
 - Ideally would have a 5-10 acre site. This site is too small to be useful and can't be expanded.
 - The existing site cannot be made any smaller, as the existing loop is smallest size possible for their trucks to be able to turn around
 - The size of the site either needs to remain, increase, or be relocated. Shifting structures or reducing their size won't work.
- Hoping to remove fuel tanks by 2024 (nothing in 2022 budget), but needs \$. Herrera mentioned that all their alternatives will assume the tanks have been removed.
- Some discussion with the County's Sheriff in Concrete about sharing a facility at a new location, but there aren't any plans or financing options on the table at this point, only willingness to discuss

WDFW

- Apparently, after the drought (2015?), part of Lorenzan Creek began going subsurface during the summer months. No current understanding of where the creek connects back into the Skagit River during low flow months. Lorenzan still flows in its historic path during winter months.
- Haven't seen coho in the stream since the downstream portion of the river disappeared--seen other types of fish. Appears to rewater after the adults require access however fish runs are also lower.
- Beaver use has been observed downstream of the project site.

WSDOT

- Construction of the SR20 culvert upstream of the project site will be happening the summer of 2021. There will also be a new crossing at Fish Creek. This is important because the confluence is downstream of the project site and will likely be adding additional water to Lorenzan Creek.
- WSDOT can share plans and information on the culvert design with project team
- No plans to change the SR20 frontage along the project site
- No plans to replace the culvert that crosses SR20 and connects into the project site's drainage system. They would be open to addressing their runoff as part of this project so that all treatment wouldn't need to occur on County property. Herrera would identify options for this, but WSDOT design team would take the lead on development of design.

Permitting / Coordination

- WSDOT:
 - Skagit owns the culvert, and WSDOT will likely only need to conduct a simple review of the plans; mostly only concerned with line of site, such as in the case that the County installs native vegetation as a protected creek buffer landscaped area, and would expect the shoulder to remain as is.
 - If the project needed to redirect or alter the shoulder area/runoff from SR20 in the WSDOT right-of-way, WSDOT's hydraulics group would review plan.
- Town: no permitting required
- Geotech can coordinate with Emily for planning pit explorations and connecting with the right resource at the county

General projects that people like/dislike?

Mayor

- Ideally would like the project site to be developable land, or in some way supportive of their economic growth. Also supportive of a park feature.
- Like the aesthetics and community/human benefit of the Red Cabin Creek design on Hwy 20 near Lyman (although WSDOT mentioned this project didn't solve their problem, as flooding just goes around the structure which is not functioning properly - alluvial fan setting with sediment infill, so isn't necessarily a good example for the technical design)

County

- No BMP preference or strong dislikes
- Only have added 5 or 6 BMP structures recently which require changing filters, so at this point no strong opinions for specific BMP's from a maintenance efficiency across the County perspective

STAKEHOLDER REGISTER							
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