Powel Family Breaks Ground with Public-Private Partnership

Restoring Marine Nearshore Habitat

After nearly four years of restoration planning and design work, the Powel family and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT) broke ground on the Powel Shoreline Restoration Project at Port Madison in August 2012. This unique public-private partnership will restore more than 1,500 feet of natural shorelines on private property.

A showcase for other private shoreline landowners, the Powel Shoreline Restoration Project also increases awareness of the importance of and options for restoring nearshore habitats in Puget Sound on private land. The Powel family has been voluntarily working with BLIT, a local non-profit conservation organization, on restoration options and have donated a perpetual conservation easement now held by BLIT.

"I've sailed around Puget Sound and have seen the beauty and benefits of undeveloped, naturally functioning shorelines," said landowner Jake Powel. "We are excited for the opportunity to remove bulkheads, restore habitat, and improve beach access."

The Powel family has lived on Bainbridge Island for nearly 60 years. About 1,800 lineal feet of their property's shoreline had been hardened with bulkheads made of concrete, creosote logs, and other materials. The project will remove most of the bulkheads and increase important habitats on the property, including increasing intertidal habitat area by

About 1,800 lineal feet of their property's shoreline had been hardened with bulkheads made of concrete, creosote logs, and other materials

Aerial photo of the Powel Family property before the restoration efforts began.

Powel Family Breaks Ground with Public-Private Partnership

163%, enhancing more than 32,000 square feet of marine riparian habitat, and almost tripling the amount of salt marsh habitat over time. The project focuses on restoring shallow intertidal habitat important to juvenile salmonids, particularly endangered Chinook, for migration, feeding, and refuge.

Funding for the project has been provided by the Powel family, BILT, and the State of Washington's Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund, which is administered by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and appropriated by the Legislature.

Representatives of the partners involved in the project: Tony Wright, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, Jim Brennan, Washington Sea Grant, Asha Rehnberg, BILT Executive Director, Ann Powel and Jake Powel (landowners)