

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM



Date: March 31, 2020
To: Whatcom County
From: Dan Nickel, The Watershed Company
Jonathan Waggoner, Herrera Environmental
Project Name: Whatcom County SMP Periodic Update
Project Number: 181232

Subject: Whatcom County Shoreline Restoration Plan Addendum

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the previous Shoreline Restoration Plan adopted by Whatcom County in 2007. The Shoreline Restoration Plan is meant to help identify restoration or enhancement projects and areas of the shoreline for improvement. Generally, uses and developments within shorelines cannot always be fully mitigated, which may result in incremental and unavoidable degradation to the baseline conditions of the shoreline. The Restoration Plan aims to counter these incremental degradations by identifying areas and projects for enhancement and restoration which can improve degraded baseline conditions along the shoreline over time.

This addendum references projects listed in the Shoreline Restoration Plan containing enhancement and restoration project proposals and updates them based on information received by the County, agencies, tribes and stakeholder organizations (Table 1). New projects which have been completed or are planned for construction are included in Table 2.

Table 1. Project updates for restoration actions

Project Location / Identifier	Environmental component(s)	Status (2020)	Proponent	Notes
Drayton Harbor	The large platform and foundation could be removed to restore the beach and fringing marsh	No change		
Drayton Harbor	Remove bulkheads in two separate locations that protrude into the intertidal	No change		
Drayton Harbor	Remove dilapidated dock	No change		
Birch Bay	Birch Bay Drive & Pedestrian Facility Project – Remove groins and bulkheads along Birch Bay Drive to restore upper beach and backshore habitats	Under construction	Whatcom County	Phase I under construction. Completion expected in 2021. Will restore 7,500 linear feet of shoreline.

Project Location / Identifier	Environmental component(s)	Status (2020)	Proponent	Notes
Pt Whitehorn	Remove bulkheads along these bluffs, which are the sole sediment source for accretionary shoreforms and valuable habitat in Birch Bay and State Park reaches	No change		
Cherry Pt	Remove dumped debris from bluff face and beach	No change		
Conoco Phillips	Sediment would be excavated from landward of the berm and bypassed to the south side of the pier fill area in stages. This would free up impounded sediment to southern shores and create a saltmarsh or estuary in the backshore	No change		
Sandy Pt	Marsh Restoration – Reduce intertidal slope and impervious surfaces and create riparian buffer/dune habitat to aid with flood control issues in the basin. Portions of the undeveloped (filled) uplands could be restored to marsh	No change		
Lummi River Delta	Tidal Connectivity – Restoration opportunities include removing extensive dikes and tide gates across the Red River Delta to restore tidal inundation and greatly increase fish habitat	No change		
Lummi Island, Pt Migley	Remove Bulkheads – Bulkheads could be scaled back or moved landward where possible and picnic structures over what would be active beach should be removed	No change		
Lummi Island, Village Pt	Remove Structures – Remove relict structures in backshore/marsh environments with marsh restoration	No change		
Lummi Island, Village Pt	Remove pier, groin, debris – Removal of a failed solid fill pier, large rock groin, concrete debris and derelict piles in the western portion of Legoe Bay would benefit the nearshore	In early design		Goal is to restore ~150 linear feet
Lummi Island, Village Pt	Remove derelict piles which are likely creosote	No change		
Lummi Island, Smugglers Cove	Lummi Island Quarry Restoration – The shore that is not in use could be restored through removal of fill and riparian restoration to resemble the rocky shore prior to mining operations	In early design	Northwest Straits Foundation	Goal is to restore ~600 linear feet
Eliza Island	Remove derelict piles which are likely creosote in two locations	No change		
Gooseberry Pt	Remove bulkheads	Ongoing	Lummi Tribe	Likely saving as mitigation – goal is to restore ~160 linear feet

Project Location / Identifier	Environmental component(s)	Status (2020)	Proponent	Notes
Gooseberry Pt	Remove bulkheads	No change		
Lummi Shore Rd	Beach monitoring – Conduct beach monitoring to ensure the beach nourishment is continued, as begun under the USACE-constructed revetment	Ongoing	Lummi Tribe	
Lummi Shore Rd	Remove derelict drift nets, debris, and other foreign material from the Lummi Shore Road beaches	No change		
Cliffside Community Beach	Remove abundant wood debris smothering nearshore sediments along the Cliffside community beach	Complete	WDOE	Study complete, removal not recommended
Squalicum Creek	Debris removal and exotic species removal and revegetation with native plants at Little Squalicum Creek mouth/estuary	Permits acquired	City of Bellingham	Funding sources still being sought
Mt Baker Plywood	Debris removal and restoration of the armored shore around the west side of the Mount Baker Plywood area would provide habitat improvements	Design in process	Port of Bellingham	Preliminary design near completion
Chuckanut Bay	Beach Nourishment	No change		
Pt Roberts, Boundary Bluff	Removal of rock bulkheads in the southern and central portion of the reach, where erosion does not appear to be substantial	No change		
Pt Roberts, Boundary Bluff	Remove abandoned pilings north of Lighthouse Park (including by the west end of Gulf Road)	No change		
Pt Roberts, Lighthouse Park	Remove the old telephone building and associated shore defense structures, this includes a soldier pile bulkhead and boulder and debris revetment	Complete	Whatcom County	250 linear feet restored
Pt Roberts, Lilly Pt	A row of houses/cabins with revetments cause bluff sediment impoundment; restore marine riparian vegetation	No change		
Pt Roberts, Lilly Pt	Remove old cannery – Old Cannery - Pilings, slag piles, and various debris such as concrete pieces could be cleaned up from the intertidal and backshore	No change		
Pt Roberts, Maple Beach	The Elm St outfall structure, short groin, and the old pilings could be at least partially removed to free up beach area and remove the foreign material	No change		

Table 2. Completed or planned projects not Included in the previous Shoreline Restoration Plan.

Project Location	Project Description	Status (2020)	Proponent	Notes
Lummi Peninsula	Lummi View Drive Relocated	Complete	Lummi Tribe	The southern end of Lummi View Drive was moved landward to avoid erosion
West Beach, Lummi Peninsula	Bulkhead Removal	In Process	Lummi Commercial Corp	2751 Haxton Way, Restoration design complete
Waypoint Park	Waypoint Park	Complete	City of Bellingham	New beach included in park
Boulevard Park Beach	Boulevard Park Beach	Complete	City of Bellingham	Phase 1 complete, phase 2 to be part of overwater walkway
Post Point Lagoon	Post Point Lagoon	Complete	City of Bellingham	Lagoon shoreline restoration
Chuckanut Bay Shorelands	Chuckanut Bay Shorelands	Complete	City of Bellingham	Beach restoration and fish passage improvements in Mud Bay