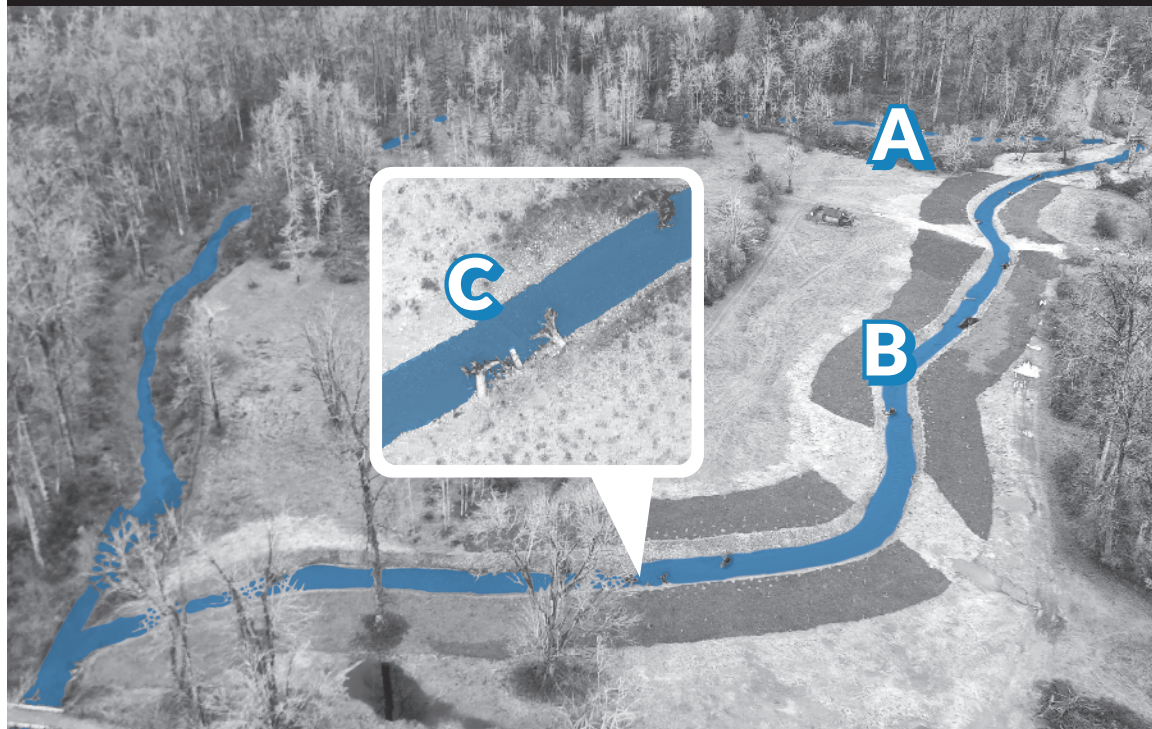


# THE WIRE

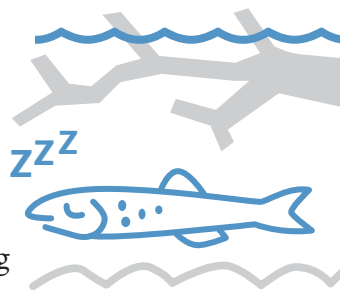
SEPTEMBER 2025 / [SNOPUD.COM](https://www.snopud.com)



## Aiding Salmon in the Sultan

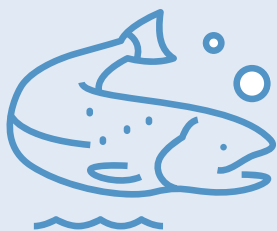
Constructing a new side channel through an open field in the floodplain is no easy task. Last year, the PUD completed a million-dollar side channel project, made possible through grant funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

- A** The 1,900 linear feet of new side channel connects the Sultan River through what was once an open field
- B** Side channels are critical habitat for salmon and provide options for refuge during high flows, offer better conditions for young salmon to grow, and re-engage historic floodplain habitats back to the river
- C** Wood structures placed in the side channel help create diverse habitats by giving fish hiding cover and by shaping the riverbed during high flows



The project excavated more than 7,000 cubic yards of materials to make way for the side channel.

## Return of the Salmon Celebration



Visit the PUD's booth at the 2025 Return of the Salmon Celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 27 at Osprey Park in Sultan. PUD fish biologists will be leading tours of side channels and sharing information on how the PUD works every day to protect fish, enhance river habitat and more.

## Andrew McDonnell: Fish Fanatic

PUD Manager of Natural Resources Andrew McDonnell is as comfortable in the water as he is out of it. With the PUD since 2015, he has been instrumental in critical projects that have improved aquatic and terrestrial resources in and around the Sultan River. Today, salmon and other aquatic life benefit from the healthy habitat in the Sultan River, thanks to the ongoing work of Andrew and the PUD’s Natural Resources team. For more on Andrew, visit [snopud.com/news](https://snopud.com/news)



### HEAR for You!

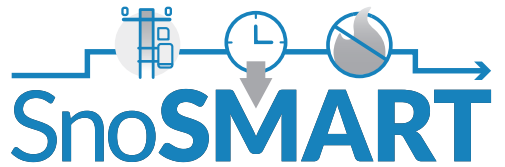


The PUD leveraged a \$5.3 million Department of Commerce grant to improve life for 1,429 households in Snohomish County and Camano Island. Through the HEAR program, customers received 659 washer/dryer sets, 214 all-in-one combos, 452 heat pump water heaters, and 104 induction ranges. The PUD partnered with local retailers and contractors to deliver eligible appliances. The program was funded by the state’s Climate Commitment Act. Learn more at [snopud.com/ccs](https://snopud.com/ccs)

## Building a SnoSMART Grid

Our SnoSMART program will help us make a generational leap in technology and infrastructure on our grid. Partially funded by a U.S. Department of Energy grant, SnoSMART will deploy smart grid devices and enhance our systems over the next five years – instead of 20 like originally planned.

Improvements will decrease outage times, deliver electricity more efficiently and protect against the threat of wildfires. Learn more at [snopud.com/snosmart](https://snopud.com/snosmart)



## Generator Safety

Thinking about a generator? If you face frequent outages during storm season, now’s a great time to buy. Always use a transfer switch – never plug a generator directly into your home’s electrical system, as it can endanger utility crews. Get safety tips at [snopud.com/generators](https://snopud.com/generators)



**Remember to set your home water heater no higher than 120 degrees.** This reduces the risk of accidental scalding, saves energy and helps reduce your utility bill.



### Save a bundle!

Your PUD offers heat pump rebates up to \$2,500 for qualified customers. Learn more before the winter chill sets in: [snopud.com/heating](https://snopud.com/heating)



Customer Service: 425-783-1000  
Monday-Friday, 8 am–5:30 pm  
1-877-783-1000 outside Everett and in Western WA.  
Visit us online at [snopud.com](https://snopud.com)

Pay your bill:  
1-888-909-4628  
or online at  
[MY.SNOPUD.COM](https://MY.SNOPUD.COM)