



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

# Britt Slough - Skagit Forks Wetland Reconnection

Where the Skagit River forks to create Fir Island, Skagit Fisheries implemented a restoration project to reconnect the outlet of Britt Slough and a large wetland complex to the South Fork of the Skagit River. This important Chinook recovery project took place in 2021 on Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) land located between the dike and the South Fork of the Skagit River with engineering assistance provided by the Skagit Conservation District. The project restored the connection of Britt Slough and a 7.8-acre wetland complex to the Skagit River. Reconnecting this restored off-channel habitat and wetland complex to the Skagit River provides much needed habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon in the lower Skagit floodplain. Young Chinook salmon seek out these areas of slow-moving water as they migrate to the estuary as places salmon can rest and grow to a larger size before reaching the salt water. Access to this type of off-channel and wetland habitat is extremely limited in the lower Skagit River floodplain where most of the river is diked. This project

offered a unique opportunity to restore floodplain habitat between the dike and the river on publicly owned land. Skagit Fisheries staff, a Washington Conservation Corps crew, and student volunteers planted 6,950 trees along the restored channel and throughout the floodplain of the project site.

This Britt Slough Project is included in the Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) program which is evaluating the effects of habitat restoration projects in the Skagit estuary on Chinook salmon growth and survival. Skagit Fisheries volunteers and staff participated in data collection to document salmon use prior to project construction. Skagit

Fisheries looks forward to assisting tribal scientists with continuing to collect data at Britt Slough to detect changes in salmon production as a result of this project and as part of the larger study effort to quantify impacts of estuary restoration projects on Chinook salmon populations.





### BENEFITS

- Juvenile Chinook benefit from access to this rearing habitat near the Skagit estuary
- Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan estimates that over 7,000 young Chinook smolts will use this new habitat each year
- Southern Resident Killer Whales benefit from this increased food source

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**7.8** acres of

floodplain forested wetland for Chinook rearing habitat

**6,950**

native trees planted

### LANDOWNER

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

### PARTNERS

- Skagit Conservation District
- Washington Conservation Corps
- Community Volunteers

### FUNDERS

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Killer Whale Conservation Fund-National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Washington Conservation Commission
- Washington Department of Ecology



Scan the QR code to view a video about the wetland reconnection project

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, nongovernmental organization dedicated to involving our community in restoring salmon populations for future generations. The work done by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and our volunteers and partners benefits not only salmon but our entire community that values clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, enjoyable recreation opportunities, and a beautiful Skagit Valley. Restoring salmon is not a small task, but with your help we envision a future of healthy stream teeming with salmon for our community to enjoy.



**SKAGIT FISHERIES  
ENHANCEMENT  
GROUP**



Learn about donating and volunteering at [www.SkagitFisheries.org](http://www.SkagitFisheries.org)