

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP)

Goals and Objectives

Study Goals

The overarching goals of PSNERP are to:

- Restore and protect nearshore processes that sustain Puget Sound
- Restore and protect ecosystem functions and structures that support valued ecosystem components
- Increase understanding of the Puget Sound nearshore to improve restoration and protection actions

Planning Objectives and Draft Sub-objectives

1. Restore connectivity and size of large river deltas
 - a. Restore tidal flow in river deltas
 - b. Restore wetland quantity and quality with emphasis on oligohaline and tidal freshwater classes
 - c. Improve connectivity between nearshore and adjacent uplands/watershed
 - d. Increase the shoreline length of large river deltas
2. Restore sediment input, transport and accretion
 - a. Rehabilitate sediment input by reducing degradation of divergent zones and bluff backed beaches
3. Restore shoreline complexity and length
 - a. Restore shoreline length
 - b. Restore embayments that have transitioned to artificial or have been lost
 - c. Restore existing embayments
4. Enhance landscape heterogeneity and connectivity
 - a. Restore richness of shoreforms
 - b. Reduce fragmentation of the shoreline
 - c. Improve connectivity between adjacent uplands and the nearshore
5. Protect relatively undegraded large river deltas
 - a. Preserve relatively intact deltas including adjacent upland areas
 - b. Prevent further degradation of delta processes
6. Protect relatively undegraded sources of sediment
 - a. Prevent degradation of divergence zones and bluff-backed beaches
 - b. Protect bluff-backed beaches and divergence zones with minimal shoreline alterations
7. Protect relatively undegraded embayments
 - a. Conserve areas with intact tidal flow
 - b. Conserve areas with fewest shoreline alterations and least wetland area loss
8. Increase understanding of natural processes in order to improve effectiveness of program actions

DRAFT SUB-OBJECTIVES | Currently under review and subject to change

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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