

# PUGET SOUND

## National Estuary Program

### CHIMACUM CREEK RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition has been working in the Chimacum Watershed for over 30 years to improve the health of the creek and restore salmon habitat. The project seeks to work with agricultural landowners to restore and protect riparian habitat while maintaining agricultural productivity.

### SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The project tasks were identified through a collaborative planning process and are detailed in the [Chimacum Creek Restoration and Protection Plan \(2018\)](#).

- Protection 0.7 acres of Riparian Habitat
- Install 12 Beaver Dam Flow Management Devices
- Purchase Natives Trees for Plantings
- Highlight Chimacum Creek Partnerships



Healthy riparian habitat on Chimacum Creek/ NOSC archives

### WHY CHIMACUM CREEK?

Salmon runs on Chimacum Creek historically included native coho, summer chum and steelhead. Native coho and chum runs in the Chimacum Watershed are greatly diminished from historic levels. A habitat assessment for the watershed documented a greater than 90% loss of juvenile coho rearing habitat over the last 150 years.




Coho migrating to spawning habitat on Chimacum Creek/ NOSC archives

Because beaver management is a key issue of concern for landowners within the watershed and is directly tied to forested riparian buffers, partners have been working together to manage beaver dams and flooding to balance the benefits of beaver habitat for salmonids and their potential impact on working lands.

Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), a fast-growing, rhizomatous perennial grass, is a major concern for riparian restoration and agricultural production on Chimacum Creek. Monoculture precludes establishment of native tree and shrub species and can cause flooding and drainage issues on agricultural lands. Riparian habitat management is critical to recovery of salmon habitat in the watershed.

### ABOUT THE SALMON COALITION

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition works to promote robust wild salmon stocks for families, fishers, and local economies by furthering habitat restoration and education on the North Olympic Peninsula. We are one of fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups in Washington State, working directly with State agencies, tribal governments and local communities across the Olympic Peninsula.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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