

FACT SHEET



Land Bank False Bay Preserve, planted Willows June 2021.

San Juan False Bay Watershed Restoration

False Bay Creek watershed is water quality limited for bacteria and temperature as defined by state and federal regulations. False Bay, the estuary demonstrates signs of excess nutrients with its “green tide” (Ulva mats). A low-cost solution is to clean up the water quality in the creek and wetlands starting with fencing cattle out, controlling reed canary grass, and planting native trees and shrubs. This is the first step of a lower watershed restoration strategy.

Why restore streams?

Lower False Bay Creek and associated wetlands were ditched and cleared over 100 years ago for agriculture to maximize area for crops and grazing. Wetlands such as in lower False Bay watershed are crucial to cleaning surface water before it enters marine waters. Restoring stream corridors will slow the rate of water warming and reduce nutrients in the marine habitat.

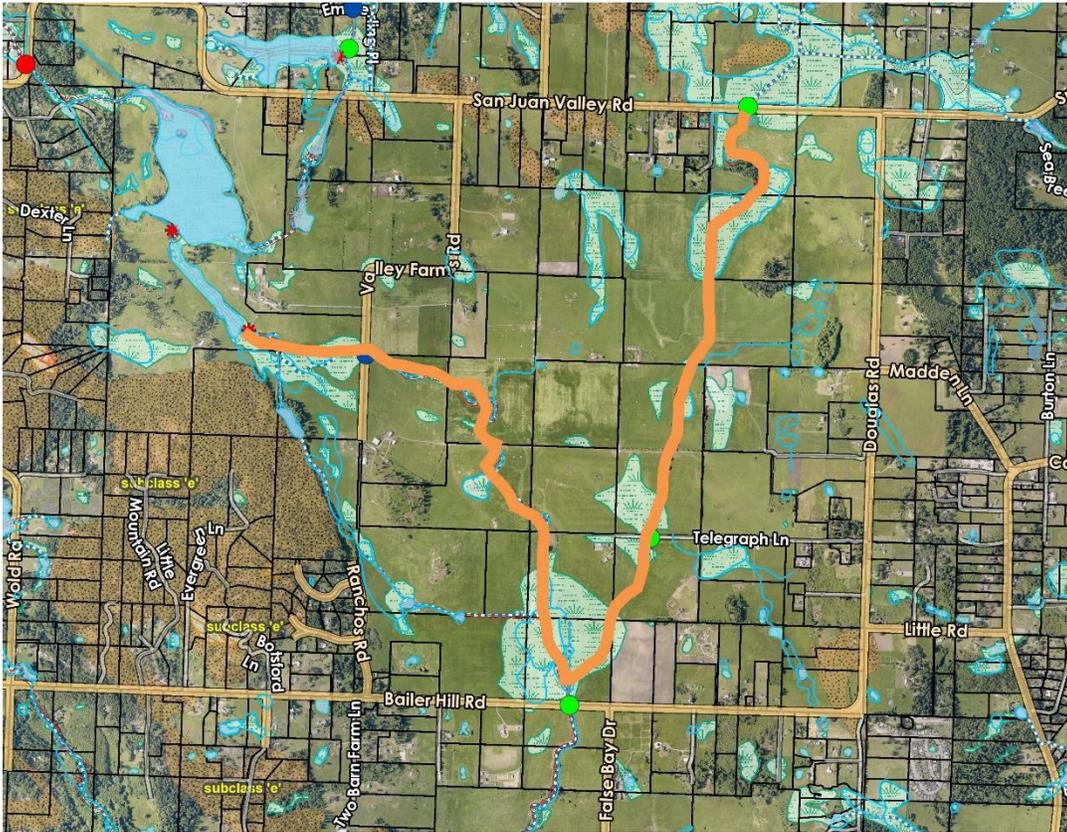
Where is restoration occurring now?

This work is a partnership between San Juan County Public Works and Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, and San Juan Islands Conservation District. Our current focus is at the Land Bank False Bay Preserve, the San Juan Preservation Trust old Red Mill Farm, and the Land Bank Zylstra Preserve. We are planting native trees and shrubs, and where needed fencing cattle out of the creek corridor. This is our first step, with the hope of enlisting adjacent private landowners to do the same.



Contact For More Information:

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Restoration work in the lower watershed is occurring or planned for conservation parcels between Lake Zylstra or San Juan Valley Rd and Bailer Hill Road, along the stream corridor shown in orange (excluding private land holdings).

Work on modeling the impact from climate change on current and future hydrology is occurring and includes all the watershed.

