Community forage fish habitat restoration in the San Juans

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Protecting and restoring the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature

Friends of the San Juans

Protecting and restoring the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature
Community Forage Fish Habitat Restoration in the San Juan Islands

- Blind Bay forage fish habitat restoration project
- Community engagement
- Waterfront property owner engagement
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation
- Lessons Learned
Blind Bay Project Site

Project Partners:
Friends of the San Juans
Coastal Geologic Services
WA Conservation Corps
Shaw Island School
Private landowners
Private contractors

Funders:
WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
WDFW ALEA,
Friends members
Blind Bay forage fish habitat project

Year-round surf smelt site
Highly visible location
Private ownership
Public road
1 mechanical & 1 hand removal site separated by reference site
Extensive pre project data

BEFORE- hand removal site

BEFORE- mechanical removal site
Blind Bay Project Methods - mechanical site

400 linear feet of shoreline treated

> 160 cubic yards of quarry spall removed from the intertidal beach/spawn zone (+4 to +9 MLLW)

200 cubic yards of ‘fish mix’ nourishment added

Site access via barge

Private contractors
Blind Bay Project Methods- hand removal

200 linear ft. of shoreline

Surficial quarry spalls

Hand removal of 7 cy into large bags

Excavator removal of filled bags from the road

No nourishment

WA Conservation Corps, youth & community labor

Kids monitoring pre/post
Community Engagement

VIDEOS

EVENTS

OUTREACH

WORK PARTIES
Landowner Engagement

MAILINGS

Living with the Shoreline
A stewardship guide for property owners in the San Juan Islands

SITE VISITS

EVENTS

EARLY DESIGN CONCEPTS

Special Invitation...

Upcoming Vegetation Workshops
Do you think sea level rise will affect your community in the next 50 years?
Blind Bay Project Preliminary Results

10,000 square feet of surf smelt spawning habitat unburied.

Incubating eggs documented at the nourished site for the first time in over 10 years within 2 months of project completion.

New landowner interest.

Extensive pre monitoring data, post monitoring continues....
Lessons Learned

It’s all about relationships, not science

Programs need to be consistent and long lasting

Neighborhood scale

Youth get adults involved

Small projects can = large impacts

Working with landowners takes a lot of time

It helps if you have ‘something’ for everyone- protection, restoration, education, research,....
Thanks! Questions?

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