The Deepwater Slough project is located on the South Fork Skagit River downstream from Conway, Wash. Deepwater Slough is a small channel between Freshwater and Steamboat Sloughs. The project area includes two islands on either side of Deepwater Slough. Diking, ditching and filling for agriculture greatly diminished the Skagit River delta freshwater and estuarine wetlands and tidal channels. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages the site as a wildlife area, with some areas actively farmed for crop production and wildlife enhancement. Site restoration involves levee removal, restoring tidal hydrology to diked areas and reconnecting the historic tidal channel system on both sides of Deepwater Slough. These actions will restore 270 acres of scarce tidal freshwater wetlands in the Skagit River delta. Plantings on the low natural levee will expand the riparian corridor.

Ecosystem Restoration Benefits
- Restore highly productive tidal wetland habitats that support biodiversity and provide connectivity between the land and sea
- Restore a large river delta providing valuable nursery habitat for juvenile threatened salmon species increasing their survival and supporting Puget Sound population recovery
- Improve estuary water quality
- Improve resiliency of the shoreline to respond to changes in the environment such as sea level change and increasing storm events

Significance
- Included in Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Federal Recovery Plan
- Phase 2 of highly-successful Phase 1 site restoration
- Together, the Deepwater and Milltown projects complete the lower South Fork Skagit River restoration
- Site improves juvenile salmon rearing habitat and capacity, limiting factors in the lower Skagit River
Deepwater Slough

Key Design Elements
The restoration plan includes a combination of levee lowering and breaching around Deepwater West and East islands. Planting riparian vegetation on lowered levees and digging new channels will expand the riparian woodland corridor. The pedestrian bridge extending between the islands will be removed after levee lowering.

Site Summary Statistics
- Area of Restored Process: 270 acres
- Total Project Cost: $9.9 million