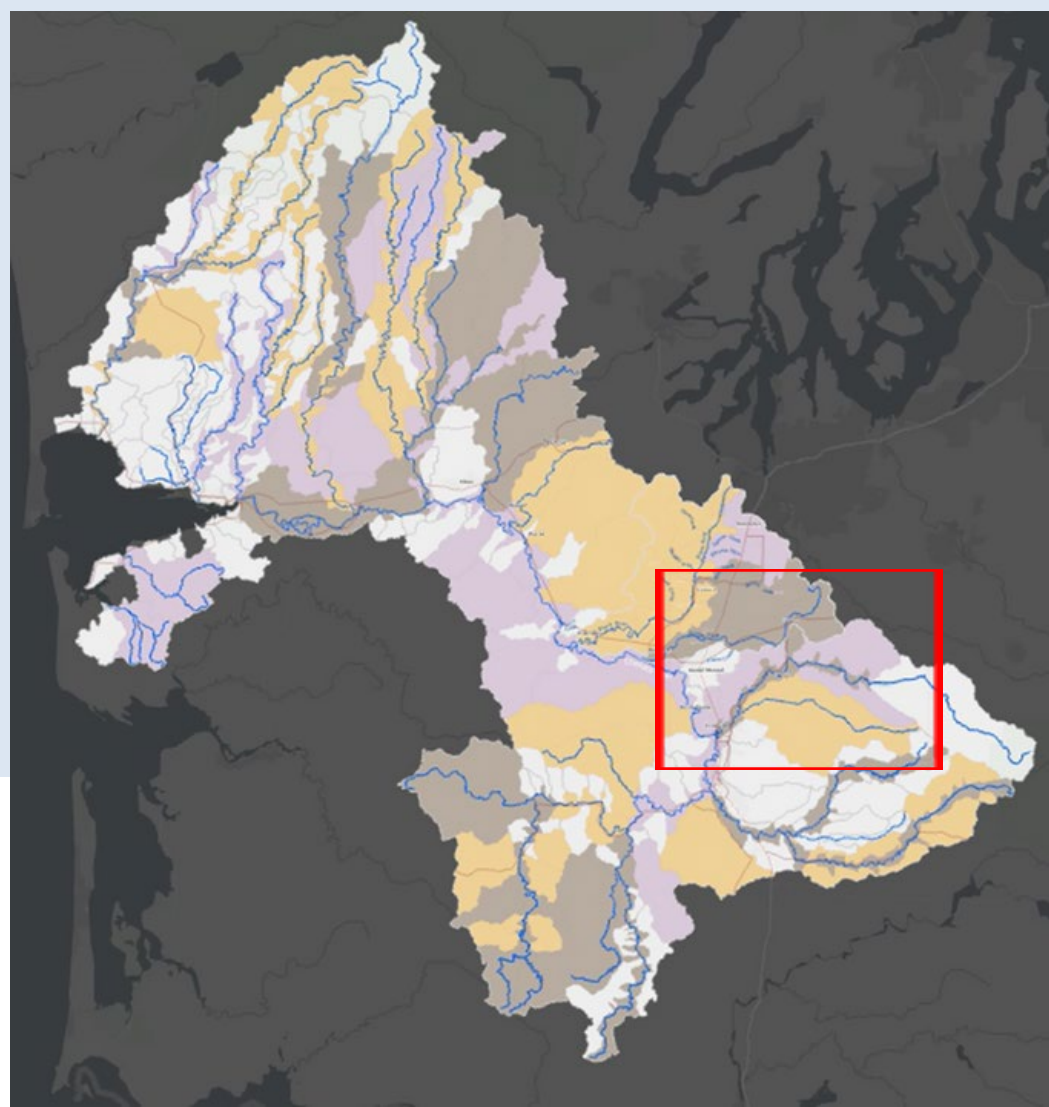




Scatter Creek Local Strategy

Chehalis Basin Partnership

Poster by Kirsten Harma, Watershed Coordinator, Chehalis Basin Partnership and Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habita



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Scatter Creek sub-committee developed the Scatter Creek Local Strategy with consultant support provided by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants. The project, completed over approximately 1 year, integrates historical context, hydrological and ecological data, community knowledge and a locally developed vision to guide targeted restoration investments.

The plan underscores that restoration strategies must be implemented in a coordinated system-wide manner: the success of any one action is closely tied to the success of others.

By integrating scientific investigations, local knowledge and collaborative governance, the plan provides a robust framework to restore ecological function, support native species, and build long term watershed resilience in the face of development and climate pressures.

GOALS

1

- Restore, protect, and sustain a flow regime in Scatter Creek that supports aquatic species that historically inhabited the watershed.

2

- Restore geomorphic processes in Scatter Creek, which will enable desired habitat formation.

3

- Restore and protect shallow groundwater quantity and quality to support cool baseflow contribution from groundwater and support groundwater-connected wetlands.

4

- Protect surface water and groundwater from contamination from land uses (e.g. landscaping/agricultural chemicals, stormwater runoff, sediment)

5

- Restore and protect summer water temperatures that favor native species over non-native species.

6

- Restore native plant ecology consistent with the prairie setting

SPECIES BENEFITING



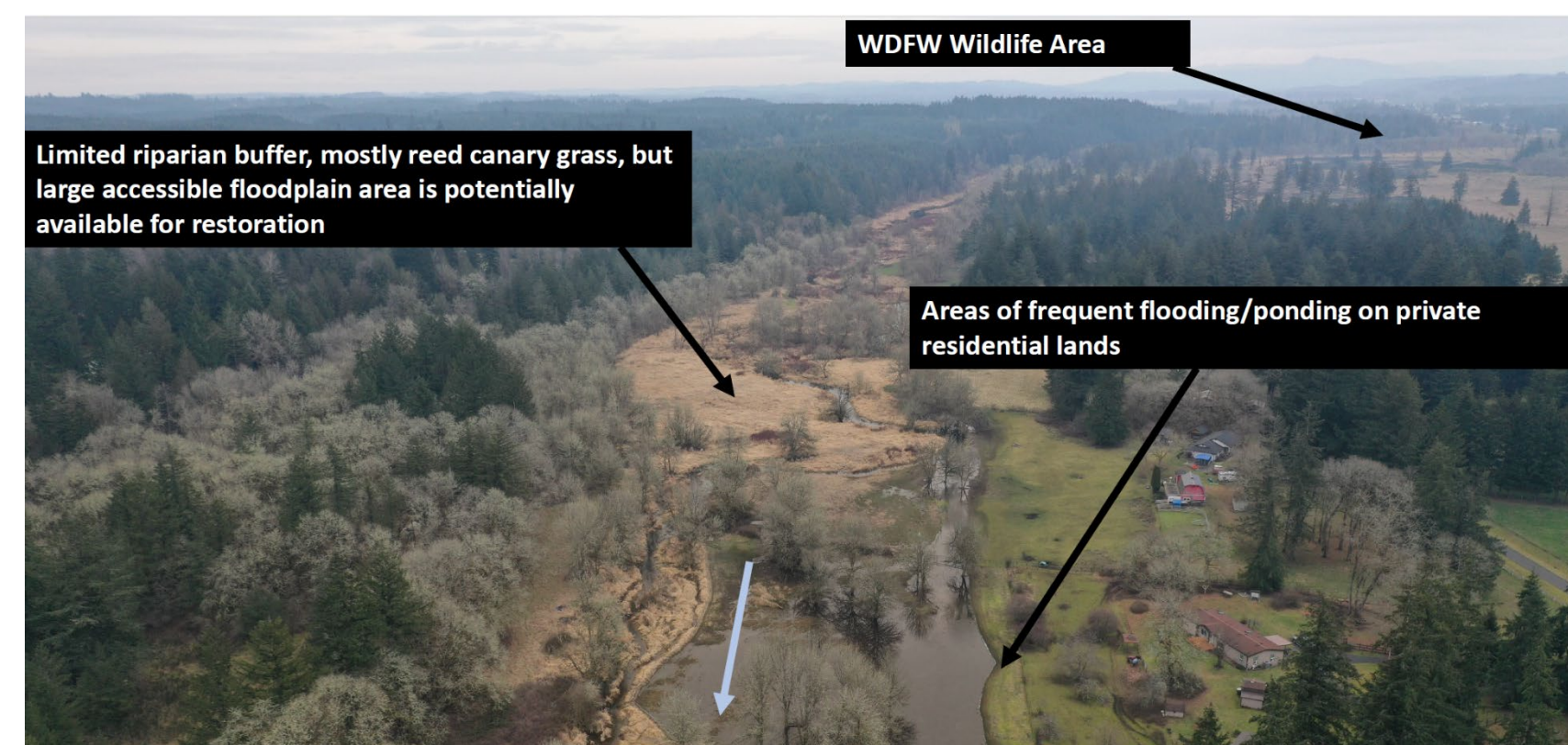
Coho, Steelhead and Coastal Cutthroat will benefit from flow restoration and habitat improvements. Juvenile rearing is the life stage most likely to benefit.



Other species include lamprey, Olympic mudminnow, sculpin, shiners, stickleback, sunfish, Whitefish, & native mussels!

Streamflow is Key in this Basin

- Reaches of the creek are dry from as early as June to as late as December
- Extent of seasonal drying: Lower 10 miles of creek; upper portions esp. northern headwaters
- Lack of surface flow:
 - Cuts off large sections of stream to upstream and downstream migration
 - Disrupts early summer juvenile outmigration
 - Disrupts habitat when fry emerge in spring
 - Delays upstream adult migration during fall runs
 - Increases fish kills (juveniles) as isolated pools warm



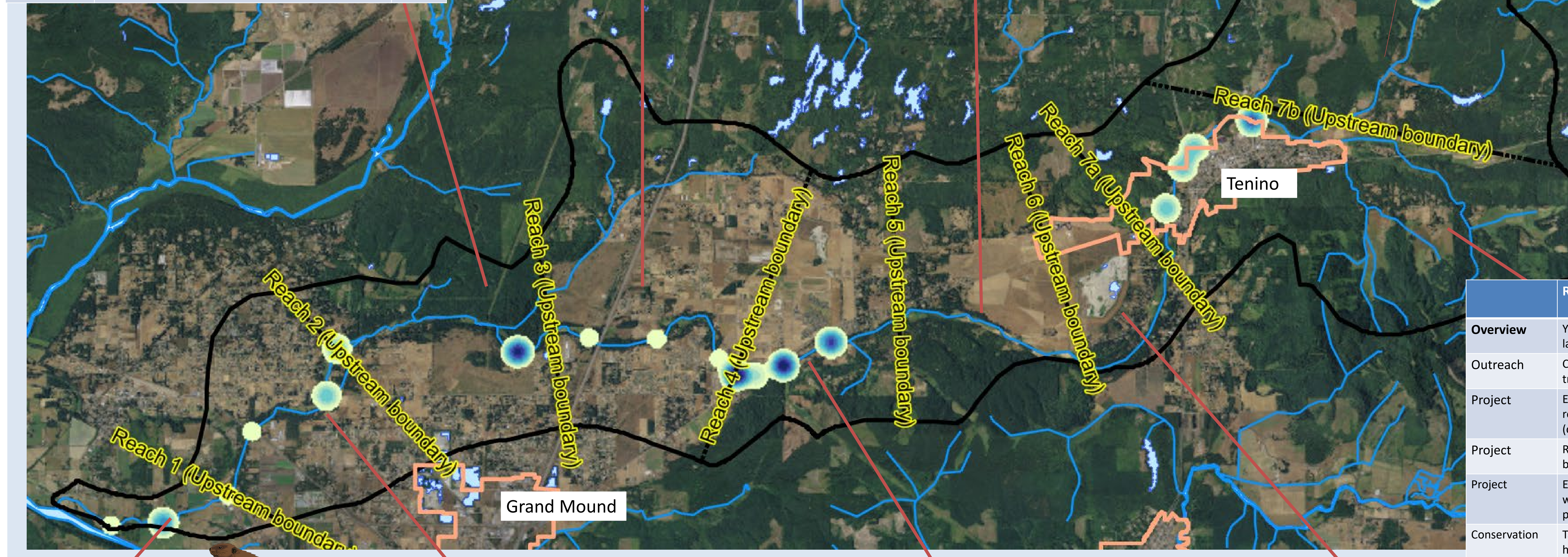
	REACH 3	Goals Met
Overview	High priority based on perennial flow, documented flow input, public land, known stranding issue	
Assessment	Conduct tributary streamflow and groundwater upwelling assessment to identify potential areas of prolonged flow for targeted restoration	1,3,5
Conservation	Protect and enhance tributary streamflow in forested/ logged uplands (CLT project)	2,5
Project	Install BDAs to store water and reconnect channel to forested floodplain. Install wood to promote scour of RGC.	1,2,3,5,6
Project	Take actions on WDFW land to ensure that ponds are shaded and surface-waters are connected to other ponded areas to reduce summer fish kills	1,2,5,6



	REACH 4	Goals Met
Overview	Lowest reach that goes dry early. Connects reaches with reliable flow. Degradation risk from development.	
Assessment	Investigate timing and mechanism of flow loss in reach and ID methods to maintain surface water connectivity	1,5
Project	Shade and reconnect pools to avoid summer fish kill	1,2,5
Management	Identify and implement water conservation or acquisitions opportunities including limiting permit exempt wells in this reach	1,3



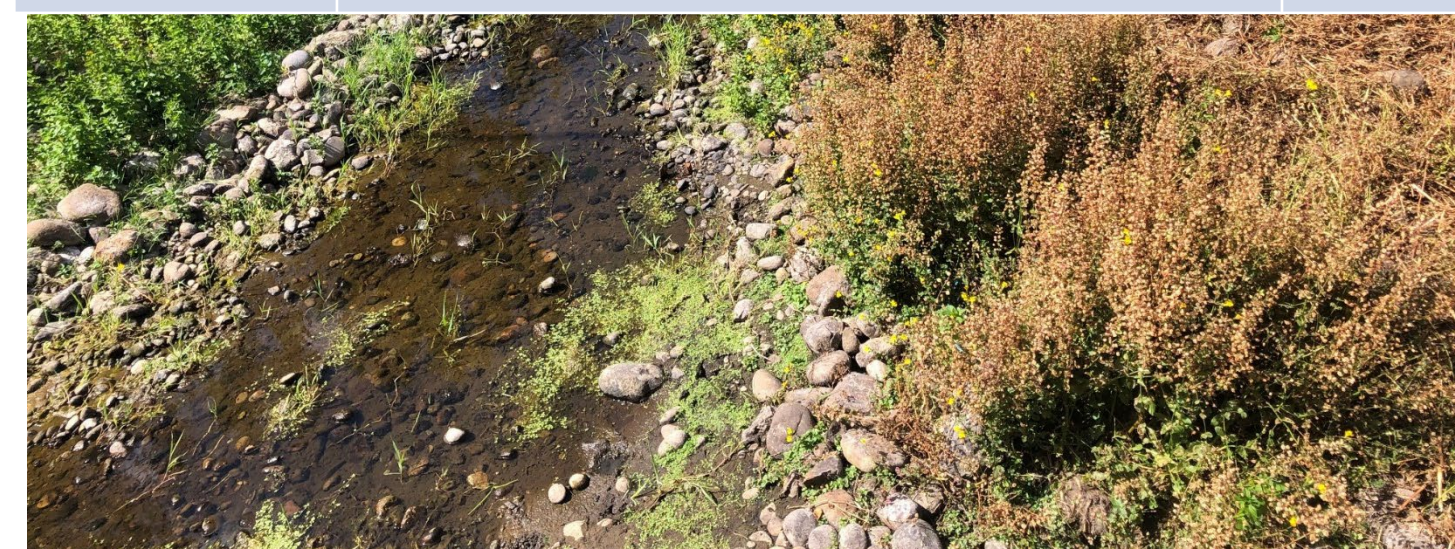
	REACH 6	Goals Met
Overview	Continuing work with willing landowners is priority	
Assessment	Conduct habitat assessment of species use, pools, flow and floodplain connectivity and riparian function to inform restore RM 12.7-14.5	2,5,6
Project	Instream and riparian enhancement to increase shade and provide stream habitat diversity RM 12.7- 14.5	1,2,5,6
Conservation	Conserve existing forested riparian buffer that falls on timber land	1,3,5
Management	Manage invasive species (opportunity to test cattle grazing as management to help with RCG as well as controlled burns)	5,6



	REACH 1	Goals Met
Overview	High priority for instream and floodplain work given known Coho and steelhead spawning habitat and year-round flow.	
Project	Restore wetland and forested buffer along both banks	2,5,6
Project	Side-channel connection, floodplain reconnection to increase quantity and quality of spawning habitat	2,5
Project	Promote beaver activity to maintain ponds in RM 0-1	1,2,3,5



	REACH 2	Goals Met
Overview	High Priority based on data indicating it is a losing reach for flow and disrupts aquatic species migrations (stranding risk)	
Assessment	Continue flow and groundwater-surface water interaction assessment to best understand flow restoration that could be effective	1,3,5
Assessment	Conduct study of pumping wells (depth and connectivity to Scatter Creek) to inform prioritization of water right acquisition	1,5
Project	Install BDAs to store water and reconnect channel to forested floodplain RM 2.3 – 3.7	1,2,3,5,6
Outreach	Work with landowners to remove artificial dams and blockages (citizen scientists observed)	1,2



	REACH 5	Goals Met
Overview	Medium priority based on more continuous flow and riparian intact	
Conservation	Protect and enhance tributary streamflow on forested/logged uplands	1,3,4
Project	Restore wetland and forested riparian and manage RCG RM 10.5-11.5	5,6
Management	Work with agricultural producers to implement BMPs that limit off-site transport of chemicals and sediment	4



Year-round groundwater fed pools at Equus Ln.

	REACH 7a	Goals Met
Overview	Priority for landowner engagement. Known pool habitat	
Outreach	Build landowner relationships in this reach	1,2,3,4,5,6
Project	Restore wetland and forested riparian and manage RCG (RM 15.2-16)	1,2,3,5,6
Conservation	Acquire private parcels along Scatter Creek (in process)	1,2,3,5
Conservation	Preserve and enhance existing off-channel habitat and oak stands on private parcels adjacent to Nature Conservancy	1,2,4,5,6



Year-round water on this private parcel

	REACH 8	Goals Met
Overview	Driest reach of Scatter Creek. Assessment, outreach and conservation are priority	
Assessment	Investigate timing and mechanism of flow loss in reach and identify methods to maintain surface water connectivity (Stream Seal?)	2,5,6
Conservation	Protect and enhance tributary streamflow in forested/logged uplands	1,3,5
Outreach	Build landowner relationships	1,2,3,4,5,6



Citizen volunteers provided helpful flow data to this project!



There should be more runoff in this reach: "I saw two substantial surface flow inputs upstream of the ditched portions of the creek but none below it (in the middle of January). This confirms that we are losing all surface flows to groundwater in a 2,500-acre subbasin with substantial ditching of the creek during a typical winter day." (Richard Tveten)

	REACH 7b	Goals Met
Overview	Year-round flows. Continued work with willing landowner	
Outreach	Conduct beaver education to prevent future beaver trapping	2,5,6
Project	Exploring headwater retention strategies: floodplain reconnection, floodplain wetlands in Cozy Valley (ongoing)	1,2,3,5,6
Project	Replace culverts that are partial to complete fish barriers (Hwy 507 & rails to trails)	2
Project	Enhance instream conditions in forested habitat where year-round flow and cold water refugia are present	1,2,3,5
Conservation	Target additional parcels for conservation in forested habitat where year-round flow and cold water refugia are present	1,2,3,4,5,6

Learn more here!

https://salishseare Restoration.org/wiki/Scatter_Creek_Local_Strategy_Plan