

North Fork Newaukum Mitigation Bank Chehalis Basin, Lewis County, WA

Overview

The 230-acre North Fork Newaukum Mitigation Bank (NFN Bank) surrounds the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the Newaukum River, southeast of the City of Chehalis in Lewis County, Washington. WSDOT owns the site and it is permanently protected by a Conservation Easement held by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

WSDOT began planning for the NFN Bank in 1999, construction started in 2002, and the Mitigation Bank Instrument (MBI) was signed in April 2005. WSDOT operates and maintains the NFN Bank. WSDOT will actively manage and maintain the site until at least 2033. The MBI identifies specific long-term management activities for years 10 through 30. The MBI is available at: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/7536AC4D-92CE-48B5-8E99-B8F6BFAE20A8/0/NFM_MBI04202005.pdf (pdf 2.50 mb).



A created pond in the East Unit

Ecological Goals

The primary goals of the bank are to restore and enhance degraded wetlands and other aquatic resources, improve fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and increase summer flows in the Newaukum River. WSDOT achieves these goals by planting trees in the floodplain wetlands and riparian areas, disabling drain tiles, and enlarging ponded habitats. These actions will return agricultural lands to mixed conifer and deciduous forest in the Newaukum River watershed of the Upper Chehalis River Basin.



*Planted native trees in the North Unit
July 2015*

Current Status

Since 2004, WSDOT has earned 71.14 of the 78.39 potential credits available at this bank by constructing the bank and achieving performance standards. The North Unit exceeded its Year 10 performance standard for density of native trees in 2015. In 2015, WSDOT earned 3.04 credits by meeting four performance standards for establishing trees in this area, and there was a 0.14 credits adjustment. WSDOT expects to earn the remaining credits associated with the North Fork Newaukum Mitigation Bank in 2019 and 2024 as the planted trees survive and grow in the shoreline areas.

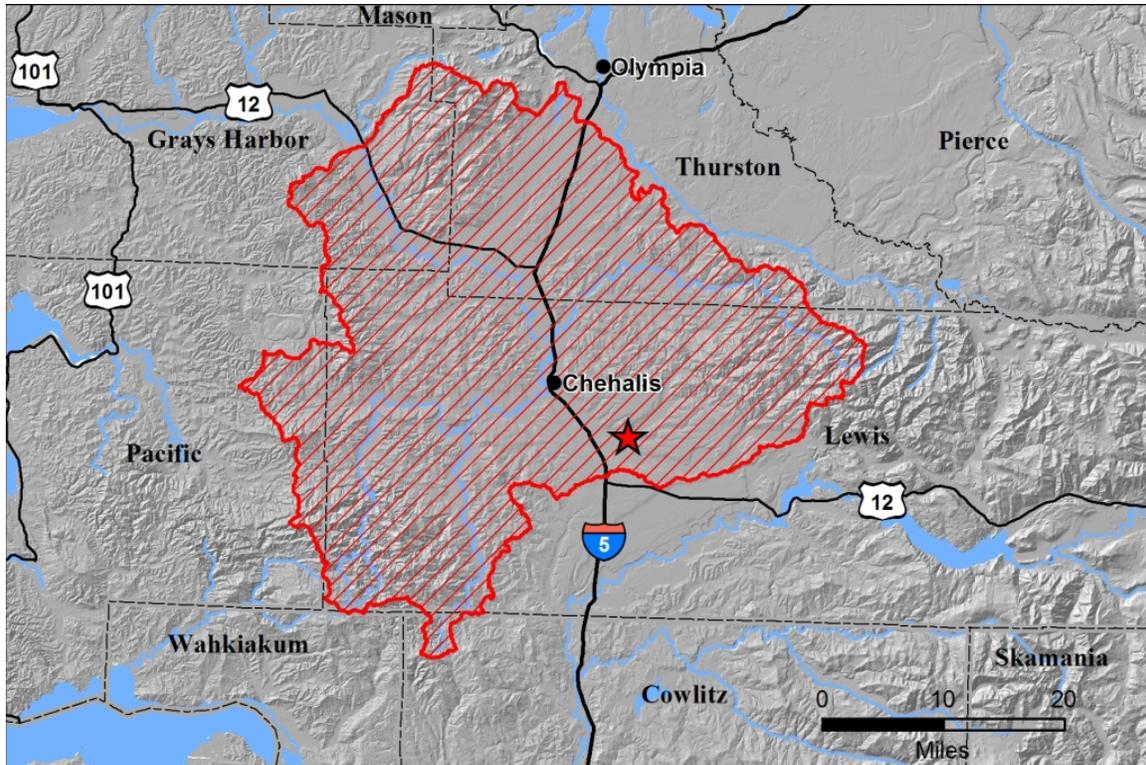


*Cover by native trees in the Estate
Buffer July 2015*

For additional detail on how the NFN Bank is doing, read the 2015 monitoring report available at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E8CB02BD-5456-4E77-ADA2-144018AA25F2/0/2015NorthForkNew182.pdf>.

Expected Use

The NFN Bank provides advance compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands from construction projects within the bank service area in the Upper Chehalis River Basin (WRIA 23).



The table below summarizes credits earned and used at the North Fork Newaukum Bank.

Summary of Credits and Projects (As of Dec 2015)	Credits
Potential Bank Total	78.39
Credits Earned	71.14
Credits used by Projects	25.36
I-5 Rush Road to 13th Street Widening	
I-5 Grand Mound to Maytown	
I-5 Chamber of Commerce Way	
SR 6 Chehalis River Bridge Replacement	
Corps of Engineers Long Road Levee Repair	
Corps of Engineers Salzer Creek Levee Repair	
I-5 Blakeslee to Grand Mound	
I-5 Blakeslee Junction Railroad Realignment	
Louisiana Avenue to Airport Road Connection	
I-5 Mellon to Blakeslee Junction	
Wa. State Parks Willapa Hills Trail Repair	
Credits Available for WSDOT Use	45.78

If you have questions about this mitigation bank or wish to request a copy of the ledger please contact [Gretchen Lux](mailto:Gretchen.Lux@wsdot.wa.gov). To return to the WSDOT Mitigation page click: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Wetlands/Mitigation/default.htm>