



Milltown Island

Milltown Island, on the South Fork Skagit River delta, is part of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's 17,000-acre Skagit Wildlife Area. This island was historically used for agriculture after construction of perimeter dikes, a central cross dike and drainage channels. This diking hydrologically disconnected the site from the Skagit River, resulting in a loss of tidal marsh and channels. The island's southern portion, which isn't diked, consists of about 100 acres of tidal marsh. The proposed restoration action will remove sections of the perimeter levees, restoring tidal and freshwater hydrology to the island's 214-acre interior marsh. Restoring tidal and riverine processes will form, scour and expand the levee breaches and marsh channels within the island's former agricultural areas.



IMAGE: Washington State Department of Ecology (2006)

Ecosystem Restoration Benefits

- Restore highly-productive tidal freshwater wetland habitats, supporting biodiversity and providing land and sea connectivity
- Restore large river delta that provides valuable nursery habitat for juvenile threatened salmon species, increasing survival and supporting Puget Sound population recovery
- Improve estuary water quality

Significance

- Included in the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Federal Recovery Plan
- Phase 2 of highly-successful Phase 1 site restoration
- Together, the Deepwater and Milltown projects complete the lower South Fork Skagit River restoration

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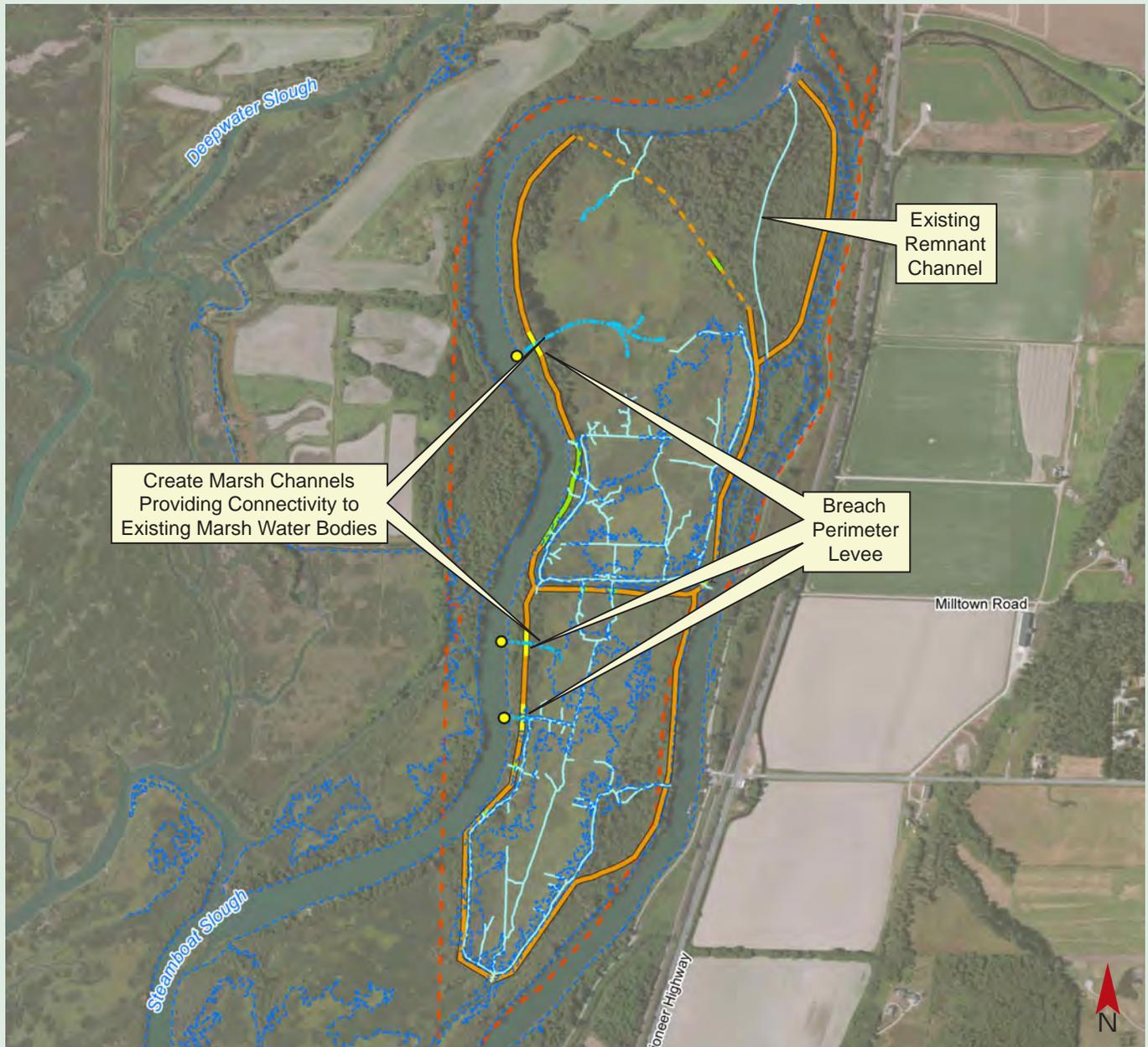


Image above depicts major project features. See design report for additional details.

SOURCE: ESA (2011); USDA-NAIP (2009)

Key Design Elements

The restoration creates three breaches in the levee on Milltown Island's west side along Steamboat Slough. Controlled blasting is proposed to create the levee openings instead of excavation. This process was used during previous Milltown Island restoration efforts. Excavate interior island channels focusing on the west side near the new levee breaches.

Site Summary Statistics

- Area of Restored Process: 214 acres
- Total Project Cost: \$4 million



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