

**Title:**

Yakima Side Channels - Habitat Protection Efforts  
Yakima Subbasin  
Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project

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**Summary of Presentation:**

In 2002, YKFP habitat efforts in the Yakima Subbasin have focused on protection and restoration of some of the most productive mainstem habitats. Properties that have been permanently protected in the last year include Scatter Creek Phase II, and Lower Naches Phase II. These areas were acquired through a cooperative arrangement with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Planning for the Hanson Ponds floodplain restoration project continues to mature, with the project scheduled for implementation this fall.

Scatter Creek Phase II is 310 acres, and was purchased in June 2002. This phase substantially increased habitat benefits gained in phase I, with a total of 417 acres now protected. Individual parcels are contiguous, they connect with 300 acres of public land at the upstream end, and abut the phase I properties at the downstream end. The YKFP main supplementation facility lies adjacent to the phase I property. Some of the property is a five-minute drive from Interstate 90, and 85 miles from downtown Seattle. Thus, development pressure was high. Habitat features include a mosaic of large wetland complexes and active side channels, interspersed with pine terraces.

In September 2002, 52 acres were purchased in the lower Naches. This property is the first of four properties to be acquired under this phase. All of the properties are contiguous; the other three properties will be purchased in the next few weeks. All the properties were inundated during the 1996 flood, though much of the property is not designated as jurisdictional (100-year) floodplain. In total, 110 acres will be protected in this phase.

Hanson Ponds has gone through extensive planning and coordination during this time frame. This property is less than 300 yards upstream of the Dixon property, which was protected by the Yakima Side Channels project in 2000. Hanson Ponds includes 125 acres, with 8500 feet of shoreline along the Yakima

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mainstem. A collaborative restoration plan has been developed with the town of Cle Elum, including restoring flow through an armored levee, allowing Hanson Ponds to become a side-channel rearing area. A road will be abandoned, and a parking area developed for walk-in access. Large woody debris will be placed in the created side channel, and native riparian vegetation will be planted on the abandoned road and portions of the levee surface. Funding for restoration actions will be provided by the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, which is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.