



Point Whitney Lagoon

The Point Whitney Lagoon is located in the northern section of Hood Canal called Dabob Bay. The intertidal areas and beaches support eelgrass, oysters, and clams. Prior to development, the lagoon was bordered by a well-formed spit and received tidal flows through a narrow inlet. Around 1950, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife partially filled the lagoon to create rearing ponds for aquaculture and for construction of buildings. While the western lagoon is open to tidal flows, the two ponds are controlled by tide gated culverts. The restoration would restore tidal flows, sediment transport, and habitat in the lagoon by removing dikes in the lagoon. The proposed activities would also restore the beach spit that encloses the lagoon through removal of fill material and pavement.



IMAGE: Washington State Department of Ecology (2006)

Processes Restored

- Movement of sand and gravel along shorelines.
- Natural erosion and accretion of beaches.
- Accumulation and retention of organic material from plants and aquatic animals.
- Natural exposure to wind and wave action.

Conditions Improved

- Restored coastal embayment that provides valuable nursery habitat for threatened species of juvenile salmon such as Chinook, increasing their survival and supporting population recovery in Puget Sound.
- Improved connectivity between nearshore and adjacent uplands.
- Increased area, length, and complexity of shoreline.
- Improved resiliency of the shoreline to respond to changes in the environment such as rising sea levels and increasing storm events.
- Improved public access to the shore and recreational opportunities.



Image above depicts major project features. See design report for additional details.

SOURCE: ESA (2011); AEX Aerials Maps & Data (2009)

Key Design Elements

The restoration would fully restore tidal flows to the lagoon and re-establish its historic configuration. Earthen dikes will be removed from the lagoon and several buildings and utilities will be removed from the upland and along the shore. Pavement and fill on the historic beach spit would also be removed. Beach gravel would be placed to reconstruct the beach at the eastern end of the spit.

Site Summary Statistics

- Area of Restored Process: 6 acres
- Total Project Cost: \$9.5 million

For more detailed information regarding this conceptual design, please visit our website at www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/cdr.html.