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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
(Seattle, Wash.)

Apr 4th, 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Protection and restoration of Skokomish River Valley riparian areas

Mitch Redfern

Mason Conservation District, United States, mitch@masoncd.org

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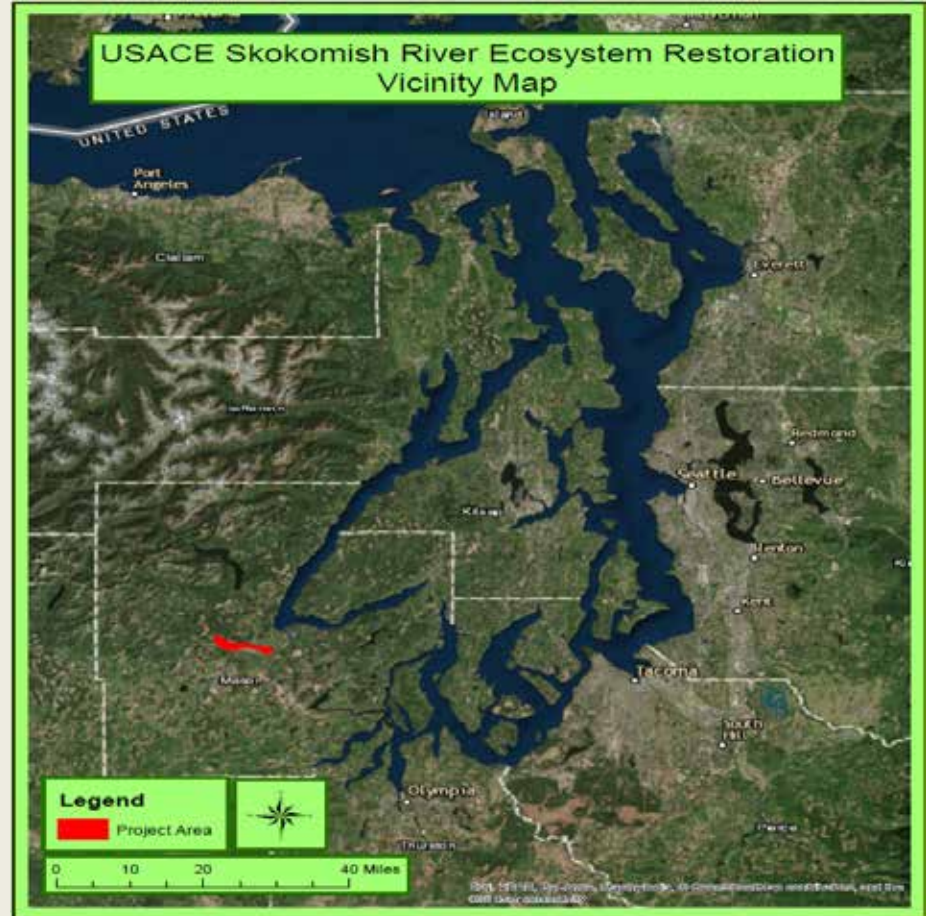
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Protection and Restoration of Skokomish River Valley Riparian Areas

Mitch Redfern
Mason Conservation District

Skokomish Watershed

- Location
- Heavily Degraded
 - Removal of LWD
 - Clearing of Riparian
 - Intensive Logging
 - Streambank Armament
 - Dike Construction
 - Dam Construction
- Status
 - Multiple ESA Listings
 - Extirpated Salmon Stock
 - Severe Aggradation
 - Most Frequently Flooded River



US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) General Investigation (GI)

- GI completed April 2015
- Purpose
 - Evaluate degradation
 - Potential solutions
 - Recommend project package
- Five federal actions approved by Congress 2016.
- USACE responsibility
 - Develop final designs
 - Construct projects
- Local responsibility
 - 35% match
 - Secure all real estate
- 2016 MCD received DOE grant
 - Develop reach-scale plan

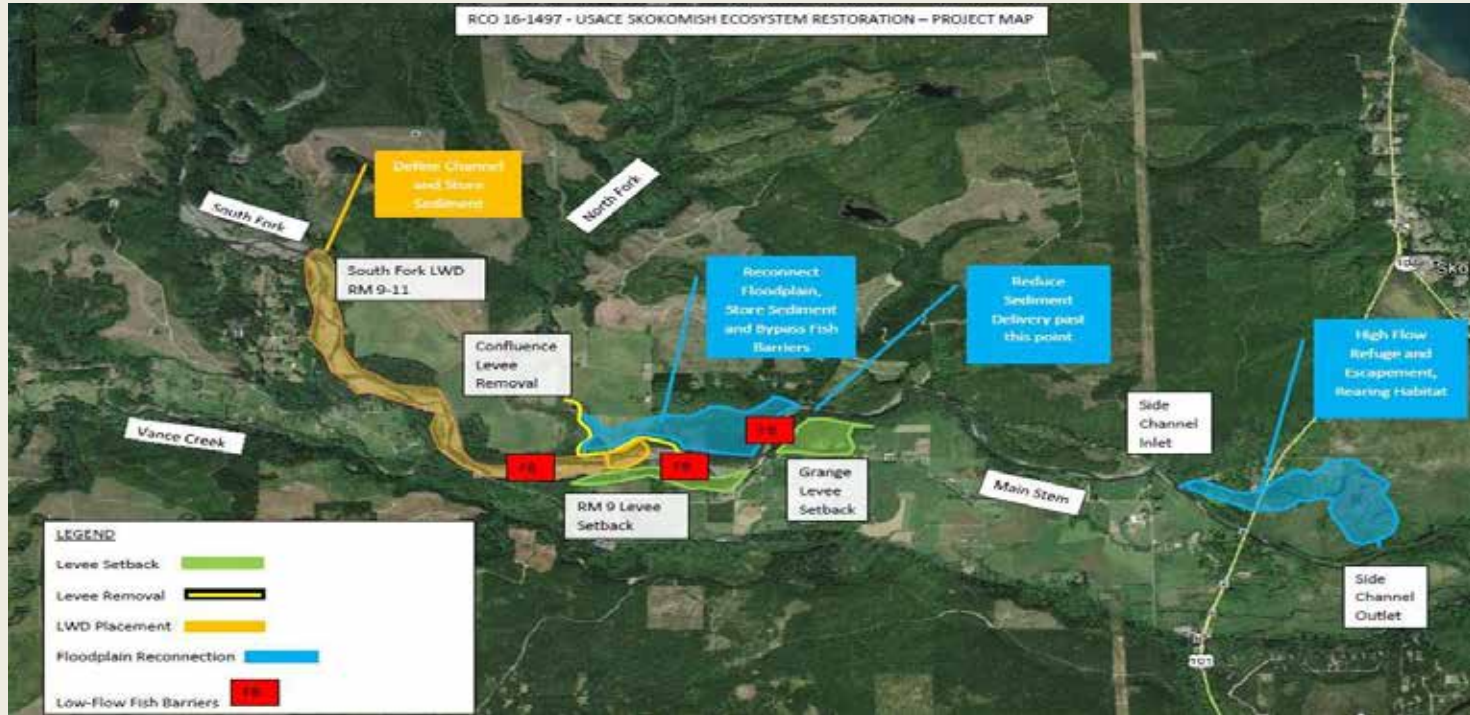
SKOKOMISH RIVER BASIN MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement April 2015



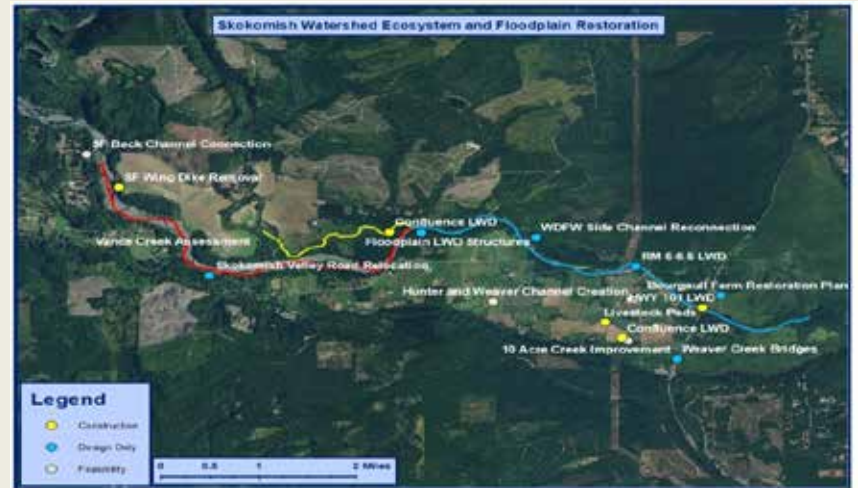
USACE Five Ecosystem Restoration Actions



Reach Scale Plan – Focus Reach



Other Restoration Projects



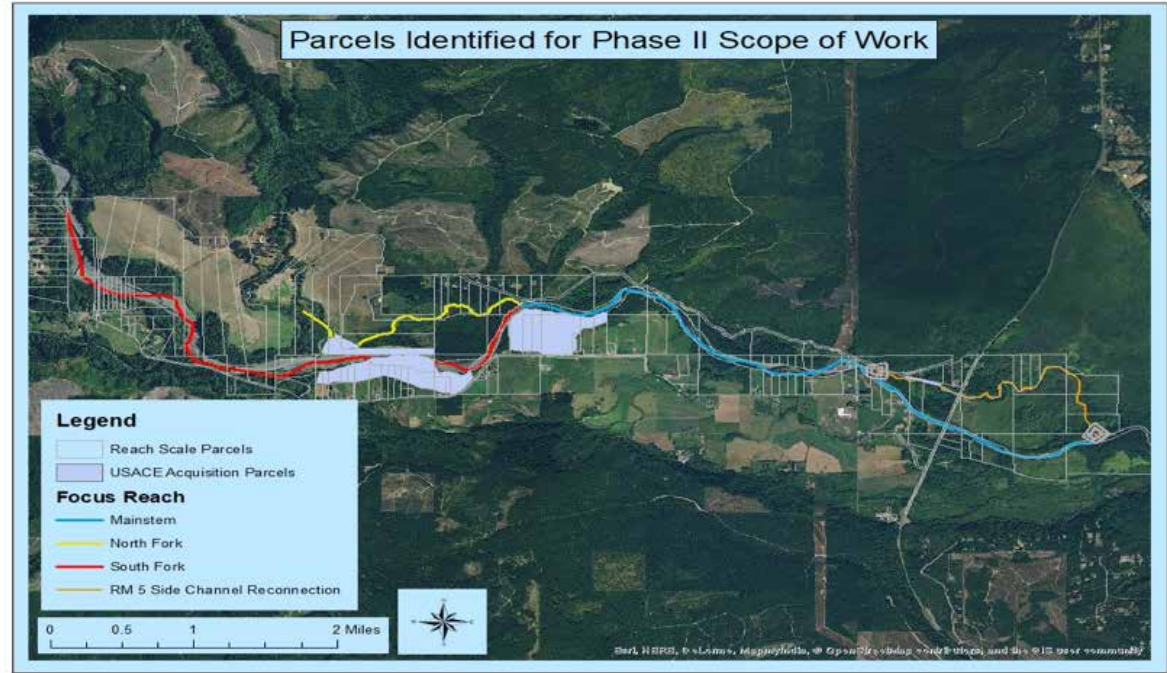
Methods for Prioritizing

Acquisition

- GI Real Estate Plan
- All properties needed - equal
- Fee Simple (86%)
- Prioritization– Landowner Willingness

Riparian Restoration

- Skokomish riparian 2009 →
- Opportunities:
 - Riparian planting establishment
 - Conifer underplanting
 - Invasive weed control
 - Riparian planting maintenance
 - Exclusion fencing
- Prioritization – Adaptive Management



Landowner Outreach & Engagement

- Real Estate Plan
 - Refined list
 - WDNR
- Landowner outreach strategies
 - Targeted mailings
 - Emails
 - Phone calls
 - Site visits
 - Organized meetings
- Landowner engagement strategy
 - Deteriorating river condition
 - Worsening flood conditions
 - Project goals
 - Benefit to valley residents



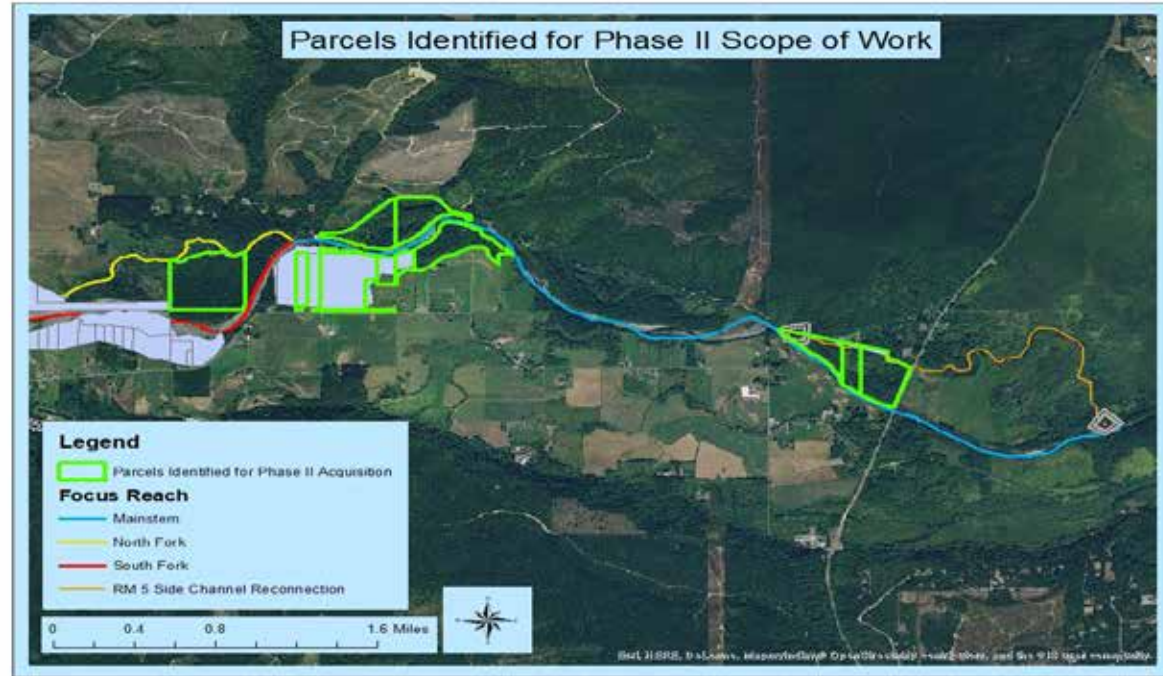
Steve Zugschwerdt photo for Kitsap Sun

Plan Implementation

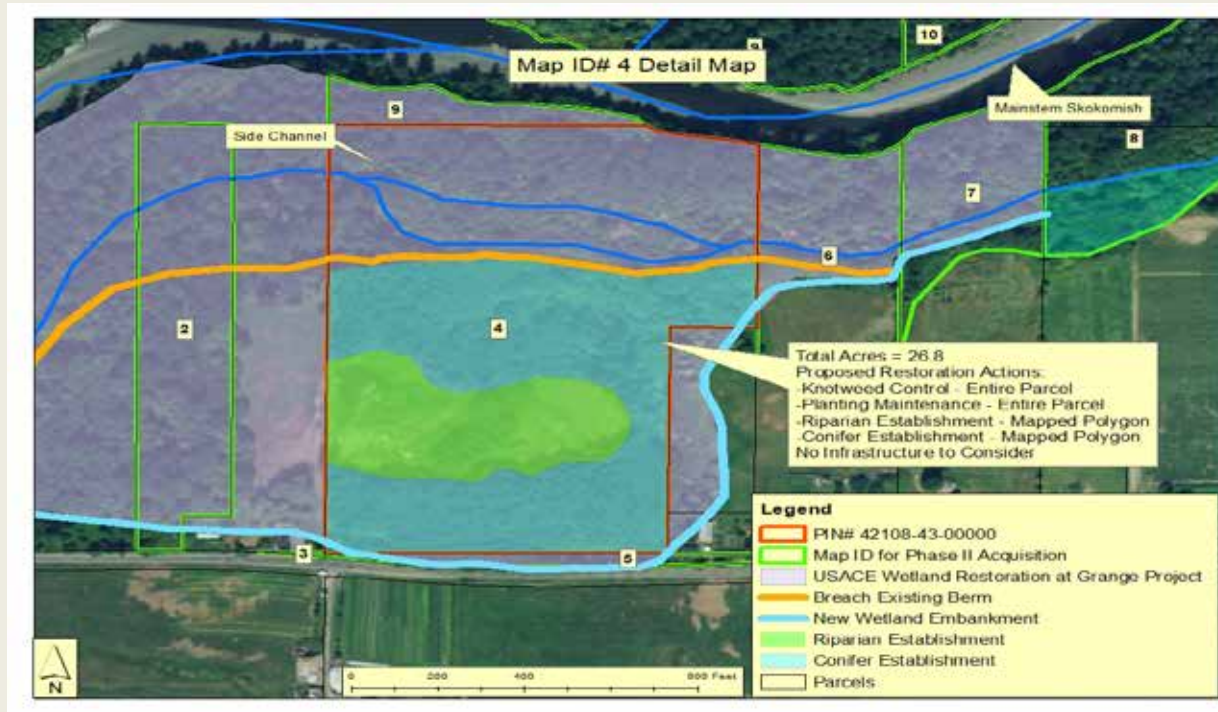
- 13 Parcels (Fee Simple)
- Riparian Restoration each Parcel

Strategic Context

- Focus reach
- USACE project support
- Landowner readiness
- Ecological value – ESA salmonids
- Restoration opportunities

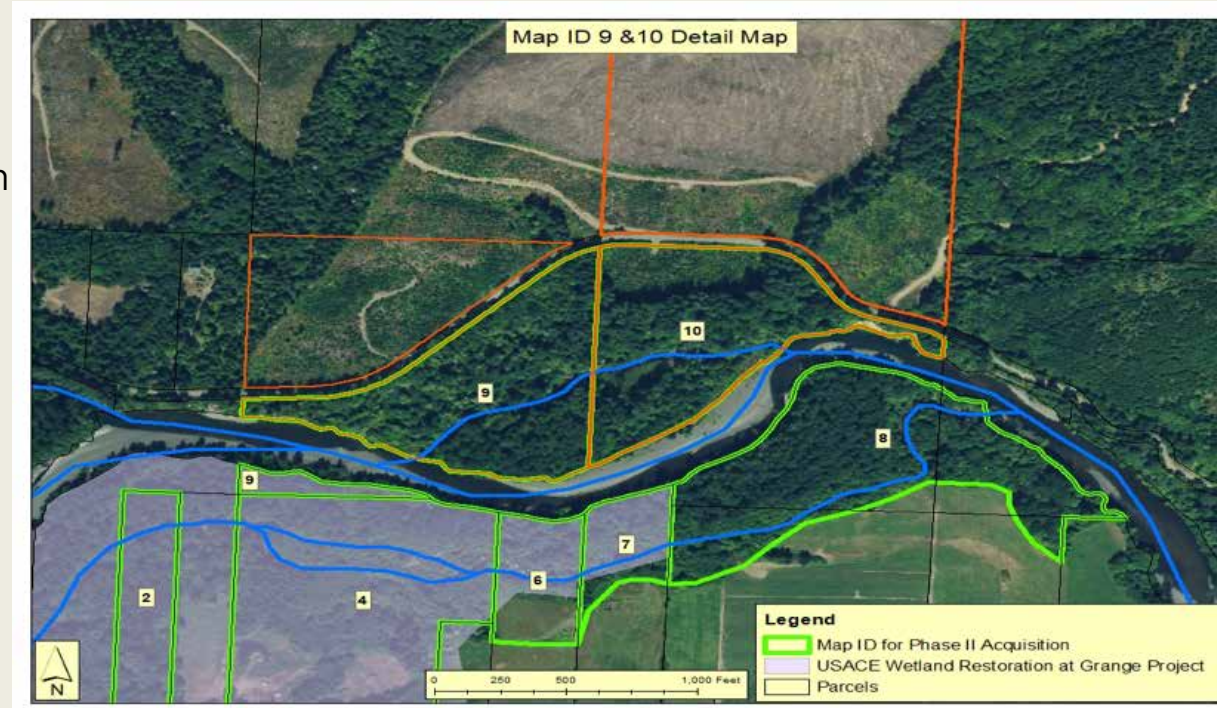


Plan Implementation - Parcel Scale



Lessons Learned

- Multiple Protection Methods
- Landowner Outreach Momentum and Lag time
- Economies of Scale



Thank You

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- "This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-00J89401 through the Washington Department of Ecology. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency or the Washington Department of Ecology, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use."