



Moving Towards A Strategic Approach to Nearshore Restoration

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What is different about PSNERP's approach to restoration?

Traditionally, project selection is often opportunistic and poorly coordinated to achieve maximum ecosystem benefit. Groups apply for available funding and good projects that meet the goals and objectives of the funding source are implemented. However, it is unknown if those projects were ideally located or scoped to effectively achieve ecosystem-based restoration.



PSNERP's comprehensive scientific assessment of the Puget Sound allows us to determine what is "broken" and where, and then identify what we can do to fix it. Ultimately, it allows the restoration and protection community to identify areas and actions that would achieve maximum benefit towards ecosystem-based restoration. Projects in these locations can then be directed towards appropriate funding sources for implementation.

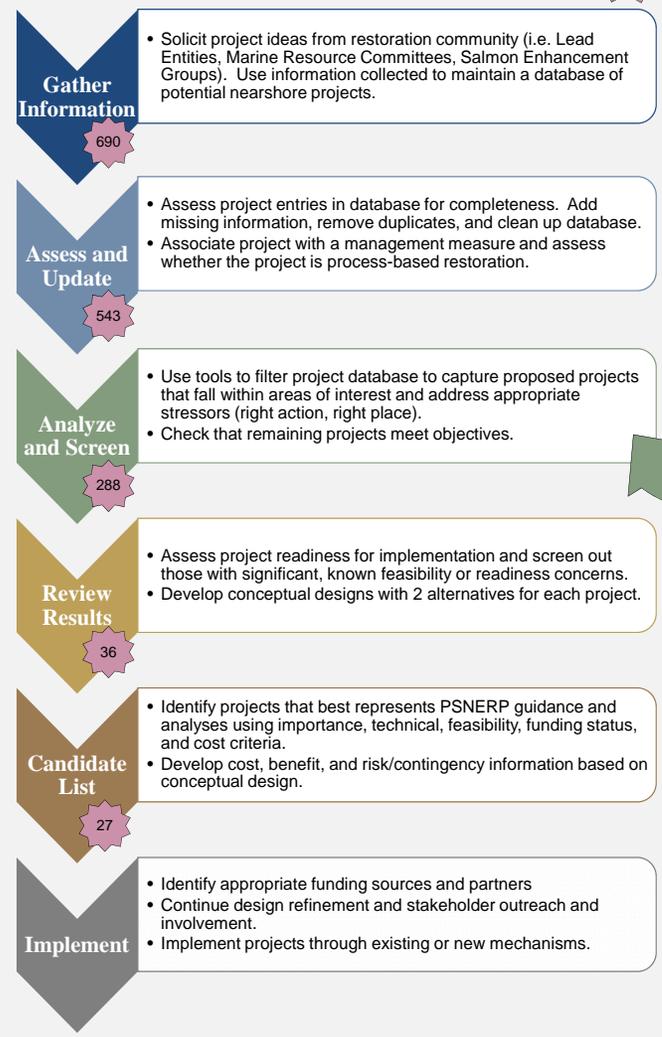
What is PSNERP?

The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) is a large-scale initiative that affords a unique opportunity to tackle some of the foremost habitat restoration needs in Washington State's Puget Sound basin. Nearshore Project goals are to identify significant ecosystem problems, evaluate potential solutions, and restore and preserve critical nearshore habitat.

The project is a cooperative effort among government organizations, tribes, industries, and environmental organizations to preserve and restore the health of the Sound's nearshore.



Our path to strategic nearshore restoration



Data used to inform the process

Strategies

Using an estimate of a site's potential to deliver ecosystem services, and degradation to those historic services, a preliminary recommendation to protect, enhance, or restore is made and high potential sites are noted.

Change and Stressors

Informs about the types, extent and consequences of changes to Puget Sound's shoreline. Identifies man-made stressors (i.e. railroads, armoring, marinas) and associated degradation to help us understand the problems and establish restoration objectives.

Analysis of 543 potential projects using our technical products informed our understanding of critical problems and the prevalent stressors that have degraded nearshore processes, effectively pointing to which actions are needed for restoration of those processes and where restoration and protection actions should be focused to achieve greatest success in restoring process, structure and function of the nearshore.

What happens next?

- PSNERP will move a subset of projects forward to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for inclusion into a Feasibility Report and, ultimately, Congressional Authorization for construction. PSNERP will continue to pursue opportunities for implementation of remaining projects through other funding opportunities.
- PSNERP made a purposeful decision to limit consideration to existing project ideas in this initial assessment. Future assessments could use strategy recommendations to aid in development of projects that address program objectives.
- Other groups pursuing restoration and protection are encouraged to use PSNERP data to inform decisions about where and what to do to achieve Puget Sound nearshore restoration.

