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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
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Apr 27th, 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

## Restoration Implementation Planning for Salish Sea Stream Mouths Impacted by the Railroad

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# Restoration Implementation Planning for Stream Mouths Impacted by the Railroad

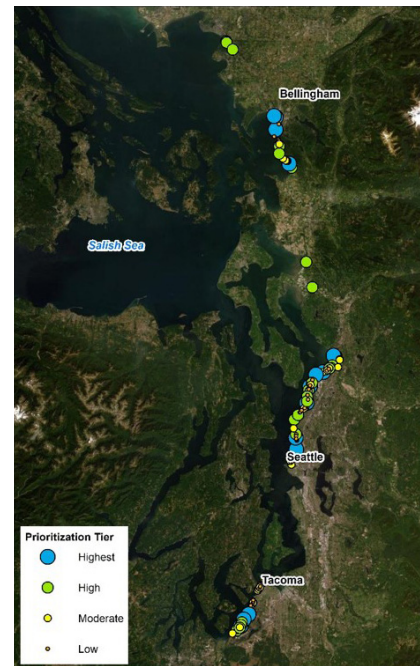


Paul Schlenger, Environmental Science Associates (ESA); Todd Zackey, Tulalip Tribes; and Phil Bloch, Confluence Environmental Company

Seventy-three miles of Salish Sea shoreline in Washington has a railroad along it. This results in large-scale degradation of the habitat quality of the nearshore environment, which is important habitat for several trophic levels of the Salish Sea food web. Work is underway to advance stream mouth restoration at sites identified as high priorities based on their potential to benefit juvenile Chinook salmon.

## PHASE 1: INVENTORY AND PRIORITIZE STREAM MOUTH RAILROAD CROSSINGS

- Convened technical advisory group
- Inventoried nearly 200 stream mouths
- Prioritized based on science-based framework characterizing benefits for juvenile Chinook
- 17 sites highest priority, 27 high priority, remainder moderate or low priorities



## PHASE 2: ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

### A. Design Evaluation for Three Highest Priority Sites



Squalicum Creek



Japanese Gulch Creek



Unnamed Creek at JBLM

### B. Planning Discussions with BNSF and Local Restoration Partners

- Pathways for Implementation
- Funding Strategies
- Collaborate on Regional Management Issues along Railroad

### C. Programmatic Recommendations for Shoreline Culvert Restoration

- Crossing design & constructability considerations
- Best practices for engaging with BNSF

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