

EPA Puget Sound Watershed Management Assistance Program Grants

Biological Recovery of the Goldsborough Creek Basin (Oakland Bay Watershed)

Amount: \$975,000

Matching funds: \$322,500

Grantee: Squaxin Island Tribe

Start Date: 10/1/10

Background: the Goldsborough Basin comprises 40% of the uplands that drain into Oakland Bay, a shellfish growing area of national significance. Since 2001, the health of the basin has improved significantly with Green Diamond's implementation of a habitat conservation/water quality clean-up plan, the removal of a dam at river mile three that blocked fish passage, and a revived effort to control fecal coliform bacteria. These achievements are reflected in increasing production of coho smolts and lifting of shellfish harvest restrictions.

Our long term strategy for Oakland Bay is to further advance biological recovery by systematically working through each of the seven upland basins to address environmental priorities.

Project description: the Squaxin Island Tribe and its partners will improve riparian and instream habitat, sediment transport and instream flow conditions in the Goldsborough Basin. The Tribe will also work with Shelton Harbor landowners to improve estuary habitat while maintaining the waterfront's working nature (see picture below). The goal is to increase annual coho salmon smolt out-migration by 15 percent by 2020.



**Estuary Wetlands in
Shelton Harbor**

Outcomes: Estuary Habitat Restoration, Shoreline Protection, Riparian /Aquatic Habitat Protection & Restoration, Hydrological Protection, Water Quality Protection & Restoration

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