

23 March 2015 Creosote Treated Wood Debris Removal:

In January of 2015, Swinomish staff contacted the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) marine debris removal program about assistance removing treated wood debris from the reservation. Two significant pile of creosote treated wood were located in areas assessed under previous targeted brownfields assessments (cite 1, cite 2). One pile was located in the Tribal Economic Zone (TEZ) (Fig 1) and the other was located on the McGlenn Island causeway adjacent to the Skagit Plastics Clean-up site (Fig 2). These pile of debris along with various other creosote treated wood debris that has floated up along the Reservation's shores are an environmental concern. Creosote treated wood is known toxin to marine organisms including juvenile salmonids and herring eggs. The Tribe, with assistance from the DNR removed and disposed of these piles on 23 March 2015.

The debris was removed by hand and with the use of a backhoe. A Washington Conservation Corps crew was used for labor. Debris was cut to length and taken to a local transfer station. Once at the transfer station, the segregated waste was transported to an appropriate landfill. During the project, 19,680 pounds of creosote treated wood were removed from the shores of the Reservation. DNR assumed most of the cost this project including disposal, equipment rental, and staff time. The total estimated cost of the removal project was \$2,800. The Tribe provided staff to help with the removal, a utility vehicle, and site rehab after the project was finished. The backhoe left tracks that were leveled and re-seeded with grass. The Tribe hopes to partner with DNR on future marine debris removal projects as needed.



Figure 1 Creosote Pile at TEZ 1 at the North End of the Reservation



Figure 2: Creosote treated wood pile at McGlenn Island Causeway



Figure 3: Clockwise from top left: Washington Conservation Corps crew and Swinomish staff loading creosote treated wood, furrows left by trailer and equipment, equipment used for removal, and Swinomish staff reseeding job site.