

Improving Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

McNeil Island Stewardship

Fact Sheet
October 2024



Summary

Following the McNeil Island prison closure on April 1, 2011, an interagency agreement was established in August 2013 transferring stewardship of McNeil Island from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to Correctional Industries (CI). McNeil Island serves as the location for active facilities, the Special Commitment Center (SCC), and the Pierce County Secure Community Transitional Facility (SCTF). Both facilities are operated by DSHS and public access to the island is restricted.

Correctional Industries stewardship responsibilities include marine vessel transportation, vessel maintenance, wastewater treatment, water distribution, road maintenance, vehicle and heavy equipment maintenance, and other general island maintenance that is not site-specific to the operations of the DSHS facilities. DSHS retained island security and fire department operations.

Washington State continues to work with the federal government on options for future use of the property and to ensure the continued, uninterrupted operation of the DSHS facilities. Approximately seventy percent of McNeil Island is federally deeded to Washington State's Department of Fish and Wildlife as a preserve.

Divisional Priorities

- Provide safe, reliable, and on-time vessel transportation services.
- Collaborate with DOC Capital Projects to ensure timely and on-budget completion of projects (*a high-level breakdown of MIS capital projects is available*).
- Building strong partnerships with the DOC budget team, DSHS, Ecology, DNR, and Fish and Wildlife.

Major Accomplishments

- Decommissioning of the aged Fuel Farm, and reduction of risk for spills.
- Accident-free and a strong safety record for 24/7 operation.
- Updated Spill Prevention Control and Containment plan (SPCC).
- Replaced aging equipment and vehicles to ensure reliable and safe service to meet island needs.
- Updated and developed a maintenance program for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Increased collaboration and communication with DSHS/SCC.

Strategic Priorities Upcoming Year

- Replace the fire department boat lift needed for emergency medical transport and fuel spill response. This was partially funded in FY22. Estimated completion TBD.
- Identify opportunities at MIS to ensure CI Class II programming is sustainable.
- Utilize allocated funding for dock and piling replacement, barge slip repairs, and other marine infrastructure.
- Ensure all marine vessels are in compliance with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Certificate of Inspection (COI), and Certificate of Documentation (COD).

For more information:

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