

# Chehalis Basin Strategy

Riverside habitat restoration example actions

Summer/Fall 2016

The Chehalis Basin Strategy is an ambitious collection of potential actions to both improve river habitat and reduce flood damage. These include near-term and long-term actions, as well as small and large scale projects. Nothing is decided at this point – these are actions being considered. The potential habitat restoration actions being considered are described below. The goal is to restore over 100 miles of riverside habitat.

Potential Action	Examples	
<p>Restore river bank habitat on the Chehalis River and selected tributaries by adding native plants and vegetation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Before</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>After</b></p> 
<p>Remove or repair culverts and other manmade structures, eliminating fish passage barriers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Before</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>After</b></p> 
<p>Restore off-channel habitat on the mainstem and key tributaries of the Chehalis River</p>		
<p>Add wood structures on the mainstem and key tributaries to trap sediment and improve habitat for salmon and other species</p>		

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<p>Reduce bank erosion to naturally occurring rates by planting vegetation and adding logs that keep the bank strong and reduce the amount of soil that the river pulls away</p>		
<p>Reconnect the floodplain allowing floodwaters to spread out onto floodplains to help support productive fisheries and provide important habitat for birds and other wildlife, which could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconnecting oxbows in specific areas that will not exacerbate invasive predator issues</li> <li>• Removing levees</li> <li>• Allowing the river channel to migrate within the floodplain</li> </ul>		
<p>Create, restore or enhance wetlands for use by semi-aquatic species</p>		
<p>Long-term protection through conservation easements and land acquisition</p>	<p>A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust; it may permanently limit use of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows the property owner to continue to own, and perhaps occupy and use the land, including the ability to sell or pass it on to heirs.</p>	

## For more information

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