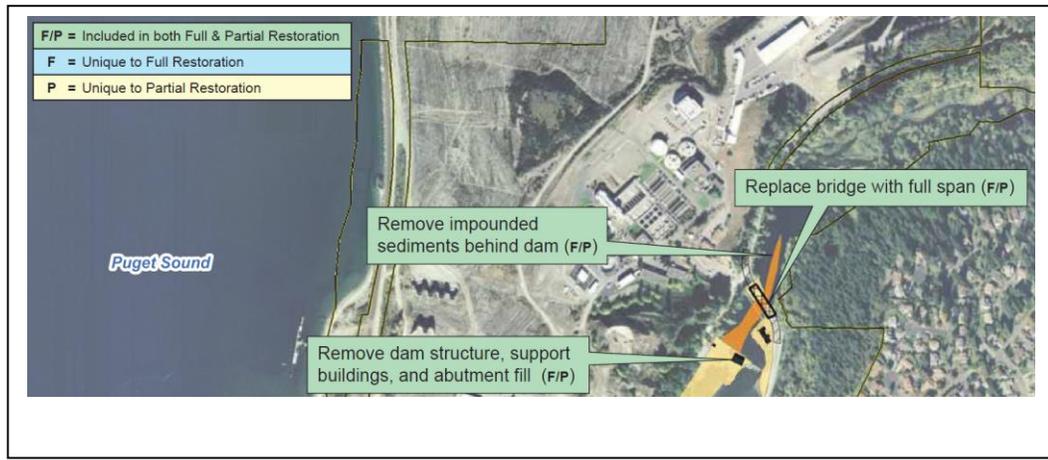


## Chambers Creek Dam Acquisition and Planning



Map excerpt from Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project Design Report, US Army Corps of Engineers, May 2012

**Applicant:** Forterra

**Strategic Initiatives:** A6.1 Implement high priority projects identified in each salmon recovery watershed's 3 year work plan; B2.2 Implement prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects, and accelerate projects on public lands; A2 Riparian Corridor Management -Protect and restore upland, freshwater, and riparian ecosystems.

**Priority Near Term Action:** Chambers Creek Dam Acquisition and Planning

**Ecosystem threat summary:** The Chambers Creek Estuary in which the dam is located is the major estuarine feature between the Nisqually River and the Tacoma Narrows. Given the current lack of habitat structure and food production inside the estuary, this historically important habitat feature now provides limited refuge, rearing and foraging capacity for migrating salmonids. Restoration of this estuary- particularly the removal of the dam, would benefit several target species, including coho and chum salmon, steelhead and smelt. Sediment that is trapped behind the dam inhibits spawning success- removal of the dam and associated sediment would alleviate this problem. Removal of the dam would also reduce predation from mammals and reduce risk of adults being stranded on the gangway along the top of the dam.

**Project Description:** A feasibility study for dam removal is on schedule for SRFB funding in December 2015 (local and SRFB/PSP technical review panels have approved the project). The NTA proposal is to acquire the dam and complete a site restoration plan (final design) based off of the

sediment sampling, modeling of sediment transport, and conceptual design under multiple dam removal scenarios. The project will include continued stakeholder process.

**Major Tasks: Acquisition, final design, stakeholder facilitation**

**Budget:** \$389,000 for Phase II (see attached budget estimate)

**Project Schedule:** Project can be completed in two years.

**Project Partnership and Roles:**

American Rivers: A national leader in removal of antiquated dams and have developed a step-by-step process that has proven effective in the removal of dams throughout the Country. American Rivers staff have a local involvement and will be able to assist with technical and political aspects of dam removal.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group: SPSSEG was formed by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 as a means of directly involving communities, citizen volunteers, and landowners in salmon recovery efforts. The SPSSEG also has extensive experience in the Chambers Creek system, including the dam itself having managed a dam removal feasibility assessment in 2010. The SPSSEG will have a role in planning for the removal of the dam, as well as in facilitating discussions focused on managing the salmon resource.

Forterra: Forterra is the largest conservation organization solely dedicated to Washington state. Forterra will help facilitate conversations with the community on the desire and feasibility of removing the dam, as well as provide technical expertise on real estate acquisition matters. Forterra will also serve as the manager of the grant.

Pierce County Surface Water Management: SWM has a strong salmon habitat restoration background and will provide technical expertise.