Howard A. Hanson Dam: How $7.8B in December 2025 Damage Was Prevented

Pillar: The Valley | **Basis:** Agency Figure (Preliminary) | **Primary Source:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Seattle District | **As Of:** 2026-11-16 (Dec 2025 Preliminary Analysis)

A preliminary USACE Seattle District analysis credits Howard A. Hanson Dam with preventing an estimated $7.8B in downstream Green River flood damages during the December 2025 atmospheric rivers (out of $8.7B region-wide).

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• During the December 2025 atmospheric-river storms, USACE Seattle District operated Howard A. Hanson Dam and Mud Mountain Dam to hold back peak flood pulses.

• USACE's preliminary analysis estimates regional Corps flood-risk management prevented ~$8.7B in Puget Sound damages, with Howard A. Hanson Dam alone accounting for ~$7.8B along the Green River.

• Even with Hanson Dam holding back peak flows, downstream levee weak points at Desimone and Pacific still breached—showing that dam storage alone does not eliminate valley levee risk.

USACE Seattle District Dec 2025 Flood-Damage-Prevented Breakdown

Asset / Scope	Preliminary Estimate	Source	Caveat
Howard A. Hanson Dam (Green River)	~$7.8 billion prevented	USACE Seattle District	Preliminary Dec 2025 analysis
All Puget Sound Section 7 Ops	~$8.7 billion prevented	USACE Seattle District	Includes Mud Mountain Dam
Downstream Levee Residual Risk	2 breaches (Desimone, Pacific)	King County / USACE	Dam cannot prevent local levee failure

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Every Kent, Auburn, Renton, and Tukwila space facility sits downstream of a single federally operated earthfill dam completed in 1962.

• Facilities teams must monitor USACE Seattle District pool elevation and outflow advisories during November–February atmospheric rivers.

• Pair dam-storage awareness with local levee-reach monitoring: Desimone breached even while Hanson Dam operated within design.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Auburn WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/auburn-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Tukwila WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/tukwila-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Facilities / EHS Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-facilities-ehs-desk-brief/

• **Propulsion Continuity Exposure:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-propulsion-continuity-exposure/

• **USACE Seattle District (DVIDS):** https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USACE-SD

• **King County Flood Services:** https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/flood-services

Provenance Note: Figure attributed strictly to USACE Seattle District preliminary analysis (Dec 2025); labeled preliminary per House standard.