



Grays Harbor
Conservation
District

your window to healthy lands

Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation Project
Overview Project Description Prepare for Shoreline Permit Application
(Prepared 8-02-2021)

The Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation Project will provide protection for approximately 1,950 feet of riverbank along the lower Satsop River in order to reduce current aggressive rates of erosion, conserve the right bank line, and generally preserve the river's migration corridor until the Lower Satsop Restoration and Protection Program's Phase II project is constructed (summer 2022).

The 13.25-acre project area is situated landward of the top of the riverbank and includes on-site staging area, a temporary construction access road, and the project construction area. To conserve the bank, engineered boulder ballasted log structures will be placed in excavated trenches and will include four-log jack spurs, continuous log rows, and log jacks. The majority of construction activities will occur within the 150-foot shoreline and fish and wildlife habitat conservation area Satsop River protective buffer.

Ground disturbance will occur only within 200,000 square feet (4.6 acres) of farmed uplands. The project will result in a total of approximately 23,00 square feet (0.53 acres) of excavation of native soil material (approximately 17,500 cubic yards), placement of approximately 5,300 cubic yards of rock and log material, and backfilling with native soil. All excavated soil will remain on-site and will be backfilled directly into excavated areas or spread and graded in upland areas adjacent to the completed installation. The temporary access road will be constructed using hog fuel (wood chips) overlaid on geotextile or geogrid material, will be 15 feet wide and will include 80-foot diameter turn-arounds near each end, and will cover approximately 1.43 acres (2,400 cubic yards). All temporarily disturbed areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions by seeding with grass seed and/or mulch (unless another cover crop is selected for installation by the farmers). No impacts will occur waterward of the bank or below the ordinary high-water mark of the Satsop River.

Through extensive coordination with WDFW, Grays Harbor County, and other permitting agencies, the project has been designed to be self-mitigating as log structures will sluff to the toe of the riverbank and engage with the river as erosion occurs, thereby conserving the bank and also providing valuable fish habitat once engaged. Adaptive management measures implemented over a three-year period and in coordination with permitting agencies will ensure that the structures perform as intended and that bioengineering be incorporated where feasible as structures sluff into position. Ultimately, the project will not result in significant adverse effects to the shoreline environment. A maintenance agreement and/or temporary access/construction easement will be in place between the applicant and landowners prior to construction.

Because the project cannot be constructed prior to the end of the in-water window for fish protection (by August 31), the project will be constructed entirely in uplands. Construction will occur September through October 2021 (or into November if field conditions allow). The actual project start date will depend on contractor availability, but it is anticipated that staging and assembling of log jacks and log bundles may begin in September 2021 (outside of designated shoreline and riparian buffers) and that excavation and structure placement will begin once all environmental permits are received.