

Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.3, 3.4, 3.5

Description, location and size

Salt Marsh Restoration Sites 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 are located in the provincial Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area near the south end of 64th Street and the south end of 72nd Street in Delta, B.C. The site covers an area of approximately 71,554 square metres (7.15 hectares).



Location of Salt Marsh Restoration Sites 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 along Boundary Bay in Delta, B.C.

Previous state

Prior to restoration works, the site was characterized by dense accumulations of historically deposited woody debris, mostly composed of saw-cut logs from the forestry sector. Based on aerial photo reviews, the vast majority of the woody debris had been present for 25 to 70 years before restoration works were undertaken. The debris was observed to be smothering underlying salt marsh vegetation and had compacted the sediments preventing the associated salt marsh from achieving its full productive capacity.

Overview of completed project

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority undertook restoration works in September 2013, which involved the careful removal and proper disposal of excessive woody debris and litter from approximately 2.5 kilometres of shoreline. Wildlife snags were installed to provide perching and roosting habitat for raptors.

The target vegetation species for recolonization includes saltgrass, pickleweed, dunegrass, other halophytic grasses, orache and various salt tolerant herbaceous species (e.g., silver burweed, gumweed, aster and dock). These salt marsh species provide an important source of primary production, nutrients and organic matter supporting a detritus-based food web utilized by a diverse group of marine and estuarine species. The restored salt marsh is providing a number of other ecological functions such as wave dampening, carbon sequestration, photosynthesis and oxygen production. The port authority continues to annually monitor the site to ensure the project's biophysical objectives are met.



Site conditions at central log removal area at Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.3 (2021)



Site conditions at Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.4 (2021)



Site conditions at Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.5 (2021)

Photos courtesy of: G.L. Williams

For more information

Project website: portvancouver.com/projects/habitat-restoration/salt-marsh-restoration-at-roberts-bank-and-boundary-bay/

Habitat enhancement program: portvancouver.com/projects/habitat-restoration/

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