

**From:** [Rick Hartson](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Scott Schuyler](#); [Snarski, Joanne \(EFSEC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Goldeneye comments - Hansen Creek  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 3:46:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [USIT Hansen Creek White Paper.pdf](#)

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External Email

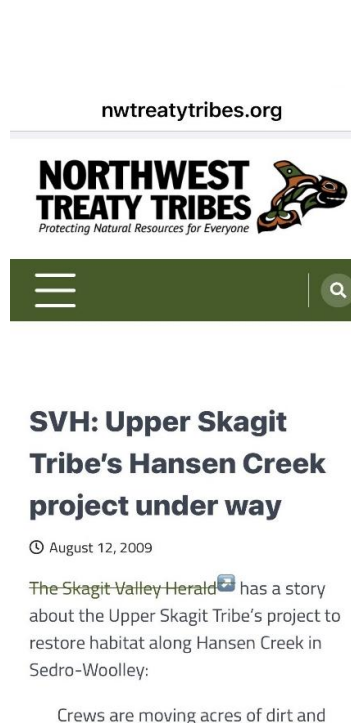
The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe submits the attached white paper to the Goldeneye Battery Storage project comment record.

Thank you,

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## Importance of Hansen Creek Watershed to the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe was signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliot with the United States January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1855. Unlike some other treaty signatory Tribes Upper Skagit was not granted a reservation of its own and were in fact expected to relocate to one of the other Tribe's reservations at the time. This expectation to relocate to other reservations was of course not acceptable to the Upper Skagit as these were not our people, nor our homelands. The Tribe eventually purchased lands within its ancestral homelands near Sedro Woolley in the Hansen Creek watershed in the early 1980's, which was established as reservation on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1981. Today the reservation is home to the tribal administration offices, health and social services, court system, law enforcement, natural resources, cultural building, and community and elder housing. The tribe also owns and manages its own hatchery on the Hansen Creek watershed, which is considered a cultural & educational program that has released millions of Chum fry into the Skagit.



*Above left: NWIFC news release.*

*Above right: Salmon School & USIT Staff with tribal students collecting eDNA at Hansen Creek.*

**Restoration Goal** – The Tribe has been actively invested in the goal of habitat restoration of Hansen Creek for decades now. The creek was historically an important tributary to the Skagit River producing large numbers of annually returning salmon. Hansen Creek was logged beginning in the late 1800's and by the 1940's was straightened, diked, and surrounded by dairy farms. Today, after years of hands on restoration by the Tribe, the stretch below the reservation meanders and supports annually returning Coho, Pink, and Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead Trout. The restoration area is now home to native plants and supports a wide range of bird and terrestrial species, including elk and beaver. The Tribe takes immense pride in the restoration progress that has been made and wants to protect these hard-fought gains in this very fragile ecosystem. Land development poses a risk to these gains and hinders potential for future restoration opportunities along the creek.



*Above left: First recorded dredging of Hansen Creek (1948).*

*Above right: Hansen Creek alluvial fan several years after channel and riparian restoration (2013).*

**Hansen Creek Ethnohistory** – Bsi'g<sup>w</sup>ig<sup>w</sup>ilc, the main village, was upriver around Sedro-Woolley and adjacent to the east. The Hansen Creek watershed was in the center of Bsi'g<sup>w</sup>ig<sup>w</sup>ilc territory. Hansen Creek historically supported large numbers of returning salmon and anadromous trout. After years of declining salmon runs due mostly to habitat degradation and agricultural practices, the Tribe pushed for the complete restoration of Hansen Creek. After years of persistent effort by the Tribe, Hansen Creek now supports increasing numbers of Coho, Chinook, and Pink salmon, and Steelhead Trout.

*Notable Bsi'g<sup>w</sup>ig<sup>w</sup>ilc individuals include Chief Sd'zek-du-num, who signed the Point Elliot treaty. One man, Johnny Mowitch (this surname means "deer" in Chinook jargon), of the last century is described as an unusual hunter. He lived in the village of Skik<sup>w</sup>ig<sup>w</sup>ilc (now Sedro-Woolley). He could run an elk down, jump on his back. He was said to have a guardian spirit which gave him this particular ability. He also used hunting magic – June Collins.*



Bsi'g<sup>w</sup>ig<sup>w</sup>ilc Artifacts



*Ceremonial fish club*



*Net Weight*

## Proposed Goldeneye BESS Project



The proposed BESS Hansen Creek site is extremely problematic to the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe on two important levels. The project's proposed proximity to the creek poses an unacceptable level of risk to the fragile ecosystem which Upper Skagit has spent decades restoring. From the cultural resources perspective this area has the potential to be designated as a Traditional Cultural Property District of the Upper Skagit Tribe. The Tribe is urging that this proposed project be halted immediately and is willing to assist with finding a location more appropriate.