



**Salmon Program  
Federal Recovery Projects  
Post-Evaluation Project Summary**

<b>TITLE:</b> Nooksack Estuary Habitat Assessment			<b>NUMBER:</b> 01-1340N (Non-Capital)
			<b>STATUS:</b> Active
<b>SPONSOR:</b> Lummi Indian Nation			<b>EVALUATION SCORE:</b>
			<b>BOARD RANKING:</b>
<b>COSTS:</b>			<b>SPONSOR MATCH:</b>
Salmon Federal Projects	\$265,500	85%	Federal Grant
Local	\$47,500	15%	Force Acct - Equipment
Total	<u>\$313,000</u>	<u>100%</u>	

**DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed Nooksack River Estuary Habitat Assessment will collect baseline data for understanding salmon habitat limiting factors and restoration opportunities in the Nooksack River Estuary. The Nooksack Estuary is defined as the tidally influenced zone within the fluvial system and the near-shore area immediately adjacent to the river delta. The estuary area for this assessment will include all aquatic habitat downstream of Ferndale, WA including the Nooksack and Lummi River distributaries. The near-shore area will extend from Sandy Point in the north to Squalicum Creek in the south.

The assessment will be staged in two successive phases focusing on three types of questions. Stage One will describe the current conditions of the aquatic habitat in the Nooksack estuary; Stage Two will assess the causes for the conditions and will focus on assessing habitat-forming processes (Joint Natural Resources Cabinet 2001). The assessment will characterize several ecosystem components including hydrologic conditions, geomorphic conditions, vegetation and land-use patterns and water quality conditions. It will also present possible restoration opportunities to restore natural habitat-forming processes to this critical salmonid habitat resource area.

This assessment will be closely coordinated with a proposal by the Nooksack Tribe to assess near-shore habitat conditions and a Lummi Natural Resources juvenile salmonid habitat association, distribution and abundance assessment.

**LOCATION INFORMATION:**

Greater Nooksack River Estuary

<b>ST SALMON REGION:</b> Puget Sound North	<b>LEAD ENTITY ORG:</b> Whatcom County Lead Entity
<b>COUNTY:</b> Whatcom	<b>WRIA:</b> Nooksack (1)

**SCOPE (ELEMENTS):**

Other	Salaries & Benefits	Supplies
Professional Services	Sales Tax	

**SALMON INFORMATION: (\* in**

Species Targeted

Bull Trout	Cutthroat (Not Warranted (04/99))
Chinook (Listed, Threatened (03/99))	Pink
Chum (Not Warranted (03/98))	Sockeye
Coho (Candidate (07/95))	Steelhead (Not Warranted (08/96))

Habitat Factors Addressed

Biological Processes	Riparian Conditions
Channel Conditions	Water Quality
Estuarine and Nearshore Habitat	Water Quantity
Floodplain Conditions	

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**FISCAL YEAR:** 2002

**DATE PRINTED:** June 12, 2003

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