

Lower Sauk River Floodplain Historic Photo Analysis

Skagit River System Cooperative

La Conner, Washington, USA

By Kate Ramsden

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Software

ArcGIS Desktop 9.2

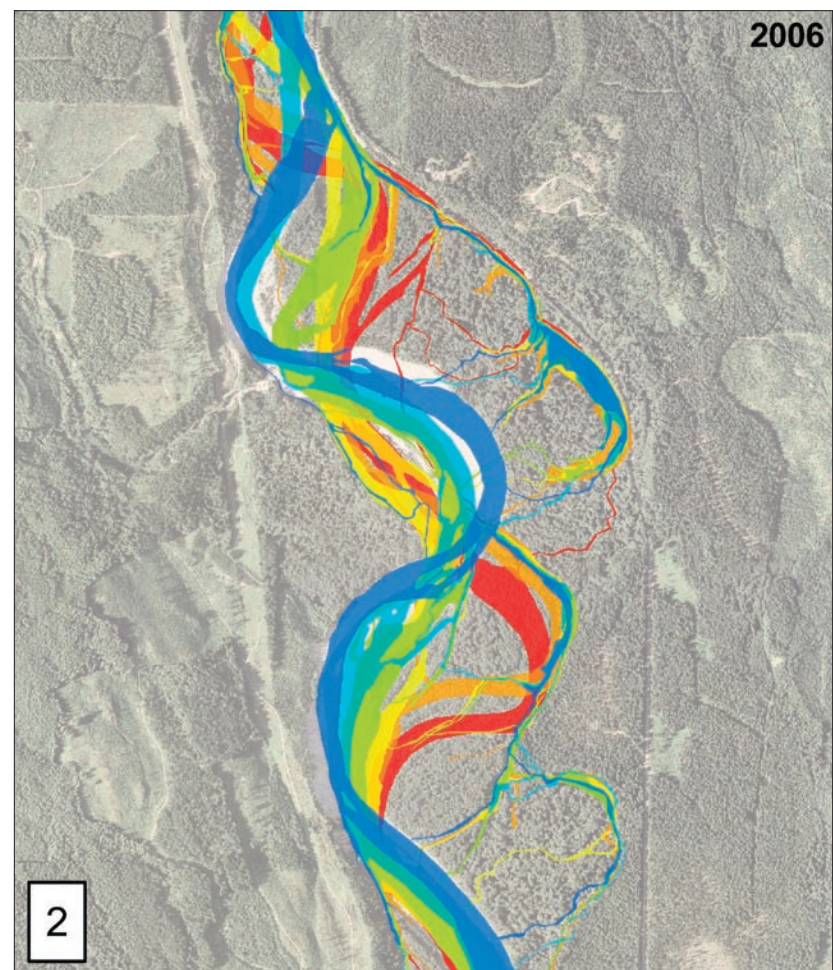
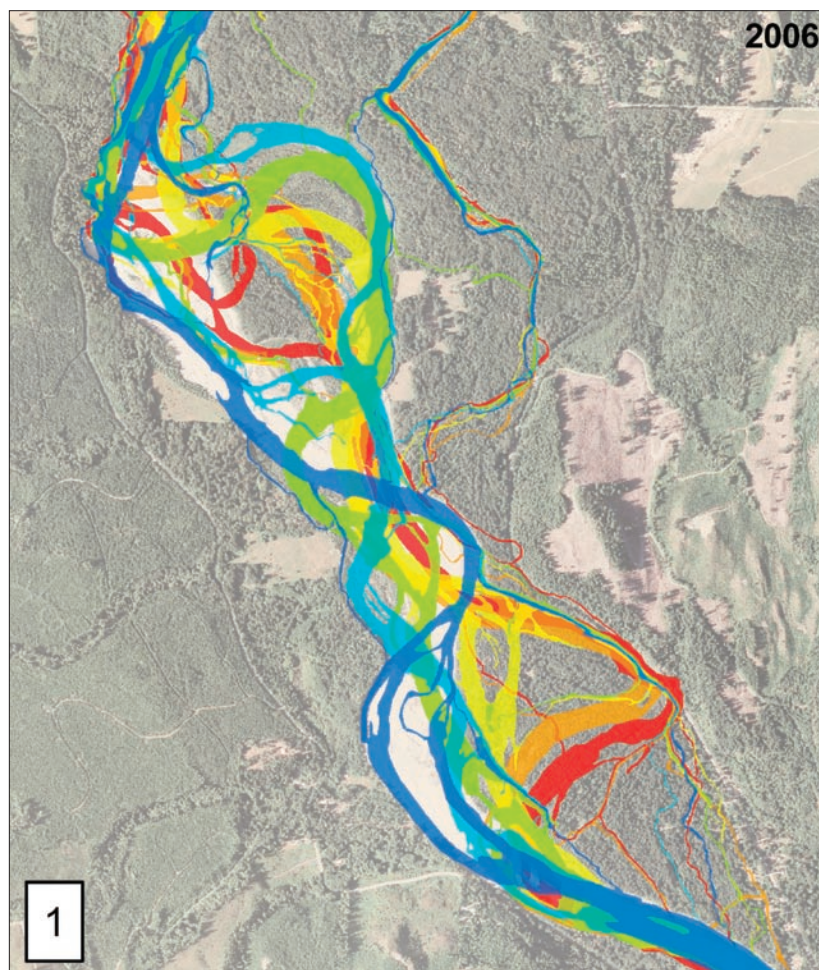
Data Sources

1944, 1956, 1972, 1992 photo sets source: U.S. Forest Service; 1981 photo set source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; 2006 orthophoto source: USDA Service Center Agencies

The Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) provides natural resource management services for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. On behalf of these two sovereign nations, SRSC works to actively improve fisheries management within their usual and accustomed fishing areas. The SRSC cooperated with the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service to analyze the historic patterns and sites of erosion and river channel migration in portions of the Sauk and Skagit rivers.

The Lower Sauk River was mapped using historic aerial photographs that were georeferenced to existing orthophotos. All visible river channels (mainstem and side channels), as well as other features including gravel bars, partially vegetated gravel bars, and forested islands were digitized and incorporated into the maps. River channel changes can be seen from 1944 to 2006. This project is part of a larger planning effort to evaluate flood and erosion hazards along with salmon habitat conditions that is being implemented in phases by multiple agencies in Snohomish and Skagit counties.

Courtesy of Skagit River System Cooperative.



EPA Level III and IV Ecoregions of EPA Region 3

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) denotes ecoregions as areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources. Federal and state agencies also use this resource as a spatial framework for the assessment, management, and monitoring of ecosystems and its components. The approach used to compile ecoregion maps is based on the premise that ecological regions can be identified by analyzing the patterns and composition of biotic and abiotic phenomena that affect or reflect differences in ecosystem quality and integrity. These phenom-

ena include geology, physiography, vegetation, climate, soils, land use, wildlife, and hydrology, which are examined for patterns of coincidence that cause—or reflect differences—in ecosystem characteristics. Level III is a class that divides the continental United States into 104 ecoregions and Level IV ecological regions are further subdivisions of Level III units. The exact number of ecological regions at each hierarchical level is still changing slightly as the framework undergoes development at the international, national, and local levels.

Courtesy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency— Western Ecology Division

Corvallis, Oregon, USA

By EPA Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation

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Data Source
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