Quilceda Creek is an important stream for salmon, steelhead, and trout in the Snohomish River delta. The stream historically flowed through an extensive salt marsh in the lower Snohomish River estuary. By the 1930s, diking of the creek and filling and ditching of the marsh began to allow for development and agricultural use. This restoration project would restore some of the historic marsh by removing berms along Quilceda Creek, excavating fill material, eliminating old agricultural ditches, creating new tidal channels, and planting native vegetation.

**Processes Restored**

- Natural formation of tidal channels in estuaries.
- Unrestricted flow of freshwater rivers and streams into estuaries.
- Unrestricted movement of saltwater through tidal channels in estuaries.
- Accumulation and retention of organic material from plants and aquatic animals.

**Conditions Improved**

- 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.
- Re-established intertidal and shallow subtidal areas to encourage the growth of kelp and eelgrass, increasing nearshore productivity for fish, birds and other marine species.
- Improved quality of the water flowing through the estuary.
- Increased area, length, and complexity of shoreline.
The **full restoration** alternative would remove shoreline armoring, nearshore fill, buildings and berms along Quilceda Creek. The linear agricultural ditches would be filled and new tidal channels excavated in their place. The dredged boat launch inlet would be filled and the bulkhead removed to restore intertidal marsh habitat. A buffer of marine riparian upland vegetation would be planted.

The **partial restoration** alternative would be similar, but bulkheads would be left on place on the western part of the site to allow continued use of the existing boat launch.