Pearson Eddy WRP Restoration

Easement Background

- In 2004, NRCS acquired permanent conservation easements on prior farmland from two adjoining private landowners covering ~267 acres under the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
- WRP is a nationwide program designed to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands on agricultural lands.
- Project is located on the floodplain of the Snoqualmie River and includes Pearson Eddy Slough
- The WRP easements adjoins two other properties with conservation objectives which present an opportunity to restore fish and wildlife habitat and floodplain function on over 600 acres.

Restoration Objectives

- Restore hydrology to floodplain wetlands
- Restore native floodplain forest vegetation on 30 acres of degraded wetland
- Improvement of juvenile salmon & steelhead access to slower moving flows associated with refuge areas in floodplain wetlands and channels
- Enhance waterfowl habitat through shallow excavation and vegetation management

Project Elements

- Replace the failing water control structure with a structure that is designed to improve the exchange of water from Pearson Eddy slough onto lands within the easement
- The existing natural swale channel on the floodplain will be restored to a configuration more closely resembling the original floodplain channel present prior to active agriculture
- “Deep Ditch” (large constructed ditch) will be filled with native soil from the swale restoration
- Planting native trees and shrubs on 30 acres
- Fill a portion of constructed drainage ditches associated with Treen Lake

Timeline

- Following completion of the Environmental Assessment, construction activities could begin mid-summer 2017