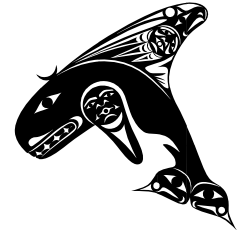


Working with the Corps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal government's largest water resource development and management agency, carrying out projects that benefit the nation in the areas of ecosystem restoration, flood risk management, navigation, and a variety of other water resource needs. The Corps works collaboratively with communities and sponsors to meet water resource needs where there is both local and national interest.

PUGET SOUND NEARSHORE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT



The Sponsor

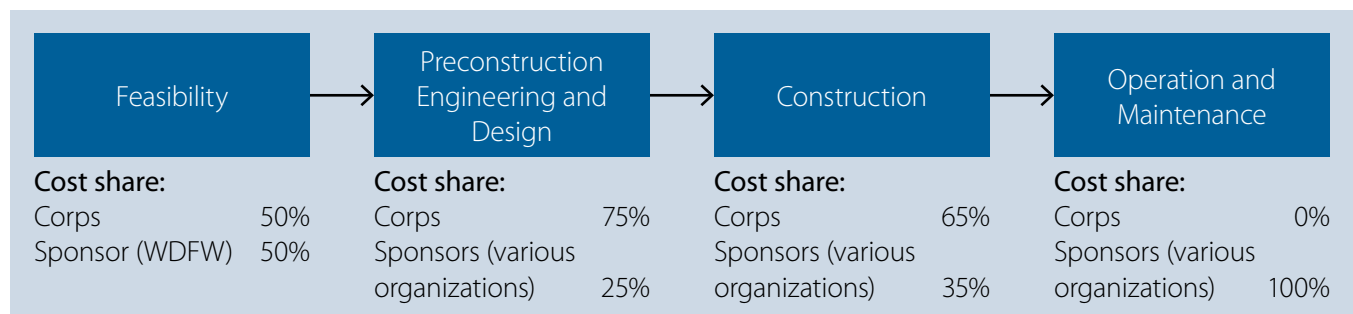
Corps ecosystem restoration projects are undertaken in partnership with a local entity known as the non-federal sponsor (sponsor). Sponsors can be state, tribal, county or local governments or agencies. Non-governmental organizations that have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Corps also may serve as sponsors. The sponsor plays a key role throughout the entire project implementation process.

The sponsor shares in the management of the project including staff work; financial costs of studies, designs and site restoration; provides lands and other real estate interests required for the project site; and is responsible for any operation and maintenance costs after construction. Project site lands and real-estate interests continue to be held in perpetuity by the sponsor while preserving the restored condition to provide the planned ecological benefits.

The professional partnership between the Corps and the sponsor(s) is a multifaceted relationship. Sponsors take an active role in all phases of project development and work in partnership with the Corps team members to see projects through to completion.

Four Ecosystem Restoration Project Phases

The four project phases of an Ecosystem Restoration Project are described below. WDFW is the sponsor for the feasibility study phase. Additional organizations are expected to participate as sponsors for specific sites during the subsequent phases.



1) Feasibility

WDFW is serving as the sponsor during the PSNERP feasibility study. Costs are shared 50/50 between the Corps and the sponsor during feasibility. The goal of the feasibility phase is to recommend a plan that identifies sites and actions to be fully designed and implemented. As part of the feasibility study, conceptual level designs and associated costs will need to be developed. It is expected that the feasibility study team will work closely with proponents at each site to modify existing plans or develop new conceptual plans to meet the requirements of a Corps feasibility study.

Ultimately a set of sites that most cost-effectively meets the overall PSNERP study goals will be selected to carry forward into design and construction.



2) Preconstruction Engineering and Design

After submission of the completed feasibility report, the project will enter into the Preconstruction, Engineering and Design (PED) phase. Project authorization through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) typically occurs in the PED phase. At this point, WDFW will no longer be the sponsor, but proponents whose sites are part of the approved recommended plan will become sponsor(s) for the individual sites. A sponsor is expected to be needed for each site design with PED activities initiated after signing a design agreement with the Corps.

The PED phase typically takes at least two years. The cost share for PED is 75 percent federal and 25 percent for the sponsor(s).

3) Construction

Before starting construction, the Corps and the sponsor(s) will sign a project partnership agreement (PPA). The PPA lays out the responsibilities of the Corps and the sponsor during construction, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, replacement, and adaptive management.

The schedule for construction varies and depends on federal funding appropriated and site-specific requirements. Construction and adaptive management costs are shared, with the federal government covering 65 percent of total project costs and the sponsors responsible for 35 percent. The sponsor will receive credit for their share of the total project costs through the appraised value of the lands and other required real estate interests necessary to implement site restoration, associated real estate costs, in-kind services, and cash the sponsor provides to the Corps for construction and adaptive management.



4) Operation and Maintenance

After construction is complete, the sponsor is responsible for all operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement costs necessary to obtain the planned ecological benefits of the restored lands in a preserved condition. The Corps can continue to cost-share adaptive management activities up to 10 years after completion of construction based on the terms of the PPA.



Conclusion

PSNERP anticipates completing the draft feasibility report in the summer of 2011 and submitting a recommended plan to Congress for WRDA authorization once agency and public reviews have been conducted. Once authorized, and over the course of a number of years, the project will implement large-scale projects necessary to restore ecosystem processes at a landscape scale. These actions will not only save natural resources, but also have the potential to re-create resiliency within the ecosystem and protect and restore a vital element of Puget Sound for humans, animals, and plants to prosper in the future.

Contact Information:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Manager:

Curtis Tanner
curtis.tanner@dfw.wa.gov
(360) 902-2815

Corps of Engineers Project Manager:

Bernie Hargrave
bernard.l.hargrave.jr@usace.army.mil
(206) 764-6839



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PSNERP is the nearshore habitat component of the Puget Sound Partnership's strategy to restore Puget Sound by 2020. Completing the PSNERP feasibility study is a high priority of the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda to restore ecosystem processes, structures, and functions. Learn more about the Action Agenda at www.psp.wa.gov