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## Off-Channel Habitat Restoration, Former Jordan Property, Fife, Washington

Ridolfi lead a team to design off-channel habitat at the 15 acre Jordan property, adjacent to Hylebos Creek in Fife, Washington. The site had historically been used to process logs. Before development, the project area included a meandering channel and associated wetland habitat, and Hylebos Creek once supported large runs of Chinook, coho, and chum salmon. These runs have declined substantially because of habitat loss in the estuary, upstream urbanization stresses, and other factors. The Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustees engaged Ridolfi Inc. and a team of subconsultants to restore the Jordan site.

The goal was to create off-channel refugia and enhance the wetland and riparian vegetation for juvenile salmon migrating down Hylebos Creek.



*Conceptual design for the Jordan site.*



*Pre-restoration conditions in Hylebos Creek.*

Restoration efforts included excavation of 35,000 cubic yards of fill and construction of a system of complex channels and pools. Benches at elevations near the mean higher high water level will support development of a freshwater tidal marsh. Plants were selected based on observations made in the area regarding tolerance for inundation and soil type. Ridolfi worked closely with the construction contractor to ensure that the project was completed under budget—despite the unexpected presence of contaminated materials encountered during excavation. Ridolfi also facilitated construction by expediting the review of contractor submittals, which made it possible to complete the in-water work within the state and federally mandated “fish window.”