

Stewardship Success Story: *Rogue Creosote Log Removal*

S W I N O M I S H S P I T

The Challenge

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



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 polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) which are known cancer-causing agents. Rogue logs are those whose origins are not known.



The Swinomish Spit is located on the east side of the Swinomish Channel where the channel enters Padilla Bay and was formed from dredged spoils from the Swinomish Channel. The higher parts of the spit are sandy with plants such as big-headed sedge (*Carex macrocephala*), seaside plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Ambrosia (*Ambrosia* sp.) and mosses. The fringe of the spit is salt marsh with pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*) and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) dominating. The creosote logs are found mostly along the high tide drift line around the spit.



The Approach

Padilla Bay staff surveyed the site, marked and measured creosote logs and treated lumber. Prior to flying the site, a Washinton Conservation Corps crew (5 people) and Padilla Bay staff (3 people) located and cut the larger logs and lumber to appropriate lengths, placed rope slings on the pieces to be flown, and staged the smaller pieces to tarps so they could be transferred to cargo nets the day of the flight. The logs were cut with chainsaw and the sawdust was contained on tarps and transferred to plastic bags, which were loaded in the container with the logs for disposal.

A helicopter service was contracted to fly the logs using a Jet Ranger helicopter to a staging area. Two staff located logs in the field and hooked them. Three staff



transferred pieces to cargo nets and five staff unloaded cargo nets at the staging site and retrieved sling ropes. The project was flown in just over three hours in August, 2004.

We rented a staging area for the logs, which was just south of the Swinomish Spit and they loaded the logs into disposal containers.

Disposal containers (8' x 8' x 48') were obtained from the Regional Disposal Company in Ferndale, Washington. The full containers were shipped via rail to the Rabanco hazardous waste landfill in Roosevelt, Washington.

Our Success

A total of 233 pieces were removed, these pieces contained 2,534 gallons of creosote and 648 gallons of CCA (chromated copper arsenate) or related chemicals.

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