

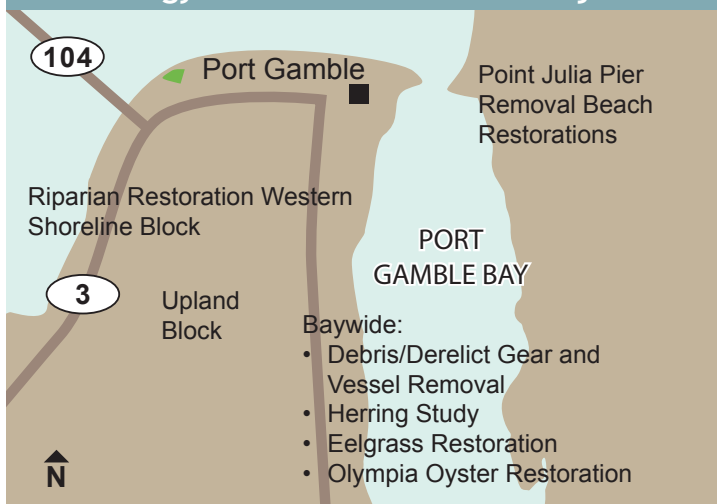
Port Gamble Bay Cleanup and Restoration

Cleanup Project

After years of study, Ecology and Pope Resources have reached an agreement to clean up the tidelands and waters of Port Gamble Bay and the site of a former timber mill in Port Gamble. The cleanup, carried out and funded by Pope Resources, will include removing creosote pilings, as well as dredging and capping contaminated sediment. Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program is now developing the engineering design for cleanup and this work will begin in 2015.

To support cleanup of the bay, Ecology is funding projects and working with project partners to restore habitat and preserve land surrounding the bay and aquatic habitats. The Port Gamble Bay restoration and preservation projects represent the collaborative effort of local, state, federal and tribal governments and non-profit groups. These projects, funded by \$9 million from the Washington State legislature in 2013, will benefit the environment to sustain the health of the Bay as it is cleaned and restored; benefit the economy as shellfish harvesting returns to the Bay; and benefit the quality of life for the many who will enjoy new access to shorelines and habitat.

Ecology Funded Restoration Projects



Restoration and Preservation Projects

Baywide debris, derelict gear and vessel removal

Areas in Port Gamble Bay are littered with old tires, broken docks, metal and boat scrap and buried fish nets. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and Ecology are working together to remove this debris throughout the bay. This project will improve aesthetics of the beaches and improve intertidal habitats by removing barriers to forage fish spawning and shellfish colonization.



Eelgrass restoration



More than two acres of eelgrass will be restored in Port Gamble Bay, helping to address the declining eelgrass habitat throughout Puget Sound. Eelgrass provides important habitat for herring, juvenile salmon and crab, and its presence is an important indicator of the health

of Puget Sound. Funded by Ecology and carried out by the Department of Natural Resources in partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the transplanted eelgrass areas will also help enhance natural recolonization of eelgrass at other areas in the bay.



Pacific Herring studies

Ecology is funding work to study the unusually high rates of herring embryo mortality seen in Port Gamble Bay since the early 1980s.

Conducted by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with assistance from the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, these herring studies will help researchers understand the relationships between herring stocks and how those stocks may be affected by contamination.



Olympia Oyster Habitat Enhancement

Port Gamble Bay will ultimately support five million Olympia oyster seeds, spread over ten acres of tidelands in the bay. Ecology is funding the project that will support hatchery construction and operations to enhance populations of Washington’s only native oyster. The project will be carried out by the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, and brings together federal, tribal, state



local, and non-profit partners, and will deploy Ecology’s Washington Conservation Corps crews to help with habitat restoration and hatchery construction.



Western Shoreline Block

Protecting the future of Port Gamble Bay also means reducing the impacts of future development. To help protect the cleanup of the bay for future

generations, Ecology funded the purchase of about 450 acres of forest, 70 acres of tidelands and 1.5 miles of shoreline along the western shore of the bay for public use and recreation with ownership by Kitsap County. The property will be placed into public stewardship for protection of fish, shellfish, wildlife and people.



Point Julia Pier Removal and Beach Restoration

An old, unused pier extends from Point Julia, on the eastern side of Port Gamble

Bay, posing a potential safety hazard to tribal members. Ecology is working with the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe to remove and dispose of the old pier, creosote-treated pilings and concrete boat launch.



Riparian Restoration

Habitat at two sites along the western shoreline of Port Gamble Bay is degraded, totalling nearly 1.5 acres. Ecology will work with local environmental groups and the communities around Port Gamble Bay to plant native trees and shrubs, improve an existing trail, and provide funds for maintenance and monitoring.



Upland Block

Preserving water connections flowing into Port Gamble Bay is important to protecting the cleanup and restoration of the bay. Ecology will work toward



funding the purchase of multiple 20-acre forested lots upland of Port Gamble Bay for ownership by Kitsap County, ultimately protecting wetland and streams that flow into the bay. The property will be preserved for conservation and public use and recreation.

Outfall Removal and Shellfish Restoration

To open up more than 90 acres of geoduck and shellfish beds, Ecology will work with Kitsap County Public Utilities District to remove an existing outfall. Outfall removal will allow the reopening of productive shellfish beds north of the town of Port Gamble.



A PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE Site

Reaching the goal of a healthy, sustainable Puget Sound