Removing a dam from the Pilchuck River in Snohomish County will open 37 miles of natural habitat to Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout—species currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Currently, fish passage is partially blocked by the dam and the fish ladder is periodically filled with sediment. The dam was built in 1912 for water withdrawal, but is no longer used by the City of Snohomish. The dam and other structures will be removed to restore the river channel to a fully natural condition.

KEY BENEFITS

- Opens 37 miles of river habitat for adult salmon to lay eggs and for young salmon to feed and grow before heading out to the ocean.
- Supports Chinook salmon—a critical food source for endangered Southern Resident orcas.
- Reduces costs for maintenance and liability associated with the dam.
- Places the City of Snohomish's water right into trust to preserve river flow during the summer.

SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT

- Identified as a priority location in the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan.
- Ranked as the first recommended action for the Pilchuck River by the Snohomish River Salmonid Habitat Limiting Factors Analysis.
- This project supports tribal treaty rights.