Milltown Island is on the east edge of the South Fork Skagit River delta and is defined by two major distributary river channels: Steamboat Slough and Tom Moore Slough. Similar to other islands in the delta, Milltown Island was diked and drained for agricultural uses in the late 1800s. Activities to restore historic scrub-shrub wetland and tidal channels have been ongoing since 2005, and the current proposal would build on those efforts. The proposed restoration would remove specific sections of the remaining dikes along the sloughs to restore tidal and fresh flows through the island while protecting existing riparian habitats.

**Processes Restored**

- Natural formation of tidal channels in estuaries.
- Unrestricted movement of saltwater through tidal channels in estuaries.
- Accumulation and retention of organic material from plants and aquatic animals.
- Unrestricted movement and migration of fish and wildlife.

**Conditions Improved**

- Restored tidal freshwater wetlands, which are highly productive habitats that support biodiversity and provide connectivity between the land and sea.
- Restored large river delta that provides valuable nursery habitat for threatened species of juvenile salmon such as Chinook, increasing their survival and supporting population recovery in Puget Sound.
- Improved quality of the water flowing through the estuary.
Key Design Elements
The restoration would create three breaches in the dike on the west side of Milltown Island along Steamboat Slough. To create the dike openings, controlled blasting, which has been used during previous restoration efforts on Milltown Island, would be used instead of excavation. Channels would be excavated in the interior of the island and would be focused on the west side of the island near the new dike breaches.

Site Summary Statistics
- Area of Restored Process: 214 acres
- Total Project Cost: $4.2 million

For more detailed information regarding this conceptual design, please visit our website at www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/cdr.html.