

Let's Restore
the
Deschutes Estuary
and
Bring Health and Vitality to the
Deschutes Watershed

Why Estuary Restoration?

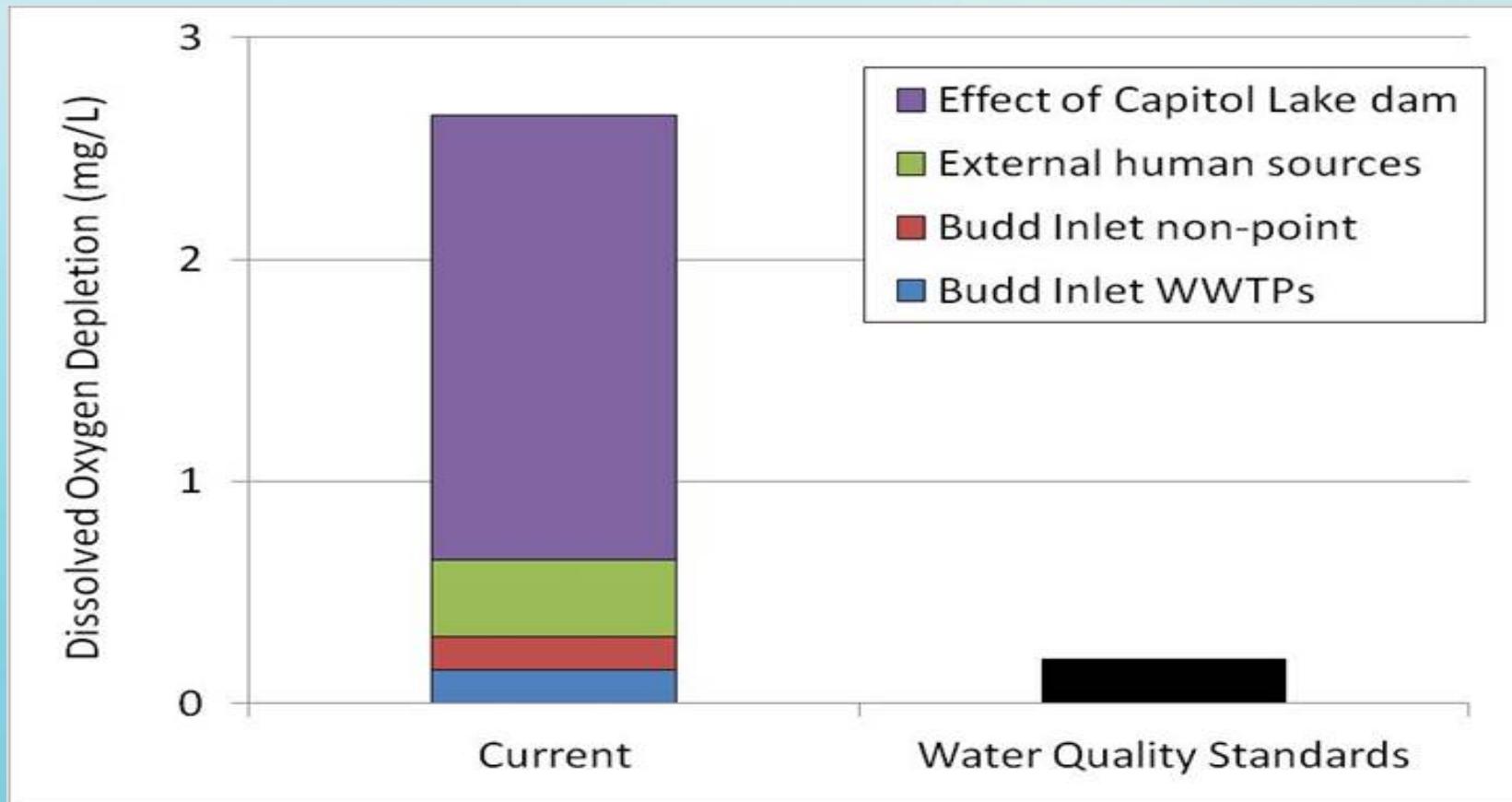
Capitol Lake? That dammed estuary!

The only sustainable option:

- ✓ Once restored there will be limited dredging
- ✓ Fiscally conservative answer to an expensive fix – no matter what we do
- ✓ Bring life back to South Puget Sound's Budd Inlet
- ✓ Bolster recreational opportunities and increase tourism
- ✓ Address Clean Water Act violations
- ✓ Recommendation to restore made in 2009 – ignored!!!

Best Available Science

- Capitol Lake Dam has the largest impact on Clean Water Act violations in Budd Inlet (Ecology, 2012 & 2015)



Best Available Science

- ✓ Coastal Blue Carbon Analysis – need to conduct
- ✓ Huge reduction in habitat for invasive species (9)
- ✓ Independent Peer Review by Published and/or Recognized Scientific Experts
- ✓ Deschutes Estuary Feasibility Study and other previous studies
- ✓ Ecology's Focus Sheet on Understanding the Scientific Process (hand out)
- ✓ Impact on LOTT and other marine discharges

Will this Committee Depend on Independent Peer Reviewed Science or Dr. Milne's Opinions?

Dr. Milne stated to this committee that he "could have it backwards - and somebody oughta check it" - We agree!! CLIPA could pay to have EPA conduct an independent technical review completed. Until then - his work is only an opinion.

Water samples Dr. Milne claims make Capitol Lake the cleanest lake in Thurston County came from the flowing river - not the still, warm waters of the sediment reservoir where waters reach 70+ degrees in the summer and early fall.

High oxygen levels in the sediment reservoir are present during peak growth time for invasive plants - AND - at the base of the falls where the water is roiling. But as soon as those plants die and sink to the bottom - and algae starts growing - oxygen is depleted rapidly and carbon is released into the atmosphere.



Cost/Benefit Estuary, Lake, Dual Basin

Estuary restoration is expensive, but a one-time project to restore the health of the watershed. On-going management is a non-issue.

Lake management is expensive. It means dredging forever – and dam replacement at some point. A new dam would likely never be permitted under today's laws.

Dual Basin is more expensive. It includes dam removal, but would require heavy infrastructure and on-going management to sustain.

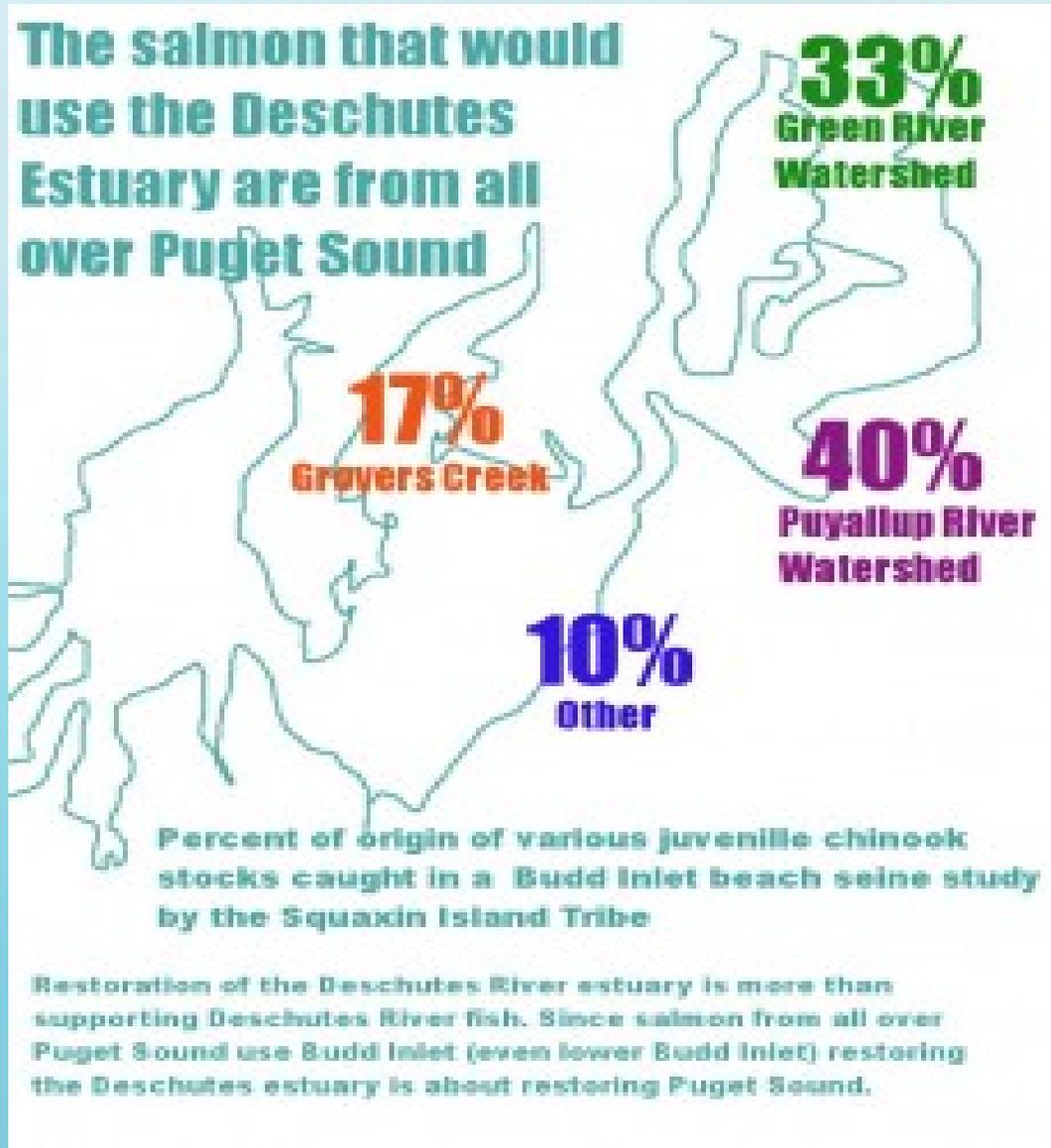
	Cost	Benefit
Estuary	\$\$	A+
Lake	\$\$\$\$	F
Dual Basin	\$\$\$\$\$	D

Sediment Brings Life

- Sediment is where all life forms in a marine ecosystem.
- River sediment is too abundant for sediment reservoir. On-going dredging = \$\$\$.
- Estuary sediment would help build beaches currently being starved.
- Productive estuaries need sediment to build the food web – the web of life!
- Carbon sequestration happens deep in estuary sediments.
- Dam removal and long-term sediment management strategy needed.



It isn't just about Salmon returning to spawn...



Juvenile salmon from all over Puget Sound would use the Deschutes Estuary to feed, avoid predators and build strength for their journey to the Salish Sea and out to the Pacific Ocean.

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project or PSNERP

- Habitat restoration planning effort by USCOE and WDFW
- 46 proposals were evaluated
- Deschutes River Estuary Restoration is #8 on the priority list (*PSNERP Strategic Restoration Conceptual Engineering – Design Report, May 2012 – Final*)
- “Risks of Sea Level Rise – Negligible”
- COE has two primary missions – navigation and habitat restoration – both must be addressed.
- Deschutes Restoration was not forwarded to Congress for action due to the lack of a plan and state support.
- If approved by Congress, federal funds would be available for up to 75% of the restoration costs.
- No federal funds are available for maintaining the lake.

Competing Visions

- Capital Campus vision was created by architects and landscapers, not by hydrologists or ecosystem experts.
- Since the 1970's we have recognized the excesses of the past and are seeking to remedy the most egregious errors.
- All indications are that creation of a lake at the mouth of the Deschutes River was and is an ecological disaster.
- Let's look to the future for better solutions, not repeat the mistakes of the past. What kind of legacy are we leaving for future generations?



<https://vimeo.com/171355404>