

# Information Paper

---

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

Date: 07/26/05  
Project Name: Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Control  
Location: Mason County, Wash.  
Project Manager: Mamie Brouwer, 206-764-3577  
Congressional District: 6

Description: The Skokomish River Study will address ecosystem restoration and flooding in the watershed. The ecosystem functions and processes necessary to support critical fish and wildlife habitat throughout the basin have been severely degraded. The river system experiences frequent and severe flooding, that progressively gets worse each year. Mason County, the Skokomish Indian Tribe along with other several State, Federal, and local governmental entities have been working to develop a plan for restoring the ecosystem in the Skokomish River watershed.

Status: The reconnaissance report was approved in 2000. However, the study was deferred due to unresolved flow issues related to the operation of the City of Tacoma dam on the Skokomish River. Mason County and the Skokomish Tribe provided letters of intent in March 2005 to sponsor reinitiation of the study, focusing on environmental restoration for salmon and incidental flood control. Funds were reprogrammed into the study in FY 05 and FY06 in response to Congressional requests to complete the revised Project Management Plan and Federal Cost Sharing Agreement by the end of the calendar year.

Background: The Skokomish River basin is located in northwest Washington, in Mason County along the southeast portion of the Olympic Peninsula. The basin consists of 80 river miles, and 260 miles of tributaries. The river flows into the southern end of Hood Canal, an arm of Puget Sound. The last six miles of the Skokomish River runs through the Skokomish Indian Reservation. The City of Tacoma's Cushman Dam hydroelectric project was constructed on the Skokomish River in 1926. A second City of Tacoma dam diverts nearly all flow from the North Fork of the Skokomish River to a power plant. The Skokomish River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan and other pertinent studies will serve as a foundation for determining the details of this flood reduction/ecosystem restoration project. The river supports three fish stocks listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Miscellaneous: This study has the strong support of Congressman Norm Dicks. The Corps has an ecosystem restoration project for salmon at the mouth of the Skokomish River under the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters authority.

Sponsor: Mason County and Skokomish Tribe

Authority: Section 212 of the Water Resource Development Act of 1999, Flood Mitigation and Riverine Restoration Program.