The purpose of this project is to investigate the direct financial outcomes of urban floodplain restoration on local and state budgets. In communities across Puget Sound, river valleys and historic floodplains are often the epicenter of competing interests – pitting economic development against restoration efforts. That is not the full story.

Our research shows that when properly designed floodplain restoration can have substantial economic benefits for communities through:

- Reduced flood risk and lower flood insurance rates
- Increased property values
- Increased high value development outside of the floodplain
- Increased jobs and economic activity
- Increased business and employee attraction and retention
- Increased tax revenue

**NATIONAL PRECEDENTS**

- **10% Increase**
  - Property Values
  - PORTLAND, OR

- **13% Increase**
  - Property Values
  - SANTA CRUZ, CA

- **1.248 Jobs**
  - Via Riverfront Development
  - NAPO, CA

- **$64 Million**
  - Property Tax Revenue Annually
  - DENVER, CO

- **$3.2 Billion**
  - Anticipated Riverfront Development
  - DALLAS, TX

- **6:1 Return**
  - On Investment
  - MUSKEGON, MI

- **1.5 Million**
  - Annual Visitors
  - BUFFALO, NY

- **$1 Billion**
  - Economic Development
  - CLEVELAND, OH

- **20% Reduction**
  - Flood Damage
  - WATERBURY, VT

**PUGET SOUND EXAMPLES**

- **Fisher Slough Restoration**
  - $9.1 - $20.6 Million in Economic Benefits

- **Thornton Creek Restoration**
  - $166,000 to $1.46 Million in Ecosystem Services

- **North Winds Weir**
  - 24 full-time jobs and $3.5 Million in Economic Output

- **Thea Foss Waterway**
  - 2 to 1 Return on Investment & $67.3 M in Tax Revenue

**KEY FINDINGS**

Restoring floodplains and promoting economic activity are not mutually exclusive.

When planned appropriately, the benefits of floodplain restoration outweigh the costs, yielding positive net impacts on local and state budgets.

Successful urban floodplain restoration is designed to improve local ecosystems, reduce flood risk and improve quality of life.

**PARTNERS**

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- The Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- The Russell Family Foundation
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For more information please contact:
Brandon Parsons, PLA
bparsons@americanrivers.org
(512) 517-4001