2006 Chimacum Beach and Estuary Restoration

Why was restoration needed?

Chimacum Beach and its nearshore environment was heavily impacted by years of human activity. A healthy marine nearshore environment is critical for salmon populations. Estuaries play important roles throughout the salmon's lifecycle. The beach environment is important spawning habitat for forage fish, which are food for adult migrating salmon. This goal of this project is to restore Chimacum Creek's degraded nearshore environment.





Project Overview

Location: Irondale Beach/Mouth of Chimacum Creek Total area restored: 13 acres Amount of wood waste removed: 21,000 cubic yards

The Chimacum Beach and Estuary Restoration Project removed approximately 21,000 cubic yards of wood waste and fill material left behind from years of industry in an old Irondale town. The project also opened up 5.7 acres of shallow intertidal habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife. This project increased access to forage fish, such as sand lance and surfsmelt, for mature salmon.

Project Sponsor North Olympic Salmon Coalition Project Partners



Jefferson County Conservation District, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation