

Stewardship Success Story:

Rogue Creosote Log Removal

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The Challenge

- Inventory rogue creosote-treated logs and pressure-treated lumber along shorelines in the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- Remove rogue logs and lumber from the shorelines.
- Dispose of treated logs and lumber.

Background

Creosote is a wood preservative that has been used in the U.S. for over 100 years. It has the potential to impact fish and invertebrates in the bay because it contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) which are known cancer-causing agents.



Rogue logs are those whose origins are not known.

The 24-acre Sullivan-Minor salt marsh was mudflat or salt marsh that was diked and drained in the early-to-mid 1800s. The dike fell to disrepair sometime in the early 1900s and all that remains of the dike is a berm on the outside of the marsh. There is a log dump in the northeastern corner and a freshwater channel (storm water runoff) that is often plugged at its mouth. The creosote logs occur on the berm, in the salt marsh behind the berm, and in the log dump area.



The Approach



A local contractor was hired to do this job. The contractor skidded the logs over the log jam area and up the slope on the north end, near the access stairs. Pieces were placed in a fiberglass skiff and winched up the slope, using an electric winch mounted to a flatbed trailer. Chokers were placed on larger pieces and pulled up slope via truck using rope and pulleys. Most of the larger pieces were bucked at the top of the slope, near the road.

The logs were then loaded with a backhoe into a disposal container (8' x 8' x 48', obtained from Regional Disposal Company in Ferndale, WA). The container was trucked to Regional Disposal Company and shipped via rail to the Rabanco hazardous waste site in Roosevelt, Washington. Reserve staff restored the "skid road" with native plantings.

Our Success

A total of 106 pieces were removed which contained approximately 1,325 gallons of creosote and 444 gallons of CCA (chromated copper arsenate) or related chemicals.

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